

FINDERN PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs Kate Sharpe

Findern Parish Rooms, Lower Green, Findern, Derbyshire DE65 6AS

Tel: 07444 085807

Minutes of the Annual Meeting for the Parish of Findern held at Findern Methodist Church, Lower Green, Findern on Thursday 11 May 2023 at 6.30pm

Present: Councillors T Brown, G Cooke, B Dosanjh, S Holmes and M Ratcliffe.

Also present: Mrs K Sharpe (Clerk to the Parish Council) and 11 members of the public.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were **NOTED** from Councillors C Smith, A Pratt for Parish Council and Councillor M Ford for District and County Councils.

2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 27 April 2022 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council, subject to a correction of the date from Thursday 27 April 2022 to Wednesday 27 April 2022.

3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON BEHALF OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Chairman of the Parish Council welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave the following report for the year ending 31 March 2023.

Good evening and welcome to the 2023 Annual meeting of the parish of Findern.

There have been some changes to the format of the Parish Council this year, with Tim Scott resigning in December 2022 and Councillors Martin Woodhouse and Rosemary Rose not standing for nomination. This leaves us with three positions to fill and this process will begin shortly.

Before I begin to list our achievements of the last year I must thank my Vice Chairman, Councillor Mike Ratcliffe for once again supporting me personally in my role as Chairman, and of course we'd both like to thank all of our fellow Councillors for all of their efforts and hard work during the last twelve months. None of this would have been achievable though without our Clerk, Kate Sharpe. She keeps us on track, working away quietly in the background, we couldn't do what we do without her knowledge and professionalism.

Our thanks go to Dave Tidy, the Findern Lengthsman and Richard Yates the Highfields Warden, they both do the necessary job of litter picking but they are also our eyes and ears, reporting problems and issues that can be dealt with quickly and safely.

Our thanks also go to the Councillors for the Findern and Willington wards, Martin Ford and Andrew Macpherson for their ongoing support and prompt response to dealing with local issues.

A big thank you to all involved in The Findern Footpaths and Conservation Group for all of their hard work this year in Cotes Close, Cardales Meadow, Stanhope Wood, Stanhope Hole and all the other adopted green spaces they look after. They have big plans for the future and the Parish Council is pleased to be a small part of those.

Now I'll move on to what we have achieved this year;

We held a successful Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Bonnet Competition at King George V playing Fields.

Four additional dog bins have been installed at Highfields.

The Parish Rooms known as Find Cafe was externally painted.

Village Platinum Jubilee Celebrations began with a 'Party in the Park' on Hillside Playing Fields with entertainment by Jayne Darling. A tree commemoration service was held at KGV and to finish the celebrations 'The Big Lunch' was held in the Village Hall with children's entertainment by Dream Parties.

The Basketball Net and Goal posts were erected at King George V playing Fields.

Four Summer Activity sessions were booked, two at Hillside Playing Fields, though one was rained off, and two at Highfields Spencer Academy.

An A frame was provided for Stanhope Hole to create an exit.

Books of Condolence were provided at the Village Hall, Wallfields House Residential Home, Brook Close Community Centre, Findern Primary School and Highfields Spencer Academy.

We participated in the Harvest Festival Celebrations at All Saints Church by decorating a window with provisions.

The Village Green was once again decorated for Remembrance Sunday, thanks to Martin Woodhouse for erecting the silhouettes. We were pleased to participate in a service on the Green held by both the churches.

We held our Christmas Lights switch on, the tree was once again donated by Woodgrow Horticulture, we then went to the Village Hall for refreshments, children's entertainment and a visit from Santa.

We were granted the necessary permissions to also provide a Christmas Tree at Highfields.

We played a part in the Festive Findern Celebrations which were held on the Village Green.

Our Parish Council Notice board was moved from outside Find Cafe to the Village Green for easier visibility.

We have also supported a number of Charities this year;

- *£500 to Findern Social Group.*

- £300 to All Saints Church for external lighting.
- £1000 to Findern Footpaths and Conservation Group for work on the Nature Reserve.
- £200 to the Hospital Pyjamas Charity.
- £108 for toiletries and food provisions for the Padley Centre at Harvest Festival.
- £250 to the Royal British Legion for the poppy wreath.
- £500 to the South Derbyshire CVS Winter Giving Campaign.
- £500 to the Warm Space held at Findern Village Hall.

