

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 16 March 2023

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

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

3065/23 Apologies for absence

Apologies were **NOTED** from Councillors C Smith and M Woodhouse.

3066/23 Declaration of members interests

None.

3067/23 Public Speaking

Members of the public:

- A representative of the Findern Footpaths Group reported that: -
 - They had to remove a sign at Cardales Meadow because of Anti-Social Behaviour.
 - The group would carry out soil improvement tests, in order improve flowers at Cardales Meadow.
 - They had spent £250 on wildflower seed for the wildflower meadow
 - 3 benches were planned for Cardales Meadow, gifted by Murrays Funeral Directors and the Footpath group.
 - The Willow tree, near the pond in Cardales was to be pruned to accommodate a camera, if Safer Neighbourhood Team would supply.
 - An owl box was being installed in Cotes Close; this was gifted by a resident.
 - The group would be involved in the Findern Community Network meeting on 5 April 2023 and the South Derbyshire volunteer meeting on 7 June at Swadlincote.
 - On 8 May, as part of the Coronation celebrations, the group were holding a 'Meet your Footpaths Group' and 'Treasure Hunt for Children' at the bottom of Cardales Meadow.
 - The group were under-planting in Stanhope Wood/Hole with teasels and foxgloves; all plants had been gifted by residents.
 - The group also reported that the mixed hedge plannting was progressing well in Cotes Close. Children from the nursery were helping to plant on 17 March 2023. The group were also holding planting days at Stanhope Wood on Saturday 18 March and 25 March between 10am-12noon each day. Help would be welcomed.
 - The group would bring a tree thinning update for Stanhope Wood to the May meeting.
- A resident requested an update on the fly-tipping issue at Rykneld Road; Councillor Woodhouse was also concerned about this as the amount of fly tipping at the site had increased. The Clerk would contact Councillor Ford for an update on any progress made with National Highways (who own the land).
- A resident asked whether there was any update on the issue of bins overflowing at the garages situated off Hawthorn Crescent / Cromwell Avenue. The Clerk had contacted the

District Council to report this as it is believed the land/garages belong to them. The Clerk would contact the District Council again for a response.

- A resident of Highfields was concerned about the number of iron bollards that had been installed outside his property on Tutbury Avenue; the residents had been given no notice. The Clerk would look into this with developer; to confirm whether the bollards were part of the planned landscaping/ street works that had been approved at planning stage.
- A number of residents had attended the meeting to raise their concerns about the planned development of a Bio-Fuel station on the A38. This planning application had been discussed at the January meeting. It was **RESOLVED** the Clerk would contact the planning authority on behalf of the residents to request that a planning officer make themselves available to meet with the residents and Councillors to discuss concerns; the consultation deadline is extended to allow the residents the opportunity to submit their objections; and that the application goes to Planning Committee and is not determined by delegated decision as the residents want the opportunity to address the Committee with their concerns.

Police Liaison Officer:

No report had been submitted.

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: -

Derbyshire County Council matters: -

- TrentBarton had responded to a query regarding potential bus services through Highfields. The bus company advised that, whilst the final road surface remained unlaidd, they were unable to serve Highfields; however, they were looking at longer term options once this is complete. They have had a few requests for possible route changes to the V3 that would potentially change the time the bus takes to complete a trip, and want to ensure if they do develop the route for the longer term, that they do not negatively impact on the reliability.
- Councillor Ford had received a response from Highways at Couthy Council regarding the creation of a footway along Rykneld Rd from Highfields towards the A38 Roundabout; this query had been raised at the recent Area Forum by a Highfields resident. Highways advised that it would cost around £320,000 to create a pathway and therefore not feasible to include in capital works; also, within this section of road, due to the speed limit, width of the road and likely footfall demand they are not able to look at the provision of a pedestrian crossing at the junction of Rykneld Road and the A38 roundabout. However, Councillor Ford was advised that Rykneld Road does have a proposed Key Cycle Network route identified for future consideration, and therefore should funding be approved for this proposed route in the future, it would provide the necessary funding mechanism to possibly achieve a scheme of improvement for a shared use facility for cyclists and pedestrians subject to a detailed site investigation and the necessary funding allocation was sufficient to achieve such a scheme of works.

- Councillor Ford had engaged the County Council about 'dropped kerbs' on the footway along Doles Lane, as it was reported a resident got into difficulties in a wheelchair close to the bend onto Burton Road.
- He had re-reported flooding on Bridleway 11 by the railway bridge 12 to Derbyshire County Council following a photo of standing water posted on the Findern Facebook page recently.
- The draft 'Derbyshire Minerals Plan' was out for Section 19 consultation before the Inspection in Public later this year.
- Over 22,000 potholes had been repaired across the county so far this year, repairs slow during bad weather when many road workers were employed driving gritting vehicles.
- There had not been any update from Goodmans for many months now regarding the Freeport EMIP development at Egginton. A new Chief Executive has been appointed to The Freeport Board.
- The proposal for a refuelling station on the derelict Atkins site was causing concern, Councillor Ford had asked the developers to mail shot residents in the vicinity of the site to explain the proposals.
- Four new Gulley Cleaners had been allocated to depots across the County as part of a new 5-year contract.
- The Future Airspace Stage 2 submissions had been delayed to June over issues around the Manchester Airport apron manoeuvring area. These proposals were of interest due to aircraft overflying Findern and Highfields.

South Derbyshire District Council Matters: -

- Councillor Ford had contacted a resident of Brook Close to discuss the issues with the booking of the Community Room there. It has been agreed that the resident will make bookings in the Community Rooms within office hours, to allow for a visual check by an officer of the Council that all is safe and well with the room prior and after the group runs. The resident had offered his services as an unpaid caretaker for Brook Close out of office hours. Councillor Ford had agreed to feed this back for further consideration alongside the new management plans that were to be put in place for the use of all Community Rooms.
- A new Chief Executive and a replacement Director of Corporate Resources had been appointed. There would be a Locum Chief Executive in the interim.
- Grass cutting was about to resume, machinery had been serviced in readiness.
- Two new Hydrogen Hybrid Refuse Freighters would soon be commissioned and put into service.
- The District Council had set Council Tax at 1%.

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

- The District Council were willing to support any community litter-pick; picking up black bags at any point or offering help with sharp bins.
- Councillor MacPherson offered residents his advice with the planning application for the bio-fuel station on the A38.

3068/23

Response to emails from residents

a) Report from a resident of Highfields on the zig zags outside school not being enforced.

A resident emailed to report that her daughter had a near miss on the road outside of school because of none enforcement of the zig zag line outside of school. As Highways and road safety are a County Council matter, the Clerk referred the resident to Councillor Ford.

The resident subsequently advised that PCSO Marley and the Cllr Ford completed a site visit to the school. They said there wasn't much that could be done as the zig zags are not enforceable without implementing a Traffic Regulation Order, suggesting that this is something the Findern Parish Council could look at by working with the Traffic Department and to consider funding the TRO. The Clerk replied advising that this is a Highways matter and it is not in the remit of the Parish Council to get involved. Councillor Ford as the County representative is the person who could make representations regarding TRO & enforcement.

The Parish Council has previously offered to subsidise a crossing patrol warden; also, fund the parking buddies that the school's PTA were keen to have. However, the cost of the crossing patrol was prohibitive; therefore, it did not proceed; and the buddies were refused by Highways for the time being as they have to develop a policy for their use. The Parish Council hope that it can revisit this in the future.

b) Parking outside Parish Rooms on Lower Green

A resident had requested that the council remove the two signs that are on the wall of the Parish Rooms that say 'park at your own risk'. There were double yellow lines down both sides of the road now. The suggestion was that people were parking on the double yellow lines because they think the Parish Council sign, which says 'park at your own risk' was permission to park illegally.

Members considered this request and **RESOLVED** to remove the reference to 'park at your own risk' from the signs.

3069/23 **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 9 February 2023 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

3070/23 **Variation of order of business**

None.

3071/23 **To determine which items, if any, of the Agenda should be taken with the press and public excluded**

There were no items to be taken with public and press excluded.

3072/23 **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman apologised for the postponement of the meeting from 9 March 2023; this was due to the weather on that date. The Chairman welcomed all to the March meeting of Findern Parish Council; thanking the Principal of Highfields Spencer Academy, Anna Jones for allowing the Parish Council to hold its March meeting at the school; and commenting that it was good to see local residents in attendance at the meeting. It should be noted that the June and October meetings of the Parish Council would also be held at Highfields Spencer Academy. There had been no Parish Council organised events since the last meeting; however, an Easter event was planned for Good Friday, 7 April between 1pm and 3pm at the green space at the bottom of Bolsover Road on Highfields.

