

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 Highfields Spencer Academy, Tutbury Avenue, Highfields at 7.00pm on 12 October 2023

Present: Councillors T Brown, G Cooke, B Dosanjh, H Hettmann, S Holmes, M Ratcliffe, C Smith and M Woodhouse.

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

3178/23 Apologies for absence
No Apologies were **NOTED**.

3179/23 Declaration of members interests
None.

3180/23 Public Speaking

Members of the public:

- A resident reported that he had submitted supplementary questions to initial objections to the Planning application for the land off Porters Lane after changes were made to the application 2 days before closing date. Note, the application would go to Planning Committee for decision.
- A representative of the churches thanked the Parish Council for the donation of food items to the Harvest Festival; these items along with many others and £360 were given to the Padley Trust.
- A resident advised that training on the use of the defibrillator was being held at the Methodist Church on Monday 30 October at 6.30pm. This hands-on session was open to all.
- A representative from Findern Footpaths Group thanked the Parish Council for the donation towards equipment. Recently, 28 individuals from Alstrom had volunteered 150 hours of work at Cote Close and Cardales Meadow.
- A resident asked for an update on when Tutbury Avenue at Highfields would be completed, The Clerk would contact the planning officer at South Derbyshire District Council to ask whether the planned meeting with the consortium of developers had taken place.
- The Parish Warden had brought a gas canister to the meeting to show Members what he regularly found behind the shop precinct on Highfields. The Clerk would report this to the Safer Neighbourhood Team for them to monitor.
- A resident was concerned about parking at the junction of Main Street and Longlands Lane. The Clerk would report this via the portal on the County Council website.
- A resident updated the Council on the fly-tipping issue off Burton Road. Some of the fly-tipping had been removed, though there were still large items on site. Unfortunately, more fly-tipping had occurred. Councillor Ford advised that once the large items had been removed the District Council would move to put a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in place that would allow the road into the site to be gated to stop further fly-tipping.

Police Liaison Officer:

The South Derbyshire Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) Officer had given his apologies to the meeting; he had not submitted a report for the meeting. Residents should note - information

about the work of the SNT can be found on the Mercia SNT Facebook page. Also, 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 online contact form
- Phone – call the police on 101 for non-emergency matters.

District and County Councillor Reports:

Councillor Ian Hudson was present at the meeting and gave the following report: -

- The play area off Mackworth Avenue on the Highfields development was now open; however, there were still some issues to sort around the site.
- There was a new addition for the Mercia area of the Safer Neighbourhood Team – PC Marno joins PCSO David (Bob) Marley.
- The Environmental Development Committee had approved the designated area for the Findern Neighbourhood Development Plan; this would be the boundary of the Parish.
- South Derbyshire District Council had declared an ecological emergency; this will effect all future planning.
- SDDC were repeating last years 'free tree scheme'. In short, go online during October and individuals can claim 2 free tree plants. Organisations can claim up to 10.

Councillor Martyn Ford was present at the meeting and gave the following report: -

- Derbyshire District Council had reported that they were in a financially challenging situation; stating the high cost of adult social care being one of the main issues. They will maintain statutory services; however, they will have to make difficult decisions around other services.
- The County Council had made a commitment to plant £1 million trees before 2030 and would like these to be registered on their website.
- The Highways department at the County Council had discussions with Trent Barton about the re-routing of the Villager service through Highfields; though this was some way off as only 1 of the 4 phases of the route through Highfields were close to being adopted with the rest requiring work to be done before adoption.
- Councillor Ford had noted that some bus shelters in the village required cleaning. The Clerk would check whether these shelters were covered by the Parish Council's contract with Shelter Maintenance.

3181/23

Response to emails from residents

a) Litter bins in the new play area at Mackworth Avenue, Highfields

A resident reported that the litter bins in the new play area were too small and were always full to the brim. They requested that they were emptied on a regular basis, and maybe, larger bins installed instead.

