

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
1held at the Methodist Church at 7.00pm on 11 November 2021

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

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

2794/21 Apologies for absence
Apologies were **NOTED** from Councillors A Pratt.

2795/21 Declaration of members interests
None.

2796/21 Public Speaking

Members of the public:

- A resident wished to know whether there was a regular rent review of the Parish Rooms. The Clerk advised this was every two years. Also, the resident was concerned about parked cars outside the Parish Rooms narrowing the passage for vehicles. The Council assured the resident this was only because the Parish Rooms was opening the next day, and there had been a flurry of activity. It would not be ongoing.
- A resident wanted the Parish Council to send a letter to Findern Primary School to congratulate them on the quick action taken to consult with residents on the opening of a pre-school there following the closure of the pre-school at the Village Hall.
- A resident would like the Parish Council to send a letter to Mercia Marina to advise them that at the recent firework display, the parking and lighting was considered dangerous. When events are held in the future, consideration should be given to this aspect of the event and improvements should be made.
- A resident wished all to note that the Carol Singers would be on The Green at 5.30pm on 15 December 2021. Prior to The Green, they would visit Wallfield Nursing Home at 4.30pm and Brook Close at 5pm.
- Findern Footpaths Group had met with an officer from Derbyshire Wildlife Trust who had given them some guidance and offered to help apply for a grant from Severn Trent, which would allow the group to get a contractor in to help develop the pond area.
- A resident reported that the boundary hedge surrounding the land off Common Piece Lane and Sycamore Avenue was very overgrown and was obscuring the only street light on the road. This has been reported to the County and District Council; however, as it would be the responsibility of the landowner, the resident requested that the Parish Council contact the landowner to ask for the hedge to be cut back.

RESOLVED the Clerk would write to the landowner to ask for the hedge to be cut back.

Police Liaison Officer:

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

District Councillor Report:

Councillor Andrew MacPherson was present at the meeting; however, he did not submit a report.

District and County Councillor Report:

Councillor Martyn Ford was not present at the meeting; however, he had submitted the following report: -

- Councillor Ford met with the Highways Area Manager on 2 November in Findern and Willington. They walked the High Pavement footpath. The officer was of the opinion it is dangerous and he will escalate works on the path. He wasn't too concerned about the tree condition.
- They also walked Common Piece Lane where the officer again noted the condition and will make recommendations as to what needs to be done there.
- Lastly, they looked at the long-standing highway drainage issue on Burton Road between EDM and Dobbie Garden Centre. Councillor Ford was hopeful that after seeing the problems for himself, the officer would ensure something would be done.
- Findern had not had a dedicated Highways Inspector in the area for some time now. Thankfully recruitment was taking place that would rectify that.
- Councillor Ford had asked Highways the question about adoption of roads at Highfields; also raising the schools concerns about there being no safety measures in place i.e., road barrier, zebra crossing.
- He has also reported an overhanging tree on Doles Lane.

2797/21

Response to emails from residents**a) Request to be considered for ink drawings from Parish Rooms**

There were 6 ink sketches that the Parish Council had framed for Bee's Tea Rooms; and which the new leaseholder did not wish to display. A resident, who was aware that the pictures were not needed for the Tea Rooms, asked to be considered when the Parish Council decides their future. Members discussed the future of the sketches.

RESOLVED that as the Village Hall was planning a refurbishment of the Jamie Taylor room, once this was complete, the sketches should hang in this room. It was agreed that this was a fitting home for the sketches; somewhere that keeps them for the village, where they can be seen.

b) State of pavements/roads and lighting at Highfields

A resident on the Highfields development (Appleby Close) had concerns regarding the state of the roads and footpaths and the lack of street lighting on the estate; despite the majority of the development having been completed for the best part of 16 months. The resident had approached the customer services team of his builder, however he had no response. The resident asked if the Parish Council could raise his concerns with the planning committee or anyone who is overseeing and liaising with the developer over completing all the outstanding items on the site.

The Clerk had explained to the resident that until Highways adopts the roads, there will be no improvements; however, they will expect the developer to complete footpaths and lighting before they will take over; as they are doing substrate tests at the moment, they

must be moving towards that. The Clerk advised the resident to raise his concerns with the District and County Councillor too.

c) Safety Measure outside Highfields Spencer Academy

The Council had been contacted by Anna Jones, the Principal of Highfields Spencer Academy enquiring whether the Parish Council knew when the road was going to be adopted through the estate. The CEO for Spencer Academies Trust had visited the school for a meeting at and he had raised concerns about the safety of families crossing the road outside school. The principal had contacted the Derbyshire Road Safety team to ask if they might be able to advise who to get in contact about the process for applying for a school crossing patrol officer for Highfields.

The Clerk had replied to the principal confirming that it was Highways that would put in place any safety measures outside the school once they have adopted the roads. Highways were carrying out substrate tests at the moment; therefore, they were moving towards that.

With the Principal's permission the Clerk forwarded her email to Councillor Ford to ask whether he could speak to officers and get some time frame from them on when the roads would be adopted.

2798/21

Minutes

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

2799/21

Variation of order of business

None.

2800/21

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

None.

2801/21

Chairman's Report

The Chairman welcomed all to the November meeting of the Council. There had been no events since the last meeting, though the next Sunday was the Remembrance Day service on The Green, starting at 10.45am, followed by a service just after 11.00am in the Church. Every year the Parish Council take pleasure and pride in being part of this service, starting with the installation of the display of silhouettes and poppies. This year the Council was pleased to have included Highfields in this tradition with an impressive display of lamp post poppies. On another note, as restrictions surrounding COVID had lifted, it was wonderful to see so many houses decorated for Halloween, and the children of Findern did the village proud with their imaginative costumes and polite manners.

2802/21

Report of the Parish Clerk

a) Advert for Parish Warden for Highfields

The draft for this has been sent to Councillors. There was a query about whether this should be Highfields specific.

RESOLVED that the advert would be changed to be more generic, saying 'mainly working at Highfields' to give flexibility of service.

b) Progress pick-up or pay-up campaign

Councillor Brown had started the campaign with a few templates laid down. To promote this campaign as a news item on the website (to ask for suggestions on problem areas) the Chairman will send pictures to Clerk. A set of templates and spray paint had been passed to a Councillor based in Highfields for the campaign to be used there too.

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

No progress on this apart from the Clerk had been asked to send all the information over to the senior surveyor at Barratts for him to liaise with the consortium. With that information, the Clerk also asked about the permission to site two Christmas Tree tubes on the development too. It is probably too late for this year, but if the Council gets the permission, this can be put in place for next year.

d) Update on Licence for Cardales Meadow and Cotes Close

The land agent representative has had a conversation with Highways England about the land and has suggested to them that the land is sold or transferred to the Parish Council. Highways England are considering this at the moment. The Council had been advised that if Highways England do not decide to sell/transfer the land, it would still be possible to have the licence agreement.

2803/21

Members Reports

a) Wildflower area at KGV update

Councillor Woodhouse reported that the area had not yet been strimmed down to the ground and the arisings raked off. The Findern Footpaths group would check how many plants are available for planting. The Council would buy some plug plants, if needed.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would contact the Ground Maintenance contractor to have the area strimmed so that the planting could be done as soon as possible.

b) Findern in Relief Fund

A Trustees meeting had been held to appoint Graham Cooke as a Trustee of the charity.

c) Stanhope Woods – Licence to Occupy

The landowner had signed the Licence and had returned this to his Solicitor, who would then complete the assignment. The tree report had been scheduled for 15 November 2021 with Andy Portlock. Councillor Ratcliffe and Steve Tiso from the Findern Footpaths Group visited site to take photographs of all areas and structures to record the state of these when the Council assumed maintenance responsibility; and carry out a risk assessment at the site.

d) Remembrance Day

Members discussed final arrangements for the ceremony to take place on 14 November 2021 on The Green starting at 10.45am.

e) Christmas Event

Members discussed the plans for the light Switch-on event for the 4 December 2021 between 5-7pm. Standing Orders were suspended so that Dawn Foote, a resident involved in the organisation of the Santa Sleigh event on the 22 December could speak, outlining the plans for that event. Carols on The Green would take place at 5.30pm on 15 December 2021. All 3 events would be promoted under the Festive Findern branding.

RESOLVED final costings for the event on 22 December would be brought to the next meeting. Cost of entertainment and grotto for the 4 December event was approved £340.00.

2804/21

Matters for discussion or determination

a) Licence agreement for SDDC land at Wallfields Close

The Chairman has visited the site and reported back to the Members. There were two trees on the site with TPOs on them, which was a concern. Members were also concerned that it would set a precedent in the village if the Parish Council took on a licence for this small area.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council would not take on the licence for area at Wallfields Close.

b) Covid Memorial tree / another memorial

Members considered possible memorials to those who have been affected by the Covid pandemic. A tree was still considered a fitting memorial and it was suggested that this could be sited at the King George V Playing Field (KGV).

RESOLVED Councillor Woodhouse would visit KGV to explore where a tree could be planted.

c) Queen's Jubilee Beacons

Members considered the plans for the Queen's Jubilee celebration. The Council had been invited to take part in the Queen's Jubilee Beacons in early June 2022. It was felt that the Beacon should be part of a larger celebration event.

RESOLVED to register that the village would have a Jubilee Beacon and the plan for this would be brought to a future meeting in early 2022 for further confirmation of plans.

d) Gateway signs for village

The Clerk had received a response to the enquiry made to Derbyshire County Council about whether village gateway signs could be installed. The response was positive, with the Highways Officer offering support to apply for the Licence required. Criteria for siting the signs had been received. The Clerk had made some initial visits to look at possible sites.

RESOLVED that Councillor Brown and Woodhouse would look into the sites further and report back to the next meeting.

e) DCC Snow Warden Scheme

Members considered whether the Council wished to join the Derbyshire County Council Snow Warden scheme. It was felt that neighbours helped out others in Findern. All grit bins would be kept fully stocked over the winter.

RESOLVED that the Council would not join the scheme.

f) Painting of Parish Rooms exterior

It was reported that the exterior of the Parish Rooms required some attention, particularly the window frames. A quote had been received from a local decorator.

RESOLVED that in line with financial regulations the Clerk would seek further quotes.

g) Decision on venue for Council meetings

Members considered the use of the Methodist Church as the venue for all Parish Council meetings.

RESOLVED to continue holding all Parish Council meetings at the Methodist Church. The Clerk would enquire if the hall was available on all dates in 2022.

2805/21

Planning Matters

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

Consultations

a) Ref. No. DMPA/2021/1561 – 14 Mackworth Avenue, Highfields

The erection of a two-storey rear extension.

Decisions

a) Ref. No. DMPA/2021/1259 – Land off Doles Lane, Findern

Certificate of Lawfulness for confirmation that the implementation of planning permission 9/2018/0290 (the erection of six detached dwellings) is lawful and that pre-commencement conditions have been discharged on Land off Doles Lane, Findern.

Approved (Delegated decision).

b) Ref. No. DMPA/2021/1315 – 162 Doles Lane, Findern

The erection of a two-storey side extension and a single storey rear extension.

Approved (Delegated decision).

c) Ref. No. DMPA/2021/1172 – The Willows, 55 Longlands Lane, Findern

Erection of a rear extension.

Approved (Delegated decision).

2806/21

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 25/10/21	South Derbyshire CVS - Staff salaries September	£1261.89	£00.00	£1261.89
BACS UTB 11/11/21	Easy Growing Landscapes - Maintenance of Remembrance Garden and Planters October	£140.00	£00.00	£140.00
BACS UTB 11/11/21	Aucuba Ground Maintenance in October	£567.34	£113.27	£680.61
BACS UTB 11/11/21	DALC Training - Planning for A Pratt November 2021	£50.00	£0.00	£50.00
BACS UTB 11/11/21	Shelter Maintenance in October	£76.00	£15.20	£91.20
BACS UTB 11/11/21	Martin Woodhouse – reimbursement for purchase of solar lights	£34.99	£7.00	£41.99

BACS UTB 11/11/21	Firs Farm Nursery – winter planting of 8 planters around the Village	£672.40	£134.48	£806.88
BACS UTB 11/11/21	Clerk's Expenses for 14/10 to 10/11; phone, WFH allowance, mileage, postage, zoom monthly subscription, cable ties	£95.93	£5.97	£101.90
BACS UTB 11/11/21	Viking Direct – Black Ink, A4 paper and 12 x 1 st class stamps	£34.78	£10.20	£44.98
BACS UTB 11/11/21	Engineered Fabrications Ltd. 2 x pick up or pay up aluminium templates	£126.08	£0.00	£126.08
BACS UTB 11/11/21	T Brown Reimbursement for purchase of wreath stand of Amazon	£19.99	£0.00	£19.99
UTB CHQ 300018	The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	£250.00	£0.00	£250.00

b) Members noted Income received: -

Date of credit	From	Into Account	Amount
27/09/2021	Woodgrow Ltd. – Burton Road Rent	NW Current A/C	£1750.00
30/10/2021	Bank Interest A/c No. 99697971	NW Reserve A/C	£0.21
01/11/2021	Sarah Pritchard / Find Ltd. - Parish Rooms Rent	Unity Trust Bank	£333.33

c) Bank Account Reconciliation Report/Budget Monitoring Reports

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

2807/21

Correspondence

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

- DALC AGM details – forwarded 15/10
- Findern Primary School, pre-school consultation – forwarded 15/10
- Melbourne Neighbourhood Plan for Melbourne – forwarded 21/10
- SDDC – Dates for Area Forums – forwarded 22/10
- DALC November Newsletter – forwarded 01/11
- DALC Training update – forwarded 03/11

2808/21

Reports from Councillors attending meetings of outside bodies

Flood Liaison meeting on 02/11/21 - Councillor Brown had not been able to log into his meeting; however, she updated Members on the main topics covered in the meeting from the Minutes issued after the meeting.

2809/21

Date of next meeting(s)

The next Meeting of the Parish Council would take place at **7.00pm on Thursday, 9 December 2021**, at the Methodist Church, Lower Green in Findern.

2810/21 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.

2811/21 Exempt

An item on CCTV at the Parish Rooms was discussed.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm