

GUNTHWAITE AND INGBIRCHWORTH PARISH

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 20TH MAY 2026, 7PM, FOUNTAIN VILLAGE PUB, INGBIRCHWORTH

PRESENT; Councillor Berry (Chair), A. Murphy (taking minutes); seven members of the public

1. Apologies.

No apologies received.

2. Minutes of the last meeting.

Minutes reviewed and signed by the Chair.

3. Chair's report.

The outgoing Chair chose to speak about the parish's strong commitment to care. Not just the Parish Councillors but also the community, who care about each other and their local environment. Residents discuss community issues with each other but also take action to make things better without seeking any recognition for doing so. There is a commitment to doing what is right. Residents communicate properly and well and are very rarely negative, offensive, or aggressive. They always try to do the right thing and to act well towards each other.

There is preservation of community spirit in the parish, people value and are proud of where they live. The government is currently spending money to try to encourage pride of place and community spirit in other places. People who move to the parish are usually excited to be joining a place with such a strong commitment to community spirit.

From a Parish Council perspective, Councillors Hazeldine and Edmondson ensure the two defibrillators are in good order and ready for use. The grass, flowers and vegetation in the Council's public areas are looked after within the Council's resources. The Council's published planning protocol has clarified what interventions the Parish Council may make when planning applications are received and this has helped to reassure people in the parish.

The annual Remembrance Day and Christmas light switch on events are important and much appreciated by residents. These are extremely popular and long-standing community gatherings.

The Chair knows that councillors will continue to do an excellent job and serve the community, as the residents want things they love keeping well. When you listen to people while out walking or using the picnic facilities it is evident that the local area matters a lot to people.

The pétanque social club has grown in popularity and is a great facility for the community.

The Parish Council is there for all residents as most of them care a lot about their area, even if they express it in a variety of ways.

4. Contribution from Electors.
No contributions received.
5. Any other business.
None received so the meeting was declared closed.