

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, DE65 6AD on Thursday, 9 November 2023 at 7.00pm.

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 16 members of the public.

3196/23 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Manjit Bram after the meeting.

3197/23 Declaration of members interests

Councillor B Dosanjh declared an interest in item 12.1 Planning Matters.

3198/23 Public Speaking

Members of the public:

- A number of residents had attended the meeting to raise their concerns about the planning application for the land off Common Piece Lane.
- A resident asked the Parish Council to report the large pot hole in the pavement on Doles Lane. The Clerk would report this.
- A resident reported that the road drains on Doles Lane needed clearing as there were weeds growing out of them. This causes an issue during heavy rain. The Clerk would report this.

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 not present at the meeting; however, he had submitted the following report: -

- The next Repton Area Forum Meeting (which includes Findern) will be on 24 January 2024, venue tbc.
- South Derbyshire District Council (SDDC) had accepted the 2024 Equalities Calendar.
- The next Planning Committee was on 14 November 2023; there were no applications to be considered for the parish of Findern.
- The Parish Council would soon receive a draft SDDC Council Plan (this plan was a list of the SDDC priorities for forthcoming years 2024-2028, with Key Performance Indicators), The consultation period ends 8 December 2023.

- The updated bin collection calendars were now available. The delivery of these calendars to each home had started. The calendar for Highfields was addressed as 'Littleover'. Councillor Hudson queried whether the Parish Council were happy for Highfields to be called 'Littleover' for Bin collection purposes. This was discussed by Members.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council would prefer that the Highfields area be known as Highfields; to be distinct as an area within the parish and within South Derbyshire District and not part of Littleover which is Derby City. The Clerk would write to South Derbyshire District Council for this to be actioned in the future.

Councillor Martyn Ford was not present at the meeting; however, he had submitted the following report: -

- The Planning Application for Porters Lane in Findern had been withdrawn. The applicant did not provide the extra details that Planners required to progress the application.
- A temporary fence had been erected at the entrance to the land off Burton Road to deter fly-tipping. Councillor Ford was hopeful that the process to begin a Public Space Protection Order would begin shortly. This would allow the Council to erect a permanent gate to the site to deter further fly-tipping.
- Councillor Ford had sent links relating to news from the County Council – see below. The first relates to progress with the East Midlands Combined County Authority now legislation has been passed in Parliament. The second is asking for residents to make comment on shaping the next budget to be set in the New Year.
<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/news-events/news-updates/news/east-midlands-devolution-moves-closer-to-reality.aspx>
<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/news-events/news-updates/news/help-to-shape-our-budget-for-next-year-in-new-residents-survey.aspx>

3199/23

Response to emails from residents

a) **Request for grass verge on Willington Road to be reinstated by Severn Trent's contractor**

A resident asked the Parish Council to ensure that the grass verge on Willington Road is reinstated after the contractors for Severn Trent had completed their work on site.

The Clerk contacted the Contractor to ask for an update and received a reply from Charles Booth at CPC Civils; he advised that a road sweeper would attend to keep on top of the mud and would continue to sweep regularly; also, the verges would be checked regularly and maintained as required. The company were still carrying out works in the area, including the field opposite the park and the fields to the west of number 25 Willington Road. The residents of Willington Road have Mr Booth's contact details and they were able to call him with any concerns.

b) **Request for Enhanced Security Measures and Police Action to stop vehicle thefts in Highfields**

A resident contacted the Parish Council reporting that his vehicle had been stolen from his driveway; he was also aware of other thefts and attempted thefts on the Highfields Estate. The incident had been reported to the local police department, however, he reported that he had no update on the actions taken by the police.

He requested that this matter be discussed in the upcoming council meeting; he would like the Parish Council to consider installing CCTV cameras at the entrance and exit to Highfields and that efforts be made to coordinate with the police department regarding their actions to retrieve his stolen vehicle.

The Clerk had replied to advise that the introduction of CCTV/Surveillance Cameras onto the Public Highway is not within the remit of a Parish Council. The introduction of such surveillance would be instigated by the Police and Highways following a rigorous assessment of need.

The Clerk also spoke to PCSO Bob Marley from the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) about the thefts on the estate; he gave assurances that the incident of theft was being taken very seriously. It was not being dealt with by the SNT, it had been referred to a specialist team that were dealing with a number of car thefts in the area. If the resident needed an update, he should contact the police directly quoting his crime reference number.

c) Light Pollution from Haulage Yard

A resident reported that a number of houses on Doles Lane have issues with light pollution from Yusen Logistics following the recent upgrade of the yard floodlights; now the leaves have fallen from the dividing trees, the front bedrooms are lit up at night.

The resident believes this is light pollution and that a lighting design hasn't been done for the upgrade. The resident had contacted the company via their website and had a response saying the company would look into it but it's been over a month and nothing more had been heard. The resident asked whether the Council could assist.

The Clerk has responded advising that this is a District Council matter as it was an Environmental Health issue. Permission had been sought to forward the original email to the Environmental Health team to look into and respond direct to resident.

3200/23 **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 12 October 2023 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

3201/23 **Variation of order of business**

RESOLVED that due to the large number of residents present interested in the planning application relating to the land at Common Piece Lane, that the Planning Applications item would be brought forward in the order on the Agenda.

3202/23 **Planning Matters**

Consultations

• **Ref. No. DMPA/2023/0918 – Land at Common Piece Lane, Findern**

Outline application for the erection of 15 dwellings (matters of access to be considered now with matters of layout, scale, appearance and landscaping reserved for later consideration).

RESOLVED that the Parish Council would object to this planning application on the grounds of access and road safety; also impact on environment.

Decisions

- **Ref. No. DMPA/2023/1068 - Farm House, Porters Lane, Findern**
Erection of seven dwellings to replace existing farmhouse.
(Application withdrawn).

3203/23

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

It was advised there was a staffing matter that should be taken with the press and public excluded.

3204/23

Chairman's Report

The Chairman welcomed all to the November meeting of Findern Parish Council. There had been no Parish Council social events to report on since the last meeting.

At the end of last month, a number of Parish Councillors along with Trevor Yeomans and Gary Brown helped to put up the Remembrance Day commemorative display on the Green. This included a new female silhouette and a purple poppy; the poppy was kindly made and donated by Ian and Caroline who have the horses on Common Piece Lane. The Chairman invited residents to join the Parish Council and both churches on the Green, on Sunday 12 November for the Remembrance Service starting at 10.30am.

The Council had one vacancy for a Parish Councillor, application forms could be obtained by contacting the Clerk or via the Council's website; the deadline for applications was Friday 24 November at 5pm.

3205/23

Report of the Parish Clerk

a) Update on Notice of Vacancy / Co-option of Councillor

The District Council had confirmed on Monday 3 November that no request for an election had been received for the Council's vacancy therefore the Council could proceed to Co-option for the vacancy. The vacancy had been advertised on the noticeboards, Council website and posted to the Council's Facebook page and Community Facebook pages with a closing date for applications at 5pm on Friday 24 November.

Co-option will take place at the next meeting on 14 December, with a meeting of candidates taking place prior to that date – possibly prior to Finance meeting on Tuesday 28 November – depending on number of applications.

b) All Saints Church – timing of exterior lighting over the winter

Following last month's meeting, the Clerk had contacted All Saints Church requesting that the lights be lit from dusk until 9pm each night, from late Oct to late March. Subsequently, some Councillors said the lights should be lit till 10pm. The Clerk had gone back to the Church Warden to ask if this was possible. The warden had responded saying they would re-set the lights to go off at 10pm; however, if the neighbours near the church complained about the lights being still lit at that time, they may have to revert to the earlier time.

c) Re-positioning of site for VAS in 30mph zone south of the village

The Clerk had emailed Highways requesting the pole in the 30mph zone south of the village be moved to the position requested originally. The request was accompanied by photos and the original document showing the preferred site. There had been no response to date.

d) New litter bin on Common Piece Lane

The Clerk was pleased to confirm the new larger dog waste bin for Common Piece Lane had been installed. Hopefully the large lorries passing would avoid it!

e) Coronation Bench for Highfields

The Clerk had received the formal licence to site the Coronation Bench, which had been signed and returned bar the plan showing exact position. The Clerk asked whether a Councillor could meet on site to decide where it should go. Councillor Smith said she could be available to do this.

f) Venues for meetings in 2024

The Council had received a letter from Andrew Adams, Spencer Academies Trust Senior Head of Operations advising that he had to regretfully inform the Council that Highfields Spencer Academy would no longer be available to accommodate further Findern Parish Council meetings. Unfortunately, at this time they were unable to guarantee that academy staff colleagues could be available to ensure the school site was locked and secured at the conclusion of the Findern Parish Council meetings.

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

3206/23

Members Reports

a) Findern in Relief Fund

Councillor Cooke reported there was no update.

b) Stanhope Wood

The application for works at Stanhope Wood had been submitted to the Forestry Commission. The Council should be notified within 28 days on the decision whether permission was granted or not.

The Footpaths Group were still looking into purchasing a 10 foot shipping container to use as storage on the site; however, they are struggling to source the correct size.

c) Local / Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish

The Clerk had written the application for Locality Funding to progress the NDP. Quotes had been obtained from two planning consultants whose services would support the process; as well as a quote to add dedicated pages to the Parish Council's website to host information about the progress of the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

RESOLVED that Helen Metcalfe was selected as the planning consultants whose services would support the process.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would ask Helen to check the application before submitting it to Locality.

d) Warm Welcome

The numbers continue to hold at around 20-30 people each week. During the 21 November 2023 session a free blood pressure clinic was held in the Jamie Taylor room by Ellen Guest, who is a Health Improvement community worker with Derbyshire County Council. The group were about to apply for another grant to ensure funding was available through the winter.

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. There was a discussion about whether additional lighting was needed on The Green

RESOLVED that the suggestion of additional lighting be added to the agenda for the next meeting for discussion.

- 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 that Councillor Brown, Dosanjh, Holmes, Ratcliffe and Woodhouse would make themselves available, if possible, to help during set up and on the evening.

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

RESOLVED that Councillors Bram, Cooke, Hettmann and Smith would make themselves available, if possible, to help during set up and on the evening.

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 4-8pm.

The Clerk confirmed the road closure for The Green had been granted; also, first aid provision from St. John Ambulance had been confirmed.

- c) Moving of Speed Indicator Devices (VAS)

The Clerk advised that the price from SWARCO to move the VAS was £415 not £285 as originally thought. The VAS need to be moved to the next site soon.

RESOLVED that the Council accept the quote from Hornby Ltd, they quoted £250 for moving the VAS. The next site was selected as the 40mph zone north of the village near the EDM Garage.

- d) Request for support from the Air Ambulance Service covering the Derbyshire area.

The Council had received a request from the Air Ambulance Service covering the Derbyshire area for support.

RESOLVED that the Council would make an initial donation of £500 from s137 monies; also, to make the organisation the Council's charity for the remainder of 2023 and throughout 2024. The Council would look at ways it could raise funds to support the charity.

3208/23

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
19/10 Multipay Corporate Card	Monthly Card charge 02/09	£3.00	£0.00	£3.00
19/10 Multipay Corporate Card	The Works - Christmas Gifts for Santa's Grotto	£141.67	£28.33	£170.00
19/10 Multipay Corporate Card	Royal British Legion Industries - Women in War Figure	£167.66	£33.34	£201.00
19/10 Multipay Corporate Card	Amazon Services Europe SarL - Christmas Gifts for Santa's Grotto	£9.16	£1.83	£10.99
BACS UTB 17/10/2023	Connect 19 Spot Lights for Remembrance Display	£207.87	£41.57	£249.44
BACS UTB 17/10/2023	Alive Network - deposit for Abba Tribute Band Summer 2024 event	£224.17	£44.83	£269.00
BACS UTB 17/10/2023	Community Heartbeat - replacement adult pads for garden centre defibrillator	£56.95	£11.39	£68.34
BACS UTB 26/10/2023	South Derbyshire CVS - Salaries for October	£1884.97	£0.00	£1884.97
BACS UTB 26/10/2023	Community Heartbeat replacement adult pads for School defibrillator	£108.95	£21.79	£130.74
DD UTB 26/10/2023	Easy Growing Landscapes work in September	£160.00	£0.00	£160.00
BACS UTB 26/10/2023	Firs Farm Nursery Winter Planting	£833.94	£166.79	£1000.73
BACS UTB 30/10/2023	Connect 19 Solar Lights for Remembrance Display	£209.93	£41.98	£251.91
UTB Cheque No. 300021	Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal – donation for wreath and purple poppy	£300.00	£0.00	£300.00
BACS UTB 10/11/2023	Fox Grounds Maintenance – work in October	£400.00	£80.00	£480.00
BACS UTB 10/11/2023	Include Creative – Annual Web Hosting and Maintenance Service Sept 2022 – Sept 2024	£1000.00	£200.00	£1200.00

BACS UTB 10/11/2023	Clerk's Expenses – Phone, WFH allowance, Mileage and Zoom subscription	£68.58	£2.60	£71.18
BACS UTB 10/11/2023	Viking Direct – Stationery – Inks and Paper for Cllr Brown	£59.18	£11.84	£71.02
BACS UTB 10/11/2023	South Derbyshire District Council – Monthly Operational check on play equipment at KGV	£54.65	£10.93	£65.58
BACS UTB 10/11/2023	Easy Growing Landscapes October work incl. installation of bin at Common Piece Lane	£210.00	£0.00	£210.00
BACS UTB 10/11/2023	South Derbyshire District Council – Summer Events for children	£1000.00	£200.00	£1200.00

b) Members noted Income received: -

Date of credit	From	Into Account	Amount
25/09/2023	Rent for land at Burton Road	Nat West Current	£1750.00
29/09/2023	Interest on account	Nat West Reserve	£29.00
01/11/2023	Sarah Pritchard / Find Ltd. - Parish Rooms Rent	Unity Trust Bank	£360.00

c) Bank Account Reconciliation Report/Budget Monitoring Reports

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

d) Members **NOTED** that a Finance Committee meeting would be held at 7pm on Tuesday 28 November 2023 at Methodist Church, Lower Green, Findern, DE65 6AD.

3209/23

Correspondence

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

- Derbyshire Association of Local Councils November Newsletter – forwarded 02/11

3210/23

Reports from Councillors attending meetings of outside bodies

No reports were given.

3211/23

Date of next meeting(s)

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

3212/23

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 in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.

3213/23

Exempt

Members were informed on a staffing matter.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm