

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 14 July 2022

Present: Councillors T Brown, A Pratt, M Ratcliffe, R Rose, C Smith and M Woodhouse.

Also present: Kate Sharpe (Clerk) and 9 members of the public.

2940/22 Apologies for absence

Apologies were **NOTED** from Councillors G Cooke, B Dosanjh, S Holmes and T Scott.

2941/22 Declaration of members interests

None.

2942/22 Public Speaking

Members of the public:

- A representative of the Findern Footpaths and Conservation Group thanked the Parish Council for their donation of £1000 to the group. It was reported that all work had been suspended until temperatures cooled down. A small 'Communications' group had been formed to help liaise with the community; the plan being to advertise a calendar of events when people could come along to help. Work was planned for Saturday and Sundays, once a fortnight when people had more time. The group visit to the Tean Valley Nature Reserve on Saturday 25 June had gone well; the group were impressed with the Butterfly Walk there and were putting together a plan to have the same in Findern. Other work had seen the footpaths and benches at Stanhope Hole cleared, and August/September would see the start of the pond project. The contractor had been asked to level off the footpaths at the wetlands and also clear brambles at the gate with his digger.
- Steve Tiso advised he was running a First Aid course at the Village Hall on 29 July 2022 9.30am – 1.00pm.
- A resident asked for an update on the planned works at High Pavement. She was advised that it was in the County Council's capital works for the year but no start date has been given. Councillor Ford would chase this up; a full resurface was needed.
- A resident spoke about the incident whereby a full branch of a tree had fallen into Doles Lane near Wallfields House. This had been cleared at the time; however, there was a concern about the condition of the trees in that area. Councillor Ford would follow this up with County Council officers.
- It was reported that there was a great deal of litter along the A38 adjacent to the Findern junction. This had been reported to Highways previously but the Clerk would follow this up.
- It was reported that the Findern sign was missing from the post near the Rykneld Road exit on the A38 roundabout. This had been reported to Highways previously but the Clerk would follow this up.
- It was reported that red safety barriers were still in situ at both Porters Lane and on Willington Road and had been for some time with no action taken. Councillor Ford would look into this.

Police Liaison Officer:

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

District and County Councillor Reports:

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

Councillor Martyn Ford was present at the meeting, and had given the following report: -

- The bridge over Doles Brook on Common Piece Lane had been reported as showing cracks in its surface. The Council was aware and the bridge would be surveyed and a report written regarding repairs required.
- At District level there were refuse collection issues; a lack of man power because of Covid. Residents were advised that if their bin was not emptied on their normal day, then they should leave out for the next day.
- There was a consultation on community services on the District Council's website.
- Face to Face appointments were now possible at the District Council offices.
- More general news for the District and County can be found on SDDC and DCC websites.

2943/22

Response to emails from residents**a) Issue of parking on footpath adjacent to the Village Hall**

The Council had received an email from a resident reporting that vehicles were parking on the footpath adjacent to the hall; cars were regularly driving along the pavement to park up; although it is pedestrian access only. There was a brief discussion about the parking of vehicles on the footpath. Councillor Martyn Ford (South Derbyshire District Council) was present and he advised that he was aware of the concerns and would take this up with officers at the District Council, as parking issues are not in the remit of the Parish Council.

b) State of litter around Co-op at Highfields

The Parish Warden was concerned about the amount of litter next to the Co-op; which had become worse since the opening of the V Shack vegetarian and vegan take away. At the present moment there were only two bins at the site; both of these bins filled quickly, which added to the litter problem and increasing the risk of rats in the area. A letter was sent to Co-op as requested at last meeting but no response was received. Councillor Ford proposed he meet the Parish Warden at the site to look at the issues; possibly asking the District Council Environment Officers to get involved if necessary.

c) Report of exposed cables at Bridge 22 on canal

The Clerk had received a report of exposed cables to the north side of Bridge 22 over the canal that leads to Potlocks Footpath down near Mercia Marina. Joan Tidy of the Footpaths Group checked the site and confirmed someone, possibly Rights of Way at DCC or Mercia Marina, had already taken action and cables were buried and new gravel laid.

2944/22

Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 9 June 2022 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

2945/22

Variation of order of business

None.

2946/22 **To determine which items, if any, of the Agenda should be taken with the press and public excluded**
None.

2947/22 **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman welcomed all to the July meeting of Findern Parish Council.

The Chairman reported that there had been no social events had been organised by the Parish Council in the previous month; however, the Parish Council had teamed up with Active South Derbyshire to provide free activity sessions for children and young people of Findern and Highfields over the school summer holidays. Residents should check the notice boards and website for dates and venues.

On other news in the village, the Chairman was pleased to report that the pathway on Porters Lane had been cut back and was now passable; and the basketball hoop and goal posts had been installed at the King George V Playing Fields, a welcome addition to an already popular and well used facility.

The Chairman announced that she had recently resigned as a Governor of Findern Primary School and Councillor Pratt would hopefully take her place.

There would be no Parish Council meeting in August; therefore, the Chairman looked forward to seeing residents at the next meeting in September.

2948/22 **Report of the Parish Clerk**

a) Update on Installation of Basketball area

Work was now completed on the basketball area; including the white lining. There was a reduction on the cost because the contractor had hand laid the tarmac instead of using a machine application. They had re-turfed area to the side so hopefully that will take – not the best time with it being so hot. The Clerk asked for permission to have the turf watered over the dry spell.

RESOLVED that the Clerk could ask Easy Growing to water the turf over the dry period to try to get it to take.

b) Highfields Christmas Tree, approach to Greenbelt Ltd. for permissions to site

The Clerk and Councillors Brown and Smith had met the Customer Liaison Officer at the event to open Highfields School. During a discussion about various issues, the permission for a Christmas Tree for Highfields was mentioned. The Customer Liaison Officer gave the name of someone who would be able to help; the Clerk had written to the person and was waiting on a reply.

c) Response from DCC RoW regarding maintenance of Baxter's Way

The Clerk contacted Rights of Way at DCC about Baxter's Way becoming quite overgrown. They advised that Baxter's Way is not scheduled for any maintenance work – they would only look after the surface anyway – the shrubs belong to the landowner which is Highways England. DCC did say the Parish Council could possibly include the cost of any strimming done in the application for the Rights of Way Maintenance Grant. Last year the Parish Council spent £250 and had the pathway strimmed back about this time of the year.

RESOLVED that the contractor would be asked once again to trim back Baxter's Way in late July/ early August.

d) Response from SDDC regarding trim and bark for Hillside Play Area

The state of the Hillside Playing Field was flagged up at the last meeting. The Clerk contacted the play area supervisor at the District Council - who were responsible for the play area - and she had confirmed that she was sending someone out to trim the area of weeds and nettles and had asked for the area to be re-barked asap. Also, she had confirmed the tree with low branch had been attended to.

e) Update from Findern Primary School re School Crossing Patrol

Findern Primary School wrote to the Council in response to their offer of helping to fund a crossing patrol for children attending Findern Primary School. They wished to update Members following the governors meeting, where there had been lots of discussion around the position of any patrol and also the need. Governors had decided to consult with parents via a questionnaire. This would give governors information on which to base a decision as to the way forward. The survey would be completed before the end of term but it is very unlikely that a decision would be made until September. The School would contact the Council again in the new school year.

f) Confirmation of arrangements for Summer Activities at Hillside Playing Field and Highfields Spencer Academy

There are 4 sessions available at two venues. The sessions are aimed at 8 to 16-year-olds. Note: Under 8's may attend, but only with a responsible adult present at all times.

Dates are confirmed as: -

- Wednesday, 27 July, 2pm-4pm Adventure Mobile
- Tuesday, 16 August, 10am-12noon Sport Mobile
Venue: Highfields Spencer Academy, Tutbury Ave, Derby DE23 3UX
- Tuesday, 2 August, 6pm-8pm Sport Mobile
- Thursday, 25 August, 2pm-4pm Adventure Mobile
Venue: Hillside Playing Field, off Hillside, Findern DE65 6AW

g) Response from SDDC on cutting of verges on Willington Road and on the road towards Highfields.

i. Willington Road

District Officer advised that they are not responsible for the maintenance of the hedge, this will be either down to the land owner or the County Council to maintain; regardless of responsibility, hedges should not be cut until the end of August due to bird nesting season. Suggestion was to contact the County Council or find out who the land owner is and then request a cut back at the end of the nesting season.

ii. Highfields

The District Council officer had been out to look at the roundabout, and had arranged for the team to cut and trim the areas that the District Council were responsible for. The rest of the cutting was the responsibility of the County Council. It is the areas that require traffic management, and these areas should be easily identifiable as they would remain uncut after the District team had visited.

h) Response from Canal and River Trust with advice on Safety close to the water

The Clerk had contacted the Canal and River Trust as requested at previous meeting, asking for advice on safety for the business close to the water. This matter was with the Safety Manager and the Clerk was awaiting a response.

RESOLVED that the reports be noted.

2949/22

Members Reports

a) Findern in Relief Fund

Councillor Cook was not present at this meeting therefore the item was deferred until the September meeting.

b) Stanhope Woods – Licence to Occupy

Councillor Mike Ratcliffe updated the Council on the activity at Stanhope Wood.

- The A-Frame had been delivered and Councillor Ratcliffe had met with the Footpaths Group to agree the location for the A-Frame. The plan was for the contractor to install it in the following 2 weeks and also to include a direction board to show route to canal.
- Derbyshire Wildlife Trust had identified that nets should be installed on fences around the pond. The contractor would fit sheet netting to the fences to make them safe. The netting had been donated by Woodgrow.
- The contractor had removed Himalayan Balsam from the woods. This would be on-going task; it should be noted that the culvert that backs onto Stanhope Hole is full of Himalayan Balsam; this needs to be removed next year.
- There was planting to do in the Autumn
- A Bug Hotel should be created in the Autumn, perhaps with the help of schools in the area.

c) Stiles on Gorstiles Footpath, response from landowner

This item was deferred until the next meeting as Councillor M Ratcliffe had still not had a chance to speak to the landowner. Note: No mandatory change was required unless it was a new structure.

2950/22

Matters for discussion or determination

a) Speed Indicator Devices (VAS) - 12 Month Trial Project. Decision on SID Supplier

Members considered the options of suppliers and types of units.

RESOLVED that SWARCO be selected as the supplier of a solar powered unit showing Thank You / Slow Down message for a possible 3-4 sites. The Clerk would now approach Highways at DCC about the suitability of the potential sites and make necessary application for Object Licence; also confirm costs for unit with SWARCO.

b) Request from Findern Social Group to use the Parish Council's container for storage

Members considered a request from Findern Social Group to use the Parish Council's container for storage. Members felt that the container was already quite full with lots of Remembrance Day and Christmas event equipment, plus the store of salt grit for the winter; and what room remains should be for the Parish Council. Also, the Council's Insurer was concerned about third parties having access to the container, and Councillor Woodhouse

was also not comfortable with people other than Members of the Parish Council having access to his business area.

RESOLVED to refuse the request.

- c) Renewal of Annual contract with Health & Safety Advisor, Melanie Eckersley
Members considered the renewal of the annual contract with Health & Safety Advisor, Melanie Eckersley. The Members noted the excellent support Melanie had given the Council throughout the year, specifically around the Jubilee events.

RESOLVED to renew the annual contract for Health & Safety support at a cost of £660 for the year.

- d) Consider suggestion of Halloween Party at October Half Term at Findern Village Hall or Highfields Spencer Academy
Members considered the suggestion of Halloween Party at October Half Term at Findern Village Hall or Highfields Spencer Academy. Saturday 29 October was suggested as a possible date, a party lasting 2 hours.

RESOLVED the Clerk would look into the availability of the Village Hall on that date; also the availability of Dream Parties. This information would be brought to the September meeting of Council for a decision on whether to go ahead.

2951/22

Planning Matters

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

Consultations

- a) **Ref. No.DMPA/2022/0660 – 166 Doles Lane, Findern**

Proposed loft conversion with rear dormer.

Decisions

- a) **Ref. No.DMPA/2022/0389 – Findern Primary School, Findern**

Extension of an existing classroom to create larger learning space with the addition of an intervention room.