3073/23 **Report of the Parish Clerk**

a) Speed indicator devices (VAS)

County Council have confirmed they will install the two posts required at two of the sites for the equipment, which is on an eight-week delivery. The County Officer advised, barring a

significant weather event, the posts would be installed within the eight-week period of time. He had also asked for the cow sign and post on the southern approach to the village to be removed as part of that works package. The Council had received the remittance advice from the Police and Crime Commissioner's office for the amount of £1930 – this was the grant funding towards the equipment. Someone had to be available on the day of installation to be trained in the data collection facility. Once a date is agreed for installation, the Clerk would contact all Councillors to ask who would be available for this training.

b) Bin for bus stop at Rykneld Road

There had been no update from the District Council on a cost for supply and installation of a bin. As the Parish Council is paying for the bin and the installation, the Clerk suggested that she source a bin and install it direct. This was approved.

c) Seven Trent pipe laying across King George V Playing Field

The Council had received an update on the new pipework that is crossing the KGV. Members may recall the Council was first notified of the plan to lay new pipework across land to the south of the village about a year ago. The planned route was to cross the KGV. Latest plans now show the pipe will follow Willington Road and skim the corner of the field to cross the lay-by area. Work is scheduled to start in June or July 2023 but the Clerk does not have a definite date when the pipe will reach the area of Willington Road.

d) Express lift invoices

The Council had not received the invoices for the twice-yearly lift services/repairs at the Parish Rooms since 2020. These had been going to a previous clerk. Copies had now been received and these invoices are on the payment sheet for this meeting - totalling £1291.64. The Clerk was still waiting for the re-issued invoices for the services done in 2022/23; these would be brought to a future meeting.

e) Election key dates

The Clerk had circulated the key days for the upcoming election on 4 May 2023. Notice of Election would be issued on 27 March 2023; nomination forms had to be submitted by hand to the Civic Offices in Swadlincote by 4pm on Tuesday 4 April 2023. The Parish Council would be informed by Wednesday 5 April whether an election would be called for the Parish on 4 May.

f) Response from SDDC on Lower Green parking

At the last meeting there was a query on the use of the parking spaces on Lower Green. The Clerk was asked to contact the District Council again to report the issues there.

The Officer has responded to the Clerk's query: –

In common with much of the parking provision provided by the Council across our District, the parking bays in Findern are provided for free and unfettered use by members of the public. I can't find any historical record of the rationale behind the installation of the 'no overnight parking' sign. My suspicion is that it was installed as a well-meaning attempt to nudge people's behaviour with no weight of law behind it, much like 'keep off the grass' or 'no ball games here' signs in public open spaces. As I outlined in my email in November, there are no enforceable restrictions on the parking in the bays in Findern. The sign is therefore of little value when it becomes apparent to the people it is intended to influence that the instruction on it carries no weight. I'm therefore not comfortable with writing to local residents instructing them about this restriction. If I were to do so it wouldn't be truthful and I must be even handed to all parties involved. If the presence of the sign is

ineffective, and worse still is leading to local dispute and recrimination then I'm happy to arrange for it to be removed.

Members **RESOLVED** that they did not want the officer to take any action.

g) Oak tree in the underpass at Crow Parkway

Derbyshire County Council had given permission for the work to be done to the Oak tree, which is subject to a TPO. They had checked with their mapping services and they had advised it was on Highways England land. Therefore, the Clerk had written to the land agent for Highways England advising them of the need for work on the tree; no reply had been received to date.

3074/23

Members Reports

a) Findern in Relief Fund

Councillor Cooke did not have any update.

b) Stanhope Woods

Representatives of Findern Footpaths Group advised that the plan for Spring 2023 was to underplant on the site; the group asked for permission to plant dog roses, holly whips, bamboo and cane as these would provide habitat for insects. The group also asked for £60 to pay for seeds.

RESOLVED that permission be given for underplanting; also for the purchase of seeds at £60.

A fence was in need of repairing in Stanhope Wood; the group would approach Stuart Reeves to do the work and the cost would be in the region of £300.

RESOLVED that this be approved if the quote was in this budget.

Tim Atkinson has agreed to help the group to create a graph plan of trees that required work on Stanhope Wood; the plan would then be used to apply for works to the trees that were subject to the County TPO.

It was **NOTED** that contractors, working on behalf of Severn Trent had felled trees in Stanhope Wood on the land that was covered by the County TPO. The Clerk would report this to the County Council's Countryside Officer and follow this up with the land agent for Severn Trent to understand how this had been allowed to happen.

c) Wildflower areas

Councillor Woodhouse was not present and there was no update available; therefore, this item was deferred until the next meeting.

d) Local / Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish

The Clerk had met with the Clerk at Willington Parish Council to learn from their experience; Willington had been through the process of applying for and being awarded grants to support Neighbourhood Planning. The Clerk at Willington had suggested that the first step would be to survey residents to ask whether they want a Neighbourhood Plan,

RESOLVED that the Clerk, would prepare paperwork for the survey and circulate around the Members.

Matters for discussion or determinationa) Approval for Church's use of The Green at Easter

The Church had requested the use of The Green on Good Friday 7 April.

RESOLVED to give permission to the Church to use The Green on Good Friday 7 April.

b) Plans for Easter Event – Good Friday 7 April 2023 1-3pm

The Clerk had signed the agreement with Greenbelt to use the open public space at the bottom of Bolsover Road on Highfields for the Easter Egg Hunt on Good Friday 7 April 2023 1-3pm. Posters and banners would be posted to start advertising the event. Councillors Brown and Cooke volunteered to help on the day.

c) Date for Annual Meeting of the Parish

Members considered a date for the Annual Meeting of the Parish.

RESOLVED to avoid the pre-election period and hold the Annual Meeting of the Parish on Thursday 11 May 2023. Venue to be confirmed.

d) Coronation of King Charles 6-8 May 2023

Members considered suggestions to mark the occasion of the Coronation.

It was **RESOLVED**: -

- To purchase 70 x lamp post signs with the King's cipher from the British Legion at £4.99 each. These would be used to decorate lamp posts on Highfields and around The Green in Findern
- To purchase a commemorative bookmark for each of the children at Findern Primary School and Highfields Sencer Academy. These were approximately 70p each.
- On Sunday, 7th May 2023, to hold a Street Party / Picnic in the afternoon on The Green in Findern. Councillor Cooke would look to do the same on the green area at the corner of Tutbury Avenue / Stafford Drive on Highfields; residents are invited to enjoy the occasion.

e) Summer Event 2023 – Party in the Park 8 July, confirm stage

The Clerk had applied to the District Council for the use of Hillside Recreation Ground on 8 & 9 July 2023. It was also confirmed that entertainment and toilets were booked. Members considered quotes for staging and marquee hire.

RESOLVED to book a 9m x 9m Marquee from Marshall's Marquees at £441.67 + VAT. Price includes delivery. Also, to book a 6m wide x 5m deep stage with 2m x 2m extension on one side for changing area at £627.60 + VAT from Stage Connections.

f) Purple Horseshoe for Remembrance

This item was deferred to a future meeting to give Councillor Brown time to confirm price.

g) Planters for The Green

Members considered options to solve the issue of the brick planters on The Green. It was difficult to keep the planters sufficiently watered in the heat last year; leading to the flowers fading quickly. The Women's Institute had confirmed that they would like to plant up the planters again this year.

RESOLVED that the 3 levels of the brick planter would be gravelled and 2 x full barrels (£206 + VAT) each and 1 x Half Barrel (£118 + VAT) would be purchased to place there instead.

Planning Matters

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

Consultations**a) Ref. No. DMPA/2023/0036 – 32 Doles Lane, Findern**

Proposed single storey front extension, new pitched roof to garage with rendering and alterations of existing property.

b) Ref. No. DMPA/2022/1023 – Land off Doles Lane, Findern

Redevelopment of open land to the rear of Doles Lane, Findern comprising the erection of eight detached dwellings.

c) Ref. No. DMPA/2023/0130 – 1 Willow Farm Court, Findern

Erection of front & rear single storey extensions, loft conversion with roof lights, part conversion of garage into utility room with new garden wall, gate & parking.

Decisions**a) Ref. No. DMPA/2022/1322 – 35 Burton Road, Findern**

Single storey side extension. Approved - Delegated Decision.

Finance**a) Members approved the following items for payment: -**

Authorised BACS payments – Councillors T Brown and C Smith.

Cheque No./BACS	Payee and Description of service or goods	Nett	VAT	Gross
BACS UTB 14/02/2023	P Sheehan – deposit payment to Rick Sheehan entertainment for 08/07/23	£50.00	£0.00	£50.00
BACS UTB 14/02/2023	Last Minute Musicians – admin /consultation fee for The Beating Hearts booking for 08/07/23	£204.17	£40.83	£245.00
BACS UTB 18/02/2023	Kniftons Mobile Toilets Ltd – deposit payment for lo hire for 08/07/23	£155.00	£31.00	£186.00
BACS UTB 27/02/2023	South Derbyshire CVS - Staff salaries February 2023	£1,696.55	£0.00	£1,696.55
UTB DD 16/02/23	SSE Electric supply and usage at lighting column for Highfields Christmas Tree	£53.37	£2.66	£56.03
BACS UTB 13/03/2023	All Saints Church – contribution towards extra electrical cost for external lights	£133.00	£00.00	£133.00
BACS UTB 13/03/2023	Tudor Landscapes Ltd – removal and re-installation of Noticeboard	£210.20	£0.00	£210.20
BACS UTB 13/03/2023	Aucuba Landscapes for Flail of hedges in March'23 and remark of pitches x 2	£279.00	£55.80	£334.80
BACS UTB 13/03/2023	Viking Direct Ltd – inks for Clerk	£48.52	£9.70	£58.22
BACS UTB 13/03/2023	Viking Direct Ltd – inks for Cllr T Brown	£51.86	£10.37	£62.23

BACS UTB 13/03/2023	Clerk's Expenses from 09/02 to 08/03; phone, WFH allowance, mileage, zoom monthly subscription.	£60.06	£2.40	£62.46
BACS UTB 13/03/2023	Pictorial Ltd for A3 Aluminium Sign for Stanhope Wood	£30.00	£6.00	£36.00
BACS UTB 13/03/2023	Pictorial Ltd for A5 Aluminium Sign for Queen's Canopy Trees	£25.00	£5.00	£30.00
BACS UTB 13/03/2023	O. Heap & Son Ltd Annual Service of Fire Alarms and Emergency Lighting	£295.00	£59.00	£354.00
BACS UTB 13/03/2023	Easy Growing Landscapes – for raking off wildflower area	£160.00	£0.00	£160.00
BACS UTB 13/03/2023	South Derbyshire Electrical Services Ltd. Replacement light for porch at Parish Rooms	£120.00	£24.00	£144.000
BACS UTB 13/03/2023	Express Lifts Ltd – 4 x Invoices for lift services at Parish Rooms in 2020 and 2021 totalling £1291.64 agreed to pay nett. They will credit VAT.	£1291.64	£0.00	£1291.64
BACS UTB 13/03/2023	Reimbursement to Clerk for purchase of 3 x Easter banners	£69.21	£0.00	£69.21

b) Members noted Income received: -

Date of credit	From	Into Account	Amount
31/01/2023	Interest on account	Nat West Reserve	£17.53
01/03/2023	Sarah Pritchard / Find Ltd. - Parish Rooms Rent	Unity Trust Bank	£333.33
28/02/2023	Interest on account	Nat West Reserve	£17.27
09/03/2023	PCC Funding for VAS/SID	Unity Trust Bank	£1930.00

c) Bank Account Reconciliation Report/Budget Monitoring Reports

Members **NOTED** the Bank Account Reconciliation Report/Budget Monitoring Reports up to 28 February 2023 (including Current and Reserve Accounts Balances).

d) Approve claim for Concurrent Function allowance

Members reviewed the claim for the Concurrent Function allowance.

RESOLVED to approve the claim for the Concurrent Function allowance.

e) Approve claim for DCC Footpaths Minor Maintenance Grant

Members had reviewed the claim for the DCC Footpaths Minor Maintenance Grant.

RESOLVED to approve the claim for the DCC Footpaths Minor Maintenance Grant.

3078/23

Correspondence

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

- Findern Community Network – forwarded 15/02
- DALC March newsletter – forwarded 02/03
- DCC Derbyshire and Derby Minerals Local Plan – forwarded 09/03

3079/23

Reports from Councillors attending meetings of outside bodies

None.

3080/23

Date of next meeting(s)

The next Meeting of the Parish Council would take place at **7.00pm on Thursday, 13 April 2023**, at the Methodist Church, Lower Green, Findern, DE65 6AD.

3081/23

Exempt

No matters were considered Exempt.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm