

# **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 March 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 5 members of the public.

**2665/21      Apologies for absence**

None – all Councillors present at the meeting

**2666/21      Declaration of members interests**

None declared.

**2667/21      Public Speaking**

**Members of the public:**

- a) Joan Tidy of the Findern Footpaths Group advised that a member of the public had contacted the group with concerns that some of the daffodils planted on Crow Park Way leading down to underpass were of the garden type and there was a danger that these would hybrid with the other wild varieties of daffodil previously planted there. The group had discussed this at their meeting and confirmed that the daffodils that were planted were wild varieties and therefore they did not plan to remove them. Also, the crocus that were planted were early pollinators and therefore they too would remain.
- b) The Group had also visited Stanhope Wood and were dismayed at the amount of rubbish left by the picnic table. A team had collected 3 bags of rubbish at the site. The group are keen to be involved in tidying the site and improving access to footpaths; they would welcome a meeting on site with Councillors Woodhouse and Ratcliffe to discuss what needs to be done. They confirmed they have the equipment but will need additional manpower to do the work. Both Councillors confirmed they were happy to meet with the group to take this forward.
- c) The bird hide installed at Cotes Close has proved to be very popular and their intention is to install another at Cardales Meadow near the pond.
- d) A resident spoke to congratulate Findern Footpaths Group on the work that they have done on the planting on Crows Park Way and along the canal.
- e) Referring to the suggestion at last month's meeting for the Parish Council to erect a memorial to Sir Captain Tom Moore, a resident expressed the opinion that he would have preferred some fundraising effort instead to support the NHS. The Chairman confirmed that this suggestion would be taken on board when the Council discussed this at a future meeting.

**Police Liaison Officer:**

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

**District Councillor Report:**

Councillor Andrew MacPherson was not present at the meeting and had not submitted a report.

**District and County Councillor Report:**

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

- The first public briefing on the East Midlands Freeport initiative had taken place to inform the public about the project. This would be an open and transparent process. He believed this was an incredibly exciting project that would offer community benefit as it develops.
- Issues on the condition High Pavement and situation on Longlands Lane had been reported to Highways at County Council for investigation.
- On the issue of flooding at Porters Lane and Hillside, Councillor Ford was still looking into what could be done. He would contact the drainage officer at Derbyshire County Council to ask for advice; also, he would speak to the landowner of the field adjacent to the lane.
- He had also escalated to Highways, the issue of the condition of the road surface on Common Piece Lane. Councillor Brown confirmed the repair work had recently been carried out on the pot holes.

2668/21

**Response to emails from residents**

a) Council copied into email to SDDC re. layby by Bakeacre Lane

Residents had reported a piece of roadside verge located on Bakeacre Lane approaching Findern, which was being frequently used for troublesome activities. The layby allowed people to park there for various reasons - most of which had become a nuisance to residents close by. The residents were asking for the area to be returned to grass verge through the creation of a mound of earth to prevent further nuisance parking.

Clerk advised that this was a District Council/Highways matter.

b) Ongoing concerns about activity at Longlands Lane

A resident had contacted the Parish Council expressing concern about the continued activity at the Chevins Farm site off Longlands Lane; in particular that there were fires being burnt most days creating black smoke. The resident was also concerned about the number of lorries accessing the site and blocking the highway.

The Clerk would contact the Environment Officers at the District Council for an update on their latest visits to the site.

c) Suggestion for traffic calming on Doles Lane adjacent to new Archway site development

Following the consultation meeting held by Stanton Developments on 22 February regarding development of the Archway Motors site, a resident had suggested the introduction of some form of simple traffic calming system be considered along Doles Lane to be funded as a condition of the development (a section 106 order, as it is known). The

resident believed that an appropriate system could serve to break the flow of traffic passing through the village, reducing ability to speed, improving safety, reducing road noise and possibly discouraging some non-village commuting altogether.

The Clerk had advised that such a scheme would have to be considered by Highways department, and that the resident should submit the suggestions during the consultation process on the planning application.

d) Safety concerns on footpath bridge at Highfields, also lighting

A resident on Highfields write to the Parish Council with concerns about the footpath bridge that the contractors have built linking Longford Close and Bolton Way at Highfields. No fence had been erected around it and therefore it was a safety risk; also, as there was no bollard to close the gap, vehicles were being driven over the bridge which was not meant for this purpose. The resident was also concerned about the low level of light of street lights on Highfields making it difficult for residents to take a walk around the estate at night time.

The Clerk had spoken to a representative of the builders' consortium – they have confirmed that there would barriers erected to the sides of the bridge, also, bollards would be placed in the centre of the path to stop vehicles using the bridge to cross between the two roads. Regarding the lighting - what was agreed at planning stage had been installed; any changes would have to be discussed with Highways at Derbyshire County Council once the roads had been adopted.

e) Flooding into garden off Porters Lane

Following last month's Parish Council meeting, when flooding on Porters Lane was discussed, a resident contacted the Council outlining contact they had with SDDC and the Flood team at DCC regarding flooding to the rear of their property caused by what is believed to be a blocked drain on Porters Lane.

This issue would be addressed in the Clerk's Report.

f) Name change to Parish Council to include Highfields

A resident had contacted the Council with the suggestion that with the growth of the estate at Highfield, perhaps a name change for the Parish Council would be appropriate e.g., Findern with Highfields Parish Council. This would highlight to the residents of Highfields that they live within the Parish boundary and can bring any concerns to the Parish Council.

The Clerk advised that a change of name for the Parish Council is a community governance issue and if the Council wished to proceed, it would need to make a request to South Derbyshire District Council who would undertake the statutory process to give approval to a change of name.

2669/21

Minutes

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 11 February 2021 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman subject to one amendment on Minute 2654/21. This should have read as Frizams Lane not Fridays Lane: - *The Chairman reminded everyone that*

*Frizams Lane and Buckford Lane would be closed from 9.00am - 3.30pm on 22<sup>nd</sup> February until 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021.*

**2670/21      Variation of order of business**

None.

**2671/21      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.

**2672/21      Chairman's Report**

The Chairman welcomed all to the March meeting of the Council, noting that It has been relatively quiet since the last meeting.

- In the week before this Council meeting, a tree surgeon had been on site at the King George V playing fields doing the necessary works on the trees that needed attention also, on the hedges and ground on Baxter's Way. This was to prepare for wildflower planting and the building of a bug hotel.
- Highways had also put new bus stop markings on the road at the bus stop on Doles Lane, down from the village green; hopefully this would improve the flow of traffic.
- The Chairman wished to take the opportunity to thank Heather Hall, Liz Lenton, Maureen Parnell and Sheila Hughes who had litter picked along the canal and also Philip and Julia from the footpaths group who joined them later on. Findern is very lucky to have so many people who put themselves out to make Findern a beautiful place to live in.
- The Chairman ended her report by thanking Penny Adcock for her ongoing support to villagers in need.

**2673/21      Report of the Parish Clerk**

a) KGV Phase 2

Work on the installation of the outdoor gym equipment was scheduled for April. Prior to work, one set of goalposts would be removed and stored if it was possible to reuse them elsewhere.

b) Report to DCC of pot holes on Common Piece Lane

The condition of the road surface had been reported to DCC under report F773756 a couple of months previously, with no reply. The Clerk had emailed Councillor Ford with details of the issue to ask for his support in progressing this with Highways officers; and subsequently some work had taken in place improving the road surface in the week of the Parish Council meeting.

c) Flooding on Porters Lane

This issue was discussed at last month's meeting. Following that meeting the Clerk had received 2 emails:

- 1) From a resident as mentioned earlier in Minute 2668/2021, with details of the flooding affecting their garden, and the contact made with SDDC and DCC about this,

- 2) From Councillor Ford advising the Clerk on investigation work carried out by SDDC a couple of years previously.

In order to explore whether the drains may be blocked and need some attention, the Clerk contacted Environment Officers at SDDC with a report and photos of the issue. They advised it would be Highways at DCC who would have responsibility – therefore Clerk has contacted DCC, under report **F790197**.

d) Footpath condition on Bridleway 11 reported to RoW at DCC

The Clerk had reported to the Rights of Way team at Derbyshire County Council the flooding issues on Bridleway 11 that resulted in walkers having to climb up and over bridge as water is too deep to go under bridge. A Rights of Way Officer had made a site visit; however, found it easily passable at the time of their inspection. They would continue to monitor the path.

**RESOLVED** that either the Chairman or a Footpaths Group member would send the Clerk some pictures of the path condition following wet weather when it is flooded. These could then be sent to the Rights of Way Officer.

e) Request for dropped kerb at entrance to Murrays

This issue was discussed at a previous meeting and Councillor Ford took this request up with Highways on the resident's behalf. The response he received: - *Whilst we do appreciate the reasoning behind the request, to install dropped kerbs outside the funeral directors would not be suitable. It would create a perceived crossing point, due to the existence of dropped kerbs opposite the funeral directors. Existing road and building alignment, means there is limited visibility of traffic approaching from Heath Lane when trying to cross from outside the funeral director. Whilst it is appreciated that the request may be for wheel chair users to mount the kerb more easily outside the funeral directors, we cannot provide what maybe a perceived crossing point, as this would create an arrangement which is potentially dangerous.*

f) Census 2021

Census Day is on 21 March 2021. The Clerk had received regular updates from the Census team and information about the Census had been uploaded to the Council's website, Facebook page and noticeboards.

g) Advertising of casual vacancies

The Notice of Poll for the 3 vacancies on the Council was issued on 5 March 2021 – this was in response to a conversation with Elections Officer at South Derbyshire who advised she would be issuing the notice of election for the 6 May elections on 29 March 2021.

If ten or more parishioners requested an election, it would be more cost effective for the Parish Council election to be held at the same time – to meet that 29 March deadline the Notice of Poll had to be issued by 5 March. If insufficient parishioners request an election, then the Council can proceed to fill the seats via co-option. An update would be brought to the April Council meeting.

**Members Reports**a) Garden of Remembrance/Cemetery update

SDDC had posted signage at the cemetery to discourage dog owners from exercising their dogs off the lead in the cemetery. Councillor Ratcliffe reminded Members that the District Council had said that they would plant trees down the pathway in the cemetery.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk would write to the District Council to ask for the planting of trees in the cemetery.

b) Findern in Relief Fund

Councillor Brown had submitted paperwork to the bank to change the signatories on the bank account. 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. The Clerk advised Council that no work should be carried out at Stanhope Wood by the Parish Council or volunteers at the moment, as the Council would not be covered by its public liability insurance until a Licence agreement had been signed.

d) Wildflower area and Bug Hotel at KGV site

Councillor Woodhouse updated Members on the work that had been carried out at the site of the wildflower area; including work on a tree in the boundary which was of concern. The next stage would be to plant the area with wildflower plugs. Findern Footpaths Group said that they may be able to help with the supply of some suitable plants to transplant.

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Woodhouse would bring some costs for plants to the next meeting.

**Matters for discussion or determination**a) Purchase of Defib replacement pads and batteries

The Clerk asked for approval for purchasing replacement pads and batteries for all 3 defibrillators in the village as and when needed, without having to seek approval from Council first.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk could order replacement parts as and when needed for the 3 defibrillators in the village without seeking approval at Council meeting.

b) Additional signage at Lower Green Car Park re. to dog owners

Members considered additional signage in the Lower Green parking area to remind dog owners to pick up dog waste when out walking.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk would contact South Derbyshire District Council to ask for additional signage to be posted in the car park, or seek permission for the Parish Council to post additional signage there.

- c) Issues caused by Bike Track at King George V playing field over Half Term/weekends  
Members considered the issues over Half Term/weekends caused by the success of the bike track at King George V playing field; in particular the issue of parking and the impact on the residents.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk would contact the Safer Neighbourhood team with photos of the parking situation to ask for their advice and support on how to manage the situation. The Council would also consider a consultation with residents on their ideas for the possible solutions. In addition, the Clerk would make enquiries about who owned the strip of land to front of hedge along Willington Road. This item would be put on the Agenda of the April Council meeting for further consideration.

- d) Review of Co-option Policy  
Members were asked to consider the draft Co-option Policy.

**RESOLVED** to adopt the Co-option Policy as drafted, allowing for the Council to meet applicants before a convened meeting to discuss the role and give applicants the opportunity to ask questions. The actual vote for the co-option would take place in a convened meeting – if there was a number of applicants, there could be a dedicated extraordinary meeting.

- e) Dates of meetings – Annual Parish Council and Annual Village incl. review of recommendation to re-opening face to face meetings  
The Clerk updated Members on the likelihood of re-opening face to face meetings for Council, which potentially may have to happen after the current Covid legislation expires on 7 May 2021.

**RESOLVED** that a further update would be brought to the 8 April 2021 meeting when a decision could be made about the dates of meetings in the coming months. The date of the Annual Parish meeting (for the village) would be set as Thursday 22 April 2021 at 7pm, and this would be held via Zoom Meetings.

- f) DALC Subscription  
Members were asked to consider the annual subscription for its membership of Derbyshire Association Local Councils.

**RESOLVED** to renew membership on the enhanced subscription which would allow the Council a number of free places on training courses.

- g) Approve movements on Asset Register for 2020/21  
Members were asked to approve the movements on Asset Register for 2019/20 and 2020/2021.

**RESOLVED** that the movements set out in Appendix 1 be approved on the Asset Register.

**2676/21**

**Planning Matters**

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

**Consultations**

**a) Ref. No DMPA/2021/0198 – 14, Bolton Way, Highfields**

The erection of a single storey extension to garage

**b) Ref. No DMPA/2021/0246 – 17 Longlands Lane, Findern**

The erection of a ground and first floor extension

**Decisions**

**a) Ref. No. DMPA/2020/1129 – Windyridge, Burton Road**

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)

Approved (Delegated decision).

**2677/21**

**Finance**

**a) Members approved the following items for payment: -**

Authorised BACS payments – R Rose and T Brown.

| <b>Cheque No.</b> | <b>Payee and Description of service or goods</b>                                                  | <b>Nett</b> | <b>VAT</b> | <b>Gross</b> |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| BACS UTB 23/02/21 | South Derbyshire CVS - Salary payment February                                                    | £1258.02    | £0.00      | £1258.02     |
| 11/03/21          | DALC – Training course for Cllr. T Brown – Law and Good Practice                                  | £50.00      | £0.00      | £50.00       |
| 11/03/21          | DALC – Training course for Clerk – Law and Good Practice                                          | £50.00      | £0.00      | £50.00       |
| 11/03/21          | Peacocks Salt - Delivery 1: 42 bags x 25kg white salt                                             | 153.30      | 30.66      | 183.96       |
| 11/03/21          | Peacocks Salt - Delivery 2: 42 bags x 25kg brown salt                                             | 153.30      | 30.66      | 183.96       |
| 11/03/21          | Tim Atkinson Tree Surgery – tree works and grounds clearance at KGV                               | £620.00     | £0.00      | £620.00      |
| BACS UTB 11/03/21 | Kate Sharpe - Clerk Expenses 'phone, working for home allowance, mileage, zoom subscription.      | £90.99      | £2.40      | £93.39       |
| BACS UTB 11/03/21 | Kate Sharpe – Reimbursement for purchases – 2 x warning signs and silica gel for storage of files | £31.29      | £6.27      | £37.56       |
| BACS UTB 11/03/21 | Viking Direct – Purchase of 4 storage boxes for parish files                                      | £71.96      | £14.39     | £86.35       |

b) Members noted Income received: -

| Date of credit | From                        | Into Account | Amount |
|----------------|-----------------------------|--------------|--------|
| 28/02/2021     | Interest on reserve account | Nat West Res | £00.19 |

c) Bank Account Reconciliation Report/Budget Monitoring Reports

Members **NOTED** the Bank Account Reconciliation Report/Budget Monitoring Reports up to 28 February 2021 (including Current and Reserve Accounts Balances).

**2678/21** Correspondence

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

- D2N2 Freeport Bid Briefing – forwarded 16/02
- DALC March Newsletter – forwarded 03/03

**2679/21** Reports from Councillors attending meetings of outside bodies

a) Consultation meeting with Stanton Developments re. Archway Motors site

Councillor Dosanjh gave a verbal report to Members on the consultation meeting he had attended with Stanton Developments re. Archway Motors site.

b) Flood Liaison meeting

Councillor Brown gave an update to Members from the Flood Liaison meeting she had attended recently.

**2680/21** 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, 8 April 2021.**

**2681/21** 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.

**2682/21** Exempt

Items considered: -

Staffing Matters

A.M. Sports

**Meeting closed at 9.15pm**

## APPENDIX 1

### FINDERN PARISH COUNCIL - ASSET REGISTER

For the year ending 31 March 2021

Movements in the year 19/20 -

During the year the following assets were purchased: -

| <b>Asset</b>          | <b>Cost</b> | <b>Supplier</b>           |
|-----------------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| Civic Badge           | £560        | Fattorini Ltd.            |
| Robin Litter Bin      | £475        | Amberol Ltd.              |
| Projector             | £56         | Amazon                    |
| 3 X Waste Bins        | £1525       | SDDC                      |
| Container for storage | £1875       | LCS Containers Ltd.       |
| Bench (Cemetery)      | £288        | TDP Ltd.                  |
| 2 grit bins           | £260        | Reece Safety Products Ltd |

All prices ex VAT

Movements in the year 20/21 -

During the year the following assets were purchased: -

| <b>Asset</b>                | <b>Cost</b> | <b>Supplier</b>                |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 x planter                 | £425        | Amberol Ltd                    |
| 4 x dog bins                | £875        | Earth Anchors Ltd              |
| 1 x noticeboard             | £1800       | The Church Noticeboard Co. Ltd |
| 1 x litter bin              | £185        | Broxap Ltd                     |
| Additional Christmas Lights | £156        | Festive Lights Company Ltd.    |
| 1 x grit bin                | £130        | Peacocks Ltd.                  |
| Pump Track                  | £32,500     | Clark & Kent Ltd.              |

All prices ex VAT

During the year the following assets were disposed of: -

|                       |       |
|-----------------------|-------|
| 1 x set of goal posts | -£200 |
|-----------------------|-------|