

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, 8 February 2024 at 7.00pm.

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

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

3259/24 Apologies for absence

Apologies were **NOTED** from Councillors S Holmes and Yasmin Yeomans. Councillor Bram was not present at the meeting.

3260/24 Declaration of members interests

Councillor Woodhouse declared an interest in item 18.1 as the leaseholder of land at Burton Road.

3261/24 Public Speaking

Members of the public:

- A resident suggested that the Council could appoint a technical assistant to support the planning application decisions. Members were interested in the suggestion and asked for this to be included in next month's Agenda.
- A resident reported that parking around Lower Green continued to be a problem and asked whether the Parish Council could write a letter to all residents asking them to use their own driveways and allocated parking, if possible, in order to keep the small car park at the back of the church free for visitors. Members agreed that a letter could be circulated, the Clerk would prepare a draft and circulate it to Members. The resident also asked whether a sign could be posted outside the cottage on the right going down Common Piece Lane asking people to not park at that point as this made the road too narrow for passing vehicles. This would be put onto next agenda.
- A resident wanted to thank the volunteers who worked at the Warm Welcome event on Tuesdays. Their efforts were much appreciated.
- A resident asked whether the roads around The Green, specifically the speed bumps could be reported to Highways as a trip hazard. The white lines were so faded, they were not visible and several people had tripped on these. The Clerk would contact Highways about this.
- A resident reported that the hedge to the rear of a property on Hillside was so overgrown, it was causing an issue for larger vehicles to drive up Porter's Lane. The hedge needed to be cut back to the boundary line of the property. The Clerk would write a letter to the property owner asking for the hedge to be cut back.

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 had given his apologies to the meeting; however, he had submitted the following report: -

- He was not aware of any Findern planning applications due for Planning Committee consideration at the moment.
- The Area Forum meeting in Newton Solney had been well-attended; however, South Derbyshire District Council were currently looking at the effectiveness of these Area Forum meeting. If Findern Parish Council had any thoughts on improving attendance and engagement, now would be a very good time to pass these on.
- The public budget consultation for Council Tax setting 2024/25 had now concluded. Current times were difficult times for Councils; the final decision on South Derbyshire District Council Tax increases would be made by full council towards the end of February; however, a 2.99% increase seemed the likeliest outcome.
- There were two elections coming up on 2 May 2024; to elect a Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire; and for the first time ever, an East Midlands Mayor for the combined regional authority of Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.

Councillor Martyn Ford had given his apologies to the meeting; however, he had submitted the following report: -

- The issue with the road drains on Burton Road was not easy to resolve. Derbyshire County Council have looked at it and may need to check drains with a video scope to see whether they are clear. Also, the fall in the road is very shallow; it could need the system replacing which would need a capital project passing. Councillor Ford said he would keep this current.
- Regarding the accidents at the bend in the road at Main Street at the south entrance to the village; Highways were looking at options. Any works that were recommended would start after April.
- Note a new gate had been fitted at the entrance to the road off Burton Road near the A38 roundabout. This was to prevent further fly tipping there.

3262/24

Response to emails from residents

a) Flooding on Burton Road

A resident had contacted the Parish Council to ask whether anything could be done to sort out the constant flooding problem on Burton Road.

The Clerk had advised that this was matter for Highways at Derbyshire County Council and had forwarded the contents of the email to Councillor Ford asking whether there was any information he could give to the resident and the Council about any potential work that was going to be carried out by Highways in the area.

3263/24

Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 11 January 2024 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

3264/24

Variation of order of business

None.

3265/24

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

Members **NOTED** there was one item regarding the leasehold of the land at Burton Road that should be taken with the press and public excluded.

3266/24

Chairman's Report

The Chairman welcomed all to the February meeting of Findern Parish Council.

Since the last meeting, the Parish Council had been working on progressing the plans for the Summer Event due to take place on 6 July, Party in the Park. An extra informal meeting had taken place to discuss the event; and to confirm bookings with various suppliers. The Chairman thanked all the Councillors for attending that extra meeting.

The Members were looking forward to the Findern Village Hall Fete being held on the same day and were working closely with the Village Hall Trustees to make it a day to remember!

