

FINDERN PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs Kate Sharpe

Findern Parish Rooms, Lower Green, Findern, Derbyshire DE65 6AS

Tel: 07444 085807

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Findern Parish Council held via Zoom Meetings software at 7pm on 10 December 2020

Present: Councillors T Brown, G Cooke, B Dosanjh, M Ratcliffe, R Rose, C Smith and M Woodhouse.

Also present: Mrs K Sharpe (Clerk) and 5 members of the public.

2614/20 Apologies for absence

None.

2615/20 Declaration of members interests

None declared.

2616/20 Public Speaking

Members of the public:

Steve Tiso from Findern Footpaths Group updated the Council on the work carried out this month on conservation, replacing whips in hedges and planting 350 bulbs. The group had also carried out work on Butterfly Bank and on the pool, clearing vegetation in front of the bird hide. All tree planting and conservation work was being logged on the Countryfile website.

The Chairman thanked Steve Tiso for the update and the report was **NOTED**.

Joan Tidy from Findern Footpaths Group advised Council that the repair work on the tow path between the Nadee and the White Bridge was nearly completed and it has been noted that a grass verge had been dug over beside the path but not planted. It was suggested that the Council could enquire about wildflower planting along the length of the towpath.

RESOLVED that Councillor Woodhouse would visit the site to consider whether wildflower planting would be suitable; also, the Clerk would approach Rights of Way department at Derbyshire County Council to enquire about the permissions that would be required.

Police Liaison Officer:

No Police officer was present at the meeting and no report had been received.

District Councillor Report:

Councillor Andrew MacPherson was present at the meeting and advised that:

- The updated refuse/waste recycling collection calendars for 2021 were being circulated to customers in South Derbyshire
- Parish Councils would soon receive details of the programme for the Sportmobile scheme
- Dates for the new programme of Area Forum meetings would be issued shortly.

District and County Councillor Report:

Councillor Martyn Ford was present at the meeting and gave the following report: -

- Christmas events had been curtailed across the district and county because of COVID-19; however, the programme of Christmas lights in towns and villages had been able to go ahead, but without any switching on ceremonies.
- There were concerns about the rising number of COVID-19 infection rates across the county, with the major worry being the number of cases in the over 60s age group and the related number of hospital admissions. The Derbyshire County Council website had lots of COVID-19 related information and data. Which tier Derbyshire/Derby City goes into after 2nd lockdown would be decided on 16 December 2020.
- With District and County offices empty of staff – as so many were working from home – communication was difficult and it was taking longer than normal to get a response on queries.
- £1.2 million of s106 money had been awarded to John Port Secondary School for general improvements at the school.
- Derbyshire County Council had invested £42,000 in a business support website ‘Shop Happy’. This is for small businesses to promote their products and services; to help them carry on business through the period of COVID-19 restrictions. Access to the website is free for a year and businesses get support to set their pages up on the website.

2617/20

Response to emails from residents

a) Request for dropped kerb on pavement outside Murray’s building

The Council had received an email from a resident highlighting the need for a dropped kerb on the pavement by the drive into Murray’s. Currently as there was no dropped curb, wheelchair users had to navigate the road close to a blind bend.

Councillor Ford advised he would take this up with Highways at Derbyshire County Council.

b) Highfields Dog Waste litter

The Council had received an email from a resident expressing concern about the dog waste litter that had been left in the hedgerow of a field on green space at the end of Bolsover Road on the Highfields development. Photos had been supplied. This issue had occurred because of the lack of provision by the developer of dog bins in the area. Now that the Parish Council had installed bins, it was hoped that the issue would be eliminated.

Councillor Ford suggested the Clerk contact the environment team at South Derbyshire District Council to ask them to clean up any dog waste bags left in hedgerows.

2618/20

Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 12 November be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

2619/20

Variation of order of business

None.

2620/20

To determine which items, if any, of the Agenda should be taken with the press and public excluded

RESOLVED that no item on the Agenda should be taken with the press and public excluded.

2621/20

Chairman's Report

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the December Parish Council meeting and went on to thank, on behalf of the Parish Council, Woodgrow Horticulture Ltd. for once again donating a Christmas tree for the village green; with special thanks to Councillor Woodhouse and Ellis for erecting the fine specimen of a tree; also, the Chairman thanked the villagers who kindly donated extra baubles.