The Clerk contacted the Consortium as they still had responsibility for the area; the area had not been handed over to the Greenbelt Group.

The Consortium had arranged for more frequent emptying of bins. The litter bins installed were as the specification submitted at the planning stage. The Council would have to wait until the Greenbelt Group took over the area before the Council can approach them about installing larger litter bins. The contact would check which other amenities were still to be installed for example, benches.

The Clerk also spoke to someone at the Consortium who had the responsibility for the completion of the sports area.

The sports pitch would be installed in the spring of 2024: they do not know yet whether the play area would close during the installation of the pitch.

3182/23 **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 14 September 2023 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

3183/23 **Variation of order of business**

None.

3184/23 **To determine which items, if any, of the Agenda should be taken with the press and public excluded**

None.

3185/23 **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman welcomed all to the October meeting of Findern Parish Council, which was held at Highfields Spencer Academy. There had been no Parish Council organised events since the last meeting but Members were working on forthcoming events for Remembrance Day and Christmas.

The annual audit of accounts for Findern Parish Council for the year ending the 31 March 2023 had been completed and the relevant notices published on the noticeboards. The audit paperwork was available to view on the Council's website; alternatively, hard copies could be requested from the Clerk.

As a Parish Council we were pleased to contribute £100 of food stuffs to All Saints Church as part of the Harvest Festival celebrations; all collections were donated to the Padley Centre. Thanks to the Clerk for delivering and arranging this.

It was with sadness that the Chairman announced the resignation of Councillor Adam Pratt, who had been on the Parish Council since July 2021, so just over two years. He had been a very valued and committed member of the team and would be greatly missed.

3186/23 **Report of the Parish Clerk**

a) **Porters Lane planning application**

The Objections raised by Members to this planning application had been submitted; this was as the draft wording sent to Councillors on 19 September. Clerk had requested an extension to the deadline for consultation, and had received the response that the planning department could not *"provide an extension beyond that date without first agreeing an extension of time as 21 days is the standard consultation period. Whilst the Council may submit comments at any time up to the determination date, it is much more helpful to provide any comments at the earliest opportunity, as the application could be determined at any time after the end of the consultation period."* Councillor Ford has asked for this application to be considered by the Planning Committee and not delegated to officers.

b) Findern Social Group

Sadly, the Findern Social Group had folded due to personal reasons, and lack of support from Findern residents. Their bank balance stood at £1260. Under their constitution rules, they gave: -

- £630 to the Local Air Ambulance
- £315 to Derbyshire Blood Bikes
- £315 to the charity, Mind.

The group thanked the Parish Council for their initial support to get the group up and running; they are very sad that they have not been able to make a continuing success of it, although the first two or three events were successful.

c) Bank Signatories

Progress on the new signatories had been made, individuals should have received emails from Unity Trust Bank with details of how to complete their registration.

d) SDDC Free tree scheme

The Council had received details of the Free Tree scheme from SDDC. This was mentioned by Councillor Hudson at the last meeting. Residents could choose two trees from a list; an organisation could choose 10 trees. Applicants must have an address in South Derbyshire. More details were available on SDDC website www.southderbyshire.gov.uk/freetreescheme Collection dates and points were at Rosliston Forestry Centre on Thursday, 30 November or Swadlincote Town Centre and Whistlewood, Melbourne on Saturday, 2 December. Applicants are welcome to attend these venues, or the trees could be brought to South Derbyshire District Council on the afternoon of 30 November – more information would be available nearer the time.

e) Committee/Working Group Membership update

This list was updated at the previous meeting; however, there were a couple of queries. Councillor Graham Cooke had now confirmed he was still willing to lead on the Neighbourhood Development Plan; and retired Councillor, Rosemary Rose had confirmed she would still like to be involved with the Remembrance Working Group (A Working Group can include non-Council members).

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

3187/23

Members Reports

a) Findern in Relief Fund

Councillor Cooke reported that the trustees had met and were now in a position to promote the fund; and advise residents on how to apply for funding.

b) Stanhope Woods

The Footpaths Group were still looking into purchasing a 10 foot shipping container to use as storage on the site. Permission for this had been given by the landowner.

