

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 April 2024 at 7.00pm.

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

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

3295/24 Apologies for absence

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

3296/24 Declaration of members interests

None declared.

3297/24 Public Speaking

Members of the public:

- A resident wished to thank Councillor Ford for mobilising the gully cleaning team from the District Council to clean gullies on Porters Lane; also, for asking Highways to replace drain covers and kerbs. The resident had sent a report to Councillor Ford and the Parish Council that gave 6 recommendations for the maintenance of the gullies on Porters Lane. Members of the Parish Council wished to thank the resident for the excellent, comprehensive report.
- A member of the fete committee reported that they were creating some large props that would be used year on year, and therefore storage was required. The Parish Council was asked whether they could store these props; however, Councillor Brown, as a Trustee of the Village Hall said that there would be storage available at the Village Hall.
- A resident reported that the voice box in the penguin bin at the King George V Playing Field was not working. The Clerk would contact Amberol to seek a replacement.

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

- Re. Porters Lane Planning application; there was a little confusion over whether DMPA/2024/0246 was to be a delegated decision (by planning officers) or a committee decision. This had been clarified; the application was definitely a planning committee decision. The SDDC planning portal now reflected this status.

- A further note on this application; after speaking to the planning officer, it was clear that the application was undergoing some changes to the design. Councillor Hudson had asked to be advised of any material changes, and the Parish Council should keep this application under ongoing review.
- A final word on planning, the District Council's Planning Committee conducted its business in a 'quasi-judicial' way. This meant that planning committee members CANNOT express an opinion about planning applications before a decision was made. Councillor Hudson is on the planning committee, and can listen to concerns, but he cannot pre-determine decisions. This was taken very seriously by the District Council.
- Inspector Mike Sisman (Derbyshire Police SNT) - PCSO David 'Bob' Marley's Supervisor - had moved roles.
- On the 2 May, there would be the Police and Crime Commissioner and East Midlands Mayoral elections. The Pre-Election Period (otherwise known as Purdah) started on 26 March.

Councillor Martyn Ford (District and County Councillor) had given his apologies to the meeting; however, he had submitted the following report: -

- The Parish Council and residents are advised to keep reporting potholes on Derbyshire County Council's portal. The large pothole next to Findern Primary School had now been repaired; as had those on Findern Lane.
- Councillor Ford had not had any updates or any further feedback on bus services for Highfields.
- Note that the County Council were implementing a new system for issuing Bus Passes between 9 April and 17 April. No passes would be issued during this period.
- Councillor Ford had included a couple of links: -
- 1) for the County Council updated Council Plan for 2024/25: -
<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/environment/conservation/trees-and-woodland/heartwood-community-forest/derbyshires-heartwood-community-forest.aspx>
- 2) Tree planting opportunities with grants available: -
<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/news-events/news-updates/news/we-set-out-strong-and-ambitious-plans-for-year-ahead.aspx>
- District wide seasonal grass cutting had begun; teams had been working in Findern.
- Councillor Ford had requested that the Planning Application on Porters Lane be determined at Planning Committee.

3298/24 Response to emails from residents

There were no issues raised by residents via email or via website this month.

3299/24 Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 14 March 2024 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

3300/24 Variation of order of business

It was **RESOLVED** that Item 10.6 in Members' Reports would be taken as item 9.6 in Clerk's Report.

3301/24 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 Pride in Findern Award that should be taken with the press and public excluded.

Chairman's Report

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

The Parish Council's Easter event took place on 29 March. Dream Parties provided children's entertainment along with an Easter Egg hunt and Easter Bonnet competition. Unfortunately, due to the poor weather conditions and an already water-logged field, the event had to move at short notice to Findern Village Hall. The Parish Council would like to thank the Village Hall Trustees for their support. This event was extremely well attended by Highfields residents. The Chairman thanked the Clerk and Councillors who were able to attend to help out; with special thanks to Councillor Hettman who remained at Highfields to direct people to the hall, and consequently missed out on all the fun.

The Speed-Watch group set up by the Parish Council had been inactive for a couple of years; however, recently the group had some new volunteers who had completed part one of their training. The group would be active on Sunday 14 March at 10.00am in order for the new volunteers to complete their roadside training with PCSO Marley.

A very special thanks go out to Tony Smith and Trevor Yeomans, who have worked on the pedestrian part of Porters Lane, cutting back hedges, as well as uncovering the drains and clearing paths. They spent a lot of time on this task and have much improved the access through to Hillside. Again, many thanks from everyone in Findern for all of their hard work.

The National Highways department had commenced safety barrier maintenance, vegetation clearance and grass cutting between Toyota Island and Mickleover; this should last for around three months.

On 25 April at 6.30pm, the Annual meeting for the Parish of Findern would take place in Findern Methodist Hall.

Report of the Parish Clerk**a) No Parking signage for Lower Green**

This had been suggested at a previous meeting because a section of Lower Green / Common Piece Lane was too narrow for larger vehicles to pass if someone parked there. The Clerk had written to the relevant officer at the District Council to ask whether the Parish Council could put up an informal 'No Parking' sign or whether a sign erected by the District Council or Highways would be required to make it legally enforceable. The officer had replied to say if the area of Lower Green in question is public highway, then any parking restrictions would need to be acceptable by Highways at the County Council and implemented by them. Any signage and road markings would then need to be Highways led to ensure that the restrictions are enforceable. He also said that there is no restriction on the installation of advisory signs provided that wherever it is put up is with the approval of the landowner / property owner. Of course, the difficulty with putting up advisory signs is that it can imply that the instruction on the sign is enforceable, so the wording on the sign may need to be clear on this.

After discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would draft wording for a sign and circulate to Members for approval.

b) Roadworks on A38 commencing 8 April

The clerk advised that roadworks on A38 were commencing on 8 April 2024 and lasting for 3 months. National Highways would commence on a maintenance scheme on the A38

between Toyota Island and Mickleover. They would be carrying out repairs to the safety barrier in the central reservation; also, would be carrying out vegetation clearance and grass cutting along this section.

The work was planned to start on Monday 8 April 2024, and expected to finish by the end of June 2024. The work would take place overnight when traffic counts are lower, between 8pm and 6am, Monday to Friday. To carry out the work safely, the work would be done under a combination of full carriageway closures and lane closures, between Toyota Island and the A516 junction at Mickleover. This work would be carried out in phases, with diversion route via A516 in place for both northbound and southbound closures.

The Clerk had posted this information to the Council's website and to the Community Facebook pages.

c) Reply from Highfields regarding use of their hall for Christmas Event

In response to the Clerk's email asking whether the Council could use Highfields Spencer Academy Hall again for the Switch-On event at Christmas, the school had replied to say unfortunately, this was not possible as they do not have the capacity to safely accommodate the public; awareness of their safeguarding responsibility and not having the staff capacity to open and host this event.

d) Last round of Community Grants available from SDDC

The Clerk had circulated details of the last round of Community Grants available from South Derbyshire District Council. Money had to be spent by the end of March 2025; therefore, Councillors were asked for any ideas for larger projects that the Parish Council could carry out. Members discussed the aim of securing a community hall for Highfields and asked the Clerk to go back to the District Council to ask whether the community grants could be used towards this.

e) Annual Meeting for the parish of Findern at 6.30pm, 25 April 2024 at Methodist Church

Agenda for this meeting would be issued by Monday 15 April as the Council was required to give 7 days' notice for this meeting. All groups/organisations that are known to Council had been invited to report to the meeting.

f) Electric supply issue at Highfields for Christmas Tree

The Clerk reported that Derbyshire County Council had approved the licence to hook up to the lighting column for the electricity supply. Also, although Greenbelt Group had given the go ahead to dig the trench across their land; the Clerk would need to advise them that there a feeder pillar had to be installed beside the tree pit because the socket cannot be located in the tree pit as was previously understood; specific approval would be needed for this. The Clerk still needed to apply for a Section 50 licence to actually dig up the Highway (as footpath counts as part of Highway) but would hold off doing this until Greenbelt had given their approval for the feeder pillar installation as there was a cost involved for the Section 50 licence of £445.

g) Severn Trent works by CPC Civils / pipework on Stanhope Wood

The Clerk had spoken with Regan Cheadle from German Fisher about the issues at Stanhope Wood and the lack of communication – she had been assigned to the project and would like to meet someone on site to discuss the issues; also, to confirm what re-planting had been agreed to replace what was lost.

RESOLVED that Councillors Brown and Hettmann would meet with Regan on site.

The Clerk had also heard back from Charles Booth at CPC civils who apologised for the heavy lorries using Common Piece Lane to access the Severn Trent site; he intimated that this was a mistake made by one lorry. However, he would re-iterate to all drivers the access arrangements; only light vehicles to use the Common Piece Lane access, with all heavyweight vehicles to use the access via Heath Lane.

h) Linking up of paths on green space at Highfields

The Technical Manager at Barrats had replied to the Clerk's query about the linking up of pathways to the south of the Highfields development; he stated that the approved plan for the Public Open Space didn't include any links for footpaths as the parcel of houses on the plan on Highfields Farm was not built by the consortium but by another developer, Meadowview Homes, completely separately and after the majority of the development had been completed.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would approach the Greenbelt Group and the Planning Department at the District Council to enquire how the paths could be linked up.

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

3304/24

Members Reports

a) Findern in Relief Fund

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

b) Stanhope Wood

Councillor Hettmann updated the Members on works at Stanhope Wood.

- The team had been busy weeding and mulching.
- An under-planting scheme was being created.

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

Councillor Brown reported that a couple of members of the NDP steering group met with representatives from AECOM to look at the Design Code for Findern and Highfields. This involved a walk around both areas, looking at the historic core of the village, 20th Century Findern, the open countryside and the Highfields development. They were looking at the Key Features and the likely scale of any new development in both areas. A preliminary report has been received for the Steering Group to discuss at their next meeting on 16 April.

d) Warm Welcome

Councillor Brown reported that once again, Warm Welcome had a very successful month, averaging between 35-40 people each week. No further funding was being made available at the moment as most warm spaces would be ending soon as the warmer weather arrives. However, the organisers had made the decision to continue through the summer months as this service was enjoyed by many regardless of the weather. The costs were covered for the next few months, and donations were helping towards this. The menu had changed recently and this had been well received, therefore the plan was to do something other than jacket potatoes every other week. This free event took place every Tuesday from 12 noon to 2.30pm in Findern Village Hall; everyone was welcome no matter their circumstances.

e) Data from VAS Unit

Councillor Holmes was not present at the meeting therefore no update was given on the latest data from the VAS unit currently located on Burton Road in the 40mph zone. The Clerk advised that the new unit had been delivered and this would be installed by the contractor at the Willington Road site in the 40mph zone. At the same time, the unit currently on Burton Road, would be moved to the Doles Lane site in the 30mph zone. All data would be downloaded before the unit was moved.

3305/24

Matters for discussion or determination

a) Upgrades to The Green

Members considered the upgrades required at The Green. Councillor Dosanjh had visited the site and taken photographs of the different views of The Green. He had identified that rather than major changes, there were just small adjustments required. E.g., information boards cleaned / replaced; and decluttering of a number of items at the front of The Green.

RESOLVED to defer further discussion on what to do until the new electric supply works are completed and the planned bus signage is installed

b) Scarecrow Event

Members considered the suggestion by Councillor Brown for a Scarecrow Event in late summer.

RESOLVED to approve the idea; Councillor Brown would bring a further update to a future meeting.

c) Request for Donation – Cadet Gibraltar Expedition

The Parish Council had received a request from the Etwall Air Cadets for a donation towards their Gibraltar Expedition in 2024. A cadet from Findern was included in the expedition.

RESOLVED to donate £250 to the fund from s137 budget. The Clerk would ask for a report to be sent to the Council on the cadets return from the expedition.

d) Name badges / lanyards for Councillors

Councillor Brown had suggested that name badges should be sourced for all Councillors to wear at events for members of the public to easily identify Councillors. The Clerk had sourced these to be printed with individual names at around £8-10 each. Councillor Ratcliffe said that he may be able to source these.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would send Councillor Ratcliffe the Council's logo and he would look into supplying these. An update would be brought to the next meeting.

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

The District Council had confirmed the use of Hillside for both the day and evening events. St John Ambulance had confirmed they were available for first aid cover for both day and evening. The 16m wide x 6m deep marquee is booked.

The Clerk had contacted the contractor supplying the stage, Sound Connections to query the light and sound provision; however, the company had not got back with the information in time for the meeting.

The Clerk suggested an informal meeting be held to further progress the organisation of the event; Members agreed that this should be arranged.

3306/24

Planning Matters

The Clerk advised that information had been received, which suggested that the planning application **Ref. No. DMPA/2024/0246 – Farm House, Porters Lane, Findern (Erection of 7 Dwellings)** was being reviewed and would not progress in its current form.

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

Consultations

- **Ref. No. DMPA/2024/0393 – 11 Hastings Close, Highfields**
The erection of a fence at the boundary of the front garden.

Decisions

- **Ref. No. DMPA/2024/0135 – 118 Doles Lane, Findern**
Extension and alterations to and including the addition of a first floor.
(Approved – Delegated decision.)
- **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.
(Approved – Delegated decision.)

3307/24

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
16/03 Multipay Corporate Card	Vinyl Banners Printing - Banners for Easter	£73.89	£0.00	£73.89
16/03 Multipay Corporate Card	The Wimbledon Printing Company / Blotbot Printing of Maps for NDP	£24.99	£5.00	£29.99
16/03 Multipay Corporate Card	Instantprint - Printing of 2000 flyers for Summer and Easter Events	£57.69	£0.83	£58.52
16/03 Multipay Corporate Card	Corporate Card Monthly Fee	£3.00	£0.00	£3.00
BACS UTB 28/03/2024	South Derbyshire CVS - Salaries for March	£1770.04	£0.00	£1770.04
BACS UTB 03/04/2024	South Derbyshire District Council – annual charges for emptying of litter and dog waste bins throughout 2023/24	£2412.29	£482.46	£2894.75
BACS UTB 03/04/2024	Easy Growing Landscapes – Ground Maintenance work in March	£200.00	£0.00	£200.00
BACS UTB 12/04/2024	Findern Village Hall – hire of room for Easter Event 29/03/2024	£45.00	£0.00	£45.00
BACS UTB 12/04/2024	Findern Village Hall – hire of room for NDP Meeting 14/05/2024	£30.00	£0.00	£30.00
BACS UTB 12/04/2024	Findern Village Hall – hire of room for Christmas Event Main Hall and Jamie Taylor Room 30/11/24 1pm – 8.30pm	£157.50	£0.00	£157.50

BACS UTB 12/04/2024	Viking Direct – 200 black heavy duty litter picking bags for Parish Warden	£20.99	£4.69	£28.14
BACS UTB 12/04/2024	Viking Direct - stationery for Clerk inks and External Hard Drive for data back up.	£74.03	£14.81	£88.84
BACS UTB 12/04/2024	South Derbys. Electrical Ltd – Call out to investigate power loss at pillar on The Green	£50.00	£10.00	£60.00
BACS UTB 12/04/2024	Clerk's Expenses Phone, WFH Allowance, Travel, Postage, Zoom subscription.	£62.78	£2.60	£65.38
BACS UTB 12/04/2024	Reimbursement to Clerk for items purchased for Easter event – Eggs and prizes	£79.04	£0.00	£79.04
BACS UTB 12/04/2024	Planning With People – 2 nd Invoice for work on Neighbourhood Plan – with steering grp..	£3132.00	£0.00	£3132.00
BACS UTB 12/04/2024	Derbyshire Association Local Councils – Annual Subscription Enhanced Level	£1205.13	£0.00	£1205.13
BACS UTB 12/04/2024	Fox Grounds Maintenance & Landscaping Ltd. March Work	£434.72	£86.94	£521.66
BACS UTB 12/04/2024	Community Heartbeat Trust – Replacement Adult Pads for Defib at Village Hall	£56.95	£11.39	£68.34
BACS UTB 12/04/2024	Shelter Maintenance – bus shelter cleaning in March	£39.15	£7.83	£46.98
BACS UTB 12/04/2024	SDDC – Monthly operational inspection & maintenance of play area at KGV in March	£54.65	£10.93	£65.58
BACS UTB 12/04/2024	Derbyshire Wildlife Trust – Biodiversity Data Search 6 months licence for NDP Group	£60.00	£12.00	£72.00
BACS UTB 12/04/2024	Reimburse to Clerk for purchase of annual Office 365 subscription.	£49.99	£10.00	£59.99
BACS UTB 12/04/2024	Reimburse Councillor T Brown for purchases made for lunch for AECOM visitors and reward to Findern Primary School Class for logo competition	£30.05	£0.00	£30.05

b) Members noted Income received: -

Date of credit	From	Into Account	Amount
29/02/2024	Interest on NAT West Reserve Account	NAT West Reserve	£75.31
28/03/2024	SDDC – Concurrent Function payment	Unity Trust Bank	£16,381.92
02/04/2024	Sarah Pritchard / Find Ltd. - Parish Rooms Rent	Unity Trust Bank	£360.00
02/04/2024	Donation collected at Christmas Event for Air Ambulance	Unity Trust Bank	£67.00

c) Bank Account Reconciliation Report/Budget Monitoring Reports

Members **NOTED** the Bank Account Reconciliation Report/Budget Monitoring Reports up to 31 March 2024 (including Current and Reserve Accounts Balances).

3308/24

Correspondence

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

- DCC Consultation on Improvements to Bus Service – forwarded 12/03
- SDDC Planning Engagement Consultation – forwarded 15/03

- PCC Councillor Briefing on the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan – forwarded 22/03
- Speed Watch Email regarding 24/7 Speed Cameras – forwarded 02/04

3309/24

Reports from Councillors attending meetings of outside bodies

Councillor Ratcliffe gave a report from a meeting he had attended with four of the candidates for the new East Midlands Mayor role. At the meeting, each candidate had outlined their main objectives if they were elected to the role. The new Mayoral authority merged Derbyshire County and Derby City; and Nottinghamshire County and Nottingham City into one regional Unitary authority, which hoped to attract £1.4 billion funding from central government over the next 30 years; leading to devolved power from central government to this new position. Elections would be held on Thursday 2 May 2024.

3310/24

Date of next meeting(s)

The next Meeting of the Parish Council would be held **at 7pm on Thursday, 9 May 2024**, at the Methodist Church, Lower Green, Findern, DE65 6AD. This would be the Annual Meeting for the Council.

3311/24

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

3312/24

Exempt

Members discussed an item relating to the establishment of a Pride in Findern Award including criteria; and also, possible recipients of this Annual Award.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm.