



## Annual Parish Meeting – Minutes 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026

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1	The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in April 2025 were approved.
2	<p>Introductions were given.</p> <p>LF explained this is not a Parish meeting – it is a public meeting and opportunity to share updates and ideas. No apologies had been received.</p> <p>In attendance were 16 persons, 5 Parish Councillors, The Clerk, a Drury Lane representative, a Crafty Dabblers representative, a representative of Sowood community centre and the Women’s Institute, a representative of the friend of Shaw Park, Reverend Amanda from the Church, and 5 members of the public.</p>
2	<p>Reports from Community Groups and Committees within the Parish. Opportunity for groups/ committees to report progress with then Parish.</p> <p>Crafty Dabblers – Meet on the second and fourth Mondays of the month in the church. Do own lunches and there are a variety of different activities (as long as its not too mucky). There are currently 9 members and it would be great to have some new joiners. Sessions are £5.</p> <p>Drury Lane – There was a good level of crops following last years weather. At the AGM there were changes in the chair and secretary but all other members were re-elected. Funds are looking healthy and there was a good return from last years plant sale. There is another plant sale on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May at the church. There is one vacant plot which the association are considering making available to the community as a communal plot. Other things being looked at are storage areas and shared tools and wheelbarrow. A tenant survey has also provided some suggestions which are being looked into. These include improving biodiversity and wildlife, giving more notice for events, looking at providing a toilet on site and looking at the paths. There is also a request for another tap on site. The allotments are thriving and anyone is invited to come and look.</p>

LF explained that the Parish Council own Drury Lane Allotments and the Association manage them on the Councils behalf. LF explained the waiting lists and history whereby the site was previously owned by Calderdale Council and the improvements since taking it over.

Sowood Community Centre – Going through a formal Community Asset Transfer. Pre School use the building 45 weeks a year and there are various evening groups meeting such as WI, Crochet, Martial Arts and more. They employ staff and are in a positive position for the Community Asset Transfer. An idea is to link to the library ad cricket club also had or going through Community Asset Transfers and join up as each have different facilities that could compliment each other. Issues with building are being addressed. Offer of assistance was given by Don, SDPC Councillor who has had experience in Community Asset Transfers.

Women’s Institute – 120 members run by a committee of 11 volunteers. It is anything but boring! Currently raising money for maternity bereavement appeal at the hospital. There is a craft market every October and work with church re monthly breakfast meeting. Regular meetings including speakers. Any age can join its about attitude of mind not physical age. Other activities have included buying benches and table for the community. April is a recruitment phase as membership is renewed. Membership is £54 a year for 12 meetings and the weekly meetings are £2. Members have made amazing friendship groups. People can attend for free to see if it would suit them. There is capacity for membership at the moment.

Church – Amanda’s main job is making sure she serves the parish and the congregations and making sure people are aware the churches are open. Church has had to increase its letting this year to help keep the building open. Events such as the VE memorial were successful and there was a different Christmas Fayre. Amanda is keen to build partnerships; there is tea and toast on a Wednesday at which there are always over 30 attendees. It is between 3-4pm and children attend after school as regulars. Amandas next job is to look at planning a summer fayre celebrating Stainland which will join community groups together. If anyone would like to get involved, please contact Amanda. Amanda is mindful of how world events will impact our community and wants to be proactive and responsive in providing support. Amanda is also planning on a memorial pantomime. Church does a lunch once a month on the second Tuesday of the month and the group is getting smaller, always plenty food cooked by volunteers. It is £7 to attend and from 12:30pm onwards, new attendees are encouraged to come along.

Ruth, SDPC Councillor, agreed to craft some of the offers from local groups n to the regular advert SDPC have in Go Local.

A local resident observed and suggested it would be useful to have a calendar of local events so people know what’s going on at all groups and when.

Amanda mentioned she has applied for a funding bid for new notice boards which groups can use to advertise if successful.

Shaw Park – Thanked SDPC for the support. Work done includes the pond, bridges, paths and wellbeing terrace. There are plans for the Parish Council to support dredging the duck pond to remove silt and rubbish. Feedback has been great; residents stop to pass on compliments. The group put weekly updates on Facebook and there are encouraging comments. Spring bulbs have been planted and bird boxes that have names put up. Bat and owl boxes are being looked into. Volunteer group has grown from 13 last year to now 20 and is going well. On 4<sup>th</sup> July there will be an event on the wellbeing terrace. The new website is now live. On 23<sup>rd</sup> May there is an event called 'art in the park' – would love people to attend, there will be a raffle with great prizes and dancing from 'curious motion'. Next AGM is 12<sup>th</sup> May at 6:30pm. Looking ahead things on the horizon include a commemorative plaque, restoring historical boards and notice boards and seating near car park and a nature trail. Two paintings have been donated which will come to the park shortly. The playground is now enclosed which is great. The group meets Mondays at 10:30am and everyone is welcome to come along and help and have a brew and chat. Herbs from the wellbeing garden are for everyone!

Parish Council – The council have had a period of change in councillors and also were without a clerk and RFO for a period, SDPC now have two new councillors and a clerk and things are going well. Existing councillors have been working hard behind the scenes. One big piece of work has been the Conservation Area Appraisal for Stainland. Liaising with consultants and Calderdale Planning to draft a new appraisal. The community will be consulted on this in due course. All present signs are that it will be adopted and it should help preserve the conservation area. Mark one of the SDPC Councillors and a local resident have done a lot of work on this. Another role of the council is to look at all planning applications and there have been a few tricky ones this last year. The council make constructive comments. The Council are not obliged to act on the comments but they are taking notice. Other areas we have been involved with are safer routes to school outside Bowling Green School this has involved meetings with residents, the school and CMBC officers and we have submitted comments regarding street furniture, location of bus shelters and landscaping. We have actively promoted bus routes such as the 539 which is operating on a trial basis. We have been successful in negotiating two bus stops to safer locations and hopefully an official bus stop will be put in place for the 901. Making improvements around The Stainland Cross is also a prospective project for SDPC, it is a listed monument and has been neglected over time. A consultation was done and costings obtained for an ambitious scheme. We are also looking at costings for a less ambitious scheme safe to bring paths up to current safety standards. Residents will then be consulted on these options SDPC may need to apply for grant funding for this project.

Other work includes 600 trees being re-planted on the rec with the school children's assistance and grit boxes and flower displays are provided in various locations around

	<p>the parish. SDPC pay a gardener to look after some areas and also coordinate with the community payback team to maintain all the graveyards in the parish. Credit was given for one residents work at the Wesleyan Graveyard on Carriage Drive. The Community Orchard continues to be developed and SDPC continue to work with Drury Lane Allotment Association.</p> <p>The council also provides a free Friday Darts club for young people in the parish and provides Christmas trees and festive lights for all areas. A recent new initiative is to encourage and support local guerilla gardening.</p> <p>Grants are also given to local groups, this year this has included the Church, the Cricket club and Shaw Park.</p> <p>The council currently has 3 vacancies for councillors and everyone is encouraged to come forward. No special skills or qualifications are needed just ab interest in your local area.</p> <p>Everyone was thanked for their attendance at tonight’s meeting.</p>
4	<p>To discuss the Council’s objectives and projects for 2026/27 put forward by the Parish Council.</p> <p>The SDPC vision documents and other plans were shared on the tables at the meeting.</p>
5	<p>To consider plans for the Parish put forward by the residents of the Parish. Opportunity for residents to report concerns within the Parish and discuss solutions.</p> <p>The council agrees to look into an issue raised by a resident with regards to dog fouling. A community campaign was suggested.</p>