

Shirland and Higham Parish Council
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
held in Higham Farm Hotel, Monday 16th March 2018, 19:00 hrs.

Councillors Present: Mr P Allsop, Mr B Barnes (Chair) Mr Davis, Ms S Smith, Mrs H Liggett, Mr A Lomax, Mr D Williamson, Miss L Williams.

In Attendance: Sally Plummer (Clerk & RFO), Tom Tait (Assistant Clerk), District Cllr C Cupit and 7 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr D Skinner and Rev John Epton
2. The minutes of the meeting of held on 20 March 2017 were approved as a true record.

3. Chairman's report

Cllr Barry Barnes reported that the year March 2017 to March 2018 has been an interesting and busy year for Shirland & Higham Parish.

Parishioners have showed an interest in Parish matters, particularly those of planning, by attending the regular meetings.

During the period March 2017 to March 2018 Sally Plummer continued as part-time Clerk and Financial Officer to Shirland & Higham Parish Council with Dr Tom Tait working as her part-time assistant. However, both are ready to move on to focus on other interests and we are pleased to report that we are in a position to appoint a new Clerk to the Parish Council on a 20 hour contract.

Parish Councillors obtained a coal cart which we believe was worked in a local mine. It has been positioned on the green triangle opposite St Leonard's Church. In the next few weeks the truck will be planted with flowers. A Beacon was commissioned and manufactured within the Parish and we hope it can be erected in St Leonard's churchyard and aligned to the Beacon at Crich Stand. This will be lit on 11 November 2018 to commemorate the end of the World War 100 years ago.

Planning for the cemetery extension field to the rear of St Leonard's Church was granted in 2017 by North East Derbyshire District Council and work will begin in 2018.

I am pleased to report that a new Reverend, Chris Andrew, has recently been appointed as Parish Priest.

Shirland Village Hall is well attended and a wide range of activities take place there on a regular basis. Several groups have used the Hall for some years now. The play area has had extensive drainage installed by local company Pugh Lewis.

New children's play equipment was installed at the sports ground in Stonebroom. The Youth Club continues to be popular with various activities being well-attended, keeping young people occupied. Two sponsored charity walks took place in the village and the Youth Club raised much needed money for good causes.

The BMX track at Mickley was a good investment and is very well used. Mickley Hall has a new committee which is looking forward to encouraging groups to use the facility.

The Police no longer attend Parish Council meetings, but Officers occasionally attend the Shirland Village Hall coffee mornings to answer questions from Parishioners. It is important that parishioners remain vigilant and are proactive in reporting all incidents of crime to the police via the 101 helpline, or by dialling 999 in an emergency.

Finally, in closing my report for 2018 I would like to give thanks to Santos Higham Farm for their hospitality and also to long serving Cllrs Brown and Wild who stood down from Parish Council last year.

4. District Councillor's Report

Cllr Cupit gave an update on the Local Plan which needs to be finalised.

5. County Councillor's Report – no report

6. Fiddler & Laverack Charities report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2017

Reverend John Epton continues to act as one of the Trustees of the Fidler and Laverack Charities' land that is managed by Parish Council. Charities' rents received during January 2017 to December 2017 totalled £190.00. Grants were made totalling £900.00, the majority to the three schools in the Parish and one grant to an individual in extreme hardship. New/updated tenancy agreements have been finalised. Reserves at year end stood at £1004.82. Tenants have been contacted and notified of increases in rent to take effect January 2018.