

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 8 December 2022

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

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

3011/22 Apologies for absence

Apologies were **NOTED** from Councillors S Holmes and M Woodhouse.

3012/22 Declaration of members interests

Councillor G Cooke declared an interest in item 3021/22 j) as Governor of Highfields Spencer Academy and Councillor T Brown and R Rose declared an interest in item 3021/22 k) as Trustees of Findern Village Hall.

3013/22 Public Speaking

Members of the public:

- Representatives from Findern Footpaths Group had walked around Stanhope Woods with a tree surgeon to identify any tree work that was required to improve bio-diversity. Details and costs would be brought to the next meeting.
- The tree surgeon had also identified one branch on the Oak tree beside the pathway near the underpass on A50 that was rotten and was in danger of falling. The Clerk advised that this was not Parish Council land and not its responsibility; therefore, it would need to be referred to the landowner for the remedial work.
- Representatives of Findern Social Group advised that they intended to hold a games and activity day – entitled ‘Findern Fest’ - on Saturday 8 July 2023 and would like the Parish Council’s support with the event; the group suggested that the Parish Council hold the evening concert on the same evening or weekend. The Chairman advised that the summer event was on the Agenda for later in the meeting when this would be discussed further.

Police Liaison Officer:

The Chairman read out a report that had been submitted by PC David Marley of Mercia SNT – Area 2.

Patrols have continued in all villages and towns in Mercia.

We continue to receive requests for further traffic operations, school and community engagement as a result of Derbyshire Alert survey feedback.

Some highlights in November include:

- *A male driver, who was arrested after blowing four times the legal drink drive limit on Twyford Road, has been banned from driving for 36 months and fined.*
- *Officers attended the Remembrance Day service in Repton. At the event a driver, who became abusive while having to wait to allow children, members of the clergy and veterans to cross a road safely, was arrested on suspicion of public order offences. He later received an adult caution.*

- *Engagement has continued with local schools across the area.*
- *Officers continue to support residents including older persons' groups with visits and engagement.*
- *South Derbyshire SNT was named as Derbyshire Constabulary's Safer Neighbourhood Team of the Year for 2022. Several members of the team travelled to the awards ceremony to collect the trophy, which was presented by the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner.*

Further information about the work of your SNT can be found in the Mercia SNT Facebook page. Just a reminder, these are many ways you can report crimes or incidents, including:

- *Facebook – send us a private message to our Derbyshire Constabulary Main Facebook page*
- *Twitter – direct message our contact centre via @DerPolContact*
- *Website – We have several crime reporting tools on website or use our online contact form*
- *Phone – call us on 101.*

Following the report, the Members discussed the activity of the Speedwatch group in the village. The activity had reduced because of the dark nights limiting those working full-time to take part in sessions; also the limited number of sites in the village approved for sessions.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would contact the Speedwatch Co-ordinator to ask for an update on the training of the new volunteers; and request additional areas to be approved for sessions. Also, the Clerk would promote the scheme in the village to seek new volunteers.

District and County Councillor Reports:

Councillor Martyn Ford was not present at the meeting. His report was not received in time to be read out at the meeting.

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

- The District Council had recently appointed a new Strategic Director - Heidi Mc Dougall who would start in post on 3 January 2023.
- As there had been many changes in personnel at the District Council, Councillor MacPherson would request that a new contact list be circulated to the Parish Councils.
- The District Council was keen to help with any community litter pick in the Parish; their team were able to support the Parish Council with risk assessments; and if reported, the team would pick up any black sacks containing litter collected on the day.

3014/22

Response to emails from residents

a) Request an update on fly-tipping off Rykneld Road

The Parish Council had received a request for an update on any progress made to remove the fly tipping on land off the roundabout between Rykneld Rd and Burton Rd. The Clerk had written to Highways Hub (as County Council portal refers user back to District Council who had already said they would not do anything as not their responsibility); however there had been no reply from Highways, therefore the Clerk had contacted Councillor Ford, requesting his help with this matter.

b) Overweight lorries using Buckford Bridge

The Parish Council had received a report from a resident who witnessed several large lorries using the bridge on Buckford Lane, that were over the 3-tonne weight limit. Councillor Rose, who lives close to the bridge, confirmed that this was a common occurrence. Weight restriction monitoring is carried out by Trading Standards, who have previously said that if anyone sees an overweight lorry exceeding the limit using the bridge, they should make a note of the licence plate and any details of the lorry and report any offending vehicles using the online form at the bottom of the page at the following link:-

<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/business/trading-standards/weight-restrictions/weight-restrictions.aspx>

RESOLVED the Clerk would contact Trading Standards to ask whether signage could be improved or cameras located to catch the offending vehicles.

3015/22 Minutes

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

3016/22 Variation of order of business

None.

3017/22 To determine which items, if any, of the Agenda should be taken with the press and public excluded

One item on staffing matters.

3018/22 Chairman's Report

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

The Chairman noted that 'The Christmas lights switch on' event had taken place on The Green, followed by refreshments in the Village Hall and children's entertainment by Dream Parties. This was a very successful event with around 70 children visiting Santa. Once again Santa did a fantastic job, spending time with each child and more importantly remembering all of their names! The Chairman wished to thank Councillors Smith and Dosanjh, the Clerk and the Chairman's husband Gary for their invaluable help in setting up, running the event and dismantling everything after.

The Chairman also thanked Councillor Woodhouse who once again donated the tree, erected it and put the lights on. A beautiful tree had also been erected at Highfields after the Council secured the relevant permissions just in time!

It was with regret that the Chairman announced the resignation of Councillor Tim Scott who joined the Council in June 2021. Though Tim had been a Councillor for a relatively short time, he was a valued member of the team and would be greatly missed by all. As his resignation comes within 6 months of the May 2023 elections the Council would not be looking to co-opt into the vacant position until that time, when anyone can apply.

On behalf of Findern Parish Council, the Chairman wished everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Report of the Parish Clerk**a) Update on Highfields Christmas Tree**

The Christmas tree at Highfields was installed on 23 November with lights added on Wednesday 30 November. The Clerk would like to thank the resident who dressed the tree in the time gap. These decorations have been kept safe and can be returned if the resident would like to contact the Clerk. The Council had received a £650 donation from Greenbelt Group Ltd. towards the cost of the tree and the install.

b) Update on Speed Indicator Devices (VAS) - 12 Month Trial Project.

The Council received a request for £100 payment towards legal fees for granting of Object Licence, though no formal confirmation had been received that this had been approved. The Clerk advised that prices would increase on SID equipment on 1 January 2023; but would make enquires whether price could be held. The Council had confirmation of funding from PCC office towards the cost of the equipment – which was worth around £1800.

c) Football on The Green

As requested at previous meeting the Clerk had written to John Port School asking them for help with this issue, suggesting that they write to parents of students in Findern/Highfields/Littleover warning them of the dangers of playing football on The Green. There had been no response. The Clerk had also contacted the Safer Neighbourhood team; however, was advised that this was not a Police matter, and was referred to the District Council Community Safety team. The Community Safety Team responded saying that the youths are not committing an offence so technically all that can be done is to try and make them see sense. They would ask the Police SNT to visit and have a chat with them.

d) Trees on Doles Lane

Derbyshire County Council had planted the 6 trees promised for the area off Doles Lane. The trees were a mixture of Cherry and Hornbeam. These completed the planting of the 7 trees that form part of the 'Queen's Canopy' initiative for the Platinum Jubilee – one tree for each decade of The Queen's Reign. As agreed previously, the Clerk would have a plaque made to install near the trees; the wording would be changed slightly to say that the trees now commemorate the Queen's reign and were a lasting memorial to her.

e) External Lighting at the Parish Rooms

It was reported at the last meeting that the two lights outside the Parish Rooms were no longer lit. The Clerk checked with the leaseholder and they had been switched off at the fuse board, to try to save electricity as when they are on, they are on 24 hours, even in daylight. As suggested at the last meeting, the Clerk mentioned that the Parish Council would contribute to the cost of keeping the lights on; also suggesting an electrician look at a timer, or light or motion sensor to limit the time the lights are on.

RESOLVED Members approved up to £250 could be spent on a solution.

f) Response from SDDC regarding parking at Lower Green

The parking of the Camper Van on Lower Green was brought up at last month's meeting. The Clerk contacted the District Council to confirm whether the van was allowed to park there. The officer's comprehensive response was that following investigation they had concluded that the owner was not behaving 'unreasonably' and so a court would not uphold any legal notice served.

g) Update on faulty Gym Equipment

Videos of the equipment in use had been sent to HAGS, who confirmed that the brake has seized and this had been referred to their Claims Department for an engineer to go out to look at equipment.

h) Update on Porters Lane issue – Farm building/site

Councillor MacPherson contacted the Environment Team straight after the last meeting. The team had visited the site and had spoken to the owner. The house and boundary were boarded up on Friday 25 November however children were seen on the land again on the Sunday 27 November; this was reported to the agent. The Environment Team were still looking into the issue of horses being grazed on the land.

i) Precept Index

Figures supplied by the District Council show the Council Tax Base for Findern Parish has increased by 30, from 1504 to 1534 properties for 2023/24; if there is a 0% increase to the Precept this year this will equate to extra funding of £916.50.

3020/22

Members Reports

a) Findern in Relief Fund

No update to report to the meeting.

b) Stanhope Woods

There was a scheme of work proposed for next year and this would be brought to the next meeting to share with Members. Members were advised that a fencing post needed to be repaired at a cost of about £75. This spend was approved. The flooding under the bridge had been looked at by a contractor; however, the Clerk advised that this was not land owned by the Parish Council and it cannot carry out any remedial work there.

RESOLVED the Clerk would contact the Flood Liaison Forum to request an update on the action taken since reporting the flooding to the forum.

c) Wildflower areas

No update was given as Councillor Woodhouse was not present at the meeting; however, the Clerk could ask Councillor Woodhouse when he wanted to carry out the work and would liaise with Aucuba Ltd. to do the preparation work.

3021/22

Matters for discussion or determination

a) Christmas Light Switch-on review and update on 22 December event

Members briefly reviewed the Switch-on event that had taken place on 3 December. This had been very well received and the format had worked well. The Clerk reported that Highfields Spencer Academy was keen to support a similar Switch-on event at Highfields next year.

For the 22 December Santa Sleigh event, the Parish Council had been asked whether they would buy some festoon lighting which they could then use for other events. The cost was £30 per 50ft – 4 packs were needed.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council would purchase 4 packs of Festoon Lighting at a cost of approximately £120.

b) Venue for Parish Council meetings in 2023

Members discussed whether the venue for the Parish Council meetings should be split between Highfields and Findern for 2023.

RESOLVED that this be approved and the Clerk would enquire with Highfields Spencer Academy whether the school hall could be used for some of the meetings; a proposal would be submitted to the next meeting.

c) Budget setting for 2023/24

Members discussed potential projects for the next budget year including Highfields events and a newsletter.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would prepare a draft budget and circulate prior to the next meeting, in order for a decision to be made at that meeting regarding the Council's Precept for 2023/24. The Clerk would also approach Greenbelt Group Ltd. to ask whether there were any projects that the Council could support on the green space at Highfields.

d) Steps to a Local / Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish

Further discussion on this was deferred until the January meeting.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would find out if any funding was available from the District Council to help with funding of the process.

e) Summer event 2023 – possible band/singer

Members discussed whether the evening event could be combined with the day event planned by Findern Social Group on 8 July 2023. Members were in support of this.

RESOLVED the logistics of this would be explored and discussed further at the next meeting.

f) Review of Health & Safety Policy

Members reviewed the updated Health and Safety Policy.

RESOLVED that the updated Health and Safety Policy be adopted.

g) Quotes for replacement windows at Parish Rooms, issue with damp at gable end

Members considered the quotes received for replacement windows; one quote was for timber framed, the other for conservation UPVC.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would seek further quotes for UPVC type windows.

h) SDDC charging for play inspections from Jan 2023

Members discussed a letter received from the District Council advising that from 1 January 2023, they would charge £37.50 per monthly operational check on the play equipment at the King George V Playing Field and £150 for an annual check.

RESOLVED to accept the charges; the Clerk would confirm to the District Council that the Parish Council wished to continue with the check on the equipment.

i) Sportmobile sessions

Members considered the District Council's Sportmobile summer sessions for 2023

RESOLVED that the Parish Council would support 4 sessions throughout the summer, two at Highfields and two at Hillside in Findern – to be morning or afternoon sessions.

- j) Highfields Spencer Academy – request for funding for bike shed/outdoor area
Members discussed this request briefly.

RESOLVED that more information including costs be requested from the school.

- k) Warm event at Village Hall

Members were advised that from January 2023, the Village Hall was supporting a warm hub event each week. For this the hall needed to purchase some equipment and supplies.