Approved (Delegated Decision)

2952/22

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 27/06/2022	South Derbyshire CVS - Staff salaries June	£1530.12	£00.00	£1530.12
BACS UTB 27/06/2022	St John Ambulance – 4 members of staff at 2 June Jubilee Event	£240.00	£48.00	£288.0

BACS UTB 27/06/2022	St John Ambulance – 1 member of staff at 5 June Jubilee Event	£48.00	£9.60	£57.60
DD UTB 30/06/2022	Bank Service Charges	£18.00	£0.00	£18.00
BACS UTB 14/07/2022	Aucuba Ground Maintenance – remarking of pitches June and Ground Maintenance	£536.34	£107.27	£643.61
BACS UTB 14/07/2022	Findern Footpath and Conservation Group – s137 Grant	£1000.00	£0.00	£1000.00
BACS UTB 14/07/2022	Shelter Maintenance - Bus Shelter cleaning in June	£37.30	£7.46	£44.76
BACS UTB 14/07/2022	Findern Village Hall – Hire of room for Jubilee events on 2 & 5 June 2022	£103.50	£0.00	£103.50
BACS UTB 14/07/2022	Easy Growing Landscapes Ground and Planter Maintenance in June.	£200.00	£0.00	£200.00
BACS UTB 14/07/2022	K Barriers – purchase and delivery of A Frame Barrier for Stanhope Wood	£620.00	£124.00	£744.00
BACS UTB 14/07/2022	Reimbursement to the Clerk for the purchase of items for Planters	£105.95	£8.84	£114.79
BACS UTB 14/07/2022	Clerk's Expenses from 09/06 to 13/07; phone, WFH allowance, mileage, zoom monthly subscription.	£70.86	£2.40	£73.26
BACS UTB 14/07/2022	Viking Direct – Printer inks, paper and noticeboard magnets for the Clerk	£39.17	£7.83	£47.00
BACS UTB 14/07/2022	Viking Direct – Inks for Chairman	£45.03	£9.01	£54.04

BACS UTB 14/07/2022	Melanie Eckersley – Review of Safety Management System and Annual Health & Safety Consultancy	£660.00	£0.00	£660.00
BACS UTB 14/07/2022	Cllr. T Brown – Chairman's Allowance	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00

b) Members noted Income received: -

Date of credit	From	Into Account	Amount
30/06/2022	Bank Interest A/c No. 99697971	NW Reserve A/C	£2.05
01/07/2022	Sarah Pritchard / Find Ltd. - Parish Rooms Rent	Unity Trust Bank	£333.33
08/07/2022	SDDC – 50% Precept payment	Unity Trust Bank	£22,973.50

c) Bank Account Reconciliation Report/Budget Monitoring Reports

Members **NOTED** the Bank Account Reconciliation Report/Budget Monitoring Reports up to 30 June 2022 (including Current and Reserve Accounts Balances).

2953/22

Correspondence

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

- Invitation to South Derbyshire District Council's Civic Service at 3pm on Sunday 4 September 2022
- DALC June Newsletter - forwarded 15/06
- SDDC - Area Forum Meeting Details - forwarded 21/06
- DCC – Updated SID information – forwarded 27/06
- DALC invitation to Police Liaison Forum at 2.30-3.30pm on 14 September 2022 - forwarded 27/06
- DALC July Newsletter - forwarded 01/07
- Invitation to DCC Parish and Town Council Liaison Forum at 6pm on 26 July 2022 - forwarded 01/07
- East Midlands Airport Future Airspace Liaison Meeting Follow Up - forwarded 03/07
- Letter of thanks from the Treasurer of All Saints Church for the Parish Council's donation towards the cost of the exterior lighting of the church over the winter.

2954/22

Reports from Councillors attending meetings of outside bodies

Councillor Woodhouse gave a short report from the East Midlands Airport Future Airspace Liaison Meeting that he had attended. The main points presented were: -

- The air space around EMA has remained unchanged since the 1950s. New UK and European regulations are going to come into force in the near future in order to manage increased air traffic movements and maintain safety. The previously published Statement of Need has been accepted by ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organisation) and the CAA (Civil Aircraft Authority)

- The sky below 7000ft around the airport is managed by EMA. The sky above 7000ft is managed by NATS (National Air Traffic System)
- New approach and departure envelopes are being deployed to manage increased air traffic. This will enable alternative respite routing for residents living under flight paths. The runway will continue to operate in both directions according to the wind direction. The runway is orientated east/west 090 degrees and 270 degrees (Runways 09 & 27 respectively) The new departure and arrival envelopes will link into NATS.
- The ascent and descent angles of 6% and 5% will remain unchanged. These angles are deemed the most efficient in terms of fuel saving and environmental impact.

2955/22

Date of next meeting(s)

The next Meeting of the Parish Council would take place at **7.00pm on Thursday, 8 September 2022**, at the Methodist Church, Lower Green in Findern.

2956/22

Exclusion of press and public

None.

2957/22

Exempt

None.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm