

## **Findern Parish Council**

**Clerk : Mrs Heather Bevan**

**Findern Parish Council Lower Green, Findern, Derbyshire DE65 6AD**

**Tel. No. 07512 491367**

**THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**, held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019,  
commencing at 7-00pm in The Village Hall, Findern

Present:

M Goodall – Chairman

R Brook – Vice Chairman

T Brown

R Rose

J Hibbert

A Hibbert

M Ratcliffe

M Woodhouse

H Bevan – Clerk

5 Residents were present

The meeting was recorded for accuracy of the Minutes.

### **Agenda**

#### **1. Chairman's Introduction and Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed all residents to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

#### **2. To receive apologies for absence**

Mrs L Nash

### 3. Declaration of Members' Interests

- a. Members must ensure that they complete the Declaration of Members Interest Sheet prior to the start of the meeting and must indicate the action to be taken (ie to stay in the meeting, to leave the meeting or to stay in the meeting to make representations and then leave the meeting prior to any consideration or determination of the item)
- b. Where a member indicates that they have a pecuniary interest, but wish to make representation regarding the item before leaving the meeting, those representations must be made under item © public speaking

No Declaration of Interests were received.

### **1. Chairman's Report on behalf of The Parish Council 2019**

The present Parish Council have been returned unopposed for a further 4 years with Mrs Christine Smith joining us to represent the new houses on the Highfields Development on Ryknields Way, which falls in Findern Parish. Unfortunately, Richards Giles-Grant has decided to give up his seat due to his work commitments.

2018/2019 has seen further development of our Website with the addition of a Facebook Page which we link to the Findern Community Facebook.

We have been working with South Derbyshire District Council to improve facilities at the Cemetery. The Parish Council are paying for provision of a water supply and a Memorial Garden.

The Parish Council have replaced the rotten Farm Gates at King George Playing Field and added a more secure entrance o Willington Road to safeguard the children from running into the road. We have added new signs at all 3 entrances.

We are well on the way to adding facilities for the older children, admittedly not as quick as we had hoped due to some unforeseen issues, but we are working hard to reach as early a start as possible and we will keep you informed by way of our Parish Council Minutes, which now appear in draft form o our Website a few days after our meetings.

The Summer Playscheme was a great success last year help by the lovely weather. This facility is probed by SDDC and paid for by The Parish Council during the summer holidays. This summer an afternoon session is booked on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2pm-4pm and the other one is on 25<sup>th</sup> July 6pm-8pm. We are hoping by choosing an evening session it will allow Families to attend together and weather permitting bring a picnic tea.

We have replaced the seat on Doles Lane near Turnpike Way and re sited the dog bin further from the seat.

We finally convinced Royal Mail that our lovely Post Box on the Green was desperately in need of some TLC.

We continue to refurbish Benches twice a year. This summer however we are employing Scropton Nurseries to plant and water them. There will be some increase cost to this but we will be looking at sponsorship to help with the cost going forward.

We again paid for a Green Waste Skip on Lower Green to coincide with the Refuse Lorry provided by SDDC in November and it was well used. So, we plan to repeat it this November. We could consider to provide this service in the Spring (possibly a bit late for this year) if residents felt there was a need for it.

Our Remembrance Tribute on the Village Green was well received, bringing visitors to the village who had heard about it. One gentleman travelling quite some distance so I'm told.

We have plans to repeat a tribute this year involving residents knitting and crocheting poppies and children painting stones. If anyone is interested in becoming involved in this project please contact me direct or through our website. The Act of Remembrance on 11<sup>th</sup> November, which took place on The Green this year, was very well attended.

We are also planning our Christmas Tree Light Switch On at the beginning of December followed by entertainment in the Village Hall, which proved to be a great success last year. Again, anyone who would like to get involved with this or has any ideas we would love to hear from you.

We are going to be in talks with All Saints Church and the Methodist Chapel to organise Carols Around the Christmas Tree which will take place near to Christmas and again would welcome input with this.

The purchase of a PA System by The Parish Council has enabled outside events to be more successful.

We arranged for a clear up of the Autumn Leaves on the Green this year after the major fall and this helped enormously with the problem not only on The Green but the surrounding area.

Under the Chair's Allowance, I purchased 250 Snowdrops which we planted in the corner near the old post office to compliment the ones we had been given in previous years. That area has been left unmowed to allow for the bulbs along with the daffodils to die back, but on Saturday I was pleased to see the profusion of dandelions. Some people view these as weeds, but personally I love them as they provide such a beautiful display following from the Spring Bulbs.