RESOLVED that the Council would support this with £500 donation initially with assurances of further support available if needed.

- l) Extra dog waste bin at Porters Lane

Members discussed briefly whether an extra dog waste bin was required at Porters Lane.

RESOLVED that the existing general waste bin was sufficient; an extra dog waste bin was deemed not necessary.

3022/22

Planning Matters

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

Consultations

- a) **Ref. No. DMPA/2022/1432 – 9 Cromwell Avenue, Findern**

Erection of single storey rear extension.

- b) **Ref. No. DMOT/2022/1400 – Bakeacre Lane, Findern**

The felling of 4 no. Ash trees covered by South Derbyshire District Council Tree Preservation Order no. 474

Decisions

- a) **Ref. No. DMPA/2022/1278 – 2 The Green, Findern**

Prior Notification of larger home extension for erection of a single storey rear extension, with eaves of 2.1 metres and maximum height of 2.9 metres extending 3.7 metres from the rear wall.

Decision – Prior approval for the proposal as described is not required from this Authority.

3023/22

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 18/11/2022	South Derbyshire District Council – Sportsmobile summer activity sessions x 4	£930.00	£186.00	£1116.00
BACS UTB 18/11/2022	South Derbyshire CVS – Winter Giving Food Bank Campaign	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00

BACS UTB 25/11/2022	South Derbyshire CVS - Staff salaries November	£2,158.06	£0.00	£2,158.06
BACS UTB 5/12/2022	Dream Parties/Gill Studdard for entertainment at 3 December Christmas Event	£250.00	£0.00	£250.00
BACS UTB 08/12/2022	Easy Growing Landscapes – November work	£130.00	£0.00	£130.00
BACS UTB 08/12/2022	Viking Direct Stationery – Ink and Paper	£38.93	£7.79	£46.72
BACS UTB 08/12/2022	Aucuba Landscapes Ltd. Ground Maintenance work for November	£536.34	£107.27	£643.61
BACS UTB 08/12/2022	Clerk's Expenses from 10/11 to 07/12; phone, WFH allowance, mileage, zoom monthly subscription plus reimbursements.	£90.72	£4.22	£94.94
BACS UTB 08/12/2022	Reimbursement to the Clerk for items purchased for the Christmas Event on 03/12/22	£328.56	£22.49	£351.05
BACS UTB 08/12/2022	Legal fees in respect of licensing of objects within the highway at Doles Lane, Findern	£100.00	£0.00	£100.00
BACS UTB 08/12/2022	Deposit FOR Entertainers for Festive Findern 22 December Event – Guiding Sparks Circus	£75.00	£0.00	£75.00
BACS UTB 08/12/2022	Payment to SDCVS Food Bank appeal – money donated at Christmas Event paid into Unity Trust Account	£67.86	£0.00	£67.86
BACS UTB 08/12/2022	Village Hall - Room Hire for Festive Findern meeting	£12.00	£0.00	£12.00
BACS UTB 08/12/2022	Village Hall - s137 payment towards Warm Hub	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00

b) Members noted Income received: -

Date of credit	From	Into Account	Amount
01/12/2022	Donation from Greenbelt Group Ltd towards the cost of the Christmas Tree for Highfields	Unity Trust Bank	£650.00
01/12/2022	Sarah Pritchard / Find Ltd. - Parish Rooms Rent	Unity Trust Bank	£333.33
BACS UTB 06/12/2022	Money donated for Payment to SDCVS Food Bank appeal at Christmas Event paid into Unity Trust Account	Unity Trust Bank	£67.86

c) Bank Account Reconciliation Report/Budget Monitoring Reports

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

3024/22

Correspondence

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

- East Midlands Future Airspace - forwarded from Councillor Ford 09/11
- East Mids Mayoral Combined County Authority - forwarded from Councillor Ford 09/11
- Police & Crime Commissioner Precept Consultation – forwarded 29/11

3025/22

Reports from Councillors attending meetings of outside bodies

None.

3026/22

Date of next meeting(s)

The next Meeting of the Parish Council would take place at **7.00pm on Thursday, 12 January 2023**, at the Methodist Church, Lower Green in Findern.

3027/22

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.

3028/22

Exempt

Members were updated on a staffing matter that was deferred for decision at the January meeting.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm