

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 9 February 2023

Present: Councillors B Dosanjh, A Pratt, M Ratcliffe (Chairman for meeting), C Smith and M Woodhouse.

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

3047/23 Apologies for absence

Apologies were **NOTED** from Councillors T Brown, G Cooke and R Rose. Councillor S Holmes gave his apologies the day after the meeting.

3048/23 Declaration of members interests

Councillor B Dosanjh declared an interest in item 3058/23 a) Planning application Ref. No. DMPA/2023/0089.

3049/23 Public Speaking

Members of the public:

- A resident reported that there were a number of bins overflowing at the garages situated off Hawthorn Crescent / Cromwell Avenue. The Clerk would contact the District Council and report this as it is believed the land/garages belong to them.
- There was also a report of fly-tipping of stone at the pull-in on Bakeacre Lane. The Clerk would report this fly-tipping to the District Council.
- A resident requested an update on the fly-tipping issue at Rykneld Road; Clerk advised that an update was included in Councillor Ford's report.
- A representative of the Findern Footpaths Group reported that their grant application had been submitted to the Tree Council; there had been a query in response on the amount of light available; however, the group hope they have done enough to secure a grant. The group plan to carry out some under-planting in the spring and will bring a plan to the March meeting.
- A resident reported that a representative of Tean Valley Nature Reserve had visited Cotes Close, Cardales Meadow and Stanhope Wood and had been very impressed with the areas.
- A representative of the Findern Footpaths Group asked if any progress had been made on the introduction of signage on Crow Park Way to warn drivers of pedestrians in the road. The Clerk will follow this up with Highways at County Council. Also, a sign was requested for the exit of Stanhope Wood, warning pedestrians about oncoming traffic from left and right.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council would have signage made for the exit of the wood..

Police Liaison Officer:

PC Marley had submitted the following report: -

Patrols have continued in all villages and towns in the Mercia policing beat area.

Some key highlights from recent weeks: -

- An extension of the Repton community speed watch group is to be created in Milton. Training for the group is planned for February.

- Safer Neighbourhood Team officers have been conducting visible patrols in Repton following some anti-social behaviour near The Den in the heart of the village.
- Police assisted a very elderly lady at her home address and took her to hospital following a medical emergency. The woman is now recovering and the team wish her well.
- Patrols have taken place at all schools in the Mercia policing beat area.

Further information about the work of your SNT can be found on 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 our website or use our online contact form
- Phone – call us on 101.

District and County Councillor Reports:

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

- The issue of flooding under the canal bridge on the tow path had been noted and referred to the Countryside Services team at Derbyshire County Council; they also have photos, which show the extent of the problem. The Head of Service was investigating.
- South Derbyshire District Council's Environmental Wardens were working with Highways England to monitor and clear the fly-tipped waste off Rykneld Road.
- Councillor Ford had been informed by officers at the District Council that access to Brook Close Community Room was now understood and agreed.
- Legal department at the District Council were working on a solution to the problem regarding cars driving on the footway adjacent to the Village Hall.
- Re-lining on the Heath Lane/Main St corner was on the County Council Highways work programme, it would be re-lined with a new reflective type of material.
- Councillor Ford had enquired with County Council about the bus services on Highfields. Trent Barton was beginning to show interest, although the highways were still to be adopted, which could be a sticking point at present.
- Both District and County are budgeting for Council Tax rises, County 3.5%, this includes 1.25% for Adult Social Care; and District are recommending 1.95% Both recommendations were still to be ratified by members and are liable to change until that point.
- Interviews for a new Chief Executive and Head of Finance at District Council were due to begin.
- Mercia Area Forum would be held in Findern Village Hall on Tuesday 14 February 2023, 6:30pm start.

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

3050/23

Response to emails from residents

a) **Issue on Public Open Space at Highfields**

Council had received a report from a resident of Highfields on debris issues on Public Open Space accessible via Warwick Close, Ashby Close and Bolsover Road; the report was comprehensive and included photographs. Clerk had confirmed the issues were on land still under their responsibility of the Consortium of builders; who were contacted and who have advised they would ask their contractor to remove the left-over material.

b) **Trailer on Grass verge**

The Council received an email from a resident asking if leaving a trailer on the grass verge outside a house is allowed; the resident reported there had been a trailer parked on the grass verge outside a house on Hillside, Findern for several months. Members briefly discussed the issue and asked the Clerk to refer this to South Derbyshire District Council. The verges were their remit and if the trailer was an issue for them, they could take this up with the resident direct.

c) **Bush blocking visibility for car users at Cromwell Road / Doles Lane**

The Council had received an email from a resident who reported visibility for car drivers joining Doles Lane via the Cromwell Avenue junction was limited partly due to the bend; but vision is further reduced due to a bush in the front garden of a house on the corner, which is now overhanging the pavement. The resident asked if this could be cut back. Members briefly discussed the issue; however they decided this was a Highways matter and not the remit of the Parish Council. The Clerk could refer this to Highways at the County Council.

d) **Residents parking on 9 spaces at Lower Green**

A resident had emailed the Parish Council to report there was an issue with one property using up 3 of the car parking spaces at Lower Green, which, with the large camper van that was there full time, equated to 4 spaces taken up out of the 9; this affected parking on Sunday morning for church and chapel, and during the week for businesses including cafe users. As the car park was operated by South Derbyshire District Council, the Clerk was asked to contact the officer there to raise the concerns again about parking in this area.

3051/23

Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 12 January 2023 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

3052/23

Variation of order of business

None.

3053/23

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

Two items: one on staffing matters and also the renewal of the Grounds Maintenance contract.

3054/23

Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report was read out by the Vice-Chairman who was chairing the meeting. The Chairman apologised for being unable to attend the meeting; and reported that there had been no Parish Council organised events since the last meeting; though the Council were busy finalising the summer event.

Findern had an active Speed watch group, with only seven members at present, this limited the times the group could operate as most members work in the day. The group were actively recruiting new members and the Chairman asked residents to get in touch with the Clerk if they could spare some time to help keep Findern safe.

From March, some of the Council's meetings would be held at Highfields Spencer Academy on the Highfields estate; this would allow the local residents easier access to a Parish Council meeting. Please check the Council's website and notice boards for the correct date and venue. www.findernparishcouncil.org/about-the-parish-council/meetings/

3055/23

Report of the Parish Clerk

a) **Speed Indicator Devices (VAS) – approval of Object Licence.**

The County Council had advised that they had received no objections to the Parish Council's application for SID's. This has now been forwarded to their legal section to issue the formal agreement. In the meantime, the Parish Council can accept their email as an agreement in principle to enable the Parish Council to proceed. As Members had already decided upon SWARCO as the supplier, the Clerk had contacted the company to place the order for the equipment. The Clerk had also contacted Highways about installing the two posts that are required to install equipment at two of the sites – the other 2 sites used lighting columns.

b) **External Lighting at the Parish Rooms**

There had been no response from the lease holder at the Parish Rooms to the letter sent requesting lights to be switched on at fuse board and re-iterating the offer of the Parish Council paying for electricity used. It was agreed that Councillor Ratcliffe would speak to the lease holder to ask if there were any issues that the Parish Council could sort to allow the lights to be switched back on.

South Derbyshire Electrical Services had looked at the issue with the light above the door. He has advised the existing PIR detector is faulty and had priced to replace this and the light fitting with a new LED fitting with built in PIR detector for £120 + VAT. The Clerk had asked him to schedule this work.

Following a suggestion from a resident to install an additional lighting column at this area, the Clerk contacted the Community Safety Partnership to ask about funding available for lighting. The Council was advised this would be available, but to contact Derbyshire County Council (DCC) to ask whether they will install and maintain. First response from DCC advised they had no funding for new installations of lighting; but the Clerk had gone back to them to ask if the Parish Council could get funding, would DCC be able to install and maintain.

c) **Update on Oak Tree near A50 underpass**

During his visit with Footpaths Group to look at Stanhope Wood, the Countryside Officer from DCC looked at the Oak Tree near the under pass on Crow Park Way, which had been identified as requiring remedial work. The officer agreed work was necessary, however, the tree was subject to a TPO so an application for works was required. The Clerk had submitted this to the County Council, and had a quote of £280 for the work to be done. However, the tree was not on Parish Council land and the Clerk had not been able to find out who was responsible for the tree.

RESOLVED the Clerk would report this to the Countryside Officer and continue to make enquiries as to who owned the land on which the tree grew.

d) Easter Event date – Good Friday 7 April 2023 1-3pm

Dream Parties were available for the Easter Egg Hunt at Highfields from 1-3pm on Good Friday 7 April. Greenbelt are agreeable to the Council using part of their green space as the venue. Members agreed upon the area at the bottom of Bolsover Road; the advantage of this is that it is close to the newly created car park of the sports field. The Clerk would have banners printed to put up in visible places in the village and at Highfields to promote the event. Also, flyers would be sent to both schools and the event would be promoted on the Council's website; and on the Council and Community Facebook pages.

e) Bin for bus stop at Rykneld Road

The Clerk had contacted the Streetscene officer at the District Council; he said he would do a site visit and then advise the cost for the bin and the installation. The expectation is that the Parish Council would cover this and the emptying of the bin under concurrent function.

f) Sportmobile dates for summer sessions

The dates for the four sessions were now confirmed, two at Highfields and two at Findern. The Clerk would have banners printed to put up in visible places in the village and at Highfields to promote the sessions. Also, flyers would be sent to both schools and the event would be promoted on the Council's website; and on the Council and Community Facebook pages.

- Play Mobile, 26 July 2023, 10am-12pm (Highfields Spencer Academy)
- Adventure Mobile, 31 July 2023, 2pm-4pm (Hillside)
- Sports Mobile, 16 August 2023, 2pm-4pm (Highfields Spencer Academy)
- Sports Mobile, 23 August 2023, 10am-12pm (Hillside)

g) Update from Greenbelt Group on extended area

From 1 February, Greenbelt took over responsibility for more of the green space around Highfields. The company now look after about 80% of green space. Areas still with consortium are the SUDS/balance ponds; the ditch that runs down behind Co-op down towards Bakeacre Lane and then the area around new play area, car park and sport field. These are not of an adoptable standard yet. The Clerk was not given a time frame within which they would be adopted.

h) District Council maintenance issues – response.

The Council had received a letter from the Strategic Director at the District Council in response to the Parish Council's letter raising concerns about the grounds maintenance in the village and the time it was taking to get some issues resolved. The letter explained why some of the issues had occurred and went some way to reassure residents that the issues would be addressed.

i) Process for change of name for Parish Council

At the last meeting the Clerk was asked to look in to the process of changing the name of the Parish Council (i.e. to include Highfields). However, this was not to suggest that the Parish Council wished to do so.

The process for changing the name of a Parish Council under s75 Local Government Act 1972 is as follows:

- The Parish Council would need to resolve that it wishes to apply to change its name. It should then make a formal written request to the District Council, and include with this a copy of the signed minutes.
- On receipt of the formal request, the District Council would then consider whether to approve the name change, and it would be listed as an agenda item for a full council decision.
- It would be then submitted to the Secretary of State for approval.
- The process takes up to a year.

The Council may like to consider splitting the seats into Wards, to ensure representation from both the village and Highfields. This had to be done formally through the District Council.

3056/23

Members Reports

a) Findern in Relief Fund

Councillor Cooke was not present; therefore, this item was deferred.

b) Stanhope Woods

Representatives of Findern Footpaths Group along with Councillor Woodhouse and the Clerk had met with the Countryside Officer at the County Council on Footpath Group on 20 January 2023 to look at the site and receive advice on the way forward for the tree work required on the trees which were subject to a TPO. The officer advised a detailed plan identifying individual trees would be required and his preference was for even the dead trees to be left standing to supply habitat for insects.

RESOLVED to set up a working group to formulate the plan. This would consist of members of the Findern Footpaths Group and Councillor Martin Woodhouse.

c) Wildflower areas

Councillor Woodhouse reported that James at Easy Growing Landscapes had done an excellent job of raking of the leavings and the areas was now ready for seeding, which he would be able to do soon. The site at the King George V Playing Fields required an application of weed killer to kill off some of the strong grass that grows there and Councillor Woodhouse asked Members for their opinion on the use of Herbicides.

RESOLVED that use of Herbicide in limited areas was approved; Clerk would ask Easy Growing Landscapes to take on this work; liaising with Councillor Woodhouse.

d) Local / Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish

The Clerk updated Members on the funding available; also, the Clerk, through DALC, had asked other Clerks in parishes that have already gone through the process, for recommendations on consultants to work with on the process.

The Clerk was meeting Rachel Male, the Clerk at Willington Parish Council as they have been through the process of applying for and being awarded grants to support Neighbourhood Planning.

It has been suggested that the Council may want to discuss further at this stage, the actual process of Neighbourhood Planning itself with the Planning Policy Team at the District Council

RESOLVED that the Clerk, would continue to gather information for the next meeting.

3057/23

Matters for discussion or determination

- a) Summer Event 2023 – ‘Party in the Park’ 8 July, confirm band/singer

Members discussed the acts for the evening and quotes for the toilets.

RESOLVED to book The Bleeding Hearts (cost £995) for two sets and the Cabaret act Rick Sheehan for two sets (cost £500). This would provide entertainment from 7pm to 10pm.

RESOLVED to book Dovedale mobile unit plus 1 x disabled toilet unit through Kniftons Ltd at a cost of £775 + VAT.

There was a discussion about whether to have a proper stage (which costs about £1300) or to hire a marquee with staging. The Clerk would bring options and quotes to the next meeting

Findern Social Group have confirmed they would run their Findern Fest event on the Sunday 9 July.

- b) Highfields Spencer Academy – request for funding for bike shed/outdoor area

This item was deferred to a future meeting as the school had only just received the plans for the new classroom and needed to work out what area would be left for any bike shed.

- c) Date for install of Highfields Christmas tree 2023 (to book with contractor)

The contractor had advised they had scheduled Friday 1 December 2023 to install and dress the tree at Highfields. The Clerk had made enquiries with Highfields Spencer Academy whether they would like to host a Light Switch-On event and if yes, on which date. The school were very keen to do this and ideally would like to do this on a Friday, with 1 December being the preferred date.

RESOLVED the Clerk would go back to the contractor to work out which date would be best for the installation of the tree to fit in with a Switch-On event.

3058/23

Planning Matters

Councillor B Dosanjh declared an interest in the Planning application Ref. No. DMPA/2023/0089 and had left the room prior to the application being discussed. No representations had been made by Councillor Dosanjh during Public Speaking.

Members **NOTED** the following planning applications and **RESOLVED** that on the application Ref. No. DMPA/2023/0089, the Parish Council would object; with concerns around the access and egress to the site, at development and operational stages. The road is used by heavy farm and plant machinery and this area is narrow and a blind corner; visibility will be further hampered by a built structure at this site.

Consultations

- a) **Ref. No. DMPA/2023/0089 – 1, Sycamore Avenue, Findern**

Construction of detached bungalow and associated parking.

- b) **Ref. No. DMPA/2023/0067 – 154 Doles Lane, Findern**

Erection of single storey side and rear extensions.

- c) **Ref. No. DMPA/2022/1332 – 35 Porters Lane, Findern**

Erection of single storey side extension.

- d) **Ref. No. DMPA/2021/0680 – Archway Motors, Doles Lane, Findern**

Demolition of existing buildings and erection of 16 dwellings and associated works.

Decisions

a) **Ref. No. DMPA/2022/1551 – 15 Wallfields Close, Findern**

Two storey extension to the rear and side of the property.

Approved - Delegated Decision.

b) **Ref. No. DMPA/2022/1549 – 38 Burton Road, Findern**

Erection of single storey rear extension.

Approved - Delegated Decision.

3059/23

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 27/01/2023	South Derbyshire CVS - Staff salaries January 2023	£1,869.78	£0.00	£1,869.78
UTB DD	SSE Electric supply and usage at lighting column for Highfields Christmas Tree	£55.78	£2.78	£58.56
BACS UTB 09/02/2023	O. Heap & Son Ltd. Repair to Fire Door at Parish Rooms	£295.00	£59.00	£354.00
BACS UTB 09/02/2023	Woodgrow Horticulture Ltd. Use of skip for removal of arisings from Wildflower area	£45.00	£9.00	£54.00
BACS UTB 09/02/2023	Aucuba Landscapes for Flail of hedges in March'22 and remark of pitches x 2	£279.00	£55.80	£334.80
BACS UTB 09/02/2023	DALC – Clerk's election training	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00
BACS UTB 09/02/2023	Clerk's Expenses from 12/01 to 08/02; phone, WFH allowance, mileage, zoom monthly subscription.	£92.46	£2.40	£94.86
BACS UTB 09/02/2023	Clerk's Reimbursement for purchase of lock and chain for KGV Gate	£21.66	£4.33	£25.99

b) Members noted Income received: -

Date of credit	From	Into Account	Amount
01/02/2023	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 January 2023 (including Current and Reserve Accounts Balances).

d) Unity Corporate Multi-pay card

Members considered the Clerk's suggestion that the Council apply for a Unity Corporate Multi-pay card to pay for items for the Council that cannot be invoiced.

RESOLVED that the Council would apply for a Unity Corporate Multi-pay card up to a £500 credit limit.

3060/23

Correspondence

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

- PCC Briefing – forwarded 11/01
- DALC January newsletter – forwarded 23/01
- DDC Parish Council Liaison Forum 5pm 13 March 2023 – forwarded 01/02
- DALC February newsletter – forwarded 03/02

3061/23

Reports from Councillors attending meetings of outside bodies

None.

3062/23

Date of next meeting(s)

The next Meeting of the Parish Council would take place at **7.00pm on Thursday, 9 March 2023**, at Highfields Spencer Academy, Tutbury Avenue, Highfields, DE23 3UX.

3063/23

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.

3064/23

Exempt

a) Members considered the quotes submitted for the Grounds Maintenance quotes.

RESOLVED the contract be awarded to Fox Grounds Maintenance & Landscaping Ltd.

b) Members were informed on a staffing matter.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm