

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 13 April 2023

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

Also present: Kate Sharpe (Clerk) and 6 members of the public.

3082/23 Apologies for absence

Apologies were **NOTED** from Councillors C Smith and G Cooke.

3083/23 Declaration of members interests

Councillors Brown and Rose both declared an interest in item 11.7 on the meeting Agenda as Members of the Village Hall Committee (Minute 3092/23 g).

3084/23 Public Speaking

Members of the public:

- A representative of the Findern Footpaths Group reported on recent planting and maintenance initiatives undertaken including the cleaning of wooden signs and purchase of benches. In addition, the wildflower planting had been delayed until the autumn and the group had not yet heard from the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) about the supply of a trail camera.
- A resident requested an update on fly-tipping issues and was answered at the meeting.

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: -

- There was a new sergeant in charge of Safer Neighbourhood policing in Mercia. Sergeant Ben Frearson has been a police officer for almost 14 years and has held a number of supervisory policing roles in Derby City. Having spent time working from the re-active team at Peartree police station, he then managed Safer Neighbourhood policing in the Peartree, Normanton and Rosehill areas. He then led a team of police officers and police community support officers covering Alvaston and Boulton, before taking up this latest appointment in February.
- Engagement has continued with young people at educational venues throughout the area.

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 present and had not submitted a report.

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

3085/23 Response to emails from residents

None.

3086/23 Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 16 March 2023 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

3087/23 Variation of order of business

None.

3088/23 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.

3089/23 Chairman's Report

The Chairman welcomed all to the April meeting of Findern Parish Council. There had been one Parish Council led social event, the Easter egg hunt and Easter bonnet competition, held this year on the open space off Bolsover Road on Highfields. Dream Parties provided the entertainment again this year after last year's event was so successful. The weather was warm and sunny, and over 100 children and adults attended. The Chairman spoke to many residents on the day who expressed the need for more Highfields social events in the future. Special thanks go to Richard Yates, the Council's Parish Warden for Highfields and his wife Jean for allowing the Council to use their electricity, also to Richard and Councillor Cooke for judging the Easter Bonnet competition.

Once nominations had closed for this year's Elections, the Council was informed that only seven people - all current Councillors - had stood for election to the Parish Council; there were ten seats available. Therefore, the Election was uncontested and the seven Councillors were duly elected for a further term of 4 years; these were Councillors Tammy Brown, Graham Cook, Baldip Dosanjh, Simon Holmes, Adam Pratt, Mike Ratcliffe and Christine Smith. All look forward to continuing to work on behalf of Findern and Highfields. Sadly, Councillors Martin Woodhouse and Rosemary Rose chose to not stand for a further term and have retired from the Council.

Councillor Woodhouse followed in his father's footsteps by becoming a Parish Councillor. He had served previously but returned in October of 2015 for another eight years. He had always been very involved in village life and his knowledge of all things horticultural had been invaluable to the Council and the Findern Footpaths Group. The Chairman expressed the hope that he would continue to advise and support the Council going forward. He also erected the Remembrance Day silhouettes and very generously donated the Village Green Christmas Tree, for which the Council was extremely grateful.

Councillor Rose joined the Parish Council in January 2016, serving for eight years. She had made significant contributions during that time, predominantly being the voice of the people at the Heath Lane/ Willington Road end of the village and for being the 'go to person' on any matters to do with the King George V Playing Field. She was also very involved in village life, through the church and being Chairman of the Village Hall Committee; therefore, the Chairman was confident that Councillor Rose would continue to work with the Council for the good of the community.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Parish thanked them both for their service.

With these two Councillors retiring the Parish Council does need to co-opt three new Councillors, as it already had a vacancy due to the resignation of Councillor Tim Scott in December 2022. Therefore, the Parish Council would shortly begin this process. Anyone interested in becoming a Parish Councillor were asked to look out for details on the Council's notice boards, website and Facebook page, or they may contact the Clerk for more information Email: clerk@findernparishcouncil.org Tel: 07444 085807.