REPORTS FROM LOCAL GROUPS / ORGANISATIONS IN THE COMMUNITY

To receive reports on the activities of Local Groups / Organisations for the Year Ending 31 March 2023. This gave an opportunity for groups and organisations active in the village to give an update to residents on their activities over the previous year.

District Council & County Councillors

District and County Councillor, Martyn Ford was not present at the meeting; however, he had submitted the following report, which was read by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor T Brown: -

South Derbyshire District Council.

During the past year we have lost our long serving Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Services. I can report the new Chief Executive is now in place, a new Corporate Service Director will join us shortly.

The council is moving forward with the Corporate Plan and Environmental agendas, noting the trialling of two Hydrogen Hybrid Refuse Freighters that will shortly be introduced across our collection routes.

Consultations have taken place regarding our new Local Plan; more will follow when individual sites are selected.

Derbyshire County Council

Routine highway maintenance has been undertaken throughout the year. The network around Highfields is still to be adopted. When adoption is complete the bus company will look to begin services.

Flooding on the bridleway between Findern and Stenson is causing concern, officers from DCC have attended and are working up a solution.

The County Council has provided funding for regular weekly Warm Hub meetings in The Village Hall throughout the past year.

The Freeport has now received formal government approval and the initial "Seed" funding of £25 million which will begin to filter through for Planning and Infrastructure works.

The County Council has approved the next steps in the formation of The East Midlands Combined Mayoral Authority along with Derby City, Nottingham City Council and Nottinghamshire County Council. The draft agreement and proposal have gone to the Government for further review.

Findern Historical Society

A member of Findern Historical Society, Lynette Nash read the report on behalf of the group.

It has been a relief to be able to have regular monthly meetings again after all the interruptions due to the pandemic. We were able to start again last September, however the first meeting had to be postponed because of the late Queen's funeral! We had lost considerable income during the covid virus restrictions when we could not meet, so sadly we had to increase our annual subscription expecting to lose members, but the numbers attending the monthly meetings have steadily increased.

We meet on the 3rd Monday of the month in the Methodist Chapel at 7.30pm and the speakers are very varied, some light-hearted but all involving a huge amount of research. This month we are visiting Swarkestone church with its link to the Fynderne family, and there's a chance On another day to have a guided walk around parts of Calke Abbey grounds not normally open to the public. In June there's an evening walk around Belper led by a knowledgeable local speaker and in July we have chartered a canal boat for a trip which hopefully includes a visit to the newly restored Nightingale Cottage.

The village archives are now kindly stored at Murrays but new information continues to be given to us. Recently a document from 1811, compiled by the vicar before official censuses were carried out, which listed all the families living in Findern with their children and servants – some family names still occur in the village. Although the archives have been collected, catalogued and cared for by the Historical Society they are a village resource and access can be arranged through the Society.

Our meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7.30pm (except 1 June, July and August) in the Methodist chapel and visitors are welcome to any meeting.

Findern Village Hall

The report was read out by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor Tammy Brown on behalf of Rosemary Rose, Chair of the Trustees of Findern Village Hall.

Last June we held the village fete, the first since the pandemic, which was a financial fund-raising success for the hall, as well as a good day for the local community, who turned out and welcomed back Fete Day. A larger Fete planning Committee is required going forward to enable this tradition to continue successfully.

Sadly, Keith Johnson Treasurer and hall trustee for many years died on the 1st October 2022. His wife Gwen stepped in immediately and continued the role that Keith had undertaken for so long. Gwen was invited to be appointed hall trustee and she accepted.

Unfortunately, another two of our trustees were unable to continue due to ill health, and other commitments. One trustee was recently appointed and we still have one other vacancy to fill.

Findern village and Highfields have been consulted by a questionnaire hand delivered to each

household, on their leisure interests offered at the hall and we have done our best to deliver on those requests.

The monthly Tea & Cake on a Tuesday afternoon started last September and proved very popular and well attended.

Regular First Aid training was offered.

A new Art & Craft group was trialed.

The I.T. group proved so popular it has now been run twice in 6 weekly sessions and should be returning again in the Autumn.

The newly formed Findern social group are offering evening entertainment, bi-monthly at the hall, which has proved popular.

After the success of the monthly Tea and Cake afternoons, it was decided that a weekly Warm Space running from January to March was the way forward. Offering free hot food and a place to socialize.

From April to August, it is run as the Warm Welcome, returning to Warm Space from September.

These Tuesday afternoons have been very successful, and supported with helpers from both churches, trustees and members of the community. Grants received from the SDDC and Findern Parish Council, have helped towards the weekly costs, and some of the required training of volunteers.

We are hoping that the interest is maintained and the hall will continue to be a hub for people to meet up weekly and enjoy food and a chat.

Weekend bookings are ever popular and trustees made decisions around revised times and deposits to ensure the hall was used and looked after by hirers in a considerate manner.

The new post of caretaker employed on a small contract has been a great help together with our efficient cleaner, in keeping the hall well maintained.

We now have a new weatherproof notice board giving all the information on activities taking place together with contact details for bookings and enquiries. We also have a Findern Village Hall Facebook page which is regularly updated with what is happening at the hall.

Sadly, we did not attract interest for help with the Fete this year.

Instead, we will be holding a Summer Fayre on the 17th June 12-4pm at the hall, using the outdoor space and carpark for games and other activities, together with a raffle to raise funds for the maintenance and upkeep of the hall. Anyone interested in being involved on the day would be most welcome to join us, and have a fun day too.

Please note our thanks to the Findern Parish Council for their interest in the Warm Space and providing a grant to help with the running costs, which is much appreciated by the trustees.

Findern Footpaths Group

Sue from the Findern Footpaths and Conservation Group read the report on behalf of the group.

The group presents its annual report of activities undertaken in the year to March 2023:

Footpaths Maintenance

The group continues to maintain the network of public footpaths around the village, strimming and carrying out minor repairs to styles and fences. We have developed our systems for passing on issues raised from the public on to the County Council. We continue to earn £385 per annum for this work and are lobbying DCC for an increase.

New Members

We have welcomed new members during the year who have brought their skills, enthusiasm and much needed muscle power to our work parties. We have been able to make links with South Derbyshire CVS to attract more volunteers.

Projects undertaken in a busy year: As well as a full programme of sowing wildflower seeds, bluebells, anemones, wild garlic and forget-me-nots and planting whips in our conservation areas, we have also: -

- *Cardales Meadow and Pond Area*
Thanks to a generous contribution from FPC we were able to employ a contractor to change the shape of the pond to allow better access for wildlife and enable more planting of a variety of species to feed and shelter insects, amphibians and mammals. A dead hedge of cleared blackthorn now protects the pond area which has been planted with dog rose, honeysuckle and hawthorn. Cleared areas reveal the raptor table and allow light through. The butterfly bank has been weeded, re-surfaced with chattel and planted with appropriate species to encourage the insects. The path has been moved to allow growth of a wilderness area of nettles and parsley to feed caterpillars.
- *Cote Close*
Another dead hedge protects the birch plantation, and the cleared blackthorn from the "teardrop" area allows light to the planted teasels. This will hopefully become the site of a future education and information centre for children such as groups from the scouts and guides associations. A barn owl nesting box has been put up with the help and advice from Tean Valley.
- *Stanhope Wood*
With a grant from the Tree Council, a new hedgerow has been created around the perimeter of the wood bringing back some of the necessary shelter and food sources lost over the years. The whips are predominantly hawthorn but a variety of other species were sourced to increase the bio-diversity in the area.
- *Stanhope Hole*
The trees have been underplanted with teasels and foxgloves to supplement the spring bulbs, and now that walkers can properly view the dipping pond again and walk the length of the path, it has become really pretty.

All of the work undertaken this year cannot be condensed adequately into this report, so please visit our re-vamped website www.findernfootpaths.co.uk to see what we have done and our future plans.

Donations

The year's activities have depleted our reserves somewhat but with many donations from within the group, and money from plant sales at the Village Fete, we have been able to achieve most of our ambitions. A donation from Councillor Ford allowed wildflower seeds and plugs - wild garlic and bluebells - to be put along the banks of Crow Park Way, and the WI planted a jubilee commemorative tree in Cardales meadow.

The group wishes to thank all those who have donated time and money to our projects.

Findern and Friends Women's Institute

President of the Findern and Friends Women's Institute, Mary Bucknell gave the following report.

Findern and Friends WI has enjoyed another busy year of events, meeting regularly in the Village Hall and enjoying its facilities on the second Tuesday of each month. Our membership has remained at around 34 people and we are delighted that several newcomers to Findern have joined the WI here.

Every year we select and raise funds for a particular charity. Last February our choice was Me and Dee - a local charity that works towards helping families make special memories for those amongst them with life limiting illnesses. Amongst many of the resources they offer, is a newly completed lodge built in Sherwood Forest which provides families with a special place where they can spend a few days holidaying and getting away from the rounds of hospital appointments which their illness necessitates.

We were delighted to be able to present them with a cheque for £500.00 earlier this year.

Our chosen charity this year is Revive - an Alvaston based charity that helps families in need. We were also able to present a cheque of £100.00 towards the Tremor Association for research into this condition and for care of current sufferers.

During our monthly meetings we have been able to offer a varied programme of events from Pilates, to talks on Chandeliers, Derbyshire Birds, Cybercrime and the introduction of Beavers to Willington amongst others. We have also been active enjoying member-led activities - silly dominoes had us all on our toes and Christmas crafts got our hands working.

Findern and Friends is not just about our Tuesday meetings, we have lunch club and book club once a month and every so often we organise a walk or stroll together with a refreshment reward at the end.

As our name suggests we are very much part of the fabric of Findern and have been delighted to plant and maintain the planters by the bus stop on the green and at the well as part of our bit for the Queen's Jubilee. Some of our members created a post box topper for the same celebration and in the autumn, we were delighted to fund and plant a tree in Cardales meadow with the cooperation of the Findern Footpaths group for the Queen's Jubilee. You may have noted our more recent topper in celebration of

the King's Coronation and our firm link with the footpaths group remains as we plan to share the cost of a bench in Cardales meadow to be situated close to the tree.

We have participated in the Findern Fete and collected goods for All Saints Harvest Festival in September and in December we hosted the Mercia group Carol Service at All Saints when our neighbouring WI groups joined us and filled the church.

Of course, we have also been out and about, visiting an open garden event in Walton on Trent with accompanying tea and cake, we visited Blenheim Palace in S

We like to think that we are a friendly and inclusive group as our name suggests and we are always happy to welcome new people to our meetings in the village hall and we would like to take this opportunity to thank those who maintain the hall and allow us to hire the building which is such a focal point of the Findern Community.

For more information on joining the WI contact the President of Findern and Friends WI, Mary Bucknell by telephone: 01332518490 or by email: bucknell_mary@yahoo.co.uk

Findern Social Group

The report was read out by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor Tammy Brown on behalf of Mary Goodall from the group.

Unfortunately, with great sadness we had to abandon our Soap Box Trials due to not being able to get insurance.

We decided to carry on with other events and took part at the Village Fete with a very successful Bottle Tombola.

We followed that with 'It's a Knockout' event at Findern Primary School and were able to give the school £50.

We've followed that with two Pub Games Nights and presented Derbyshire Blood Bikes with a cheque for £250 at the first one.

We're now working on our main event on 9th July this year which will be a fun packed day for all the family. There will be a Hog Roast and BBQ, a Bar, Coffee and Cake Stall and Ice Cream seller. Craft Stalls, Dog Show, games for all the family and children's entertainment by Dream Parties.

We've been able to pay our Annual Insurance ourselves as well as donating £300 so we're happy that our first year has been a success.

Findern Warm Hub / Warm Welcome Club

The report was read out by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor Tammy Brown who is also a Trustee of the Village Hall.

We began in January following a government initiative in response to the cost-of-living crisis. A group of volunteers from the village came together, this was led by Jean Hallam who had kitchen experience. We ran until Easter, providing a warm, welcoming environment with a bowl of soup, some bread, a piece of cake and cups of tea and coffee. At the end of this period, we asked everyone to fill out a questionnaire to better inform us moving forward.

Firstly, no one wanted it to finish, the main reason was everyone was enjoying getting together every week for a chat and a laugh. We have a number of widows and widowers who look forward to getting together each week, people from around the village have made new friends, myself included.

After Easter Deborah Arnold, Megan Arnold and myself took over the running of the event. We changed the name to Warm Welcome. Things are running on the same basis as before but we do have plans to include some entertainment in the future. Everyone is welcome no matter what age or financial situation.

We have received funding from South Derbyshire District Council and Findern Parish Council to initially start up, this has enabled volunteers to attain Food Hygiene Certificates and to purchase the necessary equipment that we were borrowing from other organisations.

The event runs every Tuesday afternoon from 12-2.30pm.

John Allsop Foundation

The Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor Mike Ratcliffe read the report on behalf of the foundation.

The John Allsop Foundation is a registered charity that gives grants and awards to young people under the age of 25 and to educational organisations such as schools, pre-schools, youth clubs, guides, etc.

To apply for a grant, you must be a resident of Findern, Willington, or Stenson and Twyford villages or be involved in the running of an organisation in these villages.

Currently we have a GCSE award that benefits students gaining four or more C Grade or equivalent qualifications. This is set at £100. Our Book and Equipment grant is aimed at students at university or college, but does not fund A level study. We can help with the relevant books and equipment for your courses. We have a music grant that can assist with the purchase of musical instruments.

Organisations can apply in writing explaining how they would spend a grant and list the cost of the items needed. All grants and awards are at the discretion of the Trustees, and are dependent upon the income of the Foundation.

For further information and application forms, please contact: Helen Lakin, 13 Chevin Avenue, Mickleover, Derby, DE3 9GW or email: helenlakin@hotmail.com

Grants and awards are not means tested so if you think you could apply, please do so without fear of disclosing personal information.

We want to support young people and are keen for more people to know about our wonderful charity.

Findern Bereavement Group

Joan Henchcliffe from Murrays Funeral Directors After Bereavement Care read the report on behalf of the group.

When we attended last year, we had just started the group so a year on with the fabulous support of the Findern community and local organisations we have been meeting every 6 weeks for a year.

The group is run at Findern Murray's office every 6 weeks, with the next meeting 25th May.

The group is available to anybody; Murray's clients & non-clients, bereaved and non-bereaved.

There is no charge for the group and is run & managed by staff & volunteers

The mission of the group is to provide comfort, safe place to meet, relief from loneliness, offer support and signpost to bereavement specialist care if required.

Offering a friendly face, a safe place to go when the day feels impossible to deal with- a light at the end of a tunnel, a listening ear and voice on the telephone.

Alongside the usual support offered we have facilitated a few sessions that the people using the group have expressed interest in:

A visit from Woodgrow Horticultural about seasonal gardening

Treetops Hospice to highlight all the services they offer including 1-1 counselling

South Derbyshire information about other local groups and local support services

Scam Awareness event from Derbyshire Constabulary, which we had positive feedback and some attendees have already seen the benefits

Annual Memory walk which has been very well attended and supported by Findern Footpaths

The ABC group has excellent support from the community and we have been to a number of community groups to show our support in return., with little things; local groups using Murrays premises for their meetings, carparking for events, and purchasing a bench through the footpaths for Cardales Woodland near to the Memory Tree.

All Saints Church

The report was given by Pat Maddock, of the Parochial Church Council of All Saints Church.

The Church has remained open throughout the continued vacancy and truly blessed with regular services at 10am each Sunday being taken by various Ministers. Caution has still been taken with the partaking of Holy Communion by dipping wafers in the wine.

Any Church Business including enquiries for Weddings, Funerals and Baptism arrangements to be made initially through me to enable me to connect people to the correct channels. I thank Kate for her prompt help in passing my details to anyone with any of these queries.

A Thank-you tea was held in church for all those who helped make the kitchen and toilet installation possible.

The Church was open to the public and very well attended to honour the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, with the arch decorated and flowers displayed inside by volunteers and the Historical Society hosting a display covering the Queen's Reign and local history during the period

The Church was also open to the public for the signing of a book of condolence to mark the death of our late Queen Elizabeth II.

Our Shared Harvest Festival with the Methodist congregation involved the Local Community, Parish Council and Local Businesses in decorating the Church Window Ledges with donations of food and hygiene items and monetary gifts to the Padley Centre. It was a great joy to involve others as in the past after the closure of the Church through Covid.

The Shared Remembrance Service on The Green with the Methodist Chapel and local community was followed by refreshments in All Saints. Carol singing took place at the local Residential Home, Sheltered Housing and on The Green with the local community culminating with refreshments in All Saints. These were both with great organisation from Roy Milward from the Methodist Chapel.

The WI Mercia Group held their Christmas Carol Service in the Church.

Our most attended Service each year, Christingle, was held on Christmas Eve.

The asset of the Kitchen and Toilet has enhanced what we can offer in the way of refreshments after services.

The church was closed for major plaster repair works and redecoration from the 1st February to the 12th April (ahead of schedule). We managed to reopen on the 16th April after lots of hard work cleaning. We are still in the process of putting everything back in place. I am sure, like us, you will be pleased with the transformation and give thanks to prayer and a generous legacy.

We are currently in the process of seeking permission for new heating and a screen above the toilet and kitchen facility to prevent heat loss up the tower void.

The churchyard needs attention if anyone is willing to help. The SDDC have not strimmed areas over the last year or so as they had in the past.

Findern Methodist Chapel

Lynette Nash read the report on behalf of the Methodist Chapel group.

Our minister Rev Jacky Quarmby, has been with us since Sept 2021 but she is also minister to churches on Blagreaves Lane, Chellaston and Dean Street in Derby. She has brought some new ideas and is very keen for her 4 churches to share and work together where possible.

Besides the regular chapel activities, services, Bible studies, meetings etc. there has been involvement in the wider community. Last summer we collected items and cash for Ukraine, then goods and cash for the Padley group at the village harvest festival, we organised the village response to the Shoebox appeal for underprivileged children abroad, and provided one of our local preachers to lead the Remembrance Day service on the Green. The Elvis group continue to entertain social groups and care homes, with several return bookings leading to a request for a monthly service in one of the homes.

Naturally Christmas was a busy time and on 14 Dec we held a very enjoyable afternoon tea for older people (although many of the helpers come into this category!) The 2 churches organised carol singing later in December at Wallfields, Brook Close and on the Green before we all warmed up with hot drinks in All Saints. Every house in Findern had a leaflet listing detail of the special services in the 2 churches delivered by the 2 congregations.

In January the Warm Space initiative began in the village hall with Jean Hallam who used to cook for our lunch club overseeing the kitchen arrangements. Several chapel members volunteered to help in some way and the lunches proved to be very social events, continuing in the same way until the end of March. During February all the donations from the Wednesday coffee mornings were given to the Earthquake appeal for Turkey and Syria and £600 was sent.

Good Friday 7 April there was a presentation of the Easter story on the village green – in sunshine! - and afterwards hot cross buns were handed out.

We are now awaiting a defibrillator to be delivered, which the parish council have agreed to buy, and will be fitted outside chapel to cover another part of Findern in case of an emergency.

4 Matters raised by electors

There were a number of matters raised by electors.

- A resident asked for an update on the issue of fly-tipping at the garages behind Hawthorn Crescent. The Clerk advised that Waste Services at South Derbyshire District Council had confirmed that the area was the responsibility of the District Council; however, they would have to contact Housing Services to seek the permission to remove the waste. Housing Services subsequently confirmed that the work order had been passed to the repairs department to remove the waste; the work would be done after the Neighbourhood Wardens had been out to inspect the waste and try to find evidence of who had dumped it there.

- A resident reported that teenagers were seen trespassing on the land and into the property Mill House off Main Street. This had been reported and notices had now been posted advising against trespassing.
- The Clerk advised that Dennis Bateman from South Derbyshire District Council would be coming to the meeting of the Parish Council on 18 May to update residents on the action taken by the authority to address the fly-tipping on the access road to farmland off Burton Road near the A38 roundabout.
- A resident thanked the Parish Council for all they do for the village and the parish.

Meeting closed at 8.00pm