A meeting had taken place regarding the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). This was with Helen Metcalfe, the planning consultant and the dozen or so members of the public who had come forward to form the steering group for the NDP. The Chairman thanked the Councillors who had attended this meeting. This process of developing a NDP was slow, but it was moving forward and the parish was very lucky to have extremely knowledgeable people in the group.

3267/24

Report of the Parish Clerk

a) **Easter event date and time update**

Gill at Dream Parties had confirmed she had availability on Good Friday, 29 March 2024 11am to 1pm. The cost would be £260 for two hours. Members agreed to the booking for the event and the Clerk would now advertise the event via banners and leaflets around the parish, on the Parish Council's website and on Facebook; also taking an advert in the community magazines that are circulated in the village and in Highfields.

b) **DCC proposed RTI at two bus stops in Findern**

Derbyshire County Council, as part of their expanding public transport information support upgrade, would soon be installing 2 x digital real-time information (RTI) bus time displays in the village. The two bus stops to benefit would be the one on The Green; and the one on Doles Lane on the Derby bound side of the road, just down from The Green. DCC hoped to have the works completed by the spring, if all went according to plan.

c) **Barrier erected at side to fly tipping on Burton Road**

The Lengthsman reported that contractors had erected a gate to the entrance to the site on Burton Road that has been decimated by fly tipping. He was advised by the contractors that the gate would have a substantial lock on it. They assumed Highways would have the key as it's them that commissioned the job. They also stated that the District Council had been kept informed about the work. There was still a significant amount of fly tipping remaining at the site that had not yet been removed.

d) Additional signage on bend at Main Street

Following the discussion at last month's meeting about the need for additional signage on the bend at Main Street; the Clerk had contacted Councillor Ford asking him to speak to Highways about the issue at this site. Councillor Ford had forwarded the reply that he had from Highways: - *I have looked at the situation, which appears to have raised itself again. It does appear we are incurring persistent issues with the reports of vehicles losing control around the bend at the junction with Longlands Lane. Therefore, it is evident we have some issues with the likely combination of the road surface and alignment...I will have a look at this in some detail, as whether we go down the chevron route or installation of some high friction surface treatment around the bend, it will not be something we can issue until April at the earliest for programming into the work schedule for later in the year. I will come back to you when we have had a chance to look at this in more detail.*

e) Missing pathways on high field development

Further to this issue being highlighted at a previous meeting, the Clerk contacted the customer director at Taylor Wimpey, who is the developer responsible for the footpaths in question. The Clerk had received a response from the customer director, just advising that they were trying to seek a meaningful update that the Clerk could share at this meeting. Unfortunately, no update had been received. The Clerk will continue to press for a response.

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

3268/24

Members Reports

a) Findern in Relief Fund

Councillor Cooke had drafted an advert for people to apply to the fund. There was a meeting in two weeks where the advert would be approved then issued. The Clerk was asked to arrange for a dedicated email address to be set up for the fund.

b) Stanhope Wood

Councillor Hettmann updated the Members on works at Stanhope Wood.

- A 150-metre hedge and been planted and mulched.
- The felling works at Stanhope Wood would commence on 27 February 2024.
- A 10 foot shipping container to use as storage on the site had been sourced; however, the group were still looking for a solution for it to be delivered and positioned on site. It may need a low loader to be hired to deliver to the site.

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

Councillor Brown reported that she had been into a geography class at Findern Primary School to talk to the children about the Neighbourhood Development Plan and to gain some input from the children. The session had gone well.

Councillor Cooke gave an update on the progress of the plan. The first meeting of the steering group had taken place on 6 February with next steps agreed with the planning consultant Helen Metcalfe. There had been a good number of people come forward to be on the steering group, with some valuable experience and knowledge. Before the next steering group meeting on 5 March 2024, the members were splitting into groups to map different aspects of the parish such as Key Views, Local Green Spaces, Flora & Fauna and Heritage sites.

Councillor Cooke also reported that pupils were designing a logo to use as the branding for Findern's Neighbourhood Development Plan.

d) Warm Welcome

The Warm Welcome had a very busy month; the numbers had risen to around 40 people attending each week. This was mainly to returning visitors, but each week does seem to bring a couple of new faces. The Warm Welcome takes place every week as a free event; with everyone welcome to attend, no matter what their circumstances. Councillor Brown completed an end of month monitoring form for South Derbyshire CVS.

3269/24

Matters for discussion or determination

a) Update on Summer Event 2024 – Party in the Park on 6 July 2024

- The Clerk had spoken to both bands to explain the logistics and they both said the stage was workable. However, it was advised that the norm would be to have sound engineer with guitar amps so they manage PA equipment; the Clerk would enquire about the costs of these as it is something to look into for next year.
- The bands queried what lighting there would be; the Clerk would check cost of lighting with Stage Connections.
- Ice Cream Van is confirmed for evening only (not available in the day time.)
- The Clerk was concerned about overall cost, as items confirmed already had taken this event over budget.
- The Clerk had circulated a link to Marshall's Marquees for Members to see the sizes that are available. Members discussed whether the cost of the Marquee could be justified. Members were keen to have an option if weather was rainy as in the previous year.

RESOLVED to book a 6m x 16m Marquee at cost of £655

b) Purchase of additional VAS equipment

Members discussed the purchase of an additional VAS unit so that there was one for each entrance to the village, swapping between two sites each.

RESOLVED to purchase another unit (as original) from SWARCO at cost of £3952.00 + VAT

c) Electric supply issue at Highfields for Christmas Tree

The Clerk had been made aware of an issue with the way the Christmas Tree at Highfields was connected up to the lighting column by a wire running from the top of tree to the top of the lighting column; Derbyshire County Council (DCC) engineer had said that this was not compliant. The lighting column was not adopted by DCC in 2023, but now the road had been completed, the road and lighting would be adopted and therefore the connection would have to be compliant by Christmas 2024. The Clerk had emailed the engineer at DCC to ask for advice on what permissions and licences would be required; also asking the contractor who installs the lights, for advice: - their response was: - *There is an issue in Findern once the columns are adopted. The best way to resolve is to take an underground supply from the column to the tree position in an armoured cable, and install a feeder pillar with external weatherproof socket at that location. Approx. cost would be around £1,000 + VAT.*

RESOLVED that as the lighting column was not yet adopted there was time to explore options. The Clerk would make more enquiries with other parishes through DALC as to their resolution of this issue, and bring an update to the next meeting.

d) Overspend for Findern Fest

The Council had received an invoice from a face painter for the Findern Fest event for £135; if the Council pay this it will bring the total of items paid for to £674.60. So far £539.60 has been spent: - St. John Ambulance £105.60, Room Hire for Village Hall to host event £84.00, Guiding Sparks Circus £350.00. The Parish Council originally approved £550 to support for the event. The Clerk had checked with organiser and all money raised had now been paid over to the school; If the Parish Council cannot pay the invoice, then the organiser will have to ask for money back from the school to pay it.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council would pay this invoice; however, in future years a list of items to be paid for by the Parish Council must be sent to the Clerk prior to the event.

e) Signing of DET grant paperwork re. Findern Footpaths Group

In order to obtain a grant from the Derbyshire Environment Trust (DET), at the December meeting, Members were asked to support an agreement between Findern Footpaths Group (FFG) and Derbyshire Environment Trust that the public would have access to the land at Cote Close and Cardales Meadow for at least 12 months. The formal paperwork was brought to the February meeting of Council.

RESOLVED that the Chairman would sign the DET formal agreement to allow public access for at least 12 months to the land where the grant would be used.

f) NDP Steering Group Terms of Reference

As the Parish Council is designated as the 'Qualifying Body' for the Neighbourhood Development Plan, it falls to the Parish Council to set the Terms of Reference for the Steering Group. A draft was circulated to the Council along with Agenda for this meeting, and at the same time to members of the steering group. Some changes had been suggested and incorporated into the Terms of Reference. The Members were asked to approve the Terms of Reference and formally adopt them for the steering group.

RESOLVED to approve and adopt the Terms of Reference for the Steering Group of the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

g) Flooding at Cemetery

Councillor Ratcliffe outlined concerns about flooding at the cemetery at Common Piece Lane. The cemetery is owned and operated by South Derbyshire District Council. It was also mentioned that there was a problem with the water tap at the site.

RESOLVED that Councillor Ratcliffe would draft a letter outlining the concerns to be sent by the Clerk to the relevant department at the District Council. The Clerk would also get some quotes for the repair of the water tap and bring to the next meeting.

h) Appointment of Flood Wardens

Following a conversation with a Flood Warden from Repton, Councillor Brown raised the query whether Findern needed to appoint a Flood Warden to co-ordinate with Flood Wardens in Willington and Repton.

RESOLVED that Councillor Brown would co-ordinate with Willington and Repton Flood Wardens to advise when there were roads closed around Findern and where to divert traffic.

i) PCC letter suggesting precept discount for Special Constables

Members had previously discussed the request to offer a discount on the precept for Special Constables. This was something that had been offered by other counties and was now being considered in Derbyshire at the request of the Police and Crime Commissioner. The Clerk had queried the position of the District Council; SDDC have discussed the matter and would not be taking the proposal forward.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council would also not take the proposal forward.

3270/24

Planning Matters

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

Consultations

- **Ref. No. DMPA/2023/1455 – 12, Main Street, Findern**

Erection of two storey side extension and porch.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council would not object to this planning application; however, because the site is close to a busy bend in the road at the entrance to the village, they wanted to raise the issue of road safety during construction; and request a condition that a plan for the parking of contractors' vans was made prior to commencement of build.

- **Ref. No. DMPA/2024/0060 – 3, Aults Close, Findern**

Construct walk-in bay window to front, single storey rear extension and garage conversion into an office and workshop.

Decisions

- **Ref. No. DMPA/2023/1585 – 8, The Green, Findern**

Erection of ancillary room. Approved (Delegated Decision).

3271/24

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
16/01 Multipay Corporate Card	Land Registry Fee to download Title Plan	£3.00	£0.00	£3.00
16/01 Multipay Corporate Card	Instantprint – Printing of 2000 leaflets for NDP Drop-in events	£73.83	£1.67	£75.49
16/01 Multipay Corporate Card	Corporate Card Monthly Fee	£3.00	£0.00	£3.00
BACS UTB 26/01/2024	South Derbyshire CVS - Salaries for December	£2043.48	£0.00	£2043.48
BACS UTB 26/01/2024	Viking Direct - stationery for T Brown inks and paper	£59.20	£11.84	£71.04
BACS UTB 26/01/2024	Viking Direct - stationery for Clerk inks and paper	£60.09	£12.02	£72.11

BACS UTB 26/01/2024	DALC – Purchase of 4 x Good Councillor Guides	£24.19	£0.00	£24.19
BACS UTB 26/01/2024	Findern Methodist Church – Room Hire on 14/09, 09/11, 28/22, 06/12, 14/12	£104.00	£0.83	£104.00
BACS UTB 26/01/2024	Easy Growing Landscapes – Planter Maintenance and Grounds Maintenance	£175.00	£0.00	£175.00
BACS UTB 26/01/2024	Kniftons Ltd – Mobile Toilet Unit hire for Summer Event - deposit	£165.00	£33.00	£198.00
BACS UTB 09/02/2024	Fox Grounds Maintenance & Landscaping Ltd. January Work	£400.00	£80.00	£480.00
BACS UTB 09/02/2024	Clerk's Expenses Phone, WFH Allowance, Travel, Postage, Zoom subscription and reimburse for stationery bought	£136.43	£2.60	£139.03
BACS UTB 09/02/2024	Feature Faces / Heidi Higgins Face Painter at Findern Fest	£135.00	£0.00	£135.00
BACS UTB 09/02/2024	SDDC Monthly Operational check on play equipment at KGV	£54.65	£10.93	£65.58

b) Members noted Income received: -

Date of credit	From	Into Account	Amount
01/02/2024	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 January 2024 (including Current and Reserve Accounts Balances).

3272/24

Correspondence

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

- DALC January newsletter – forwarded 12/01
- DCC Proposed RTI Units for bus stops – forwarded 22/01
- DALC February newsletter – forwarded 01/02

3273/24

Reports from Councillors attending meetings of outside bodies

Councillor Brown attended the Repton Area Forum meeting on Wednesday, 24 January 2024 at Newton Solney Village Hall and gave a report to Members of the main topics of that meeting.

3274/24

Date of next meeting(s)

The next Meeting of the Parish Council would be held **at 7pm on Thursday, 14 March 2024**, at the Methodist Church, Lower Green, Findern, DE65 6AD.

3275/24

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 because of commercial interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.

3276/24

Exempt

Members discussed an item relating to leasehold of land at Burton Road.