

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 11 February 2021

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

Also present: Mrs K Sharpe (Clerk) and 6 members of the public.

2647/21 Apologies for absence

None – all Councillors present at the meeting

2648/21 Declaration of members interests

None declared.

2649/21 Public Speaking

Members of the public:

a) A member of the public requested an update on whether any work was planned to improve the poor condition of the high pavement footpath between Bakeacre Lane and Wallfields House – this had been highlighted at a previous meeting. Councillor Ford confirmed he had reported this to Highways and he would flag up with the area manager that the footpath had not yet been repaired.

b) A resident requested that the Parish Council consider erecting a memorial similar to the one installed at Hatton, to Captain Sir Tom Moore.

The Chairman thanked the resident for the suggestion and said it would certainly be considered as part of a wider discussion about a memorial to those who had lost their lives in the Covid pandemic and the NHS Staff and other key workers who had supported the country throughout.

c) Joan Tidy from Findern Footpaths Group advised that she would bring details of signage proposed for Cardales Meadow to the next meeting; wording for the sign was on the Agenda to be approved. Steve Tiso advised that members of the group had suspended activity until Covid restrictions were relaxed. At their meeting on 3 March 2021, they would discuss their plans for Spring/Summer which would include developing food chain diversity. The group were looking for a bee keeper to site a couple of hives at Cardales Meadow. He reported that there was a problem with dog waste bags being thrown into hedges or left in fields – despite there being plenty of dog waste bins available.

d) A resident highlighted an issue on Bridleway 11 which runs alongside the canal on the north side. On the section heading towards the railway bridge, water was running off a field

causing the footpath to be very wet and muddy with water pooling under the bridge to such a degree that walkers were heading up and over the bridge to avoid the flood.

RESOLVED the Clerk would contact the Rights of Way team about the issue

- e) Councillor MacPherson wished to congratulate Findern Footpaths Group and the Parish Council on getting the canal path upgraded. As a Willington Parish Councillor, he was keen for the work to join up from that direction.

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 gave the following report: -

- There was lots going on behind scenes related to Covid, with the rolling out of testing and vaccine centres.
- A Finance and Management meeting was taking place looking at Council Tax elements.

District and County Councillor Report:

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

- The DCC portion of the Council tax would rise by 2.5%. This would include 1% for Adult Social Care budgets. The overall budget for the year was £572.4 Million.
- Details were on the Derbyshire County Council website for people affected by the recent flooding events or who may need additional financial help through the winter. Councillor Ford asked the Parish Council if they could promote this fund to affected residents on the website and Facebook page.
- Two Covid testing centres would be closing; Midway Community Centre was still open for people who are non-symptomatic but want a test. Vaccinations were being administered at Oaklands Care Village, Swadlincote, although people from this area were also going to Derby Arena for inoculations. The latest recorded data for South Derbyshire was showing an infection rate of 216.3 per 100,000 population, which was a fall from the previous week, which was 255 per 100,000.
- Derbyshire County Council, with others, were supporting the Freeport bid that includes the EMIP land between the A38/A50.
- Derbyshire County Council had determined that it was their responsibility to repair the steps between Baxter's Way and the King George V playing field, as it is an adopted Right of Way.
- Following concerns regarding work being carried out on the boundary to the land on Bakeacre Lane, Planning Enforcement Officers from SDDC had visited the site. Officers had spoken to the owners and had been assured that the intention is only to keep horses on the land. The owners wished to improve visibility at the site entrance to make it easier to see in both directions when exiting the site in horse transporters. To that end, they had removed overgrown shrubbery which restricted views. Also, a pre-existing track leading to the stables on the land was grassed over due to long disuse; therefore, a digger has been used to remove the vegetation and clear the track. The officer said that nothing which he observed was inconsistent with these explanations and he had not seen anything which appeared to amount to development for which permission would

be needed. He did query the works to clear vegetation, which appeared to have involved more than shrubbery and that there may have been some tree felling. As the site is covered by a large TPO which covers a large area of Findern, he had alerted Derbyshire County Council (DCC) to this potential infringement of the order in case any further action may be needed. The order was made by DCC so they are the authority for enforcing any contravention of it.

- Councillor Ford had asked Highways to look at installing barriers outside the new Highfields Spencer Academy; highlighted as an issue at the previous Parish Council meeting.
- The flooding issues on the A38/Doles Lane were in hand; the DCC Highways area manager was looking into this.

2650/21

Response to emails from residents

a) **Request for Land Registry search**

A resident had contacted the Council, asking for a land registry search to be done on some land off Longlands Lane.

RESOLVED that as the Parish Council had no query with who owned the piece of land, they would not carry out a land registry search.

b) **Council copied into email to SDDC re. work on the boundary of field off Bakeacre Lane**

The Council had received/been copied into emails from residents concerned about the work being carried out on the boundary of the field off Bakeacre Lane. Councillor Ford had already alerted Planning Officers at SDDC to the activity and they had visited the site. Councillor Ford had given an update in his report at this meeting.

RESOLVED the Clerk would provide the concerned residents with the information shared by Councillor Ford.

2651/21

Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 14 January 2021 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

2652/21

Variation of order of business

None.

2653/21

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

It was **RESOLVED** that only the item already listed on the Agenda under Exempt items should be taken with the press and public excluded.

2654/21

Chairman's Report

The Chairman welcomed all to the February meeting. The Chairman thanked Councillor Cooke and his two children, Ollie and Eloise who spent time recently picking up bottles, plastic bags and dog waste bags that had been dropped into hedges surrounding a popular green space at Highfields. There are now four dog waste bins situated on the estate, which will hopefully reduce further incidents of abandoned bags.

Two caution signs had been situated at the top and bottom of the steps down to the King George V Playing Field, to warn users to take care if using them; in the meanwhile, the Parish Council were working on getting the steps repaired by the appropriate authority.

The Chairman reminded everyone that Fridays Lane and Buckford Lane would be closed from 9.00am - 3.30pm on 22nd February until 26th February 2021.

The weather had been unpredictable, with recent snow fall. There were grit bins situated throughout the village which were checked regularly by Dave Tidy, the Lengthsman. But if a resident found one that needed refilling, they should contact the Parish Council Clerk who would organise for the bin to be replenished.

The Chairman ended her report by thanking Penny Adcock for her ongoing support to villagers in need, but also for her help in sorted out the paperwork for the Findern in Relief Charity.

2655/21

Report of the Parish Clerk

a) KGV Steps update

Councillor Ford had taken up the issue of responsibility for the steps at KGV with officers at Derbyshire County Council. He had been in touch with the Network Planning Officer in Public Rights of Way who had undertaken some research into this enquiry. It would appear that this was a public footpath that had not been accounted for when the Sides Road Order was made and the A50 constructed. Arrangements were being made for the necessary work to be carried out and the path to be added to the Definitive Map and Statement. (Now Footpath 22). An officer had inspected the steps and had made the arrangements for repairs to be carried out as soon as possible.

b) KGV Phase 2 – update on planning and goalposts

The planning department at South Derbyshire District Council had approved the amendment to the planning permission for the Council to site the gym equipment and basketball area closer to the pump track rather than alongside the hedge. The Council could proceed with installation however, because of the lockdown, it was proposed that the contractor schedules installation for April when hopefully restrictions would have been relaxed. There had been a delay in removing goalposts as contractor had to self-isolate for 2 weeks, but these would be removed by the end of the month.

c) Barriers outside Highfields Spencer Academy

Following the email from a resident of Highfields highlighted at last month's meeting, the Clerk had contacted the headteacher of the school, who also expressed concern about the absence of a substantial barrier outside the school. The Clerk had spoken to the contact at the Builders Consortium who confirmed that the land had been allocated by the builders for the school, however, Derbyshire County Council appointed the building contractor. All of this information had been passed to Councillor Ford who had kindly said he would take this up with the relevant officers, along with the other requests from the headteacher for safety measures outside the school including a 20mph zone, zig zag lines and ultimately a pedestrian crossing once Highways had adopted the road.

d) SDDC Housing Allocation Policy re. Brook Close

Following the discussion at last month's meeting regarding a resident's concerns about the housing allocation policy for Brook Close, the Clerk contacted South Derbyshire about this matter. The Head of Housing had replied with a copy of the Housing Allocation Policy which had been circulated to all Councillors; he also stated that: -

- All allocations are carried out under the terms of the Allocations Policy.
- The policy aims to meet housing need in the district in a fair and lawful manner.
- The allocation of council property is carried out through the online Homefinder system. However, if any applicants or potential applicants are finding it difficult to navigate the system, then they or their representatives can contact the SDDC team to make arrangements for assistance to be given with this.
- He also said he had done some research into recent lettings and wished to confirm he was satisfied that the properties were let according to the policy, noting that a number of people who had asked for these properties changed their mind at some point in the process.

The Clerk had shared this information with the resident who was concerned and they have accepted this explanation, however they asked whether the Parish Council could put information about how to apply for the housing on the Council's noticeboards to help those with no access to digital format.

RESOLVED the Councillors would support this if the Clerk obtained the relevant information from SDDC.

e) Update on bus stop markings and raised kerb on Doles Lane

It had been confirmed that the bus stop markings and raised kerb agreed with the Highways Officer on 22 September 2020 were separate from the works proposed in the consultation on the Traffic Regulation Order for Findern. The Clerk had chased progress on this and the Officer had advised that the works for the two raised kerbs that are needed to extend the bus boarder at the stop. (that would make accessing the bus easier for people with mobility issues and people with pushchairs/buggies.) could not be done at the same time as the lining works, but could quite easily be done before or after the lining works. The officer was looking to progress the work as soon as possible but was unable to give a timescale as the teams were involved with winter maintenance (gritting) and fitting in other work could be quite difficult.

A note on the consultation on the Traffic Regulation Order for Findern; the Parish Council – along with other stake holders – was asked to submit its initial comments on the proposals by 8 February 2021. These had been submitted and the next stage – the larger public consultation would follow shortly and would be promoted by the Parish Council on the website, Facebook page and noticeboards.

f) Report to DCC of Pot Holes on Common Piece Lane

Following concerns raised by residents at last month's meeting about the condition of the road surface on Common Piece, the Clerk had submitted a report with photos to the Highways Portal on DCC website under reference number **F773756**.

RESOLVED that as this was a Highways matter, the Clerk would ask Councillor Ford to highlight this issue with the relevant officers; and to get an update on whether repairs would be made to the road.

g) Lime Tree

The poor condition of the Lime tree on Doles Lane had been reported to Derbyshire County Council on their contact portal under reference number **F773817**. No response had been received.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would contact the Tree Officer at SDDC, to ask for his help in escalating this to the relevant officer at DCC.

RESOLVED that the report and actions be noted.

2656/21

Members Reports

a) Garden of Remembrance/Cemetery update

SDDC had confirmed they would be posting signage at the cemetery to discourage dog owners from exercising their dogs off the lead in the cemetery. The Neighbourhood Wardens were still keen to receive notification of the ongoing issues regarding the exercising of dogs within the cemetery, however they need to be notified of the details of the incidents to enable them to pursue the matter further.

b) Findern in Relief Fund

A meeting of the Trustees of the Fund had been held and the constitution had been confirmed. Councillor Brown would now be able to change the signatories on the bank account. A grant application form to be used by individuals wishing to apply to the fund had been drafted and circulated for approval and adoption. A further update would be brought to the next meeting.

c) Stanhope Woods

Councillor Ratcliffe advised that the landowner was consulting with his Solicitor regarding the licence agreement that would allow the Parish Council and Findern Footpaths group access to the land to continue the environment work at the site. Councillor Ratcliffe hoped that a draft Licence agreement could be brought to the March meeting for Members to consider.

d) Wildflower area and Bug Hotel at KGV site

Councillor Woodhouse and Councillor Brown had visited the site to consider the possibility of wildflower planting and the location of a bug hotel on site. Councillor Woodhouse also met a contractor on site to discuss the work need to prepare site for the wildflower area; also, to look at a tree in the boundary which was of concern.

RESOLVED to proceed with the wildflower area and relocation of the bug hotel to the new site; also approved quote from contractor (Tim Atkinson Tree Surgery) for tree works, hedge cutting and preparation of site for planting at £620 + VAT.

Matters for discussion or determinationa) Stanton Developments re. Archway Motors site

Stanton Developments had confirmed that they would be holding a Zoom call on Monday 22 February 2021 at 7pm as a consultation exercise with residents from adjacent properties to the proposed development; Members of the Parish Council were invited to join this call.

RESOLVED that Councillors T Brown and B Dosanjh would join the call and update all at next meeting.

b) Review of advertising of casual vacancies

Members were asked to consider whether it was a suitable time to be issuing a Notice of Poll when the country is in a national Lockdown and residents were not out and about and would not see notices on noticeboards. The Parish Council should be equitable to all, including those who do not have access to website, Facebook or other social media to see the notice advertised there.

RESOLVED that the Council would delay posting Notice of Poll until such time it was deemed that restrictions were relaxed sufficiently to ensure equitable access to notice. This would be reviewed at each meeting of the Parish Council.

c) Review of Co-option Policy

The Clerk requested that this item be deferred to the March meeting, as a query on the wording had been sent to DALC and no reply had been received before this meeting.

RESOLVED that this item be deferred until the March meeting.

d) Whip planting at KGV

Members considered quotes of the supply of whips and the planting of them in the hedge at King George V playing field; Woodgrow Ltd.- Mixed hedging plants 84 x 50p = £42.00, 10 x holly @£1.35 = £13.50; Easy Growing Landscapes planting of whips £130.00; also purchase of temporary fencing @ approximately £50.

RESOLVED to accept the quotes and schedule the work with contractor.

e) Approve Ground Maintenance and Planting Contracts for 2021

Members were asked to approve all Ground Maintenance and Planting contracts for 2021. All contractors had quoted as 2020, with no increase to prices, apart from +2% on planting up 8 planters around the village by Firs Farm Nursery (£84.05+VAT per planting). Members considered consolidating contract for mowing of Parish Rooms area and looking after village pump area – Easy Growing Landscapes had quoted the same as existing contractor for this.

RESOLVED to approve all contracts, adding strimming of Pump Track and mowing of strips on wildflower areas to Aucuba's contract, and adding the mowing of the Parish Room area and maintenance of the village pump area to the contract with Easy Growing Landscapes. The Clerk was asked to contact the Rights of Way team at Derbyshire County Council to find out their maintenance plans for Baxter's Way FP20 and the steps and path leading of this FP22.

f) Request for Grit Bin on Hillside near path to Porters Lane

Members were asked to consider a request for an additional grit bin to be located on Hillside near the path to Porters Lane at a cost of approximately £130.00 + VAT.

RESOLVED to approve the purchase of the additional grit bin.

There was a discussion about the water that was running off Porters Lane and whether there was a blocked culvert. The Clerk was asked to investigate who would have responsibility and ask them to look into this.

g) Findern Footpaths Group – approval of signage for Cardale’s Meadow and Cote Close

Members were asked to approve the wording for signage to be displayed at Cardale’s Meadow and Cote Close by Findern Footpaths Group. Wording would say “Conservation area: Keep dogs under control. Take only photos and leave only footprints. The sign will be aluminium, green with white writing on it. Group also intend to put up some “Clean up after your dog” signs on Common Piece Lane and Crow Park Way.

RESOLVED to approve the wording proposed.

h) Flooding issue on Burton Road

The flooding issue on Burton Road near the Garden Centre had been reported via the DCC contact portal under reference F777230. Members considered whether there was anything else the Council could do. However, Councillor Ford reported that the issue was already in hand and officers were investigating causes of the flood.

RESOLVED no further action need be taken at this time.

2658/21

Planning Matters

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

Consultations

a) **Ref. No. DMPA/2020/1327** – Hazel Close, Findern

Certificate of Lawfulness for proposed conversion of existing garage to provide habitable space, fitting of rear facing cantilevered window, replacement of existing cladding to dormers and internal alterations.

Decisions

a) **Ref. No. DMPA/2020/1474** – King George V Playing Field, Willington Road

Non-material amendment to permission ref 9/2019/0676 seeking the relocation of the gym equipment and the basketball area.

Approved (Delegated decision).

b) **Ref. No. DMPA/2020/1246** – 52 Hillside Findern

The erection of a proposed side extension and rear conservatory.

Approved (Delegated decision).

2659/21

Finance

a) Members approved the following items for payment: -

Authorised BACS payments – C Smith and T Brown.

Cheque No.	Payee and Description of service or goods	Nett	VAT	Gross
BACS UTB 27/01/21	South Derbyshire CVS - Salary payment January	£1258.02	£0.00	£1258.02
BACS UTB 11/02/21	Kate Sharpe - Clerk Expenses 'phone, working for home allowance, zoom subscription, purchase of 2 x warning signs	£65.76	£6.00	£71.76
BACS UTB 11/02/21	Aucuba Landscapes Ltd.	£210.00	£42.00	£252.00
BACS UTB 11/02/21	Viking Direct	£35.57	£7.11	£42.68

b) Members noted Income received: -

Date of credit	From	Into Account	Amount
29/12/2020	Rent from Burton Road Land	Nat West Cur	£1,750.00
12/01/2021	Rent from Parish Rooms	UTB	£363.00
29/01/2021	Interest on reserve account	Nat West Res	£00.20
05/02/2021	Concurrent Function Grant from SDDC	UTB	£15,437.00

c) Bank Account Reconciliation Report/Budget Monitoring Reports

Members **NOTED** the Bank Account Reconciliation Report/Budget Monitoring Reports up to 31 January 2021 (including Current and Reserve Accounts Balances).

2660/21

Correspondence

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

- DCC Traffic Regulation Order Statutory Consultation – forwarded 18/01
- Letter of thanks from South Derbyshire CVS – forwarded 19/01
- Letter of thanks from Derbyshire Air Ambulance
- DALC Climate Action Support – forwarded 19/01
- Derbyshire Rural Safety & Crime Prevention Guide - forwarded 27/01
- DALC Training Courses 2021 – forwarded 29/01
- DALC February Newsletter – forwarded 04/02
- NALC Guidance on the Possible Return to In Person meetings – forwarded 05/02

2661/21

Reports from Councillors attending meetings of outside bodies

None attended.

2662/21

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, 11 March 2021.**

2663/21

Exclusion of press and public

RESOLVED that in view of the nature of the business about to be transacted it was advisable that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.

2664/21

Exempt

Items considered: -

Bee's Tea Rooms

Meeting closed at 9.05pm

P1091