Councillor Hettmann had applied for an Ordinance Survey Map to accompany the Felling Licence application. An Agent Authority Form had to be signed by the landowner, which would give the Parish Council the authority to act as his agent when applying for the Felling Licence. Once everything was in place, the Clerk would apply for the Felling Licence from the Forestry Commission.

RESOLVED that Councillor Ratcliffe would liaise with the landowner to have the Agent Authority Form signed and then return this to the Clerk who would proceed to the application for the Felling Licence.

c) Local / Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish

Members of the Parish Council had met with officers from the planning department at South Derbyshire District Council to discuss the next steps in the process now that the area had been designated for the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP).

RESOLVED that the Clerk would look into applying for funding from Locality to progress the NDP. An update would be brought to the next meeting.

d) Warm Welcome

As a trustee of the Village Hall and a Warm Space volunteer, Councillor Brown had submitted the following report: -

Findern Village Hall, CIO has reached its year end. Data had been provided by Gwen Johnson, who is responsible for the finances for the Village Hall.

The total donations received for the Warm Space scheme from January to March were £487.79, and from April to September, donations were £840.72; therefore, a total of £1328.51. Total costs for January to March were £445.59, and from April to September costs were £172.55; therefore, a total of £1218.14. Overall, donations have covered the food with a surplus of £110.37. Looking at the food cost individually, from January to March costs were £379.24 and from April to September costs were £749.06; therefore, £1128.30 in total.

438 people attended the Warm Space from January to March with 604 people attending from April to September; therefore, 1042 people in total. This gives a cost per person of 92p from January to March and £1.24 from April to September.

The funding the Warm Space had received would continue to contribute towards the costs of the cleaner and the cost of heating gas and electric. Councillor Brown was pleased to say that the scheme was continuing to host around 30 people each week and they were planning to continue through the winter months.

3188/23

Matters for discussion or determination

a) Remembrance arrangements for Village Green – Sunday 12 November 2023 at 10.30am

Members discussed arrangements for the Remembrance Day ceremony this year.

Installation on The Green would be scheduled for Saturday 28 November. Poppies would be installed on lamp posts around the same time; Councillor Cooke would check how many poppies remained after last year.

RESOLVED to donate £300 to the Royal British Legion (RBL), which includes the poppy wreath; and for the donation to the RBL requested by the maker of the purple poppy.

RESOLVED the Clerk could order additional lamp post poppies at £5 each, to replace those damaged last year, once number required was known.

RESOLVED that 3 more spot lights would be purchased for the installation. Councillor Woodhouse would send details to the Clerk to purchase the lights.

b) Arrangements for Christmas 2023

Findern Village

The event would be on Friday 1 December, meeting at 5.15pm on The Green for the Christmas Tree Switch-On with music and countdown to switch-on lights at 5.30pm; then back to Village Hall for mulled wine & mince pies, Santa's grotto, and children's entertainment from Loopy Lou and Hocus Pocus Magic.

RESOLVED the Parish Council would purchase mulled wine, hot chocolate and mince pies to donate towards refreshments.

RESOLVED the Parish Council would purchase some small gifts and sweets for Santa's Grotto or prizes for the children's games.

RESOLVED that Councillor Brown would do the countdown/Switch-on and Councillors Dosanjh, Holmes, Ratcliffe and Woodhouse would also make themselves available if possible to help in the afternoon for set up at Village Hall, during the event and afterward to clear away.

Highfields

Christmas Light Switch-on event – will be on Friday 1 December. Starting with the Christmas Tree Switch-On on Stafford Park with music then countdown, then back to Highfields Spencer Academy; the school would host refreshments and entertainment and will be combining the event with their Christmas Fair. Their Lead had confirmed that the PTA/Parents would get involved and organise and serve refreshments and the school would host the entertainment provided by Dream Parties, which involves games, music and a disco for 2 hours.

