



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL –V- ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

These are two very different meetings which must be held at this time of year.

1. Annual Meeting of the Parish Council - May

Like any other organisation or company, the Council needs to hold an annual meeting to carry out things which only need doing once a year, which include:

- Electing a Chairman
- Electing a Vice-Chairman
- Appointing Committees
- Appointing representatives to other bodies ie DMBC Parish Council Joint Consultative Committee
- Agreeing to subscribe to such bodies as YLCA and SLCC

Organisations usually call their Annual Meeting the Annual General Meeting but this can cause confusion with the Annual Parish Meeting so it is therefore known as ‘The Annual Meeting of the Council’.

2. Annual Parish Meeting – Between March and May

This in legal terms is a separate body from the Council but the Council does arrange it. Its decisions are not binding on the Council though the Council would normally take on board what is said at the meeting.

The difference between the two meetings: the Annual Parish Meeting is a legacy from the Middle Ages, when Parish Councils did not exist, and all local decision making was carried out by meetings of the whole community. These meetings normally took place in the church vestry.

The Annual Parish Meeting is open to all electors of the Parish who have the right to attend and speak on any matter of local interest. This is in contrast to a Council meeting where electors who are not Councillors have no automatic right to speak although Cantley with Branton Parish Council do have a set time before a Council meeting when electors can raise matters of concern to them.

As with many Parish Councils, Cantley with Branton can find it difficult to get a good turnout at the Annual Parish Meeting. It is advertised on the Parish Notice Board, on the Parish website, on the Parish Facebook page and of course by word of mouth.

During this meeting the Chairman will present their report which will include work which the Council has done during the year.

These two meetings cannot be merged. In legal terms the two meetings are very separate and are accountable to two separate bodies – The Annual Meeting of the Council is accountable to the Council and the Annual Parish Meeting is accountable to the electors as a whole.