On behalf of all the members of the Parish Council, I would like to wish everyone who lives and works in the village a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Cllr Raymond Thompson - Chairman

Dinnington Doctors Surgery
We have recently received a letter from the Woodlands Park Practice, advising the Parish Council that they intend to cease their surgery at the Dinnington Doctors. They have also written individually to their own patients to consult with them over this and have held a consultation event with them at the surgery on Wed 9 Oct 16.

They will continue to see their existing patients at their Wideopen medical centre, but will no longer come to the surgery at Dinnington, nor will they give out prescriptions from the Dinnington Surgery. There have obviously been objections to their proposal. The Doctors were citing lack of patient numbers actually visiting the surgery and increased costs for their lease making their service no longer cost effective. Whilst we have some sympathy with their view we will be getting an increase in the population over the next 3 to 4 years as the new houses are constructed and we will therefore need an increase in the doctors’ services rather than a decrease. We have also been contacted by “Healthcare Newcastle” asking for our views on this matter. We have taken the view that the village needs a better doctor’s service in the near future and have therefore objected to this proposed loss of service and have taken this opportunity to ask for a superior service going forward to cope with the increased population from the new houses. We will report back with an update in due course.

Donkey Field (Sheraton Park)
The phase 2 planning application for the private housing for sale was approved at the Planning Committee on 21 October 2016. The Marketing Suite is now open and the Show homes are nearing completion and should be finished in early December. The first houses will probably be occupied in February / March next year. The Grouting works has commenced on Phase 2 and should take about 6 weeks to complete.

The assisted living block, dementia bungalows and the other affordable housing are due for completion around May 2017 and we are advised that the whole of the construction could eventually take up to 4 years to complete.

Bellway Homes
They are progressing with the groundwork’s on site together with the piling works. The permanent site entrance is taking shape and they have commenced with the site drainage and site roads. They anticipate commencing the house foundations next February.

Persimmon Homes
Persimmon have formally applied for planning permission for 200 homes on land south of Front Street, west of the village, however at the time of writing they still have not obtained this. However they are hoping to achieve this before Xmas. They then would propose to start on site around Easter 2017 and have their first batch of houses ready for occupation around July 2017.

Neighbourhood Plan
We have recently obtained a further grant from The Community Rights Programme, funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government. We have commenced drafting and developing the plan under the guidance of the consultant we have engaged with the further grant money. We plan to consult further with the community next year.
Dinnington Community Library
We would like to highlight once again and remind everyone that Dinnington still has a community library and we encourage current members and new members to come along to use their fantastic collection of books. There is no charge to join the library and everyone is welcome. Dinnington Community Library was set up in the summer of 2013 by volunteers when Newcastle City Council decided to close the branch library in Dinnington. The Community Library is situated in the Memorial Institute which is next to Dinnington Village Hall and is open on Wednesdays 10.30 – 12.30, Fridays 2.00 – 4.00 and Saturdays 10.30 – 12.30. They have a great selection of up to date adult fiction and non-fiction, large print, lots of children’s books ranging from tinies to teens, and lots of reference and biographies for members to choose from. There are two free, open-access computers with high speed broadband services and colour printing facilities. The library is managed solely by a friendly team of volunteers from in and around the village. Please come along and visit at any of the sessions listed above and see what a great library the village has.

Adopt-a-Planter and Northumbria in Bloom 2016
We would like to express our thanks to the Volunteers and businesses who again supported the village’s efforts in the Northumbria in Bloom 2016 competition. We would also like to say a special thank you to the pupils and staff of Dinnington First School who helped us show the judges around the school garden, which helped make our entry a truly all-encompassing one showcasing all aspects and involving all ages of the community.
This year we did even better than last year and won a Silver award in the Large Villages category and received a glass trophy for also winning the Whickham Award for the most improved entry in the 2016 competition. We once again also extend our congratulations to the White Swan who this year won a Gold Award in the Best Pub and Hotel Award. They also received a glass trophy and a framed certificate. We would again like to thank the volunteers who gave up their time to look after the planters and now some open spaces around the village, which not only helps to improve the look and feel of our village, but they help enormously in our efforts in entering the Northumbria in Bloom competition.

Crime prevention and community safety
PC (3044) Lee Maddison is the dedicated neighbourhood police officer for Dinnington, Brunswick and Hazlerigg (Castle Ward), e-mail address: lee.maddison3044@northumbria.pnn.police.uk Newcastle North Neighbourhood Policing Team, Etal Lane Police Station, Westerhope, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE5 4AW. Tel: 101 to contact your local police when it is less urgent than a 999 call.

Dog Fouling
We are still receiving complaints about the amount of dog fouling around the village. The great majority of dog walkers do pick up after their dog and get really annoyed with the few who don’t as they don’t want to be “tarred with the same brush.” There is no excuse for not picking up. If you have any information on those responsible for allowing dogs to foul without picking up you can contact the dog warden on 0191 211 6102 or online: https://envirocallservice.newcastle.gov.uk/dog-fouling/form

Public Forum - To enable members of the public to raise items
If you have any issues you think the Parish Council needs to be made aware of, or would like to attend any meeting of the Parish Council, please feel free to come along to one of our meetings, which are held on the third Wednesday of each month (except August) at 7.00 p.m. in the Memorial Institute Hall (the small hall to the left of the Village Hall), Main Road, Dinnington, NE13 7JW. The general public are welcome to attend and will be given an opportunity to bring forward any concerns or comments if they wish.

1st Dinnington Scout Group
We would be very grateful if you would once again save your coupons for us for the Chronicle Wish Appeal. There is a waiting list for the Cub Pack, but we have places for boys and girls in the Beaver Colony (6-8years) and Scout Troop (11-14years)

Please contact Joyce Porter, Cub Scout Leader 01661 821041 or Geoff Hayes Scout Leader 01661 860860
Dinnington Village Hall
Work was completed on the Memorial Institute in September and we now have a warm, comfortable building thanks in part to a grant from Banks Community Fund and a generous donation from St Matthews Church. There are still a lot of things we need to update e.g. heating in the Main Hall and there is always maintenance work to be done to keep both buildings up to standard.

Our next Fundraising event is the Northumberland Theatre Company’s presentation of Red Riding Hood 7.30pm Friday 13 January 2017, generously supported by The Masons Arms, James Anthony Workwear and Dixon and Thompson. Tickets £8.50 and £4, to include a glass of wine or juice, from Joyce Porter.

To find out more about the Village Hall or make a donation please contact Treasurer Mike Wood 01661 825358 or Secretary Joyce Porter 01661 821041

St Matthew’s Church
A warm welcome awaits you. Please come and join us for our special services at Christmas.
TRADITIONAL CAROL SERVICE BY CANDLE LIGHT - Sunday 18 December at 3.00pm
CHRISTINGLE SERVICE – Saturday 24 December (CHRISTMAS EVE) at 4.30 pm. (Collection for Childrens Society)
MIDNIGHT MASS - The First Service of Christmas - Saturday 24 December at 11.30 pm
CHRISTMAS MORNING SERVICE at 9.30 am – Christmas Day.

CLOSURE OF THE WEST GATE. To preserve the integrity of the path the gate at the west end of the church leading onto Church Close is locked for a 24 hour period usually 6.00 pm on 31st December until 6.00 pm on 1st January. Because 1st January 2017 falls on a Sunday when there is a scheduled service in church it is necessary to change the date of the closure. The west gate will be therefore be locked from 6.00 pm on Friday 30th December, 2016 until 6.00 pm on Saturday 31st December 2016. Our apologies for any inconvenience this may cause. Warning notices will be posted on the notice boards and the main gate during the closure period.

With best wishes for a happy and peaceful Christmas to all in the community and thanks for your continued support.

Dinnington Women’s Institute
Meetings are on the second Thursday of the month from 7.00 pm - 9.00 pm. Members pay an annual subscription and a small entry fee on the evening to cover a raffle ticket and refreshments. You can attend as a visitor on three consecutive meetings for an entry fee of £3.00 to include refreshments and raffle, after which the annual subscription is due.

Programme 2017
January 12th - David Waters - Northumberland National Park Mountain Rescue
February 9th - Ethne Brown - Puppy Dog to Guide Dog
March 9th - Annual Meeting
April 13th - Kenspeckle Chocolates - Demonstration of Chocolate Making
May 11th - Sadie the Bra Lady
June 8th - Hands on Card Making Demonstration

We are making a scrapbook about the WI in Dinnington over the years and would welcome and very much appreciate any photographs or items of interest about the history of the WI in Dinnington or come and share your memories with us.

Contacts: Hayley Hayes 01661 860860 or Maggie Heffernan 07712 577104

Parish Council meeting dates 2017

Please note the meetings are normally held on the third Wednesday of the month, except August (no meeting)

Dates: 18 January, 15 February, 15 March, 19 April, 17 May (AGM), 21 June, 19 July, 20 September, 18 October, 15 November and 20 December
City Councillors’ Surgery
Monthly – 2nd Saturday (except August) 10.30am-11.30am
Dinnington Social Club

City Councillors’ Surgery (cont)
15 minutes before Parish Council meetings (at 6:45pm)
Monthly – 3rd Wed (except August)
Memorial Institute

Co-op Women’s Guild
Mondays 1.30pm-3.30pm
Memorial Institute

Dinnington Community Library
Wed & Sat 10.30am-12.30pm
Fri 2.00pm-4.00pm

Junior Karate
Mondays 6.00pm-8.00pm
Village Hall

Old Peoples’ Treat Fund
Bingo 8.30pm Thursdays
Dinnington Social Club

Beaver Scouts
Mondays 5.45pm-7.00pm
Scout HQ

Cub Scouts
Tuesdays 6.30pm-8.00pm
Scout HQ

Scouts
Fridays 6.30pm-8.00pm
Scout HQ

Rainbows
Wednesdays 5.30pm-6.30pm
Memorial Institute

Brownies
Tuesdays 6.00pm – 7.30pm
Village Hall

Handicrafts
Thursdays 7.00pm
Memorial Institute

Indoor Carpet Bowls
Wed 7.00pm-9.00pm
Village Hall

Dinnington Village WI
2nd Thursday of every month
7.00pm-9.00m
Village Hall

Parish Council
3rd Wednesday of each month (except August) at 7.00 p.m.
Memorial Institute Hall

St Matthew’s Church
Sundays 9.30am are Service and Holy Communion
Junior Church members meet during service
Wednesdays 10.15am are Holy Communion BCP

Bible Study Group
1st Wednesday of each month

Coffee morning
10.30am-11.30am Second Saturday of the month in Memorial Institute

Revd Mark Edwards, MBE
Tel: 01661 872320

Doctors at the Clinic, Main Road, Dinnington
Ponteland Medical Group
Mon – Fri 8.30am-12noon
Tues – No Doctor. Nurse in attendance 9.00am-12.15

Woodlands Park Health Centre
Mon/Wed/Fri 1.30pm-3.00pm

Parish Councillors: Cllrs Raymond Thompson (Chairman) Tel: 0191 2363379; Mike Wood (Vice-Chairman) Tel: 01661 825358; Dr J Alan Biggins Tel: 01661 823135; Audrey Dellow; Sylvia Hood Tel: 01661 823382; Tom Laidler Tel: 01661 872057; Steven Phelps; Joyce Porter Tel: 01661 821041; Keith Oliver Tel: 07704164497

For more information visit the website at: www.spanglefish.com/dinnington
Clerk to the Parish Council – Karon Hadfield
Tel - 07841650640
Email: dinningtonparishcouncil@hotmail.com

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