The Chairman took the opportunity to praise the people of Findern for the effort that had been made with outside lights and displays, making these even more spectacular than normal. A lot of extra effort had been made during these difficult times.

Around the village, the planters have been planted up with winter plants; thanks to Easy Growing Landscapes for the lovely display.

The Chairman was happy to report that the canal path between Nadee and the White Bridge near the Marina, would open by the weekend (12/12/20); this was ahead of schedule.

Thanks also went to Penny Adcock who continued to collect and deliver prescriptions for the vulnerable in the village.

And finally, the Chairman, on behalf of all Councillors, wished everyone in the Parish a Merry Christmas.

2622/20

Report of the Parish Clerk

a) Update on dog bins for Highfields

The four dog bins had been installed and were being well used. South Derbyshire District Council had been notified and would commence weekly collection of waste on the Thursday of each week. As mentioned earlier, the installation of the bins had highlighted the issues that had occurred because of the lack of provision by the developer of dog bins on the area. There was a £20 saving on the installation of each bin because less man hours and materials were required. Thank you to Councillor Ratcliffe for stencilling bins to identify them as belonging to Findern Parish Council.

b) Update on Speed Watch

The Council had been advised that Roadside training could not commence due to COVID-19 restrictions. All 6 volunteers had been kept updated on the situation.

c) Update on Grit Bins for Highfields

The Clerk had spoken to the contact for the consortium of builders. Whilst they would have no objection in principle to the Parish Council installing and maintaining the bins, they would like to see the proposed sites and it should be noted that, as the Highways authority would eventually take over responsibility for the roads and pathways on the development, the Council were advised to liaise with them on type, size and proposed location of the bins. The Clerk had emailed Highways and was waiting on their reply.

d) Ownership of land – area where steps are sited that run from KGV playing field up to Baxter's Way footpath

The title plan showed the land was owned by Highways England. The Clerk wrote to Highways England, with plan, photos and a risk assessment report on the steps from the Council's Health and Safety Consultant. Highways England had replied to say the land

formed part of the *local road network and was the responsibility of the Local Highway Authority (LHA) as Highways England holds title to the sub soil, however, maintenance and responsibility for the top two spits (spades depth) are vested to the LHA.*

The Clerk therefore contacted Highways Department at Derbyshire County Council and received a reply from their Rights of Way Officer advising that *as the set of steps are not located on the legal line of the public footpath and are on a route not recorded as a public right of way, the Council was not empowered to take further action regarding the steps.* Based on the original email from Highways England advising that the LHA does have *maintenance responsibility for the top two spits (spades depth) of the land, the Clerk has asked for the query to be passed back to Highways department for them to look at again and decide who would be responsible.*

e) Letter to owner of the land at Sycamore Avenue

As requested at the last meeting the Clerk had written to Mr Iqbal, the owner of the land off Sycamore Avenue to register a possible interest in the land should he seek to sell it in the future. The Clerk had also had a brief telephone conversation with Mr Iqbal in which he expressed his disappointment about the way his proposal had been described in the press. He said he was at the moment considering his plans for the land but as a businessman, he was quite prepared to sit on the land as he knows that it will retain its value in to the future.

f) Update on TPO for tree off Longlands Lane/near Gostiles

Planning at South Derbyshire had confirmed they would progress the request to TPO the oak tree off Longlands Lane/near Gostiles – this had been delayed but should be done by January.

g) Graffiti at Crow Park Way

The graffiti which had appeared on the underpass on Crow Park Way had been reported to South Derbyshire and their Clean Team would remove it asap.

RESOLVED that the report and actions be noted.

2623/20

Members Reports

a) Garden of Remembrance/Cemetery update

The Parish Council would like to thank James Maguire for planting the new whips in the hedge around the cemetery. All gaps had now been filled and the farmer had erected a fence on his land to make the boundary secure.

There have been further sightings of individuals exercising their dogs in the cemetery off the lead. Residents have contacted the Parish Council distressed about this, saying it was dis-respectful.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would contact the District Council (who own the cemetery) to ask whether signage requesting dogs to be kept on leads was available from them to display; and if not whether the Parish Council could have permission to display its own.

b) Findern in Relief Fund

Councillor Brown gave an update on this fund. Another of the trustees had taken on the task of sorting out paperwork including the constitution. A further update would be brought to the next meeting.

c) Stanhope Woods

Councillor Ratcliffe advised that the landowner was willing to enter into a licence agreement with the Parish Council to allow the Parish Council and Findern Footpaths group access to the land to continue the environment work at the site. The landowner had advised that he would want the Parish Council to indemnify him against any liability from the public accessing his land; also, for the Parish Council to cover the legal costs to set up the licence. Members were in agreement with these proposals.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would write a formal letter to the landowner requesting a licence agreement be set up between the Parish Council and the landowner. The letter would set out the clauses which the Parish Council wished to include in the agreement, including the approval for the Council to cover public liability and the cost of setting up the licence.

2624/20

Matters for discussion or determination

a) To confirm supplier for phase 2 of development at KGV Playing Field

The amended quotes to the new specification for the equipment had been received. The quotes had been discussed in detail at a separate working group meeting and the recommendation was to award the contract for the supply and installation of the Outdoor Gym Equipment to HAGS Fitness Ltd. at a cost of £12,800 + VAT.

RESOLVED to award the contract for the supply and installation of the Outdoor Gym Equipment to HAGS Fitness Ltd. at a cost of £12,800 + VAT.

Members discussed applying for an amendment to the Planning Permission approved in December 2019 (9/2019/0676) to approve a change to the layout of the equipment from that originally proposed; siting the Outdoor Gym Equipment and the Basketball Area alongside the pump track, which would allow the retention of one football pitch and ensuring ROSPA recommendation of 25 metres between Outdoor Gym Equipment and the children's play area is followed. The Teq Table from the original proposal has now been withdrawn.

RESOLVED to apply for an amendment to the planning permission (9/2019/0676) to allow a change to the layout of the equipment; siting the Outdoor Gym Equipment and the Basketball Area alongside the pump track and removing the Teq Table from the proposal.

Members also discussed the removal of the set of goalposts nearest the pump track to make way for new equipment. A quote of £146 for their removal had been received.

RESOLVED that the goalposts be removed at a cost of £146.00

b) SDDC Sportmobile offer for 2021

The Council had received information on the Sportmobile scheme for the summer of 2021; along with a proposal of two dates for the scheme to be held in Findern and cost being: -

Sports Mobile	03/08/21	6pm-8pm	£195/session
Adventure Mobile	26/08/21	2pm-4pm	£285/session

RESOLVED to approve the two proposed dates and the expenditure for the two sessions to be delivered. The Clerk would offer the option of delivering the session at Hillside rather than at the King George V Playing Field, as this was a more central location.

c) Request for donation – SDCVS Winter Giving Campaign

The Council had received a request from South Derbyshire CVS for a donation towards their Winter Giving Campaign to help those in need of food and support in the district.

RESOLVED to donate £200 towards the campaign under s137.

2625/20

Planning Matters

Members **NOTED** the following planning applications: -

Consultations

a) **Ref. No. DMPA/2020/1128** – 8 Wren Park, Findern

2-storey side extension and single storey rear and front extensions

b) **Ref. No. DMPA/2020/1129** – Windyridge, Burton Road, Findern, Derby.

The change of use of land from agriculture to ancillary B1 business use, and the erection of a single storey building (revision to scheme previously approved under ref. 9/2017/1320)

Decisions

a) **Ref. No. DMPA/2020/0947** - Tower House, Porters Lane, Findern

Listed Building Consent for the replacement of existing bay window and single side window, the installation of an entrance canopy and the relocation of internal door.

Approved (Delegated decision)

b) **Ref. No. DMPA/2020/0854** - Dhami Acres, Bakeacre Lane, Findern

The erection of a replacement outbuilding.

Approved (Delegated decision).

c) **Ref. No. DMPA/2020/0847** - Tower House, Porters Lane, Findern

Replacement of existing bay window and single side window and the installation of an entrance canopy.

Approved (Delegated decision).

d) **Ref. No. DMPA/2020/0059** – 14 Doles Lane, Findern

Change of use from dwelling (use class C3) to a large House in Multiple Occupation (HMO)7 (sui generis use) and minor alterations to building.

Approved (Committee decision).

2626/20

Finance

a) Finance Committee date (Budget/Precept for 2021/2022)

The Clerk advised that the Council had received details of the Council Tax Base and expected concurrent function allowances from South Derbyshire District Council. These figures would inform the draft budget for 2021/22, which should be discussed - along with a recommendation for Precept for 2021/22 - at a Finance Committee meeting before the Full Council meeting in January 2021.

RESOLVED to hold a Finance Committee meeting in the first week of January 2021. The Clerk would liaise with Members to confirm a date for this.

- b) Members approved the following items for payment:-
 Authorised BACS payments – M Woodhouse and C Smith.

Cheque No.	Payee and Description of service or goods	Nett	VAT	Gross
UTB BACS 18/11/2020	Firs Farm Nursery for Winter planting of 8 large planters	£659.20	£131.84	£791.04
UTB BACS 18/11/2020	Festive Lights – purchase of 8 sets of Christmas lights and a transformer	£156.59	£31.32	£187.91
UTB BACS 25/11/2020	South Derbyshire CVS - Salary payment November	£1310.34	£0.00	£1310.34
UTB BACS 25/11/2020	Donation s137 to Derbyshire Air Ambulance	£200.00	£0.00	£200.00
UTB BACS 10/12/2020	Aucuba Landscapes Ltd. – Strim of bike track	£45.00	£9.00	£54.00
UTB BACS 10/12/2020	Easy Growing Landscapes - planting of whips in hedge at cemetery	£150.00	£0.00	£150.00
UTB BACS 10/12/2020	K Sharpe Clerk's expenses – Phone, working from home allowance, mileage, Zoom subscription, land registry, envelopes, spray paint	£64.59	£2.40	£66.99
UTB BACS 10/12/2020	Earth Anchors Ltd. Supply of 4 dog bins with posts for Highfields	£874.95	£174.99	£1049.94
UTB BACS 10/12/2020	South Derbyshire Electrical Ltd. Electrical work to supply on The Green	£180.00	£36.00	£216.00
UTB BACS 10/12/2020	Tudor Landscapes Ltd – installation of 4 dog bins at Highfields	£248.00	£0.00	£248.00
UTB BACS 10/12/2020	Pictorial Ltd – Digitally printed sign including fixings for Christmas display	£85.00	£17.00	£102.00
UTB BACS 10/12/2020	Viking Direct Ltd. 2 sets of inks for Cllr Smith and the Clerk and 2 reems of copy paper	£68.67	£13.73	£82.40

UTB BACS 10/12/2020	Streetscape Ltd Supply of scaled drawing for planning permission	£250.00	£50.00	£300.00
DIRECT DEBIT 11/12/2020	Information Commissioners Office Annual subscription	£35.00	£0.00	£35.00

c) Members noted Income received: -

Date of credit	From	Into Account	Amount
11/11/2020	Lindsay Bee - Tea Room Rent	UTB	£363.33
30/11/2020	Interest on reserve account	Nat West Res	£00.21

d) Bank Account Reconciliation Report/Budget Monitoring Reports

Members **NOTED** the Bank Account Reconciliation Report/Budget Monitoring Reports up to 30 November 2020 (including Current and Reserve Accounts Balances).

2627/20

Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were **NOTED**. No action to be taken.

- DALC Circular November 2020 - forwarded 12/11
- SDCVS Winter Giving Campaign – forwarded 25/11
- South Derbyshire CVS re Police Crime Commissioner Vulnerability Fund - forwarded 2/12
- DALC Circular December 2020 - forwarded 12/12

On the following items of correspondence, it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would contact the developer to offer to meet via Zoom with Councillors outside of the monthly Parish Council; also, to ask the developer what plans were in place to engage with the residents living adjacent to the proposed development site of the old Archway motors site.

- Stanton Developers – request for meeting with the Parish Council - forwarded 01/12

2628/20

Reports from Councillors attending meetings of outside bodies

None.

2629/20

Date of next meeting(s)

It was **NOTED** that the next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council would take place at **7.00pm on Thursday, 14 January 2021.**

Meeting closed at 8.50pm