

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, Lower Green, Findern at 7.00pm on 13 July 2023

Present: Councillors T Brown, B Dosanjh, S Holmes, A Pratt, M Ratcliffe and C Smith.

Also present: Kate Sharpe (Clerk) and 11 members of the public.

3141/23 Apologies for absence

Apologies were **NOTED** from Councillors G Cooke.

3142/23 Declaration of members interests

None.

3143/23 Public Speaking

Members of the public:

- A resident reported that Common Piece Lane was once again in a terrible state; the road is full of potholes. This is probably due to the heavy plant accessing the Severn Trent works at the moment because of a new pipe laying project. The Clerk would find out when the work there was due to finish.
- A resident thanked the Parish Council for organising the summer event, 'Party in the Park'. The resident suggested, on the back of its success, that the concert was combined with the Village Fete on Hillside. The Chairman thanked the resident for the suggestions; assuring them that all ideas would be considered when planning next year's event.
- A resident had read in the Minutes of the previous meeting that the Council was looking into siting a composting toilet at the Cotes Close/ Cardales Meadow Nature Reserve; they asked who would maintain it? The resident was advised this is in the early stages of planning and permissions were being sought with no decision yet made to definitely to site a composting toilet there.
- A representative of the Findern Footpaths Group (FFG) advised that they had attended a funding information day and had spoken to various companies who may be interested in supporting the work of the group. FFG are particularly keen to develop an education /information centre at Stanhope Wood if they can raise the funding; also possibly siting a storage container down there too. The group would come back to the Council at the September meeting with further plans. The group attend funding fairs as they rely on grants and volunteers to achieve what they want to do; they cannot do all of the work on their own.
- A representative of the Methodist Church thanked the Parish Council for their support with the purchase and installation of a defibrillator at the Church.
- A resident reported that the District Council had been out to clear the fly-tipping at the garages behind Hawthorn Crescent; however, they had not taken away the rubbish in the two wheelie bins. The resident would keep an eye on it, and report to the next Council meeting if the rubbish in the bins had not been disposed of by then.

Police Liaison Officer:

David Marley of the South Derbyshire Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) submitted the following report: -

The team have been busy again throughout the month of June.

Here are some key highlights:

- With the arrival of warmer weather, police have continued to patrol popular destinations in our policing beat area. Over 20 children were discovered swimming in a reservoir last week. Your team dealt with the situation and took action to escort the young people away from the location. Firm words of advice given to the youngsters about the dangers of swimming in such waters.
 - The team continue to deal with a high number of dog-related incidents. Police are now working in partnership with South Derbyshire District Council dog wardens to create events about the legal obligations of how owners should keep dogs under control. More information will follow soon.
 - Officers have attended several testing and challenging incidents including: a man experiencing a mental health crisis at a local railway station; a lost child in a woodland; and a vulnerable adult male who had gone missing from his family. All parties were returned home - safe and well.
 - Police have investigated criminal damage cases in our local area, including an occurrence whereby a small fire was lit in a woodland. Safeguarding has now been carried out and further contact is being developed with community safety officers at Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service. Parents have also been advised to keep an eye out for where their children are during the pending school holiday season.
 - School patrols are planned during the final weeks of the summer term.
 - Officers continue to visit local youth clubs in Mercia to engage positively with young people.
- Further information about the work of the SNT can be found on the Mercia SNT Facebook page. Just a reminder, these are the many ways residents can report crimes or incidents, including:
- Facebook – send a private message to the Derbyshire Constabulary Main Facebook page
 - Twitter – direct message the contact centre via @DerPolContact
 - Website – There are several crime reporting tools on the website or use the online contact form
 - Phone – call us on 101.

District and County Councillor Reports:

Councillor Ian Hudson gave the following report: -

- He had helped a young family struggling to get their child in to a primary school in the area – all 3 primary schools in the parish were full.
- Repton Area Forum would take place on Thursday 7 September 2023 at 6.30pm in Willington Old School.
- South Derbyshire District Council had launched its Safer and Stronger Grant Fund with £4000 allocated to each area; the deadline for applications was 7 September 2023. Whatever was left in the pot after the deadline would go into a general fund that all areas could apply to.

Councillor Martyn Ford gave the following report: -

- The County Boundary Review has been circulated; the review looked at the best way to redraw boundaries of divisions to make them more equal in number – currently Repton had 50% more electorate than other divisions. There would be many consultees so no decision had been made yet; it was still being consulted upon. The decision would be

taken in October 2023; a further consultation would take place before the final decision in early 2024 ready for 2025.

- Regarding the complaints about the state of Common Piece Lane; there are lots of pot holes again. Coudllor Ford would visit the site with a Highways Officer.
- Flooding under the railway bridge over the canal would be addressed over the summer.
- The application for a Bio-Fuel station off the A38 was still in consultation; however, it would go to the Planning Committee for a decision rather than delegated to officers.
- The planning department had approved the demolition of the farmhouse on the land off Porters Lane in the village.
- The Derbyshire County Council Nature Corporate Plan included planting 1 million more trees by 2030, with talk of woodland stretching from South Derbyshire up the A38 corridor to Nottinghamshire.

3144/23

Co-option of Councillors

To co-opt new Members to the three vacant seats: -

- a) Each candidate gave a short statement to the Members and the public present, with the reasons they wished to join the Parish Council and what they hoped to bring to the role.
- b) Members considered all applicants; then nominated and seconded the candidates they wished to be considered for the 3 seats. Only three candidates were nominated and seconded, therefore it was proposed that the three candidates be selected.

RESOLVED that Han Hettmann, Manjit Bram and Martin Woodhouse be co-opted to the Council.

- c) All three candidates duly signed the acceptance of office and became a Councillor at the meeting.

The Chairman thanked the other candidates for their interest in applying to join the Council.

3145/23

Response to emails from residents

- a) Completion of roadworks on Highfields

A resident contacted the Parish Council to ask when the road works on Tutbury Avenue in Highfields would be completed.

The response the Clerk had from the consortium was that the technical team had confirmed that the current programme shows a completion date of the middle of July. At the moment the road was still to be completed by the consortium contractors; therefore, residents' complaints to the individual builder's customer services teams may trigger some activity.

- b) Mailing list for Minutes

A resident had suggested that a mailing list for the Minutes would be a useful feature; and asked for this to be raised at the next meeting.

The Clerk advised that all Minutes are posted to the meetings page of the Parish Council's website prior to the next meeting; and are downloadable from there. A mailing list has GDPR implications, which become an additional admin task.

RESOLVED that as all Minutes were readily available from the website there was no need to create a mailing list.

3146/23

Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 8 June 2023 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

3147/23

Variation of order of business

None.

3148/23

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

There was one item to be taken with public and press excluded, the rent review for the Parish Rooms.

3149/23

Chairman's Report

The Chairman welcomed all to the July meeting of Findern Parish Council. There had been one Parish Council led event since the last meeting, 'The Party in the Park', on 8 July. Even though the weather was very much against us, this event was a resounding success. It couldn't happen though without Kate, our Clerk, she organised all the booking of entertainment and equipment; her very detailed events plan ensures nothing gets missed and everyone is where they should be at the right times. Also, none of this could happen without the 'on the day' support from all of the Parish Councillors, so my thanks to you all.

The Chairman welcomed the three new councillors, saying that each of them would bring something different to the table and the Members looked forward to working with them for the betterment of our community.

3150/23

Report of the Parish Clerk

a) **Update on installation of Speed Indicator Devices (VAS)**

The two poles had been installed in the required locations; therefore, installation of the equipment could go ahead. The VAS supplier, Swarco had suggested Thursday 27 July as the installation and training day. A couple of Councillors indicated that they were available to be trained on the data collection.

b) **Arrangements for Summer Activities at Hillside Playing Field / Highfields**

Arrangements were in place for the 4 supervised Play, Sport and Adventure sessions for children and young people that the Parish Council had funded for Hillside in Findern and Highfields Spencer Academy School. The dates are: -

Wednesday 26 July 2023, 10am – 12pm and Wednesday 16 August 2023, 2pm – 4pm at Highfields Spencer Academy and Monday 31 July 2023, 2pm – 4pm and Wednesday 23 August 2023, 10am – 12pm at Hillside Recreation Area, Hillside, Findern, DE65 6AW

Two Councillors indicated that they were available, for at least the start of the session, to meet the Active South Derbyshire team and to ensure access was given to the sites.

Banners have been posted at both schools with a request that details are included in newsletters. A banner has also been posted on The Green in the village. Posters were on the noticeboards and details would be posted to the Council's website and Facebook pages.

c) **Flooding under bridge on Bridleway alongside canal**

The Parish Council was copied in on an email sent to Councillor Ford from the Rights of Way department at the County Council; the email advised that following on from their

investigation into concerns about flooding under this bridge, they had received advice from Allroads staff as to measures that can be taken to alleviate flooding problems. Rights of Way have ordered the advised work to reprofile the surface of the bridleway under the bridge and to improve egress of water that causes problems; asking for the work to be undertaken this summer.

d) Update on stile on Dash's Way

The Clerk reported the issue with the stile on Dash's Way to the Rights of Way department at the County Council – they responded to say that they agreed that the step needed replacing and they had written to the landowner asking them to replace it. The Footpaths Group had confirmed the stile had been replaced.

e) Response on composting toilet for Cardales Meadow

The Clerk had not received a response from Carter Jonas (the land agent for National Highways, who own the land at Cardales Meadow) regarding the query on the composting toilet, though the Clerk had queried this.

f) Severn Trent response on replant and stand pipe for Stanhope Wood

After the previous meeting, the Clerk had submitted the request to the land agent, for shrubs and a stand pipe. The Clerk had been informed they were looking at the request and would come back to the Parish Council shortly.

g) Oak tree off Crow Park Way

The Council had received notification by email that Tree Surveyors from Carter Jonas, land agents for National Highways, would be carrying out tree condition surveys for sites within the portfolio which contain trees. The tree condition surveys would be carried out from Monday 3 July to Monday 31 July 2023 and would be undertaken with the minimum of disruption. The Clerk had replied to that email asking whether the Oak tree off Crow Park Way had been checked yet, or would it be checked as part of this survey. The Clerk was informed that the tree in question was on operational land and therefore would be managed directly by National Highways, not Carter Jonas. The land agent had contacted National Highways directly about this tree and she was awaiting a response from them.

h) Update on Porters Lane site

Following reports of further incidents of trespassers at the site, the Clerk had phoned the agent and he advised he would visit to check where trespassers were accessing and take action. He also advised that the agents had an option to develop the land and will be applying for planning permission to knock the farmhouse down with the intention of building 7 residential properties in keeping with the surrounding houses.

i) Toyota Visit

Toyota had replied to the letter sent on behalf of the Parish Council with the formal request for a tour of the plant. With regards to the request, they advised that they are managing an incredible number of visits at the moment as well as preparing for their annual shutdown in August; they would look at what they could propose and in order to prepare appropriately asked if the Parish Council could provide an idea of numbers. The Clerk would canvas Councillors for a response.

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

Members Reportsa) Findern in Relief Fund

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

b) Stanhope Woods

Following on from the County Countryside Officer's advice that the Council should check with the Forestry Commission to ask whether a Felling Licence was required; a visit to Stanhope Woods had been made by two Forestry Commission Officers who gave the Footpath's Group some very good advice and had confirmed a Felling Licence would be required, which would then be in place for 5 years. This would be discussed with contractor Tim Atkinson, and a licence applied for.

RESOLVED the Clerk would follow this up with the Footpaths Group and the Contractor.

c) Wildflower areas

It was reported that the wildflower area alongside King George V Playing Field had been re-seeded.

d) Local / Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish

The next step in the process was to apply to the District Council to designate the area to be covered by the Findern Neighbourhood Development Plan. Councillors discussed options.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would submit an application to designate the area for the Findern Neighbourhood Development Plan to the District Council; the area would be the parish boundary of Findern parish.

e) Warm Welcome

Councillor Brown gave the following report: -

We are continuing making jacket potatoes with a variety of toppings as well as cake, tea and coffee. For the last two weeks we've had strawberries and cream in honour of Wimbledon. We are continuing to host between 20-40 people each week and all are welcome to attend.

Matters for discussion or determinationa) Review Summer Event 2023 – Party in the Park 8 July

Councillors discussed the event, that had been well received despite the weather. They considered what went well and what improvements could be made for next year's event. There had been an unfortunate accident when a member of the public had slipped on the wet grass on the bank. It was suggested that the District Council be approached to ask if they could extend the hard standing pathway further up the hill to provide a less slippery surface to walk on. Councillor Ford had taken this up and will approach officers at the District Council about this. It was suggested that the event could start earlier in the day with other activities.

RESOLVED that Councillors would meet informally to discuss plans and start work on the event sooner rather than later.

b) Painting goalposts at KGV

The Council is still seeking advice and costs from the contractor for this work. This information would be brought to next meeting. It should be noted that the Council had received the annual operational report for the play equipment at the King George V Playing Field; this mentions that a couple of items have an advisory for exposed metal / rust and need repainting. This will be added to overall quote.

c) Health & Safety Consultant – renewal of annual subscription

Councillors considered the renewal of the subscription to the Annual Health and Safety Consultancy and Review of Safety Management System; this would be £660.00 for the annual subscription.

RESOLVED to renew the subscription to the Annual Health and Safety Consultancy and Review of Safety Management System at a cost of £660.00.

d) Replacement dog waste bin on Common Piece Lane

Councillors considered the options available to replace the current dog waste bin on Common Piece Lane with one with a larger capacity.

RESOLVED to purchase the 66-litre bin from Earth Anchors at £248.50 and have this installed.

e) Coronation Bench for Highfields

Councillors considered the various options available for a Commemorative Coronation bench for Highfields. The Councillors also considered where the bench should be located.

RESOLVED that the wooden 4-seater bench from Make Me Something Special Limited at a cost of £1359.00 would be ordered once the Council had the go ahead to site it. The preferred site was on Stafford Park green area, off Tutbury Avenue and Stafford Drive.

f) Renewal of Rights of Way Maintenance Agreement

The Derbyshire County Council Minor Maintenance agreement for Rights of Way would continue this year; the Parish Council needed to confirm that it wishes to participate in the scheme this financial year; the usual £385 was on offer.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council would confirm that it would take part in the Derbyshire County Council Minor Maintenance agreement for Rights of Way for the current year 2023/24

g) Decision on email server options

The Council was advised by the digital consultant that Council email accounts needed to migrate to a new server. Councillors considered two options for this; one that was a similar price to what is paid currently, the other option was a more advanced service with more storage space.

RESOLVED to take the first option with a similar cost to what is paid currently – around £600 per year (includes website hosting and support).

3153/23

Planning Matters

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

Consultations - None.

Decisions

a) **Ref. No. DMPA/2023/0604 – 23 Wren Park Close, Findern**

The erection of a side extension and front canopy.
Approved (Delegated Decision).

b) **Ref. No. DMPA/2023/0596 – 1 East Lawn, Findern**

The erection of a canopy.
Approved (Delegated Decision).

Financea) 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 27/06/2023	P Sheehan – Balance for entertainment for Summer event on 8 July 2023	£450.00	£0.00	£450.00
BACS UTB 27/06/2023	Stage Connections – Balance for Hire of stage for Summer event on 8 July	£323.80	£64.76	£388.58
BACS UTB 27/06/2023	Easy Growing Landscapes – Work in May	£270.00	£0.00	£270.00
BACS UTB 27/06/2023	Zurich Insurance – additional premium for items covered for Summer event on 8 July	£56.00	£0.00	£56.00
BACS UTB 27/06/2023	SDDC – Hire of 12 x bins Summer event on 8 July 2023	£43.50	£8.70	£52.20
BACS UTB 27/06/2023	Kniftons Toilets – Balance for hire of toilets for Summer event on 8 July 2023	£645.00	£129.00	£774.00
BACS UTB 27/06/2023	Community Heartbeat – replacement pads for defib at Findern Primary School	£87.00	£17.40	£110.34
BACS UTB 27/06/2023	South Derbyshire CVS - Staff salaries June 2023	£1755.37	£0.00	£1755.37
BACS UTB 27/06/2023	SDDC – Annual Inspection of play equipment at KGV	£75.00	£15.00	£90.00
BACS UTB 27/06/2023	James Hackett – The BeatHearts payment for entertainment for Summer event	£776.10	£0.00	£776.10
BACS UTB 27/06/2023	Marshall's Marquees – Balance to pay for hire of lights for Summer event on 8 July	£91.66	£18.34	£110.00
DD UTB 30/06/2023	Bank Service Charge	£18.00	£0.00	£18.00
BACS UTB 13/07/2023	Fox Grounds Maintenance – work in June	£400.00	£80.00	£480.00
BACS UTB 13/07/2023	Security Kings Ltd – provision of security visits over weekend of Summer event July	£153.00	£30.60	£183.60
BACS UTB 13/07/2023	Melanie Eckersley - Annual Health and Safety Consultancy and Review of Safety Management System	£660.00	£0.00	£660.00
BACS UTB 13/07/2023	Shelter Maintenance Bus Shelter Cleaning In June	£39.15	£7.83	£46.98
BACS UTB 13/07/2023	Easy Growing Landscapes – work in June	£280.00	£0.00	£280.00

BACS UTB 13/07/2023	Clerk's Expenses from 08/06 to 12/07; phone, WFH allowance, mileage, zoom monthly subscription and postage.	£79.38	£2.60	£81.98
BACS UTB 13/07/2023	Reimbursement to Clerk for the purchase of 2 x Mobile Mains adapter kits for use with generators at events	£116.58	£23.32	£139.90
BACS UTB 13/07/2023	Reimbursement to M Ratcliffe for the purchase of 32-amp adapters for use with generators at events	£19.08	£0.00	£19.08
BACS UTB 13/07/2023	Reimbursement to T Brown for the purchases made from Chairman's allowance	£42.97	£0.00	£42.97
BACS UTB 13/07/2023	Spencer Academies Trust – Room Hire for two meetings in March and June 2023	£150.00	£0.00	£150.00
BACS UTB 13/07/2023	Community Heartbeat – replacement pads for defib at Village Hall	£56.95	£11.39	£68.34
BACS UTB 13/07/2023	Viking Direct Inks and Paper for the Clerk	£61.10	£12.22	£73.32
Multipay Corporate Card	Instantprint – 2000 A5 singled side flyers for Summer Event	£64.42	£0.83	£65.25
Multipay Corporate Card	Amazon Direct – 600m of vinyl bunting to use for summer event	£13.33	£2.66	£15.99
Multipay Corporate Card	Vinyl Banners printing Large 2m x 2.4m banner for summer event Party in the Park	£120.87	£0.00	£120.87
Multipay Corporate Card	Amazon Direct – 2 x LED hanging lights for use at Summer event	£12.74	£2.55	£15.29
Multipay Corporate Card	Vinyl Banners printing 3 X Summer Activities banners for promotion	£58.98	£0.00	£58.98

b) Members noted Income received: -

Date of credit	From	Into Account	Amount
30/06/2023	Interest on account	Nat West Reserve	£24.35
03/07/2023	Sarah Pritchard / Find Ltd. - Parish Rooms Rent	Unity Trust Bank	£333.33
07/07/2023	SDDC 2 nd payment of Precept 50%	Unity Trust Bank	£23,432.00

c) Bank Account Reconciliation Report/Budget Monitoring Reports

Members **NOTED** the Bank Account Reconciliation Report/Budget Monitoring Reports up to 30 June 2023 (including Current and Reserve Accounts Balances).

3155/23

Correspondence

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

- Police and Crime Commissioner's Newsletter – forwarded 16/06
- Derbyshire Association of Local Councils newsletter – forwarded 16/06

3156/23 Reports from Councillors attending meetings of outside bodies

There were no reports.

3157/23 Date of next meeting(s)

The next Meeting of the Parish Council would be held **at 7pm on Thursday, 14 September 2023**, at the Methodist Church, Lower Green, Findern DE65 6AD.

3158/23 Exclusion of press and public – if required

It was **RESOLVED** that in view of the nature of the business about to be transacted it was advisable that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.

3159/23 Exempt

Councillors discussed the rent review for the Parish Rooms.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm