

## **Ashwellthorpe and Fundenhall Parish Council**

### ***Draft* Minutes of Annual Meeting of the Parish held on**

**Tuesday 21 May at 6:30pm**

### **Meeting held at Thorpe Hall, Ashwellthorpe**

#### **1. To receive Chairman's report**

Council Chairman Ives read out her report in which she shared her desire to step down as Chair but remain on the council to share her knowledge, experience, and community involvement.

She recognised the acquisition of Thorpe Hall, playing fields and tennis courts as a particular highlight of her 10 years as Chair and took the opportunity to thank the present council members and clerk for their support.

#### **2. To receive reports from District Councillor and County Councillor**

District Councillor Bob McClenning shared the District Councillors annual report (shared as Appendix 1). District Councillor McClenning recognised the lively, active discussions of the parish council and its achievements and congratulated the councillors on the service offered to the public it serves.

County Councillor Catherine Rowett shared the County Councillor's annual report (shared as Appendix 2) in which she covered some of the work she has been focusing on since election for West Depwade in July 2023. Her appointment has increased the Green Party Councillors sufficiently that they are able to sit on all four of the select committees. Councillor Rowett is also the first Green Party Councillor to be an elected from a rural area which has allowed a shift in focus to those issues relating to rural communities.

District Councillor McClenning expressed his gratitude to work alongside County Councillor Rowett as someone genuinely involved in the community who understands the problems and helps to deliver resolution. District Councillor Rowett was in agreement that both parties worked well together in a useful and constructive manner.

#### **3. To receive reports from Village Groups**

None received.

#### **4. Other matters: an opportunity to raise any issues not otherwise covered**

Alan Arber, the Parish Clerk has tendered his resignation for personal reasons. The council accept this with sadness and acknowledge the hard work that he has done on behalf of the council.

Chairman Ives has started investigating a replacement clerk. Councillor Wood has agreed to review and share what due process must be followed for the appointment of a new clerk. Alan has agreed to remain in post for 3 months if necessary to facilitate a smooth handover with his replacement.

#### **5. Formal closure of the Annual Parish Meeting**

With there being no further comments, the Chairman thanked all those for coming and contributing and closed the Annual Parish Meeting for Ashwellthorpe and Fundenhall at 6:43pm.