

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 10 March 2022

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

Also present: Mrs K Sharpe (Clerk) and 7 members of the public.

2866/22 **Apologies for absence**
Apologies were **NOTED** from Councillor S Holmes

2867/22 **Declaration of members interests**
None.

2868/22 **Public Speaking**

Members of the public:

- A resident thanked the Parish Council for the removal of rubbish on Gostiles pathway.
- A resident reported a concern about graffiti under the Nadee bridge and A50 flyover. Some of this graffiti was offensive. The Clerk would report the graffiti to the Clean Team at the District Council.
- Findern Footpaths Group – were working on planting down at Crow Park Way. Steve Tiso introduced Sue, a new member of the group, who would help with grant applications for Cardales Meadow and Stanhope Hole.
- A resident asked the Parish Council whether it had any correspondence from the County Council about the proposed parking restrictions. It was acknowledged that the parking situation was difficult. The resident asked could the Village Hall be approached to allow parking there. Rosemary Rose, the Chair of the Village Hall Trustees, advised that they rent out 6 places to the nursery, and that there were only 23 spaces in total and these were needed for the groups that use the Village Hall. Parking was not within the Parish Council's remit to sort or to determine where residents parked their cars.
- The new Parish Warden was in attendance. As a resident of Highfields he wanted to comment on the state of the roads and potholes; also, he highlighted that the recreation ground, where the football pitch would be, had still not been completed; it was being used as a storage area. The bins in the play area next to the school were inadequate and should be changed to a larger type. Also, there was general untidiness across the whole site.
- It was felt that there was a lack of clarity on who had responsibility for which areas between the developers; M V Kelly for the ground works; and Green Belt Ltd. (who would be taking over the green space). The topic of Highfields was on the Agenda later in the meeting.
- There was a discussion on why such things were not determined at planning stage. Councillor MacPherson explained the planning process, and how it was complicated by the move for open spaces and amenities to be handed over to service management companies such as Green Belt Ltd – and away from local authorities.

- Councillor MacPherson suggested the Parish Council check with the District Council whether there was any allocation of waste bins from the District Council for Highfields.
- Roads and open spaces were not of a sufficiently high standard at Highfields; therefore, there was a push back from County until these were of an acceptable standard to be taken over by the Highways department.

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 and he gave the following report: -

- South Derbyshire doesn't currently have a Tree Officer; however, they were actively recruiting.
- The District Council had a strong team working on Carbon emissions. The team had a good skill set that the Council hoped to make available to local businesses and organisations to carry out a carbon audit.
- A plant was being established at Dove Park to bottle mineral water, which would be supplied to Lidl.
- The County Council were considering making the Mercia Marina car park a chargeable car park; this is currently free.
- Councillor MacPherson congratulated the Parish Council on its efforts on the proposed Jubilee events for the weekend of 2-5 June 2022. He suggested that the Parish Council contacted Cultural Services at the District Council for any support needed; as additional money could be made available to support the programme.
- There was a liaison meeting being arranged for Parish Councils related to the Freeport proposal. He would ensure that Findern received an invite to this.

District and County Councillor Report:

Councillor Martyn Ford was not present at the meeting but had submitted the following report:

- DCC Council Tax had been set at 3%, broken down as 2% general tax and 1% Adult Social Care levy.
- Flooding had been a big issue across the north of the county following the recent storms, causing substantial damage to property and highways infrastructure. Several closures would be in place in the short/medium term.
- Councillor Ford reminded the Parish Council that he had around £200 available as a contribution towards the Platinum Jubilee celebrations in the village.
- The "County Deals" talks are ongoing; the intent was certainly to bring all Local Authorities in Derbyshire to work more closely and more effectively together; delivering more focused services and attracting "Levelling Up" funds from government.
- At the District Council, new members of the planning team were in the process of being appointed; taking the severe strain off existing Planners who have had a severe spike in workload.
- There were many more items of news published on both the District and County Council websites that members and residents would find useful.

2869/22

Response to emails from residents

a) **Builder's rubbish at 28 Burton Road site**

The Council had been contacted by a resident concerned about the amount of litter being generated by the building works on site at 28, Burton Road.

RESOLVED the Council would write a courtesy letter reminding the householder of their responsibility for clearing up their rubbish; including the verge and ditch in front of the house which was full of bits of broken plastic from building materials.

b) **Porters Lane Flooding**

The Council had received an email from a resident asking for an update on the issue of flooding from Porters Lane, asking specifically whether an officer from the District Council had visited the site to see himself where the water runs down Porters Lane. The Clerk had referred this to Councillor Ford to respond.

c) **Greenbelt Group Ltd. – Services bills at Highfields**

Greenbelt Group Ltd. had partly taken over the open space on Highfields and have sent residents their annual service bills. A resident has contacted the Council querying the cost for this. Councillors living on Highfields confirmed that with annual increase and VAT the bills were as expected.

d) **Highfields – dog bins and lighting near Croft Way/Somerton Close**

A resident living near Croft Way/Somerton Close has emailed concerned about 2 issues in the area; lack of dog waste bins in the area and poor lighting on the pathway off Croft Way, which runs alongside 2 large fields.

The Clerk had replied to resident to confirm a dog waste bin would soon be installed off Croft Way; also, that lighting was not in the remit of a Parish Council; however, the Clerk would look into who would be taking over such matters in the future. Consortium had advised all lighting had been installed as per landscape plan approved at planning stage.

2870/22

Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 10 February 2022 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

2871/22

Variation of order of business

None.

2872/22

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

None.

2873/22

Chairman's Report

The Chairman welcomed all to the March meeting of the Council.

Since the last meeting of the Parish Council, there had been no village social events. However, this would soon change with events being organised by the Findern Social Group, starting with a Race Night at the Village Hall at the end of March; also, the Parish Council would stage both Easter and Jubilee weekend events.

Very soon every house in Findern and Highfields would receive a questionnaire from the Village Hall Trustees, who want to know what residents would like to see happening at the Village Hall, such as groups, activities, one off events and anything else they can think of. The Chairman asked that residents take a few minutes to respond and let their views be known.

2874/22

Report of the Parish Clerk

a) License for land at Crow Park Way

The Land Agent at Carter Jonas had advised that Highways England had agreed to renew the Licence to Occupy for the Parish Council. The Land Agent would have the necessary documents drawn up and these would be brought to Council at a future meeting. The Clerk was still chasing this.

b) Additional dog waste / litter bins for Highfields

The Consortium contact had now given permission for the additional dog bins. These had been ordered and would be delivered in early April. The Clerk would arrange for the installation of these ASAP. The email from the contact was not clear on whether the Council had permission to install the 3 x General waste bins that had been requested; therefore, the Clerk was seeking clarification on this.

c) Gateway signs for village

Photographs and plans of the proposed sites had been submitted to the Highways Officer for him to carry out a Highways Extent search to confirm the locations were suitable. The Clerk was still following this up with the Highways Officer.

d) Update on basketball area for KGV

The goal-end had been ordered from HAGS Ltd. and would be delivered around 27 April 2022. HSL Utilities, the company who would do the groundworks, had been informed and they would schedule the groundworks and installation to take place soon after the delivery date.

e) Recruitment of Parish Warden

The Parish Council had successfully recruited a part-time Parish Warden who would work mainly around the Highfields development. Richard Yates had started work on 7 March and had met with the Clerk and the Lengthsman who works in the village to learn about the role; he had been at work already in Highfields and hopefully residents there would see the difference. The Clerk was still trying to work out a solution on where to put the litter collected – but was looking into a possible solution at the school on Highfields.

f) Noticeboard for The Green

The Clerk had contacted both County and District Councils to ask whether an Object Licence or planning permission was required to position the noticeboard on The Green close to the bus stop. The Clerk had received an acknowledgement; though no clarification what was needed. Hopefully a response would have been received by the next meeting.

g) Brook Close Community Room

There was a query on this at the last meeting as to when the Community Room would be re-opening. Councillor Ford had looked into this and the reply from the District Council stated that they were in the process of recommissioning all Community Rooms to reopen but within the Council guidelines for occupancy levels. The rooms must also be checked to

ensure that fire, electrical, legionella, and where necessary gas certificates, were in place. The Officer was due to meet with the team leader regarding this matter, after which hopefully the position would be clearer.

h) Well-Dressing response from Etwall Well-Dressing Association

The Clerk had contacted the Etwall Well Dressing Association. The current chairperson replied to say she would be glad to answer any questions that the Council may have on the tradition. She said that the Council may gain some information from the Findern Women's Institute; however, if this was where the tradition was lost then please do get back to her.

2875/22

Members Reports

a) Wildflower area at KGV and tree planting at KGV update

Councillor Woodhouse reported that as labour was an issue, planting up the area alongside the King George V Playing Field would be difficult. Instead, he recommended the Council purchased wildflower seed which he could apply in the Spring. The cost of this was £189.75 + VAT, and the amount would be sufficient for this area; also, to give out to school children at the Jubilee tree commemoration.

RESOLVED the Clerk would order the wildflower seed at £189.75 + VAT.

b) Findern in Relief Fund

Graham Cooke, now confirmed as a Trustee of the charity, would look into the change of bank signatories and administration contact.

c) Stanhope Woods – Licence to Occupy

A decision should be made by 21 March 2022 on the application to South Derbyshire District Council for permission for the proposed tree works at Stanhope Wood. Councillors Radcliffe and Woodhouse, along with Steve Tiso from Findern Footpaths Group, had visited the site to look at the access to the pond. It was agreed that the pond needed dredging and clearing; and fencing installed to limit access to the pond only via a dipping platform. Also, improving some of the footpaths. Councillor Woodhouse had received a quote for this work for £400 for labour only and there would be materials to purchase on top of this.

RESOLVED the Clerk would seek further quotes for the work; however, the decision on which contractor to use was delegated to the Clerk to be taken in conjunction with Councillors Radcliffe and Woodhouse in order for the work to be progressed.

d) Platinum Jubilee weekend

Members discussed plans to mark Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee. Events proposed include: -

- Thursday 2 June in the evening – Jubilee Lighting Ceremony - prior to this ceremony at 9.45pm, there was to be a concert from 7pm with a 40s style singer. The event would be at the Hillside Playing Field, as this would allow people to bring picnics.
- Friday 3 June Tree Commemoration at King George V Playing Field. This would be for the new tree especially planted there.
- Saturday 4 June there was a Jubilee Fete planned for The Green in support of the Village Hall.

- Sunday 5 June, joining in the 'Big Lunch' national event at Hillside Playing Field with Children's entertainment.

RESOLVED that: -

- The singer Jayne Darling be booked for the event on 2 June 2022 for a fee of £195.
- The 6m x 3m marquee be hired from Marshall Marquees for the weekend from Thursday 2 June day time to Monday 6 June day time at £220 + VAT
- The mobile toilets plus a single disabled unit be hired from Kniftons at £740 + VAT
- Dream Parties be booked for the children's entertainment on 5 June at cost of £350
- The Clerk would look to into booking St John Ambulance for First Aid Cover at the events on 2 June, 4 June and 5 June.
- The Clerk would complete the District Council booking forms for Hillside for the 2 June and 5 June events, seeking a risk assessment for both from Melanie Eckersley.
- The Clerk would arrange another working group meeting in April for the Jubilee events.

2876/22

Matters for discussion or determination

- a) Funding request from Findern Social Group – Insurance, hire of village hall for event
Members considered the request for funding to support the start-up of this group.

RESOLVED to grant £500 to the group with the hope that it will become self-sustaining in the future as more and more events are arranged.

- b) Permission for Findern Social Group to use KGV for Children's summer event.
Members considered the request for the group to use the King George V Playing Field (KGV) for a Children's summer event.

RESOLVED to grant permission to the group to use the KGV for a Children's summer event; subject to the necessary risk assessments being in place and insurance.

- c) Highfields – adoption of green space by Greenbelt Group Ltd.
Members discussed the recent adoption of the open spaces on the Highfields development by Green Belt Ltd; alongside the number of issues reported by residents there.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would seek a meeting between a representative of Green Belt Ltd and Councillors on site at Highfields to discuss their Service Level Agreement and the issues already evident.

- d) Advertisement board on The Green
Members discussed the placing of an advertisement board on The Green by an adjacent business. Permission for this had not been sought.

RESOLVED that the Council were not concerned about the board at the moment; however, this may be reviewed in the future at any time.

- e) Plans for Easter event - Saturday 16 April 10.00am-12.00noon
Members discussed the plans for the Easter Egg Hunt event on Saturday 16 April between 10am-12noon. There was a discussion about whether to hold the event on The Green or on the King George V Playing Field. Dream Parties would provide the eggs and entertainment at £250; The Council had been asked to provide 2 large Easter eggs as prizes.

RESOLVED to approve cost of Dream Parties at £250; also, to purchase the 2 large Easter Eggs as prizes. The venue was confirmed as the King George V Playing Field off Willington Road in Findern.

f) Rubbish on pathway at Gostiles

This issue had been resolved; the rubbish had been removed.

g) Young Artist Mural for Crows Park Way bridge

Graffiti had appeared on the walls of the underpass on Crows Park Way, some of which was offensive. At a previous meeting, it had been suggested that the Council commission a mural for the walls from a young artist.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would contact the District Council's Clean Team to report the offensive graffiti and to have it removed. Also, the Clerk would make enquiries elsewhere to explore the possibility of commissioning a young artist to paint a mural at the site.

h) Space for a Community Garden

At a previous meeting, it had been suggested that the Council establish a Community Garden in the Parish; however, the Parish Council do not own any suitable land in the village. It was noted that Green Belt Ltd., the service management company appointed at Highfields, were interested in environmental projects and therefore a Community Garden may be something that could be explored for Highfields.

RESOLVED to discuss the possibility of a Community Garden at Highfields with Green Belt Ltd. at the site meeting that it is hoped would be arranged soon.

i) Annual Parish Meeting for the Village

Members considered a date to hold the Annual Parish Meeting for the village. This is a statutory meeting for all residents and organisations in the village to give an update on their activities in the previous year and discuss any issues for the future.

RESOLVED to hold the Annual Parish Meeting for the village on Wednesday 27 April 2022. The Clerk would contact organisations inviting them to the meeting and ensure that the statutory notice was given to all residents that the meeting was taking place. It was suggested that the meeting take place on Highfields at the Spencer Academy School.

2877/22

Planning Matters

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

Consultations

a) **Ref. No.DMPA/2022/0172 – 53 Findern Lane, Findern**

The erection of a two-storey extension.

b) **Ref. No.DMPA/2022/0182 – 51, Doles Lane, Findern**

The demolition of existing rear conservatory, erection of two storey side extension and single storey rear extension and formation of new dropped kerb and parking access.

c) **Ref. No.DMOT/2022/0305 – TPO Order no. 474 at Tutbury Avenue, Littleover**

The pruning of an oak tree and felling of an ash tree covered by South Derbyshire District Council.

Decisions

a) **Ref. No.DMPA/2022/0102 – Land of Common Piece Lane, Findern**

The erection of a steel portal frame, general purpose agricultural building at Prior Approval for the proposal as described is Not Required from the Authority

b) **Ref. No.DMPA/2021/1743 – Dhami Acres, Bakeacre Lane, Findern**

The erection of a steel portal frame, general purpose agricultural building.
Approved (Delegated Decision).

2878/22

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 11/02/22	L Nash – Findern Historical Society, purchase of archive boxes	£57.42	£0.00	£57.42
BACS UTB 16/02/22	Get Happy Entertainment – Deposit for booking on 02/06/22 Jubilee event	£40.00	£0.00	£40.00
BACS UTB 25/02/22	South Derbyshire CVS - Staff salaries February	£1165.66	£00.00	£1165.66
BACS UTB 10/03/22	Aucuba Ground Maintenance – remarking of pitches February and strim of wildflower area at KGV	£144.00	£28.80	£172.80
BACS UTB 10/03/22	R Yates - Reimbursement to Parish Warden for purchase of work boots	£45.83	£9.17	£55.00
BACS UTB 10/03/22	Helping Hand – Purchase of Litter Picker and Bag Hoop for Parish Warden	£35.64	£7.13	£42.77
BACS UTB 10/03/22	Reimbursement to the Clerk for the purchase of Kit for Parish Warden, waterproof, High Viz jacket, work gloves and black sacks	£39.14	£7.83	£46.97
BACS UTB 10/03/22	Clerk's Expenses for 10/02 to 09/03; phone, WFH allowance, mileage, zoom monthly subscription.	£82.11	£2.40	£84.51
BACS UTB 10/03/22	21CC Group Ltd – Purchase of Beacon for Jubilee celebration	£490.00	£98.00	£588.00
BACS UTB 10/03/22	Earth Anchors – 4 x Dog bins for Highfields	£872.00	£174.40	£1046.40

b) Members noted Income received: -

Date of credit	From	Into Account	Amount
25/02/2022	Concurrent Function Allocation	Unity Trust Bank	£15,745.79
28/02/2022	Bank Interest A/c No. 99697971	NW Reserve A/C	£0.21
01/03/2022	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 28 February 2022 (including Current and Reserve Accounts Balances).

2879/22

Correspondence

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

- DALC February 1 Newsletter – forwarded 11/02
- DCC Derby / Derbyshire Minerals Local Plan Consultation draft documents – forwarded 22/02
- DALC February 2 Newsletter – forwarded 23/02
- DCC Derby / Derbyshire Minerals Local Plan Consultation details of venues to view proposals – forwarded 02/03
- Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner's Consultation – forwarded 03/03

2880/22

Reports from Councillors attending meetings of outside bodies

None.

2881/22

Date of next meeting(s)

The next Meeting of the Parish Council would take place at **7.00pm on Thursday, 14 April 2022**, at the Methodist Church, Lower Green in Findern.

2882/22

Exclusion of press and public

None.

2883/22

Exempt

None.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm