

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 at the Methodist Church at 7.00pm on 9 September 2021

Present: Councillors T Brown, G Cooke, B Dosanjh, S Holmes, A Pratt, M Ratcliffe, R Rose, T Scott, C Smith and M Woodhouse.

Also present: Mrs K Sharpe (Clerk) and 3 members of the public.

2749/21 Apologies for absence
All Councillors present.

2750/21 Declaration of members interests
Councillor T Brown declared a personal interest in the planning application DMPA/2021/1192.

2751/21 Public Speaking

Members of the public:

Steve Tiso of the Findern Footpaths Group reported that: -

- The group intended to complete the refurbishment of the Butterfly Bank at Cardales Meadow soon.
- Once the meadow had been mown the intention was to plant a lot of shrubs and wildflowers there.
- The group had visited Tean Valley Nature Reserve Trust near Uttoxeter. They had gathered lots of good ideas during the visit, which they intend to replicate in Findern.
- The banks at Crows Park Way needed to be cut and the grass raked off. This was a big job and they hoped to recruit more volunteers to help with this via social media.
- Murrays have placed a plaque next to the Memorial Tree at Cardales Meadow. The next Memory Walk would take place on 2 October 2021 in aid of the Alzheimer's Society. After the walk there would be refreshments available at Murrays.
- The group had met and discussed their priorities and had drawn up a seasonal plan for next year: - End of March to September: they would concentrate on footpath clearance. September to Christmas: they would concentrate on planting and from Christmas to the end of March: they would concentrate on specific projects e.g., demonstrating skills like hedge laying to volunteers, teaching them how to do it.
- The group had a meeting with the Rights of Way officer from Derbyshire County Council to re-sign the Priory Way pathway between Lower Green and Heatherton Pond. There was currently no definitive route and sections were hard to navigate. The Rights of Way Officer had been very helpful, and one of the Footpath volunteers was now in charge of the Priory Way and would be working to keep it clear.

Councillor Dosanjh highlighted to residents that 3 parcels of land behind Beech Close were being sold at Auction at the end of September. Part of one parcel was offered to the Parish Council after the unsuccessful bid to purchase the land off Common Piece Lane. The

alternative offered was considered at the May 2020 meeting; however, it was deemed unsuitable for the purpose intended - See Minute 2490/20 e).

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: -

- There were cross county/city borders matters regarding the 3 bridges that cross into Derby City over Hell Brook. These had not been included on the original planning application from the developers.
- Also at Highfields, there was an issue with a property where the owners had fenced in land adjacent to their property that was not part of their site. This was being looked at.
- Officers were keeping an eye on the cleared field at Bakeacre Lane and action would be taken if required.
- Councillor Ford had met with the Highways Officer at Heath Lane to discuss the parking issues around the King George V Playing Field. The Officer had produced a report (See item 2757/21 b) and it was now up to the Parish Council how they wished to proceed.
- The issue of there being no continuous safe path to use on Rykneld Road between Highfields and Doles Lane (Dobbies and Findern) without having to cross the road at the busy junction at A38 had been referred to Councillor Ford. He had sent this to Derbyshire County Council for appraisal. It would inevitably need a Capital Scheme to deliver and would be assessed with that criterion.
- On another Highways matter, Councillor Ford was pleased to say that the white shark teeth lines had now been completed on Willington Road close to the approach to Findern village.
- Work would be carried out on 10 & 11 October 2021 by the District Council to improve the drainage on Porters Lane; this is to help reduce the flooding issues in the area.
- The poor state of the footpath at High Pavement has been reported to DCC Highways. Officers would visit to inspect the roots that are raising the pathway.
- There was an issue with land owned by the District Council at Wallfields Close; Councillor Ford asked for this to be added as an Agenda item for the next meeting.
- The missing barrier at the end of Heath Lane had been reported to Highways.
- The overgrown brambles at Porters Lane would be reported too.
- There had been reports of illegal fishing on the canal. Any concerns should be reported to the Police on 101, giving location.

2752/21

Response to emails from residents

a) Request for Parish Council to have a quarterly or 6 monthly waste skip collection

Members considered a request for the Parish Council to put in place some form of 3 or 6 monthly Saturday refuse collection since the District Council had withdrawn this service. After discussion, and with information on why the District Council had withdrawn the service, Members decided that it was not the remit of the Parish Council to provide such collections.