3090/23

Report of the Parish Clerk

a) **Speed Indicator Devices (VAS) – update from Highways re. moving equipment**

The Highways Officer from County Council, Richard Handbury had advised that to have a member of the Parish Council suitably trained in the necessary Street Works Accreditation scheme would take some considerable time and expense to achieve.

He suggested the Council look into whether there was someone living in the village who works in the Construction Industry, Traffic Management (e.g., GTM), National Highways, or Civil Engineering field who would have the necessary skills and accreditation to carry out the task of moving the SID equipment around the Parish.

He also sent links to 'Derbyshire Trusted Traders' companies and organisations within the reasonable distance of the Parish of Findern who would likely have the necessary accreditations to carry out the works in terms of the correct street works qualifications; safety shoes; high visibility clothing, correct equipment (ladders, steps and tools), and their own Public Liability Insurance.

The Clerk would look into both these options; also, find out exactly which qualifications were required.

b) **Election update**

As mentioned in the Chairman's report, Findern Parish Council was uncontested with only 7 persons standing for the 10 seats available. The Council needed to co-opt to the 3 vacant seats. Re-elected for a further 4-year term were: Councillors Tammy Brown, Graham Cooke, Baldip Dosanjh, Simon Holmes, Adam Pratt, Mike Ratcliffe and Christine Smith.

c) **Flooding under canal bridge**

Councillor Ford had contacted the County Council asking for an update on the flooding issue at the Railway bridge on Bridleway 11 beside the canal. Their response was disappointing.

County Officers visited the site this morning and after last night's heavy rain there were two minor shallow pools in the centre of the bridleway beneath the bridge, but as the photo attached shows, the bridleway was usable. Notwithstanding that, I'm aware from time-to-time flooding does occur under the bridge and we need to address this.

We will:

1. *contact Network Rail to request the track drainage system is checked to ensure it is not causing/contributing to the flooding issue.*
2. *Liaise with the British Horse Society regarding the possibility of reprofiling the surface of under the bridge.*

I'll contact you again once we have a further information to offer you.

The Report was **RECEIVED** and **NOTED**.

3091/23

Members Reports

a) Findern in Relief Fund

Councillor Cooke was not present at the meeting and therefore there was no update.

b) Stanhope Woods

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 was following this up with County Council's Countryside Officer and the land agent for Severn Trent to understand the consequences of this.

Standing Orders were suspended to allow a representative of the Findern Footpaths Group to speak. They explained that the warning sign at the exit from the wood onto the lane had been installed. Also, underplanting had started, with planting of Hawthorne, Elders, Cherry, Rowan and Hazel. The County Council may be able to provide corporate volunteers to help with project.

Standing Orders were re-instated.

c) Wildflower areas

Councillor Woodhouse reported that the Wildflower area alongside Heath Lane had been seeded; the area alongside King George V Playing Field however, had yet to be sprayed with weedkiller as it had been too wet.

d) Local / Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish

The Clerk was not present to give an update. This was deferred to the next meeting.

3092/23

Matters for discussion or determination

a) Fly-tipping on land off Burton Road/Rykneld Road

Members were given an update on this issue by Councillor Woodhouse; he had been advised by Councillor Ford that the District Council were taking legal action against the landowners, National Highways, to force them to take action on the fly tipping.

b) Update on A38 Bio-Fuel Station application (Ref. DMPA/2022/1616 Former Southbound Petrol Filling Station on A38)

Members were updated on this planning application. The Clerk had been advised by the planning officer that he had met with residents living in close proximity to the site. A representative of the Parish Council was not invited to this site visit; however, the planning officer updated the Council following the site visit with this report: -

There were no fixed outcomes of the meeting as such. The meeting focussed on the officer being taken around by the resident, who raised the following points:

- *visual intrusion, tree loss, lighting, security, noise – a boundary/fence was requested, flooding – the proposed attenuation and proposed capacity of the drainage culvert and brook and operational issues:*

- *safety and security – it would be better if it was manned/operational hours were limited*
- *truck drivers stopping, taking breaks, talking, littering, going to the toilet etc.*
- *what happens in the event of anti-social behaviour or theft etc.*
- *safety of the gas from strike/crashes and explosions*

These matters had been passed to the applicant; also, Councillor Ford had called in the application for a committee decision.

This application had not been scheduled for any committee until matters were resolved and comments awaited are received.

c) Plans for Coronation of King Charles

Members discussed plans for the Coronation weekend

- Discs for lamp posts ordered from the Royal British Legion had been delivered.

RESOLVED that these would be displayed from around the 22 April; on each lamp post on Highfields and around The Green in the village.

- Distribution of bookmarks

Bookmarks for each child at both schools in the Parish had been ordered along with a set of books for each school.

RESOLVED that a Parish Council representative would take these into each school at one of their assemblies.

- Afternoon picnic on Sunday 7 May on The Green and Highfields

It was suggested that an informal picnic for the afternoon of Sunday 7 May be promoted for both The Green in the village and on Stafford Green area on Highfields. These would be promoted as simple 'get togethers' for the community, with music playing, if possible, in the background; and inviting people to bring their own tables chairs and picnics to celebrate together on the day. Times suggested: 12pm – 4pm.

RESOLVED the Clerk would send a letter to residents living close by each site to advise the event was taken place.

d) Update Summer Event 2023 – Party in the Park 8 July

The Clerk was sorting security and first aid for the event and Councillor Ratcliffe would sort the generators required for the event. The Clerk advised that one small 2m x 2m gazebo was required for one of the acts.

RESOLVED that the Clerk could purchase the 2m x 2m gazebo as this could be used for future events.

e) Purple Horseshoe for Remembrance

The Chairman brought details of a Purple Horseshoe for Remembrance that a resident had offered to make, which could form part of the Remembrance display on The Green in November. The resident did not want any payment for this.

RESOLVED to accept the offer of the Purple Horseshoe, with the suggestion of a donation from the Parish Council to a charity of the resident's choice in lieu of payment.

f) Request for support for defibrillator at Methodist Church

Members discussed the request for financial support to purchase a defibrillator to be located on the exterior of the Methodist Church. The approximate cost for the defibrillator plus a heated cabinet would be £1700.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council would fully fund a defibrillator to be located on the exterior of the Methodist Church

Councillors Brown and Rose both declared an interest in item 11.7 as Members of the Village Hall Committee; therefore, at this point in the meeting the two Councillors left the room whilst the next item was discussed. Councillor Ratcliffe took over as Chairman whilst the item was discussed.

g) Support for Afternoon Club at Village Hall

With the success of the Warm Hub, the Village Hall Committee had decided to continue this as a 'Warm Welcome' Club every Tuesday. Members discussed support for this; an amount had been allocated in the budget for this.

RESOLVED to give a one-off payment of £500 towards the 'Warm Welcome' Club, with the request that the club give a regular report each month to the Parish Council under Members reports. The Parish Council would consider further payments in the future.

h) DALC Annual subscription - basic or enhanced

Members considered the renewal of the annual subscription to Derbyshire Association of Local Councils. The basic level was £789 with an additional £250 for the enhanced level, which allowed access to training courses for Councillors.

RESOLVED to renew the subscription on the enhanced level basis to allow access to training for new Councillors.

i) Donate Parish Council's tables to Village Hall

Members considered a suggestion from a resident that the Council donate the tables formerly used in the Parish Rooms to the Village Hall. The Chairman had checked on the condition of the tables and found that they were not in a good state and were rather bulky. The Village Hall had advised they did not want them as they were rather bulky and they did not have space to store them.

3093/23

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. Amendment to application.

Decisions

a) 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.
Approved - Delegated Decision.

- b) **Ref. No. DMPA/2023/0089 – 1 Sycamore Avenue, Findern**
Construction of detached bungalow and associated parking.
Refused - Delegated Decision.
- c) **Ref. No. DMPA/2023/0036 – 154 Doles Lane, Findern**
Erection of single storey side and rear extensions.
Approved - Delegated Decision.

3094/23

Finance

- a) Members approved the following items for payment: -
Authorised BACS payments – Councillors T Brown and R Rose.

Cheque No./BACS	Payee and Description of service or goods	Nett	VAT	Gross
DD UTB 16/03/2023	SSE Electricity – for unmetered supply to Highfields lighting column for Christmas Tree (this is an error – will be refunded by SSE, with other payments made previously. Then PC will be billed just for the days that the supply was energised over Christmas period)	£55.53	£0.00	£55.53
BACS UTB 23/03/2023	Marshall's Marquees Ltd – deposit payment for marquee hire for 08/07/23	£132.50	£0.00	£132.50
BACS UTB 23/03/2023	Dalefoot Composts - 15 bags of Wool compost and delivery	£158.23	£31.62	£189.85
BACS UTB 23/03/2023	Insignia Ltd – 450 Coronation bookmarks at 70p each	£315.00	£63.00	£378.00
BACS UTB 28/03/2023	South Derbyshire CVS - Staff salaries March 2023	£1,437.55	£0.00	£1,437.55
BACS UTB 28/03/2023	Clerk's Reimbursements for Coronation – 70 Coronation lamp post signs	£269.80	£53.76	£323.56
DD UTB 31/03/2023	Bank quarterly Service Charge	18.00	£0.00	£18.00
BACS UTB 03/04/2023	SDDC Annual charges for servicing of litter bins in the village and at Highfields	£2351.00	£470.20	£2821.20
11/04/2023	Gillian Studdard Dream Parties for Entertainment for Easter event	£250.00	£0.00	£250.00

BACS UTB 13/04/2023	Fox Landscapes Ltd – Grounds Maintenance visits in March	£400.00	£80.00	£480.00
BACS UTB 13/04/2023	Viking Direct Ltd – inks for Cllr T Brown	£51.86	£10.37	£62.23
BACS UTB 13/04/2023	Clerk's Expenses from 09/03 to 12/04; phone, WFH allowance, mileage, zoom monthly subscription and postage.	£63.11	£2.60	£65.71
BACS UTB 13/04/2023	Reimbursement to Clerk for items bought for Easter event – Easter Eggs, 50m extension lead and cable ties	£71.77	£9.66	£81.43
BACS UTB 13/04/2023	Amberol – 3 Planters for the Green	£583.70	£116.74	£700.44

b) Members noted Income received: -

Date of credit	From	Into Account	Amount
27/03/2023	Rent for Burton Road Land	Nat West Current	£1750.00
31/03/2023	Interest on account	Nat West Reserve	£21.25
31/03/2023	SDDC – Concurrent Function payment	Unity Trust Bank	£16,060.70
03/04/2023	Sarah Pritchard / Find Ltd. - Parish Rooms Rent	Unity Trust Bank	£333.33
06/04/2023	SDDC – 1 st Instalment of Precept plus Top Up Grant	Unity Trust Bank	24,567.00
06/04/2023	Refund from SSE for Unmetered electricity bill taken in error	Unity Trust Bank	£190.66
12/04/2023	Refund from SSE for Unmetered electricity bill taken in error	Unity Trust Bank	£3.54

c) Bank Account Reconciliation Report/Budget Monitoring Reports

Members **NOTED** the Bank Account Reconciliation Report/Budget Monitoring Reports up to 31 March 2023 (including Current and Reserve Accounts Balances).

3095/23

Correspondence

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

- Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) Newsletter – forwarded 15/03
- PCC Anti-Social Behaviour Action Grant scheme – forwarded 28/03
- DALC April newsletter – forwarded 04/04

RESOLVED that Members would bring ideas for projects to the next meeting which would be suitable for an application to the PCC Anti-Social Behaviour Action Grant scheme.

3096/23

Reports from Councillors attending meetings of outside bodies

None.

3097/23

Date of next meeting(s)

The next Meeting of the Parish Council would be the Annual Meeting for the Council, **starting at 7pm on Thursday, 18 May 2023**, at the Methodist Church, Lower Green, Findern, DE65 6AD.

3098/23

Exempt

No matters were considered Exempt.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm