

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 November 2022

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

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

2993/22 Apologies for absence

Apologies were **NOTED** from Councillors A Pratt and T Scott.

2994/22 Declaration of members interests

None.

2995/22 Public Speaking

Members of the public:

- A resident had done some research about the flooding of the underpass under the bridge beside the canal and confirmed there used to be a pipe that drained water into the field behind, but this had been removed when building repairs were carried out. A query had been submitted to the Flood Liaison meeting that would be held on the 17 November 2023.
- A resident complained that the mobile van was still being parked on the car park overnight at Lower Green. The resident believed that the owner had been advised by the District Council not to park the van there. The Clerk would contact the District Council and bring their response to a future meeting.
- Representatives of Findern Footpaths Group had met with Councillors Ratcliffe and Woodhouse and together had formulated a works plan for next year. It was agreed that this would go on the Agenda of the next meeting for discussion.
- Findern Footpaths Group also reported: -
 - They continued to experience vandalism at some of the sites. They were in touch with the Community Safer Neighbourhood team who were visiting to give advice.
 - The group had set up a complaints procedure so that there was an audit trail for any incidents at any of the sites.
 - They had a meeting arranged with the Community Engagement Officer from South Derbyshire CVS to talk about how they could work with isolated and lonely people.
 - They have secured a stall at the Christmas Fayre taking place on 22 December.
- Members were advised that the problem with access to the Brook Close Community Room had been sorted now.
- The Parish Warden reported an issue with cardboard left out too early for bin days; this was littering the streets of Highfields. He had drafted a polite notice to leave for residents and he asked for Members permission to use this; which was agreed upon.
- A resident reported there was an issue with children accessing the derelict farm on Porters Lane. Councillor MacPherson said that he would take this up with Environment Officers at the District Council; he would ask them to visit site to look at any measures that could be put in place to stop access; also, to pursue resolution with owners.

Police Liaison Officer:

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

District and County Councillor Reports:

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

- There was still time for residents to respond to the SDDC Local Plan consultation. The “Drop in” session in the Village Hall was well attended. Findern and other rural areas are heavily impacted with potential sites, so a strong response and rebuttal is needed to prevent the village from being overwhelmed by developments in years to come, noting that any sites that do eventually get taken forward still have to go through the normal Planning process and satisfy all the requirements of that process.
- Councillor Ford had forwarded a couple of links to the Parish Council Members, one for the Future Airspace Programme timeline, the second for the much-reported East Midlands Mayoral Combined County Authority (EMMCCA), the consultation for this would start on 14 November 2022, Council Ford urged members and the wider groups to read them both and engage with the process.
- The pavement repairs on High Pavement off Doles Lane were not satisfactory. He would invite a senior inspector down to Findern to look at High Pavement; also, Common Piece Lane. He needed to understand the long-term outcome for Common Piece Lane especially; as he doubted whether this classification of road, basically unclassified, would make it onto a capital programme due to the cost of repairs and the timescales involved, but it does need a regular inspection of minor maintenance.
- Regarding the accident recently, whereby a car failed to negotiate the bend coming in to Findern onto Main Street from Willington, ending up in a garden of a property; Councillor Ford had contacted Highways about reinstating the Chevrons on the corner, which it was believed used to be there. Highways had responded saying that they could not find any record of Chevrons being on the corner previously; however, they have offered the option of an investigation into whether the grip on the carriageway was in some way defective or a contributory factor in the loss of control events, which have occurred. The other option offered was to try and highlight the alignment of the road to the right on the approach along Heath Lane; this would overlay the road markings (centre line around the bend) with what is known as ‘Wet Night’ or WeatherLine, which is a material which works better in both darkness and wet road surface conditions in terms of its visibility to drivers and other road users. Therefore, this might be an option which could be considered if there is an evidenced concern with this location. Councillor Ford will follow this up with Officer
- There had been a flooding issue at Findern Primary School. Fortunately, after reporting this to Derbyshire County Council (DCC), the Gulley Sucker was diverted from Long Eaton and quickly got the situation under control. From this it was identified that several drains and gulleys were blocked, ditches blocked and a possible drain collapse. The DCC Camera team were expected and would be sending a camera down the drains to see what has blocked and/or damaged the drain in readiness for repairs. A programme will be instigated to undertake a regular maintenance regime in and around the school and Buckford Lane.

- Unfortunately, Councillor Ford had to refer parking problems again to the Safer Neighbourhood Team colleagues due to reported aggressive behaviour by parents outside the school.
- There had been a lot of “Fast Food” detritus being thrown out at the top of Porters Lane. Please could all residents take their rubbish home.
- Regarding Brook Close Community Room, Councillor Ford had been in discussions with the District Council officers regarding the room and access. A fire and risk assessment had been undertaken; the issue was with access/egress for the resident of the flat upstairs. Councillor Ford would keep the Council updated.

Councillor Andrew MacPherson was present at the meeting and gave the following report: -

- The District Council was currently consulting with the public on the Local Plan for the next 5 years up to 2028. There was a requirement for South Derbyshire to build 550 new house per year; however, as Amber Valley and Derby City were potentially unable to meet their quota because of lack of available land, South Derbyshire may have to build over and above their quota. We do not want to build on all our green space; therefore, Councillor Macpherson strongly advised the village develop its own Local Plan and have it adopted so that it has some say in what areas are used for future development.
- Swadlincote would be holding an evening of Illumination and street entertainment on 26 November from 4-8pm.
- Chief Executive, Frank McArdle and Finance Director, Keving Stackhouse from South Derbyshire District Council were both retiring in 2023. The Council was currently recruiting a new Strategic Director, therefore with these changes there could be a new direction for the District in the next few years.
- Refuse recycling tickets had been distributed in preparation for the Christmas/New Year period.

2996/22

Response to emails from residents

a) External Lights at Parish Rooms

The Parish Council were contacted by a resident enquiring why the two exterior lights on the Parish Rooms were not working; and whether this could be remedied so that the road was lit after dark.

The Clerk would check with leaseholder whether the lights were switched on at the fuse board; if there was a problem then an electrician would be contacted.

b) Replacement planters on The Green – for budget next year

A resident contacted the Parish Council asking that it consider changing the brick planters on The Green to the self-watering type.

Members agreed to consider this and other options when deciding upon the budget for the next year.

2997/22

Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 13 October 2022 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

2998/22

Variation of order of business

None.

- 2999/22** **To determine which items, if any, of the Agenda should be taken with the press and public excluded**
One item on staffing matters.
- 3000/22** **Chairman's Report**
The Chairman welcomed all to the November meeting of Findern Parish Council.
The Chairman noted that there had been no Parish Council social events in the previous month.
The Chairman, on behalf of the Parish Council, thanked Councillor Woodhouse for once again installing the silhouettes and lighting on The Green in preparation for the Remembrance service on Sunday 13 November, which would begin at 10.30am.
- 3001/22** **Report of the Parish Clerk**
- a) **Update on Lease for Crow Park Way land**
Since the October meeting, the Parish Council were asked to have a Statutory Declaration signed in front of a solicitor. This had been done and the declaration returned to the Land Agent, who had confirmed that all was now in order; therefore, the signed copy of the lease should be received shortly and then all was complete.
- b) **Update on Highfields Christmas Tree**
The Clerk reported that there were still a few issues to sort out to site the tree; however, she was working on these and hopefully a tree would be installed at Highfields in time for the Christmas period.
- c) **Update on Speed Indicator Devices (VAS) - 12 Month Trial Project.**
There was still no update from the County Council regarding the approval of the Object Licence, required to install the equipment; nor from the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office regarding the funding for the equipment. The Clerk would update Members at the next meeting.
- d) **DALC response – enforcing No Ball Games**
After the last meeting the Clerk had made enquiries with DALC re. the legal process to enforce the 'No Ball Games' rule on The Green. The Chief Officer replied saying she was not sure why the council are wanting to prevent ball games on the village green and would go so far as to suggest that it cannot lawfully do so. Without a Bye Law (which in effect would criminalise anyone playing football on The Green, there was little the Parish Council itself could do.
- Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would contact the Safer Neighbourhood Team to ask for their support; also, to contact John Port School requesting their help with contacting the parents of the pupils to ask them to desist from playing football on The Green.
- e) **Conifer hedge at Common Piece Lane**
The conifer hedges around the private land at Common Piece Lane had been cut – this had been done by Western Power as the hedge was close to cables. Western Power had also cut back some of the shrubs and trees in the cemetery boundary that were also close to cables.

f) Update on fly tipping issue at land off Rykneld Road / Burton Road

The District Officer was looking into ownership of this land; they had replied saying: *“In regard to this matter the area in question is the responsibility of the land owner and not the authority, if this is believed to be the Highway Authority, then this responsibility would be a matter for either County Council or the Highways Authority but we believe that this is the responsibility of the land owner and not the authority. As this is the case the Authority would not be responsible for the removal of the waste from this area.”* As the owner of the field had already said they believe it was Highways land, the Clerk had submitted the same query to Highways and was waiting for a reply.

g) Response regarding trees at The Hayes

The Clerk had contacted the District Officer regarding the rumour that some trees at The Hayes were to be felled. The Officer was not aware of any tree work planned; however, he was checking with planning to see if there were any planning application pending. He had not yet replied to the Clerk.

h) Lighting of Church for winter

The Church Council thanked the Parish Council for the offer of funding support to light up the Church. They had met and had decided that, because of the current energy situation, they would limit the lighting of the church to between 7-9pm until Remembrance Sunday. Then from (Advent Sunday) 27 November until 6 January 2023 (Epiphany) the church would be lit between 5 30pm-7 30pm. They hoped that this met with the Council's approval.