- b) Request from a Junior Football Club to use Hillside playing field. (ref. item 11.1)
 This item was deferred for discussion until item 11.1. The Parish Council had received a request from a representative from the teams committee of a junior football club - Mickleover95 – who were looking for a long-term solution to play their home games on the Hillside playing fields. It should be noted that the playing fields were already used regularly by another junior football club – Littleover Dazzlers. As the decision was made under item 11.1 to give notice on the Licence agreement between South Derbyshire District Council and the Parish Council; the Clerk would contact both football clubs to advise that the day-to-day management of the playing fields would revert back to the District Council in mid-October; and that they would need to liaise with the District Council going forward.
- c) Request for letter to nursery re. parking at Lower Green
 The Members were asked to consider action regarding the number of car parking spaces taken up at the car park on Lower Green and on Brook Close by staff from the Old Forge Nursery, reducing the number of spaces available to clients of other businesses in the area. The Chairman advised that the spaces were available to anyone who wanted to use them without restriction; also confirming that the nursery staff were using their allocation at the Village Hall of 6 parking places. The Members did however; resolve that the Clerk should write to businesses around the Green to ask that staff and clients be reminded not to park on Brook Close as this was restricted to residents living there.
- d) Request for an update on the issue of the motor home on Longlands Lane
 The Parish Council had received a request for an update from the Highways department at Derbyshire County Council regarding the motor home parked at Longlands Lane. Councillor Ford commented that the motor home was parked on private land and therefore not under Highways jurisdiction; however, the extension cable, if still running over the public footpath, was cause for concern. Councillors were asked to check if this was still happening and report back to the Clerk.
- e) Replacement LED lights in village too bright – request for PC to support removal
 A residents asked for support to have Highways at County Council remove one of the new LED lights installed close to his home. He reported that it was too bright and invasive. Councillor Ford has referred the request to Highways and they will look at re-positioning the light to reduce nuisance.
- f) Query on Footpath surface at Highfields
 The Council had received a request to support a change of footpath surface on some of the pathways around the new Highfields development. The footpaths made of sand and stone on the open green spaces were seen as an issue. However, the Clerk has checked the landscape plans submitted to the District Council and this footpath surface is what was agreed at planning stage and therefore cannot be changed.

2753/21

Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 8 July 2021 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

2754/21

Variation of order of business

None.

2755/21 To determine which items, if any, of the Agenda should be taken with the press and public excluded

None.

2756/21 Chairman's Report

The Chairman welcomed all to the September meeting of the Council; confirming that Council would continue to hold meetings in the Methodist Church for the time being but advising residents to check the Parish Council's notice boards in case of any changes.

For those residents not present at the July meeting, the Chairman introduced the three recently co-opted Councillors; Simon Holmes, who is a long-term resident of Findern; and Tim Scott and Adam Pratt who reside at Highfields.

There was no Council meeting in August and no social events occurred. The Chairman was hopeful that, with the relaxed restrictions, the Council would be able to hold some of the usual events, such as on Remembrance Day and at Christmas; though these would of course depend on what happened regarding COVID.

A small group of residents had set up Speed Watch initiative in the village, supported by CREST (Casualty Reduction Enforcement Support Team), which is part of Derbyshire Constabulary. Members of the group have been out a few times in the evenings, and can report that though on the whole most people abided by the speed limit, a few drivers were recorded driving in excess of it. The group have been active in areas that concern residents and would continue to respond to suggestions of the sites in the village where speed was an issue. If anyone is interested in joining the Speed Watch team, they should contact the Clerk to the Parish Council.

The Chairman was very happy to report that Penny Adcock and Paula Fox, the Head Teacher at Findern School, received Beacon of Hope awards for all their hard work and dedication to the village and its families during the Covid pandemic; the Chairman was sure everyone would agree that these awards were very much deserved.

2757/21 Report of the Parish Clerk

a) Update on pick up or pay up campaign

Derbyshire County Council (DCC) had confirmed by email that from a Highway Authority perspective, DCC did not have any issue with the stencils being installed on footways in the Findern Parish. The only advice given was that the stencils should be installed in short lived paint, such as spray marking paint with the stencil; and that they should not be laid in a too repetitive formation, as this would detract from their effectiveness and clutter the highway.

South Derbyshire District Council (SDDC) advised that the fines in place for dog fouling were £100 to be paid within 14 days, discounted to £70 if paid within 10 days. SDDC would prosecute under the Public Spaces Protection Order that is District wide if the evidence is there to support such. Possible names and descriptions of offenders should be passed to SDDC Environment officers who would visit to issue warning and/or fines.

RESOLVED to purchase a pack of Temporary Spray Marker Paint from AMA Supplies Ltd, Price at £54.60 for a case of 6 x Aerosols; also, 1 x aluminium composite CNC cut paint stencil 300x300mm at £63.04 from Engineered Learning Ltd.

b) Update on Heath Lane/Willington Road Parking issues

The results of the parking survey relating to Willington Road and Heath Lane had been passed to Councillor Martyn Ford who met with Richard Handbury, Highways Officer at Derbyshire County Council to discuss issues raised in the survey. Richard Handbury had reported that the gravel verge opposite the houses on Willington Road was part of Highways and the cost to upgrade this verge to hard standing for parking would be prohibitive, in the region of + £50,000. The conversion of the area beyond the gate, alongside Baxter's Way would be possible as this is not Highway's land, however Anti-Social Behaviour could be an issue and the Parish Council may wish to consult with the Community Safety Partnership to consider improving the lighting there. Introducing double yellow lines may cause an issue for residents and also impact on the general attractiveness of the area. The matter was left with the Parish Council to decide how they wished to proceed.

RESOLVED to not proceed further at this stage. The situation regarding parking would be monitored and brought back to Council if it became an issue again.

c) Response from Developers re. issues at Highfields

Following the meeting in July, as requested by Council, the Clerk wrote to all three developers outlining the issues identified by residents. Barratt Homes responded with an assurance they would take the matters up with the consortium of builders at Highfields. No direct update had been received; however, the play area by the primary school was closed for a period during which self-closers were added to the gates so they cannot be left open onto the busy road now. Also, one of the bridges over Doles Brook has been fenced in the last 2-3 weeks. Unfortunately, the bridge near the houses off Longford Close has not yet been fenced and this is the bridge of particular concern as a child fell off it in to the brook 8 feet below. The Clerk would continue to pursue with the developers for a response on this and other issues.

d) Additional amenities at Highfields – dog waste and general litter bins

The Clerk had written to all three developers with details and plans of the additional bins the Parish Council would like to install and where; there had been no reply to date.

e) Update on planting of two trees at Doles Lane

The Clerk had written to the Highways department at DCC – who are the owners of the land in question - seeking their permission for the Parish Council to plant a tree or trees on the site; there had been no reply to date. It may be that the Council will have to enter into a cultivation licence for the land which would mean the Parish Council would take on responsibility for maintenance of the trees and shrubs; and also for the grass cutting.

f) Update on larger bin for outside of Village Stores

South Derbyshire have confirmed that the bin outside the village store is owned by the District Council. At this moment in time, they have no plans to replace this bin with a larger bin, but the team have been asked to monitor the situation.

g) Update on Licence for Cardales Meadow and Cotes Close

The Clerk had spoken to the representative from Carter Jonas, the land agent for Highways England, and had sent a Word copy of the previous licence agreement that they can use to copy and paste wording into a new agreement. The representative indicated that they will sort this soon.

h) Response from Mobile Library re Highfields

In response to the request for an additional stop at Highfields for the Mobile Library Service, the Council received a reply advising that following a period of extensive public consultation in 2014, and a subsequent decision by the County Council's Cabinet, the size of the mobile library fleet was reduced from ten vehicles to two. The scale of this reduction also meant that a number of communities who had previously received a mobile service were no longer provided with the service. In addition to the current stops being selected and consulted upon, the library service needed to achieve further savings. Therefore, they were not in a position at this time to consider any extra stops.

Arrangement of footpaths on Rykneld Road near A38 Junction

The request, raised at the previous Parish Council meeting, affects any Highfield resident walking towards Dobbies Garden Centre and the village. There is no continuous safe path to use without having to cross the road at the busy junction at A38. This was referred to Councillor Ford, who had sent this to Derbyshire County Council for appraisal. It would inevitably need a Capital Scheme to deliver and would be assessed with that criterion.

2758/21

Members Reports

a) Garden of Remembrance/Cemetery update

There was no report or update for the Garden of Remembrance/Cemetery.

b) Findern in Relief Fund

One of the Trustees was retiring; therefore, Councillor Graham Cooke indicated he would be willing to act as a Trustee if approved by other Members. Councillor Cooke also indicated he would take on updating the registration of the charity with HMRC in order to unlock access to the paperwork on the CCLA investments. The Trustees would look at ways they could open up the available fund to anyone in need. A further update would be brought to the next meeting.

c) Stanhope Woods – Licence to Occupy

The landowner's Solicitor had sent the amended Licence which included the amendments to the wording of the licence to include the maintenance of the trees. There was a discussion about the paragraph: -

"The Licensee must make good all damage to the Owner's property to the reasonable satisfaction of the Owner."

RESOLVED that a Councillor would visit the site and take photographs of all areas and structures as a record of the state of these when the Council assumed maintenance responsibility. These pictures could be referred back to if there was any future discussion relating to the paragraph above.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would contact the selected Arbor ologist, Andy Portlock to schedule in a tree report to be carried out across Stanhope Wood at the cost of £650 + VAT.

RESOLVED that the Licence agreement be signed by the Chairman and returned promptly to the Land Owner's Solicitor.

d) Remembrance Day Service

Councillor Rose advised that as Rev. Sue Starkey was retiring at the end of September it was uncertain whether there would be a chaplain available to take the Remembrance Service, which fell on Sunday 14 November this year. The Council were unsure what could be arranged, as this was dependent upon the restrictions in place. Councillor Rose would make further enquiries and bring an update to the next meeting.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would order a wreath for the Chairman to lay on behalf of the Parish Council. Members would organise the display of poppies and figures on The Green. Councillor Woodhouse would check whether all lamp post poppies were in good repair and inform Clerk if further poppies were required. The Council would also purchase further lamp post poppies for a display up at Highfields along the main road through the development. The Clerk would seek the necessary permissions.

e) Christmas Event

As it was still uncertain what restrictions would be in place by the start of December, Members resolved to defer discussion on the Christmas Event until the next meeting.

2759/21

Matters for discussion or determination

a) Hillside Licence Agreement from 1997/use by Football Clubs/ASB & extra litterbins

Members reviewed the Licence Agreement originally signed in 1997, between the Parish Council and the District Council for the day-to-day management of Hillside Playing Field in Findern.

RESOLVED to give notice to South Derbyshire District Council to end the Licence Agreement and allow day to day management of the playing field to revert back to the District Council.

b) Application to Police & Crime Commissioner's Fund

Details of this fund had been circulated to all Members. The Fund is intended to support projects that would improve safety in communities and reduce Anti-Social Behaviour. The Clerk suggested that the Council could seek funding for BMX cycling sessions as a way of engaging young people in the village and reduce ABS. The deadline for the fund was too soon to apply in this round.

RESOLVED that the Council would get together costings and a plan for the project in order to be ready to apply to the fund in a future presentation.

c) Lengthsman/Parish Warden for Highfields

Members discussed whether a Lengthsman/Parish Warden should be employed for Highfields. Members were concerned that the Parish Council should not carry out work that the management company Green Belt would be contracted to do. The Clerk advised that the Landscape Plan only mentioned litter picking in the play areas.

RESOLVED that a budget for a Lengthsman/Parish Warden for Highfields should be looked into at the next Finance Committee meeting, which would be held in October 2021.

d) Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons

RESOLVED to defer this item until the October meeting of the Parish Council.

- e) Covid Memorial tree in the Remembrance Garden/ other memorial
RESOLVED to defer this item until the October meeting of the Parish Council.
- f) Roadside welcome gates at entry to village
RESOLVED to defer this item until the October meeting of the Parish Council.

2760/21

Planning Matters

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

Consultations

- a) **Ref. No. DMPA/2021/1146 – 80 Hillside, Findern**
 Loft conversion with roof lights and rear dormer and the erection of a single storey rear extension.
- b) **Ref. No. DMPA/2021/1172 – The Willows, 55 Longlands Lane, Findern**
 The erection of a rear extension.
- c) **Ref. No. DMPA/2021/1192 – 1 Gorsty Lees, Findern**
 The erection of a single storey extension and front porch.
- d) **Ref. No. DMPA/2021/1267 – 62 Canterbury Drive, Highfields**
 The erection of a single storey rear extension.
- e) **Ref. No. DMPA/2021/1315 – 162 Doles Lane, Findern**
 The erection of a two-storey side extension and a single storey rear extension

Decisions

- a) **Ref. No. DMPA/2021/0696 – 63 Longlands Lane, Findern**
 The erection of extensions.
 Approved (Delegated decision).
- b) **Ref. No. DMPA/2021/0912 – 168 Doles Lane, Findern**
 The erection of extensions including integral garage.
 Approved (Delegated decision).
- c) **Ref. No. DMPA/2021/1001 – Willow Farm, 16 Doles Lane, Findern**
 Partial conversion of double garage into a home office, including replacement doors and windows, creation/reinstatement of additional window openings and extension of existing garden wall and introduction of vehicular access gates to driveway.
 Approved (Delegated decision).
- d) **Ref. No. DMPA/2021/1104 – Willow Farm, 16 Doles Lane, Findern**
 Listed building consent for partial conversion of double garage into a home office, including replacement doors and windows, creation/reinstatement of additional window openings and with interior access to existing first floor room via introduction of spiral staircase.
 Approved (Delegated decision).

2761/21

Finance

- a) Members approved the following items for payment: -
 Authorised BACS payments – Councillors R Rose and C Smith.

Cheque No./BACS	Payee and Description of service or goods	Nett	VAT	Gross
BACS UTB 23/07/21	Pictorial – 3 4 aluminium signs, for litter bins and bug hotel	£140.00	£28.00	£168.00

BACS UTB 23/07/21	Laser Tech UK – Community Speed Watch radar gun	£265.00	£53.00	£318.00
BACS UTB 23/07/21	Viking Direct - stationary	£6.53	£1.31	£7.84
BACS UTB 23/07/21	Viking Direct - stationary	£23.99	£4.80	£28.79
BACS UTB 23/07/21	Broxap Ltd. – purchase of bin for KGV	£223.95	£44.79	£268.74
BACS UTB 23/07/21	South Derbyshire CVS - Staff salaries July	£1261.89	£0.00	£1261.89
BACS UTB 28/07/21	Firs Farm Nurseries – Summer planting 8 planters in the village	£672.40	£134.48	£806.88
BACS UTB 28/07/21	Tudor Landscapes – installation of litter bin at KGV	£227.28	£0.00	£227.28
BACS UTB 29/07/21	Protect Signs – Community Speed Watch Signs	£162.60	£32.51	£195.11
BACS UTB 29/07/21	Unipar Services – Community Speed Watch Hi Viz vests	£85.00	£17.60	£102.00
BACS UTB 20/08/21	Viking Direct - stationery	£27.35	£5.47	£32.82
BACS UTB 20/08/21	Aucuba Landscapes - work in July	£378.34	£75.67	£454.01
BACS UTB 20/08/21	Easy Growing Landscapes - Maintenance of Remembrance Garden, Parish Rooms and Planters	£140.00	£0.00	£140.00
BACS UTB 20/08/21	South Derbyshire CVS - Staff salaries August	£1315.35	£0.00	£1315.35
BACS UTB 09/09/21	K Sharpe Clerk's expenses for 8/7 to 8/9, Phone, WFH allowance, mileage, monthly subs to Zoom, re- imbursement for litter picker	£130.03	£6.78	£136.81
BACS UTB 09/09/21	DALC – Play Area Inspection Course 07/09/2021	£120.00	£0.00	£120.00
BACS UTB 09/09/21	Aucuba Landscapes - work in August	£486.34	£97.27	£583.61
BACS UTB 09/09/21	Advanced Gas Services – annual service of Parish Room Boiler	£60.00	£12.00	£72.00
BACS UTB 09/09/21	Include Creative – Annual subscription website and email hosting plus website updates on accessibility	£829.00	£165.80	£994.80
Cheque UTB 300015	Lengthsman expenses to attend Play Area Inspection Training Course – Mileage and parking	£27.20	£0.00	£27.20

b) Members noted Income received: -

Date of credit	From	Into Account	Amount
25/06/2021	Rent for Land - Burton Road	Nat West Current A/c	£1750.00
30/06/2021	Bank Interest A/c No. 99697971	Nat West Reserve A/c	£0.23
09/07/2021	SDDC – 50% Precept, 2 nd payment	Unity Trust Bank	£20,685.50
30/07/2021	Bank Interest A/c No. 99697971	Nat West Reserve A/c	£0.20
02/08/2021	Lindsay Bee - Parish Rooms Rent	Unity Trust Bank	£726.66
01/09/2021	Lindsay Bee - Parish Rooms Rent	Unity Trust Bank	£363.33

c) Bank Account Reconciliation Report/Budget Monitoring Reports

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

2762/21

Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were **NOTED**.

- DCC Bus Services Consultation – forwarded 16/07
- DALC July Newsletter – forwarded 19/07
- PCC Grant scheme – forwarded 26/07
- SDDC Grants available – forwarded 26/07
- DALC August Newsletter – forwarded 09/08
- SDDC Gambling Act Consultation – forwarded 09/08
- Request for sponsorship for charity bike ride to raise funds for Royal British Legion and for Swadlincote based South Derbyshire Mental Health Association – forwarded 02/09
RESOLVED to donate £200 under s137.
- Request for support Children's Hospital Pyjamas Charity – forwarded 02/09
RESOLVED to donate £200 under s137.

2763/21

Reports from Councillors attending meetings of outside bodies

No reports.

2764/21

Date of next meeting(s)

The next Meeting of the Parish Council would take place at **7.00pm on Thursday, 14 October 2021**, at the Methodist Church, Lower Green in Findern.

2765/21

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.

2767/21

Exempt

Items considered: -

Lease for Bee's Tea Rooms
CCTV

Meeting closed at 9.20pm.