Under Section 137 we have made a donation of £200 to The Community Transport Scheme. This scheme provides transport for the elderly to enable them to go shopping, picking them up from their homes and helping carry their shopping. We also gave a donation of £200 to the residents of Brooke Close to replant the area by their Community Room with easy maintenance shrubs and plants.

We are now looking forward to continuing to provide a good standard of care of our lovely village and consider ways to improve things for everyone within our budget.

## **2. Public Session:**

### **a. Reports from Local Groups/Bodies in the Community**

(Below are Reports Received, which have been copied and pasted into the body of the Annual Report)



### **Findern Footpaths Group Annual Report 2018-2019**

Although we no longer do any maintenance work in Stanhope Wood or Stanhope Hole Conservation Area, we had quite enough to keep us busy from the very start of 2018. Members spent some time during the winter months covering the wooden steps on all the stiles with chicken wire to prevent them becoming too slippery and overhanging foliage was cut back to keep the footpaths clear and passable. The footpath maintenance goes on throughout the year and we are particularly busy in the summer months cutting back the brambles and nettles. Litter picking on our wildlife sites and along the Trent and Mersey canal towpath is also carried out throughout the year.

We were dismayed to see some graffiti had been sprayed on the mural under the A50 which Heather managed to clean off. However, later in the year more obscene and offensive remarks were seen and this was reported to the Safer Neighbourhood Team. The mural and graffiti have now been completely covered over in vandal proof paint and discussions are being held as to whether to get a local youth team to paint another mural.

In the first months of the year we took down and cleaned, repaired where possible, and replaced where not possible all the bird boxes along the towpath. Later in the year the bat boxes were inspected and cleaned by members of the Derbyshire Bat Conservation Group. Some of the boxes had been used by several species of bats and some were still in residence during the check.

We have also created 3 Bug Hotels, 2 in Cardales Meadow and one in Cote Close

We held our annual Dawn Chorus Walk in May and also took part in the village fete in June holding a wildlife quiz for the children.

As well as maintaining the footpaths we have other sites that keep us busy.

### **Cardales Wildflower Meadow**

At the beginning of the year work was started on the butterfly bank in Cardales Meadow. The original plan was to dig out a natural pond at the bottom of the meadow and use the soil build the bank. However, when Mercia Marina created their new car park, they very kindly donated all the soil required and Mr John Hicklin and Heather made numerous trips transferring the soil from the Marina to the meadow. Once the size was right, we were ready for the limestone chatter to be delivered. In August Longcliffe Quarries donated 6 tons of the chatter and delivered it for free. Group members then spread the chatter and the hard work was done. The bank has now been planted with a diverse selection of plants to attract many different species of butterflies. Butterfly Conservation Derbyshire kindly donated two disease resistant elm trees (the food source of the endangered White Letter Hairstreak butterfly) and these have been planted along with several other tree species at the bottom of the meadow. We have seeded several areas of the meadow with wildflower seed and hope to have a good selection come up. Paths will be mown through the meadow and the hay will be taken off in August/September. Anyone visiting the site will have noticed that we are now well on the way to establishing the natural wildlife pond. Again, we have to thank Mr John Hicklin who has given us so much of his time in helping us with this project. When the pond is established it is hoped to erect a bird viewing screen and plant the area for wildlife. There is still a lot to do but we are getting there and we have so many people to thank for their help in creating the bank and the pond it is hoped to hold a thank you event in the meadow in the summer.

### **Cote Close Bird Sanctuary**

The payback team erected a bird screen and an area was cleared of brambles to plant native fruit trees. We are very grateful to Mr and Mrs Fennemore who kindly donated several of these trees for their grandchildren. Shallow troughs have been dotted around the site to provide water for the wildlife as there is no other source of water in the sanctuary. Lots of time has been spent keeping the path through the sanctuary clear and where it had become very muddy at the bottom end a stone path was laid by the payback team.

### **Trent and Mersey towpath and Jubilee Wood**

Regular users of the towpath will have seen and hopefully walked the path through Jubilee Wood. Our main problem here is the spread of Himalayan Balsam which we spent many hours pulling up during the summer and which we will be doing again this year. We spent some time removing plastic guards from trees in Jubilee wood and filled two large builders' bags which we took to the tip.

## **Butterfly Transect**

From April to September group members took part in the annual butterfly transect whereby a set route is walked once a week and all butterflies seen are recorded and details sent to the Derbyshire recorder for Butterfly Conservation. The group has been taking part in this survey since 2013.

## **20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event**

The footpaths group was 20 years old in 2018 so we invited a number of people who had worked with us over the years to a celebration event at the Village Hall. It was good to meet together with old friends and reminisce about what we had achieved over the past 20 years.

## **New Website**

The Footpath Groups website which had been in existence for many years was beginning to look rather tired so we developed a new one which went live in the spring.

## **Village Hall:**

Badminton Club - Contact: Jan Howell - [tonyhowell2004@hotmail.com](mailto:tonyhowell2004@hotmail.com)

Badminton Club play on Wednesday evenings starting at 8.30pm and runs until approximately 10pm. We are always on the look out for new members as we are now a very small bunch of folks. You do not need to be a high-class player as we play more for the social benefits and exercise followed by a trip to the pub. I would add that if you play regularly at a sports centre you would find playing in the village hall a bit of a challenge as the ceiling height is quite low compared to normal badminton courts and you would need to adapt your game. Most of our players are over 60 years old with a few exceptions so our game is played accordingly.

Oakden Dance Academy - Contact: Charlotte Vasey - [charlotte\\_vasey@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:charlotte_vasey@hotmail.co.uk) The Oakden Dance Academy teaches a variety of dance styles to children aged 5+. We're at Findern Village Hall every Tuesday from 5-6pm and at other venues and times throughout the week.

### Legs, Bums & Tums HIIT Class

Contact- Amanda Supple - [ajsupple1066@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ajsupple1066@yahoo.co.uk)

I run fitness classes that are suitable for everyone of all fitness levels. I am a highly qualified fitness instructor with 21 years' experience. My classes are fun and friendly and I tailor my classes to meet individual needs. Try your first class for free. We meet on Thursday from 6-6.50pm.

Findern Preschool Contact- Carol Gillard - [findernpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:findernpreschool@gmail.com) - Findern Preschool are here for the care, development and education of children under statutory school age. We are open:

- b. Monday 9-12
- c. Tuesday 9-3.30
- d. Wednesday 9-3.30
- e. Thursday 9-12
- f. Friday 9-12.

The fees are £12 per session or £24 for a full day.

Yoga - Contact- Helen Lakin - [helenlakin@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:helenlakin@hotmail.co.uk)

This is a mixed ability class with clear instructions and lots of different options depending on ability and/or preference. A little time is given to breathing practice and teaching movement with breath. There is relaxation and time for reflection at the end of each class. It takes place on a Thursday night, 7.30-8.30 and the cost is £7, payable on the night. Males and females are welcome. Helen, the instructor has trained with The British Wheel of Yoga. Students need to bring a non-slip yoga mat. A couple of mats are available if anyone wanted to try a class before buying a mat. Helen recommends attending at least 6 classes in order to 'get a feel' for yoga and decide if it's for you. The classes will help with strength, focus and concentration, flexibility, body awareness and even stress. It's a holistic practice in many ways.

The John Allsop Foundation - Contact- Helen Lakin -  
[helenlakin@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:helenlakin@hotmail.co.uk)

The John Allsop Foundation is a registered charity that gives grants and awards to young people under the age of 25 and to educational organisations such as schools, pre-schools, youth clubs, guides, etc. To apply for a grant, you must be a resident of Findern, Willington, or Stenson and Twyford villages or be involved in the running of an organisation in these villages.

Currently we have a GCSE award that benefits students gaining four or more C Grade or equivalent qualifications. This is set at £100. Our Book and Equipment grant is aimed at students at university or college, but does not fund A level study. We can help with the relevant books and equipment for your courses. We have a music grant that can assist with the purchase of musical instruments. Organisations can apply in writing explaining how they would spend a grant and list the cost of the items needed. All grants and awards are at the discretion of the Trustees, and are dependent upon the income of the Foundation. For further information and application forms, please contact: Helen Lakin, 13 Chevin Avenue, Mickleover, Derby, DE3 9GW or email: [helenlakin@hotmail.com](mailto:helenlakin@hotmail.com).

Grants and awards are not means tested so if you think you could apply please do so without fear of disclosing personal information. We want to support young people and are keen for more people to know about our wonderful charity.

Indoor Bowls Club- Doreen Roach.

The indoor Bowls Club takes place Monday and Thursday afternoons at 1.45- 4-15pm. 80% of members live in Findern. This is not just a Bowls Club but is a Social Club where everyone is welcome.

Astral S Karate-Robert Taylor- (DID NOT REPLY)

Email- [Astral.s.karate@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Astral.s.karate@hotmail.co.uk)

Only information is it takes place 5.30- 6.30pm on Wednesdays

## Brownies and Guides- Janet Orme

Contact [joljosso@aol.com](mailto:joljosso@aol.com)

Brownies- Monday 5.30-6.45 Guides 7.30-9.30

### W.I. Report

Findern and Friends Women's Institute are a group of Ladies who meet in The Village Hall on the third Tuesday of each month.

Our meetings start at 7.30pm and last two hours. The year's programme includes visiting speakers, craft activities and social events. In addition, each month a Book Group and Lunch Club meet at different venues. We also arrange theatre visits and other outings throughout the year.

As a Woman's Institute, we are part of a large National Federation and also a Derbyshire Federation. These provide many additional activities for members who wish to take part.

Findern is also involved with other local W.I's in South Derbyshire who meet as the Mercia Group for social events.

Since our formation in 2004, we have taken part in the annual Fete and helped to produce the Well Dressing which is displayed at that event. Last year, to commemorate the centenary of the Derbyshire Federation, we planted snowdrops on the Village Green and, very recently, we took part in the Great Spring Clean Up, clearing a copse off Burton Road.

If you would like to see if the W.I. is for you, please come along to our meetings. You will be very welcome.

For information, contact:

Janice Ashford :01283 702511

Or Susan Miller: 01283 762092

Posters relating to our meetings are also displayed on the Village Notice Board.

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### The John Allsop Foundation:

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pre-schools, youth clubs, guides etc. To apply for a grant, you must be a resident of Findern, Willington or Stenson and Twyford Villages or be involved in the running of an organisation in these villages.

Currently we have a GCSE award that benefits students gaining four or more C Grade or equivalent qualifications. This is set at £100-00. Our Book and Equipment Grant is aimed at students at university or college, but does not fund A level study. We can help with the relevant books and equipment for your courses.

We have a music grant that can assist with the purchase of musical instruments. Organisation can apply in writing explaining how they would spend a grant and list the cost of the items needed. All grants and awards are at the discretion of the Trustees, and are dependant upon the income of the Foundation.

Grants and awards are not means tested so if you think you could apply please do so without fear of disclosing personal information. We want to support young p[people] and are keen for more people to know about our wonderful charity.

Contact: Helen Lakin

[helenlakin@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:helenlakin@hotmail.co.uk)

#### **FINDERN METHODIST CHAPEL**

Chapel is 184yrs old this year and after its renovation in 2009 is able to provide activities for a range of age groups. The best addition was the water supply enabling chapel to have a kitchen and toilet!

- Sunday worship has an average attendance of 25 and a few weddings, baptisms and funerals.
- In term time there are 2 weekly children's groups one for babies under 2yrs and one for toddlers. There is also a weekly gentle exercise class for adults who have problems with joints or backs.
- Every Wednesday afternoon there is a drop-in session with tea and cakes between 2 and 3.30pm and on the first Wednesday of every month lunch club operates providing an excellent meal for older residents followed by some kind of entertainment – all for £4.
- Wednesday evening is craft evening when members of the Piece makers group meet to sew and they have an all-day workshop on a Saturday now and again.

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- The Historical Society use the premises once a month for their meetings and various small groups use the building occasionally for meetings

It is a well-used facility but increasingly parking is becoming a problem.

### **Findern Historical Society:**

Findern Historical Society meets monthly 11 times a year (no meeting in August) on the third Monday of the month in Findern Methodist Chapel. The meetings commence at 7.30pm and light refreshments are served at the end of the meeting.

The meetings normally take the form of an invited speaker talking about a particular topic in which they have a special interest and have expert knowledge. Where applicable, they will bring along any books, items, memorabilia etc relevant to the subject matter. Topics this year have included “The Sherwood Foresters at the battle of the Somme” and “The history of food and drink in Tudor Derbyshire” The July meeting usually takes the form of a visit to a site of particular historical interest – this year we are planning to visit Southwell to see the Minster and the Old Workhouse. Meetings, including details of the speaker and subject matter, are advertised in the “Resource” magazine and on the Parish Council Website.

Membership of the Historical Society costs £5-00 per year with a charge of £2-00 per meeting which includes the cost of the refreshments. Visitors are very welcome.

### **Open Session for Residents**

It appears that Porters Lane is in need of a ‘Clean-Up’. Together with leaves, blackberries on the ground and running water, which is dangerous in the Winter Months, it was felt that something should be done to tidy the area up.

The Chairman informed the Resident that Councillor Martyn Ford was aware of these problems and was in the process of trying to sort them out.

The Chairman advised the Resident that it may also be worth while contacting Councillor Ford directly and ask for his help.

The Chairman – Councillor Mary Goodall informed the Residents that she will not be standing as Chairman of The Findern Parish Council in May. She has thoroughly enjoyed her time in office and feels it is time to hand over the baton.

The Residents present thanked Councillor Goodall for all her dedication and hard work over the 4-year period in office. All Parish Councillors reiterated this.

### **3. Close of meeting**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7-40pm