3002/22

Members Reports

a) Findern in Relief Fund

Councillor Cooke reported that the Trustees were making progress; and were looking into re-registering as a charity. One of the trustees, Helen Adcock had resigned; however, Mrs Nicky Cooke had offered to be a Trustee. The group of Trustees would convene a meeting to discuss and make a decision on this.

b) Stanhope Woods – Licence to Occupy

Councillors M Ratcliffe and M Woodhouse had visited the woods with representatives of the Footpaths Group. Together they had formulated a scheme of work for next year and this would be brought to the next meeting to share with Members.

c) Wildflower areas

Councillor M Woodhouse had recommended that both wildflower areas be cut and raked off, this had been done and Councillor Woodhouse would check whether the areas were in correct state and report back to the Clerk. He would then spread wildflower seed there in preparation for the next year.

3003/22

Matters for discussion or determination

a) Parish Council's response to the Local Plan Consultation

Members discussed this further, particularly in light of the plan downloaded from Derbyshire County Council's website, which showed potential residential building sites around Findern.

RESOLVED Members to respond individually and the Clerk would promote the consultation again to residents asking them to respond.

Also, **RESOLVED** to look into developing a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish. This should be set as a standing Agenda item every month.

b) Arrangements for Remembrance Day 13 November 2022

Members discussed final arrangements for the event on The Green for Remembrance Day.

c) SDCVS Request for support for Foodbank

Members discussed the request for support that had been received from South Derbyshire CVS for their Food Bank this winter.

RESOLVED to donate £500 to the appeal as a s137 donation.

d) Christmas Light Switch-On arrangements - Saturday 3 December 2022

Members discussed the arrangements for the Light Switch on event. All would meet on The Green at 5pm for the switching on of the lights. All would then move up to the Village Hall for the Children's Entertainment and Santa's grotto. Refreshments would also be served.

RESOLVED the Clerk would look in to purchasing a gazebo to use as the Santa's grotto and for other events. Additional mulled wine and mince pies would be purchased, along with small gifts for the children.

e) Summer event 2023 – possible band/singer

Members discussed possible options for bands.

RESOLVED that Councillors would look at further options before making a decision.

f) Review of Health & Safety Policy

RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting.

g) Quotes for replacement windows at Parish Rooms

RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting.

3004/22

Planning Matters

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

Consultations

a) **Ref. No. DMOT/2022/1301 - 6 Middleton Mews, Highfields**

The pruning of an Oak tree covered by South Derbyshire District Council Tree Preservation Order no. 474

b) **Ref. No. DMPA/2022/1199 – 8 Porters Lane, Findern**

Demolition of garage, re-site, divide plot and build one storey dwelling in back garden.

Decisions

None.

3005/22

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 20/10/2022	South Derbyshire CVS - Staff salaries October	£1644.12	£00.00	£1644.12
BACS UTB 20/10/2022	Firs Farm Nursery – Winter planting	£706.00	£141.20	£847.20
BACS UTB 27/10/2022	Advanced Gas Services – Annual Service of boiler in Parish Rooms	£70.00	£14.00	£84.00
BACS UTB 10/11/2022	Easy Growing Landscapes – September work	£200.00	£0.00	£200.00
BACS UTB 10/11/2022	Easy Growing Landscapes – October work	£200.00	£0.00	£200.00
BACS UTB 10/11/2022	Viking Direct Stationery – Magnets for Noticeboards	£9.47	£1.89	£11.36
BACS UTB 10/11/2022	Woodgrow Horticulture – Reimburse for Light Pro 100w Transformer for electrics to The Green	£68.98	£13.80	£82.78
BACS UTB 10/11/2022	Clerk's Expenses from 08/09 to 13/10 to 09/11; phone, WFH allowance, mileage, zoom monthly subscription plus reimbursements.	£96.44	£5.40	£101.84
BACS UTB 10/11/2022	Aucuba Landscapes Ltd. Ground Maintenance work	£666.34	£133.27	£799.61
BACS UTB 10/11/2022	O Heap and Son – Annual Fire Extinguisher checks	£289.50	£57.90	£347.40
BACS UTB 10/11/2022	Pictorial Ltd – 2 aluminium A3 signs for KGV Basketball and Highfields Christmas Tree	£160.00	£32.00	£192.00
BACS UTB 10/11/2022	Viking Direct Stationery – Printing Inks for Chairman	£51.12	£10.22	£61.34

b) Members noted Income received: -

Date of credit	From	Into Account	Amount
14/10/2022	HMRC VAT refund	Nat West Current	£5515.67
31/10/2022	Bank Interest	Nat West Reserve	£8.14
01/11/2022	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 31 October 2022 (including Current and Reserve Accounts Balances).

d) Appointment of Internal Auditor

RESOLVED that Joanne Taylor would be appointed as Internal Auditor to the Council for the budget year 2022/23

3006/22 **Correspondence**

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

- DCC Your Council Your Vote Survey - forwarded 17/10
- DCC Adult Care Strategy Consultation - forwarded 17/10
- DALC November Newsletter – forwarded 02/11

3007/22 **Reports from Councillors attending meetings of outside bodies**

None.

3008/22 **Date of next meeting(s)**

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

3009/22 **Exempt**

It was **RESOLVED** that in view of the nature of the business about to be transacted it was advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.

3010/22 **Exempt**

Members were updated on a staffing matter.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm