

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, 11 January 2024 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors T Brown, B Dosanjh, H Hettmann, M Ratcliffe, C Smith and Yasmin Yeomans.

Also present: Kate Sharpe (Clerk) and 8 members of the public.

3241/24 Apologies for absence

Apologies were **NOTED** from Councillors M Bram, G Cooke, S Holmes and M Woodhouse.

3242/24 Declaration of members interests

Councillor Brown declared an interest in item 11.3 as a Trustee of Findern Village Hall.

3243/24 Public Speaking

Members of the public:

- A resident asked whether a Police representative would be invited to the Warm Space sessions. They were advised that PCSO Marley had been due to attend on 9 January 2024; however, he had to cancel on the day due to an incident that he had to attend.
- A resident reported that the potholes on Common Pieve Lane between the cemetery and Lower Green were getting worse, more so since the work at the Severn Trent site started. The resident would send photos to the Clerk who would then report the pot holes via the County Council's portal.
- A representative of Findern Footpaths Group advised there were no updates from the group; however, she confirmed that they had been successful in their bid for funding from Derbyshire Environment Trust (DET).
- A resident of Highfields had reported a large dangerous pot hole forming around a man-hole cover near bus stop on Rykneld Road. The Clerk would report this via the County Council's portal.
- A resident spoke to the meeting about an incident when a car driven at speed had failed to take the bend at the entrance to the village from Willington and had ended up in the garden of her house on Main Street. She was understandably concerned about this and asked the Parish Council if there was anything that could be done. She was advised that this was a Highways matter and the Clerk would contact the County Councillor asking for his support on this issue with Highways.

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 he gave the following report: -

- The next meeting of the Repton Neighbourhood Forum would take place on 24 January 2024 at 6.30pm in Newton Solney Village Hall. All residents were welcome to attend. The Chairman, Councillor T Brown would attend on behalf of the Council.
- There were no planning applications from Findern submitted to the Planning Committee at the District Council.
- There were several reports of pot holes; residents as asked to keep reporting these to Highways via the County Council's on-line portal.

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

- There was a serious situation at Findern School at the start of January; the Water Treatment Plant and Septic Tank pumping system failed. Work by the school and County Council meant that the school was able to re-open following the Christmas break. A major package of work to resolve these ongoing issues was being worked up by engineers for implementation in the near future. No timescales at present.
- The County Council was now into budget setting season, Cabinet papers were available on the County Council website, with very difficult decisions to be made going forward.
- Members have had a presentation on the future of County Hall. Options included working with the private sector, transforming the main buildings into a Hotel, Spa and Conference Centre, with a new office building to be constructed on the site that would accommodate 500 members of staff.
- Several local parishes were now looking at 'Flood Wardens' to assist when communities look like they might flood and if/when flooding does occur. Councillor Ford was asking the County Council to provide a package of signs and cones to parishes to help with this, enabling prompt action to warn motorists of potential risks.
- Anti-Social Behaviour had been noted and reported on Porters Lane, with a large bottle of NOX, balloons and other drug paraphernalia found in the field entrance before Airport Way footpath.
- The District Council was also into budget setting mode, Cllr Hudson may have more details on impacts for Parishes.

3244/24

Response to emails from residents

None.

3245/24

Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 14 December 2023 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman of the meeting subject to one amendment: - Minute 3224/23 stated: - *Planning Officers had been out to Porters Lane development site to reinstate the boundary.* The accuracy of this was queried by a resident who had been present at the December meeting. The Clerk subsequently checked with Councillor Ford, and the Minute was corrected to: - *In reference to the boundary of the Porter's Lane site, the SDDC Planning Enforcement Officer attended the site and found no cause for concern regarding works or boundary.* As an update on this Councillor Ford advised he would be taking this up with DCC Highways, asking them to look into any incursion into the Highway by soil that had been displaced when the tress and hedges were removed from the boundary.

3246/24 Variation of order of business

None.

3247/24 To determine which items, if any, of the Agenda should be taken with the press and public excluded

None.

3248/24 Chairman's Report

The Chairman welcomed all to the January meeting of Findern Parish Council, wishing everyone present a Happy New Year. The Chairman welcomed the recently co-opted Councillor, Yasmin Hughes to her first meeting.

The Chairman reported that the Parish Council were pleased to work with the Festive Findern group and be a part of the 22 December 2023 Christmas celebrations. This event was organised by Dawn Foote and Robert Taylor, but thanks must be given to Santa, Ian Oliver and all of the festive elves for help on the day. The weather was most definitely against us, which meant a change in venue, so thanks to the Village Hall Trustees for allowing us to use the hall at the last minute. Roughly £1500 was raised for Findern Primary School.

Just before Christmas a drop-in session at the village hall took place regarding the Neighbourhood Development Plan for the parish; this gave residents the opportunity to come along and have their say about their community. A further session took place on the 9 January and another would take place on Saturday 13 January in Findern Village Hall at 2.30-4.30pm; all are welcome to attend; every person's opinion is helpful. There would be a further meeting in Findern Village Hall on Wednesday 23 January at 7.15pm for anyone interested in being part of the steering committee for the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

3249/24 Report of the Parish Clerk

a) Update on completion of Tutbury Drive on Highfields

The Clerk advised Members that work to complete the road surface of Tutbury Avenue on Highfields would commence on 8 January and, weather permitting, would be completed by 25 January 2024.

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

3250/24 Members Reports

a) Findern in Relief Fund

Councillor Cooke was not present therefore this item was deferred.

b) Stanhope Wood

The felling works at Stanhope Wood would commence on 27 February 2024. The Footpaths Group had now sourced a 10 foot shipping container to use as storage on the site; and may now have found a solution for it to be delivered and positioned on site.

c) Local / Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) for the Parish

The Locality Funding awarded - £6812.00 - to support the work on the NDP up till 31 March 2024 had been deposited in the Council's bank account. It had also been confirmed that AECOM would supply Technical Support; specifically for a Housing Needs Assessment and Design Code for the parish. Drop-in sessions at Findern Village Hall had been arranged for Saturday 16 December 2023, 9 January 2024 and 13 January 2024 for residents to find out more about what is involved and give them the opportunity to come along and have their

say about what they like about the parish, what they don't like, and what they would like to change. This feedback would inform discussion moving forward as the Neighbourhood Plan develops. There would be a further meeting in Findern Village Hall on Wednesday 23 January at 7.15pm for anyone interested in being part of the steering committee for the Neighbourhood Development Plan. The planning consultant, Helen Metcalfe was meeting Councillors Brown and Hettmann on 16 January 2024 to be shown around the parish.

d) Warm Welcome

A successful festive session was held on 19 December, serving turkey and stuffing cobs, mince pies and chocolate log, along with Baileys coffee. Around 40 people attended, the highest number yet! Warm Welcome had started back on 9 January with jacket potatoes and a variety of fillings. The group had been successful in their bid for funding from SDCVS and would be keeping them informed on the sessions via monitoring forms.

3251/24

Matters for discussion or determination

a) Easter Events – Highfields and Findern Village

Members discussed holding an Easter event in the parish. The one at Highfields in 2023 had been well attended and well-received.

RESOLVED to hold another Easter event with Dream Parties at Highfields. Clerk would ask for a 2-hour booking from Dream Parties over the Easter weekend at a cost of £260.00. It was also agreed to recompense the Parish Warden for the use of electricity for the event.

b) Summer Event 2024 – Party in the Park on 6 July 2024 – Marquee, Staging, Toilets etc.

Members considered options and costs brought to the meeting by the Clerk for Marquee, Staging, Toilets etc.

RESOLVED to book Dovedale mobile toilet unit plus a Disabled toilet unit from Kniftons Ltd. at a cost of £775.00 plus vat.

RESOLVED to book large trailer stage from Stage Connections at a cost of £1650.00 + vat

RESOLVED to hold a meeting in next 2-3 weeks to discuss other aspects about the summer event. Clerk would look into how long it took bands to change over on stage.

c) Village Fete on 6 July 2024, Noon – 4pm

The Village Hall Trustees had suggested that they hold the Village Hall Fete during the day of the Party in the Park – Saturday 6 July, 12 noon till 4pm, using the Village Hall, The Green and Hillside Recreation Park for various activities. Members were supportive of this.

RESOLVED that: -

- The Village Fete could use the Village Green for some of the activities.
- The Clerk would seek the necessary permissions from South Derbyshire District Council to use the park both for the Fete and for the Party in the Park.
- The Parish Council would donate £500.00 from s137 fund towards the organisation of the Fete; for goods/services such as the band that will be hired to play on the day; also, for First Aid Cover from St. John Ambulance (which the Clerk would book).

d) New electrical circuit for The Green

No information or quotes for a new circuit had been brought to the meeting.

RESOLVED to defer this item until a future meeting.

e) New posts and planters for The Green

No information or quotes for a new posts and planters had been brought to the meeting.

RESOLVED to defer this item until a future meeting.

f) Additional signage on bend at Main Street

Further to the resident's report in public speaking about the dangers from cars travelling at speed not seeing the bend at the corner of Health Lane and Main Street at the entrance to the village, Members discussed possible solutions to this. The Clerk advised that these concerns had been discussed by the Parish Council in the past; at that time Councillor Ford had worked with the Highways Officer from the County Council, who had confirmed that some alteration to the road surface/markings would be made to make it safer. The Clerk was not sure whether this work had ever been carried out.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would contact Councillor Ford to raise the concerns expressed about the safety measures in place at the site; also, to ask him to speak to Highways Officers once more to explore whether there was anything else that could be done e.g., chevrons to be installed at the corner.

g) PCC letter suggesting precept discount for Special Constables

Members discussed the request to offer a discount on the precept for Special Constables. This was something that was been offered by other counties and is now being considered in Derbyshire because of the Police and Crime Commissioner's request. Members were interested to know what the District Council intended to do; also. How they would manage the reduction in amount collected from relevant people. No information was forthcoming on this.

RESOLVED to delay discussion and decision until the District Council had made a decision on this.

h) Increase number of Members: petition for Community Governance Review

Members discussed the process of increasing the number of Members on the Parish Council; this could be part of a wider review of a change of name for the Council; also, whether to have wards for the village and for Highfields. This would be by way of petition to the District Council requesting a Community Governance Review. Any changes would not come into force until May 2027.

RESOLVED to defer any decision on this until a later date. To be reviewed in 6-12 months.

3252/24

Planning Matters

Clerk advised that there had been an error on the issue Agenda and asked Members to **NOTE** that under Decisions, Ref. No. DMPA/2023/0918 referred to Land off Common Piece Lane, Findern and not to Land at Archway Motors has stated on Agenda.

Consultations

- **Ref. No. DMPA/2023/1585 – 8, The Green, Findern**
Erection of ancillary room.

Decisions

- **Ref. No. DMPA/2023/1068 – Land off Porter's Lane, Findern**
Erection of seven dwellings to replace existing farmhouse.
(Application withdrawn.)

- **Ref. No. DMPA/2023/0918 – Land off 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).

(Application withdrawn.)

3253/24

Finance

a) **Budget setting for 2024/25 and setting of Precept**

Members had previously discussed possible projects for 2024/25 civic year at the Finance Committee meeting in December and a draft budget had been prepared. Members considered this draft budget which was submitted to the January meeting for approval.

RESOLVED to approve the budget for 2024/25 as set out in the APPENDIX of these Minutes. The Parish Council had been advised by South Derbyshire District Council that the concurrent function allocation would be frozen at the 2023/24 rate and the Council Tax Support scheme would remain the same.

Following consideration of the proposed budget and a discussion by Members it was **RESOLVED** that a precept figure of £49,852.00 be set by the Parish Council. With a Council Tax Base of 1554, this would reflect a 5% increase to households in Findern and equates to £32.08 per year for a Band D property, an increase of £1.53 from the previous year.

b) **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
18/12 Multipay Corporate Card	Vinyl Banners Printing - Highfields Christmas Event banner	£56.28	£0.00	£56.28
18/12 Multipay Corporate Card	Ebay UK Ltd. LED Candles for Christmas Event at Highfields	£25.96	£5.20	£31.16
18/12 Multipay Corporate Card	Ebay uk Ltd. New rubber ends for litter picker	£17.62	£0.00	£17.62
18/12 Multipay Corporate Card	Vinyl Banners Printing - Findern Christmas Event banners	£81.38	£0.00	£81.38
18/12 Multipay Corporate Card	Instantprint – 1000 A5 singled side flyers for Highfields Christmas Event	£44.14	£0.83	£44.97
18/12 Multipay Corporate Card	Amazon AUX Cable for PA System for Christmas Event	£6.99	£0.00	£6.99
18/12 Multipay Corporate Card	Vending Superstore - Disposables and Hot Chocolate for Christmas events	£120.60	£15.89	£136.49
18/12 Multipay Corporate Card	Ram Online Ltd. Toy cars for Santa's Grotto Christmas Event	£7.91	£1.58	£9.49
18/12 Multipay Corporate Card	Morrisons PLC Mulled Wine and Mince Pies for Christmas Event	£62.35	£11.05	£73.40
18/12 Multipay Corporate Card	Morrisons PLC Mulled Wine and Mince Pies for Christmas Event	£106.59	£13.12	£119.71

18/12 Multipay Corporate Card	Buy Definition Ltd. 3 packs of white cable ties for candy canes	£11.19	£2.25	£13.44
18/12 Multipay Corporate Card	Monthly Card charge 02/12	£3.00	£0.00	£3.00
BACS UTB 21/12/2023	South Derbyshire CVS - Salaries for December	£1691.88	£0.00	£1691.88
BACS UTB 21/12/2023	Guiding Sparks Circus - entertainment for 22 December event	£350.00	£0.00	£350.00
BACS UTB 21/12/2023	Workwear Express, High Viz Vests 3 No. Large	£18.72	£3.74	£22.46
BACS UTB 21/12/2023	Viking Direct - stationery for Clerk inks and paper	£62.55	£12.51	£75.06
BACS UTB 21/12/2023	Hornsby Ltd. Moving of VAS equipment	£208.33	£41.67	£250.00
DD UTB	Bank Service Charge	£18.00	£0.00	£18.00
BACS UTB 12/01/2024	Shelter Maintenance Ltd. Bus Shelter cleaning	£39.15	£7.83	£46.98
BACS UTB 12/01/2024	O Heap and Son Ltd. Fire Alarm Annual Service	£189.00	£37.80	£226.80
BACS UTB 12/01/2024	Fox Ground Maintenance December work	£400.00	£80.00	£480.00
BACS UTB 12/01/2024	Lite Ltd. Supply of Highfields Christmas tree, install, switch-on and removal	£2385.00	£477.00	£2862.00
BACS UTB 12/01/2024	Findern Village Hall Room Hire for NDP events on 9, 13 and 23 January 2024	£90.00	£0.00	£90.00
BACS UTB 12/01/2024	Findern Village Hall Room Hire for Christmas Event 22 December 2023	£84.00	£0.00	£84.00
BACS UTB 12/01/2024	Clerk's expenses, Phone, Mileage, WFH Allowance, Zoom Subscription	£90.18	£2.60	£92.78
BACS UTB 12/01/2024	St. John Ambulance for Findern Fest 2024	£105.60	£21.12	£126.72
BACS UTB 12/01/2024	SD CVS Winter Giving Campaign – s137 donation to charity food bank	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00
BACS UTB 12/01/2024	SDDC Monthly operational check on KGV play area.	£54.65	£10.93	£65.58

a) Members noted Income received: -

Date of credit	From	Into Account	Amount
27/12/2023	Grant from Groundworks for NDP	Unity Trust Bank	£6812.00
01/01/2024	Sarah Pritchard / Find Ltd. - Parish Rooms RentE	Unity Trust Bank	£360.00

b) Bank Account Reconciliation Report/Budget Monitoring Reports

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

3254/24

Correspondence

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

- South Derbyshire Budget Consultation – forwarded 21/12
- Conservative Group's response to the possible review by SDDC of concurrent function payments – forwarded 05/01

3255/24

Reports from Councillors attending meetings of outside bodies

Members **NOTED** that the next Repton Area Forum meeting was at 6.30pm on Wednesday, 24 January 2024 at Newton Solney Village Hall. Councillor T Brown would attend the meeting.

3256/24

Date of next meeting(s)

The next Meeting of the Parish Council would be held at **7pm on Thursday, 8 February 2024**, at the Methodist Church, Lower Green, Findern, DE65 6AD.

3257/24

Exclusion of press and public – if required

Not required as no items were discussed.

3258/24

Exempt

No items were discussed.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm

APPENDIX

DRAFT FINDERN PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET 2024 - 2025				
	2023/24 Precept/Budget (Precept +/- 0%, +/- 0% from SDDC on CF, +/- £0 from SDDC on SG) £30.55 per Band D property, CTB 1534			2024/25 Precept/Budget (Precept +/- 0%, +/- 0% from SDDC on CF, +/- £0 from SDDC on SG) £30.55 per Band D property, CTB 1554
	Budget 2023/24	2023/24 End of Year Estimate	INCOME	Budget 2024/25
	£ 46,864.00	£ 46,864.00	Precept (raised via SDDC)	£ 47,475.00
	£ 1,135.00	£ 1,135.00	Support Grant from SDDC	£ 1,135.00
	£ 15,000.00	£ 15,000.00	Concurrent Function from SDDC	£ 15,000.00
	£ 100.00	£ 300.00	Interest from Business Reserve account	£ 950.00
	£ 4,000.00	£ 4,100.00	Parish Room Income estimated	£ 4,320.00
	£ 7,000.00	£ 7,000.00	Rent from land on Burton Road	£ 7,000.00
	£ 385.00	£ 385.00	Footpath Grants £385 + NDP Grant £10,000	£ 10,385.00
	£ -	£ 7,656.00	Other (Greenbelt donation for tree)	£ 650.00
	£ 5,000.00	£ 6,000.00	VAT reclaim	£ 6,000.00
Sub-Total	£ 79,484.00	£ 88,440.00	Sub-Total	£ 92,915.00
	£ 10,701.30	-	Required Transfer from Balances	£ 24,670.00
	£ 90,185.30	£ 88,440.00	Total	£ 117,585.00
	Budget 2023/24	End of Year 2023/24 Estimate	EXPENDITURE	Budget 2024/25
	£ 8,500.00	£8,500.00	Grounds Maintenance / Gardening	£ 8,900.00
	£ 5,000.00	£1,500.00	Parish Rooms/The Green Maintenance&Costs	£ 5,500.00
	£ 2,000.00	£1,000.00	Findern Amenity Hardware/ Maintenance	£ 2,000.00
	£ 3,500.00	£1,315.00	Highfields Amenity Hardware/ Maintenance	£ 3,500.00
	£ 1,000.00	£1,000.00	KGV Playing Field Items	£ 1,000.00
	£ 600.00	£600.00	Garden of Remembrance	£ 600.00
	£ 385.00	£385.00	Footpath Maintenance	£ 385.00
	£ 1,500.00	£150.00	Bus Shelter Maintenance	£ 1,500.00
	£ 2,500.00	£2,500.00	Refuse Collection / Dog Waste Bin	£ 2,500.00
	£ 3,000.00	£1,500.00	Donations S137	£ 3,000.00
	£ 21,500.00	£21,500.00	Staff Salaries / Payroll	£ 23,000.00
	£ 700.00	£700.00	Phone/WFH Allowance/Travel	£ 700.00
	£ 1,500.00	£2,500.00	Admin. costs.	£ 2,000.00
	£ 1,500.00	£0.00	Newsletter x 2 per year	£ 1,500.00
	£ 500.00	£500.00	Chairs Allowance	£ 500.00
	£ 1,000.00	£200.00	Training	£ 200.00
	£ 500.00	£495.00	Audit Fees	£ 650.00
	£ 800.00	£1,075.00	DALC / SLCC / ICO SUBS	£ 1,100.00
	£ 2,000.00	£1,860.00	Legal Fees/ Risk and Insurance	£ 2,000.00
	£ 2,500.00	£228.00	Election	£ -
	£ 1,700.00	£2,700.00	Christmas event	£ 2,700.00
	£ 3,500.00	£4,550.00	Easter Event / Summer Event	£ 5,750.00
	£ 300.00	£680.00	Remembrance Event	£ 300.00
	£ 500.00	£1,060.00	Sportsmobile	£ 1,200.00
	£ 1,200.00	£5,265.00	VAS / Speedwatch	£ 5,000.00
	£ 3,500.00	£3,500.00	Stanhope Wood	£ 3,500.00
	£ 2,600.00	£1,000.00	Afternoon Club at Village Hall	£ 2,600.00
	£ 1,800.00	£2,385.00	Christmas Tree at Highfields	£ 2,500.00
	£ 4,600.00	£0.00	Gateways signs x 4 at entrances to village	£ 5,000.00
	£ -	£0.00	New electric supply to The Green	£ 3,000.00
	£ -	£0.00	New posts/ hanging baskets for The Green	£ 5,000.00
	£ 2,500.00	£4,000.00	Contingency / Miscellaneous	£ 2,500.00
	£ 8,812.00	£8,812.00	Neighbourhood Development Plan	£ 12,000.00
	£ 5,000.00	£6,000.00	VAT	£ 6,000.00
	£ 96,497.00	£ 87,460.00	TOTAL	£ 117,585.00