The school have asked whether the Light Switch-On can be earlier than the original time that was suggested, 5.30pm.

RESOLVED that the Switch-On would be scheduled to meet on Stafford Green at 4.30pm with switch-on about 4.45pm.

RESOLVED the Parish Council would purchase mulled wine, hot chocolate and mince pies to donate towards refreshments.

RESOLVED the Parish Council would purchase some small gifts and sweets for Santa's Grotto or prizes for the children's games.

RESOLVED that Councillor Cooke would do the countdown/Switch-on and Councillors Bram, Hettmann and Smith would also make themselves available if possible to help at school.

Festive Findern

Festive Findern Group had confirmed that their Christmas event this year would be on the last day of school, Friday 22 December 2023. The Parish Council was supporting the event with £550 towards services, which would be booked and paid for by the Parish Council.

The Clerk confirmed the road closure for The Green had been applied for; also, first aid provision had been requested from St. John Ambulance, though confirmation of availability had not yet been received.

c) Confirm bands for Summer Event – Party in the Park 6 July 2024

The Clerk advised that the band Waking Vegas had been confirmed for the event. A second act was still required. The Clerk had circulated some links to suggestions of bands for the summer event in 2024 that were on hold; an Abba tribute band and two solo/duo acts. Though some time away, the Council did need to book acts asap.

RESOLVED that the second act would be the Abba tribute band. The Clerk would confirm booking.

d) Moving of Speed Indicator Devices (VAS), reporting data and suggestion of additional unit
Councillor Holmes shared the latest data downloaded from the unit this month. It would also be shared with the Highways department.

On the query whether the 30mph site to the south of the village should be moved, the Clerk has still to visit the site with Councillors to look into this.

At the last meeting there was a query on the size of the SWARCO unit, whether it was too small. The Clerk had confirmed that the size of the SWARCO unit purchased by the Parish Council was the correct size specified by Highways.

There had been a query on whether the Council should purchase another VAS unit to use on the north side of the village, so each unit would swap between two sites rather than one unit between four sites. Purchasing and additional unit should be discussed at the Finance meeting in November and possibly included in the budget for next year.

e) Painting of goalposts at KGV

Members discussed a quote of £140 received for the painting of the goal posts at the King George V Playing Field.

RESOLVED to accept the quote for the painting of the goal posts and to schedule the work.

f) Winter Preparation - Salt grit stocks

The Clerk reported that the Lengthsman had checked all the grit bins around the village and they were full. There was still sufficient stock of salt grit to replenish the bins if needed.

RESOLVED that no further stock of salt grit be ordered. The Lengthsman would notify the Clerk after each frost if the bins were low; Councillor Woodhouse would replenish the bins when needed.

g) Support All Saints Church with funding towards cost of exterior lighting over the winter

Members discussed whether the Parish Council would like to contribute towards the cost of the exterior lighting of All Saints Church over the winter months. It is recognised that the lit church at the centre of the village is re-assuring throughout the period of dark nights.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council would contribute towards the cost of the exterior lighting of All Saints Church over the winter months; ideally, they would like to see the church lit each night between the end of October when the clocks come forward, to the end of March when the clocks go back.

h) Consideration of position of all noticeboards

Members discussed the position of the noticeboards in the village. It was decided that the one on Doles Lane, beside the bus stop, was not in the best position for passersby to see

the notices. It was suggested that it be moved to the opposite side of the road beside the footpath, which would be a better position. This was Highways land belonging to Derbyshire County Council.

RESOLVED the Clerk would approach Highways at Derbyshire County Council to seek permission to move the noticeboard onto their land.

3189/23

Planning Matters

RESOLVED in future that any planning applications of particular interest would be posted to the noticeboards, and to Facebook pages.

Consultations

None.

Decisions

None.

3190/23

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
16/09 Multipay Corporate Card	Monthly Card charge 02/09	£3.00	£0.00	£3.00
BACS DD NWC 19/09/2023	EON Electricity supply to the pillar on The Green	£17.36	£0.87	£18.23
BACS UTB 28/09/2023	DALC Planning Training for Cllr. Bram	£55.00	£0.00	£55.00
BACS UTB 28/09/2023	Viking Direct – purchase of inks and paper for Clerk and inks for Cllr Ratcliffe	£81.96	£16.39	£98.35
BACS UTB 28/09/2023	South Derbyshire District Council- Operational checks on Play equipment at KGV – August	£54.65	£10.93	£65.58
BACS UTB 28/09/2023	Findern Village Hall – Room Hire for Christmas Light Switch-On event	£136.50	£0.00	£136.50
BACS UTB 28/09/2023	Earth Anchors Ltd. Supply of dog bin and post for replacement bin at Common Piece Lane	£248.95	£49.79	£298.74
BACS UTB 28/09/2023	South Derbyshire CVS - Salaries for September	£1755.37	£0.00	£1755.37
BACS UTB 28/09/2023	Findern Footpaths Group – Funding towards work at Stanhope Wood	£1000.00	£0.00	£1000.00
DD UTB 30/09/2023	Quarterly Bank Service Charge – Unity Trust Bank	£18.00	£0.00	£18.00

BACS UTB 13/10/2023	Shelter Maintenance Ltd – Bus Shelter Cleaning in September	£39.15	£7.83	£46.98
BACS UTB 13/10/2023	Fox Grounds Maintenance – work in September	£400.00	£80.00	£480.00
BACS UTB 13/10/2023	O. Heap and Son Ltd. Annual Fire Extinguisher Service and Maintenance	£194.90	£38.98	£233.88
BACS UTB 13/10/2023	Clerk's expenses for 14/09 – 12/10 phone, mileage, WFH allowance, postage and Zoom subs.	£57.78	£2.60	£60.38
BACS UTB 13/10/2023	Deposit to Waking Vegas Band for July 2024 performance	£250.00	£0.00	£250.00
BACS UTB 13/10/2023	Express Lifts/Otis Ltd for annual service of lift in 2022	£221.64	£44.33	£265.97
BACS UTB 13/10/2023	South Derbyshire District Council- Operational checks on Play equipment at KGV – September	£54.65	£10.93	£65.58
BACS UTB 13/10/2023	Reimbursement to Clerk for Meeting refreshments 12 Oct 23	£22.49	£0.00	£22.49
BACS UTB 13/10/2023	Make me Something Special - 4-person engraved Coronation Bench for Highfields	£1314.99	£263.00	£1577.99

b) Members noted Income received: -

Date of credit	From	Into Account	Amount
31/08/2023	Interest on account	Nat West Reserve	£29.93
06/09/2023	VAT Reclaim up to end of 31 July 2023	Nat West Current	£2800.83
29/09/2023	Greenbelt Group Ltd contribution towards Xmas tree	Unity Trust Bank	£650.00
01/10/2023	Sarah Pritchard / Find Ltd. - Parish Rooms Rent	Unity Trust Bank	£333.33

c) Bank Account Reconciliation Report/Budget Monitoring Reports

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

3191/23

Correspondence

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

- Derbyshire Association of Local Councils September Newsletter – forwarded 04/10
- All Saints Church wrote to thank Councillor Woodhouse for his welcome to Rev. Alicia Dring at her licensing service on 14 September.
- All Saints Church also wrote to thank the Parish Council for the donation of food items to the Harvest Festival. Items will be donated to the Padley Trust along with the £350 raised.

3192/23 Reports from Councillors attending meetings of outside bodies

No reports were given.

3193/23 Date of next meeting(s)

The next Meeting of the Parish Council would be held at **7pm on Thursday, 9 November 2023**, at the Methodist Church, Lower Green, Findern, DE65 6AD.

3194/23 Exclusion of press and public – if required

Not required.

3195/23 Exempt

No matters were discussed in Exempt.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm