

FINDERN PARISH COUNCIL
Clerk: Mrs Kate Sharpe
Findern Parish Rooms, Lower Green, Findern, Derbyshire DE65 6AS
Tel: 07444 085807

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Findern Parish Council
held at the Methodist Church, Lower Green, Findern, DE65 6AD on Thursday, 9 May 2024 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors T Brown, M Bram (From 7.25pm) B Dosanjh, H Hettmann, M Ratcliffe, C Smith, and M Woodhouse.

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

3313/24 Election of the Chairperson for the year 2024/25 and the completion of the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

RESOLVED that Councillor Tammy Brown be elected as Chairman to Findern Parish Council for the civic year. Councillor Brown thereupon occupied the Chair and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

3314/24 Election of the Vice Chairperson for the year 2024/25 and the completion of the Declaration of Acceptance of Office

RESOLVED that Councillor Mike Ratcliffe be elected as Vice Chairman to Findern Parish Council for the civic year. Councillor Ratcliffe thereupon signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

3315/24 Apologies for absence

Apologies were **NOTED** from Councillors, G Cooke, S Holmes and Y Hughes.

3316/24 Declaration of members interests

None declared.

3317/24 Public Speaking

Members of the public:

- A resident asked whether anything could be done about the number of cars parking on the small car park behind the church during the planned extension work at Priory House. Councillor Ford advised comments could be added to the relevant planning consultation and officers may take these into consideration and make recommendations.
- Trevor Yeomans gave a detailed report on current screening requests and planning applications for Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) in the area. The Members thanked him for the report which would be considered later under the planning item when the screening request for a BESS facility off Bakeacre Lane would be considered.

Police Liaison Officer:

The South Derbyshire Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) Officer 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; and had not submitted a report: -

Councillor Martyn Ford (District and County Councillor) had attended the meeting; and gave the following report: -

- Officers from Derbyshire County Council (DCC) had visited Findern Primary School to investigate the drainage and sewerage issues at the school. A scheme of works had been submitted to be implemented over the summer; this would possibly control the output of foul water.
- DCC had launched the Companion bus pass which allowed disabled Gold Card holders to apply for a companion pass allowing another person to travel free with them. There was a digital form available to apply for the pass on the DCC website.
- Also, on the DCC website was a digital form to request modified free school meals e.g. for allergies.
- DCC had logged over half a million trees towards its million trees campaign. Parish Councils are asked to keep recording any new trees planted.
- The District Council was spending a lot of money around the Swadlincote and Newhall areas; therefore, it was welcomed that the Melbourne Arts Festival had received a grant towards the improvement of facilities.

3318/24

Response to emails from residents

Request for cricket nets at Highfields green space.

A resident of the Highfields development emailed the Council to ask if there were any plans to install cricket nets in the area where there are open fields; as none of the public parks nearby had cricket nets.

The Clerk had replied to the resident to say there were no cricket nets planned for the Highfields development. There was a football pitch due to be installed in May/June; this would be located close to the car park and play area at the bottom of Mackworth Avenue on the green space there. That would complete the recreation area included in the landscaping plans at the planning application stage. Once completed satisfactorily, the green space would be handed over to the Greenbelt Group to maintain.

Unfortunately, the Parish Council do not own or maintain any land at Highfields; the only thing possible was for the resident to approach the Greenbelt Group (the green space service management company for Highfields) to ask whether installing nets could be considered in the future. If land can be allocated for this; there was community funding available that could possibly purchase the nets and have them installed but ongoing responsibility for the nets would need to be determined.

3319/24

Minutes

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

3320/24

Variation of order of business

None.

3321/24 **To determine which items, if any, of the Agenda should be taken with the press and public excluded**

None.

3320/24 **Chairman's Report**

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

The Chairman took the opportunity on behalf of all at Findern Parish Council to offer sincere condolences to our village's Lengthsman, Dave Tidy on the sudden loss of his wife Joan saying *'Most of us in this room were lucky enough to call Joan a good friend. She attended every meeting of the Council, unless they were away on one of their many wonderful holidays! She was an extremely active member of the Footpaths Group as well as a volunteer for the Warm Space. She also belonged to the village book club group and attended the pub quiz every week. She touched every person she encountered, with her cheerful disposition, her work ethos when involved in Footpath activities, her willingness to help anyone who needed it, even after her death she was still giving. We will all miss you Joan, but I know your memory will live on in the many ways we are going to commemorate you and your achievements.'*

On the 25 April the Annual meeting for the Parish of Findern took place; this was an opportunity for groups and organisations that are currently active in the village to give an update to residents on their activities over the previous year; and for parishioners on the Electoral Roll to raise any matters of concern to them that relates to their local community. The Chairman was happy to report no concerns were raised at the meeting.

The Speed-Watch group initially set up by the Parish Council had been very active this in April and May. It now had a Facebook page that informs parishioners of when the group would be out and the results. The group had held 8 sessions, with a total number of 1,330 vehicles being counted, of those vehicles 92 were exceeding the speed limit. 71 first letters and 2 second letter were sent; one person would be getting a personal visit from the Police as they were driving at 66mph in a 30mph zone. 14 vehicles could not be verified. The Chairman was pleased to report that only 5 of the speeding drivers were local. The group were grateful to have had support from Officers Bob and Kian for the first couple of sessions.

The second Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) would be going up very soon; this would mean there are two signs being moved over four sites. Therefore; in conjunction with the Speed Watch Group, the Parish Council hope to see a marked improvement on local roads.

3322/24 **Report of the Parish Clerk**

a) **No Parking signage for Lower Green**

It had been suggested at the last meeting that the Clerk would draft wording for a sign and circulate to Members for approval. This had been done and wording had been agreed - No Parking.

After discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would have both A3 and A4 signs produced by Pictorial to display either side of the narrowest part of Lower Green; also, to replace to the current signs around the Parish Rooms. The Clerk would write to the resident living at one side of Lower Green to seek their permission to attach the sign to their boundary fence.

b) Name Badges for Councillors

Following discussion about sourcing badges for Councillors at the last meeting, the Clerk distributed name badges with a magnetic attachment. These were deemed satisfactory by Members as they served the purpose of identifying Councillors at events.

c) SDDC Community Grants in relation to Community Hall for Highfields

The Clerk had contacted the District Council to ask whether community grants could be used for capital costs of a project such as a Community Hall. The Parish Council was advised that whilst community grants can be used for capital costs, because there was not a site identified, this round of community grant would not be suitable as it had to be spent by end of March 2025. However, if in the future, a site was identified, then the Parish Council may approach SDDC as there are other pots of funding that can be applied for.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would write to the Consortium of builders to ask whether any land could be made available for a community hall.

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

The Clerk had contacted the company providing the stage to ask for a quote for lighting as there was a concern that the larger stage may need more than the festoon lighting used at the previous year's event. The quote was £640 + VAT.

RESOLVED to hold an informal meeting specifically to discuss the summer event to finalise all aspects before placing orders for anything else. The Clerk would arrange this meeting to take place before the June meeting so any further orders can be approved then.

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

3323/24

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 group had been carrying out work on clearing some of cut wood.
- The group were aiming to use corporate volunteers to dig out bramble roots and clearing floor.
- They were developing an underplanting scheme to improve year-round attractiveness to wildlife.

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

Councillor Brown reported that on the 16 April 2024 the Steering Group met and worked on the wording of the Vision and Objectives for the Neighbourhood Plan, these could be viewed on the Parish Council website and the group welcomed any feedback or comments before the final wording was agreed upon. All the smaller working groups were putting the fine touches to their maps to be included in the plan. The next meeting was Tuesday 14 May 2024. Any new funding would potentially not be announced until August.

d) Warm Welcome

Councillor Brown reported that once again, Warm Welcome had a very successful month, averaging between 35-40 people each week. All donations at the Warm Welcome event on

7 May 2024 had been donated to the Findern Footpaths Group in honour of a dear friend, Joan Tidy, who recently passed away and who was a regular volunteer.

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. There had been a delay installing the new unit 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.

3324/24

Matters for discussion or determination

a) Consideration of Committee Membership

Members reviewed the list of Committee Membership.

RESOLVED that Yasmin Hughes would be added to the HR Committee. That the Planning Committee would become the Planning Applications Working Group to allow members of the Neighbourhood Development Plan steering group to become members and allow them to contribute to discussions on future planning applications. The Neighbourhood Plan Lead would become Councillor Tammy Brown.

b) Review of Policies and Procedure including Standing Orders and Code of Conduct

Members considered the adoption of all Policies and Procedure including Standing Orders and Code of Conduct for the civic year 2024/25. The Clerk proposed no changes to be made.

RESOLVED to re-adopt all Policies and Procedure including Code of Conduct and Standing Orders - except for Financial Regulations - for the civic year without any alteration from the previous year.

c) Decision on Financial Regulations – existing NALC Version for updated Version

Members considered whether to adopt the updated version of the National Association of Local Councils' Financial Regulations.

RESOLVED to adopt the updated version of the National Association of Local Councils' Financial Regulations for the civic year.

d) Renewal of Council's Insurance from 31 May 2023

Members considered the renewal quote of £1086.84 from the Council's insurer, Zurich. The Council agreed to a 3-year LTA with Zurich 2 years ago to achieve a lower premium.

RESOLVED to renew insurance with Zurich for the 3rd year of the 3-year agreement as set out in the schedule documents.

e) Funding of NDP after May 2024

The Clerk had been advised by the planning consultant for the Neighbourhood Development Plan that the work she could do under the existing funding was coming to an end in May, and as the new round of funding through Locality had not yet been announced, there needed to be a decision made by Members about how the Neighbourhood Plan would be funded to maintain progress. The Clerk advised that every indication was that funding would be available and that it could apply for an additional £3188 pounds under basic grant funding and up to £8000 additional grant funding.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council would support funding the remaining costs required to complete the Neighbourhood Development Plan; however, the Clerk would apply for funding through Locality, hopefully to cover most of the costs involved.

f) Upgrades to The Green

Members considered a quote for the upgrade to the electric required at The Green. This totalled over £3000, therefore the Clerk advised that another two quotes would be needed before a decision could be made on awarding the work to a contractor. Prior to the electric works, some initial preparation works to lay cables across The Green was required.

RESOLVED to seek to further quotes for the electrical work and these would be brought to the next meeting. Members approved the initial preparation works to lay cables.

g) Greenbelt Agreement to dig trench at Tutbury Avenue

Greenbelt had agreed in principle for the Parish Council to dig a trench on the park at Tutbury Avenue to lay a cable for the Christmas Tree. They had submitted a draft legal agreement to the Parish Council to consider.

RESOLVED that the terms of the draft legal agreement were acceptable and this could be returned to the Greenbelt Group Ltd. for completion and signing at a future meeting.

h) Play Inspections highlighting painting needed and benches maintenance/renewal

A recent play inspection report had highlighted that painting was needed on some of the equipment at the King George V Playing Field; also, the picnic benches needed repair or replacement. Also, the goalposts had not yet been painted.

RESOLVED to ask a painter to come to quote for the necessary painting and assess whether the benches could be salvaged.

i) Air Cadet's request to sell cakes at Summer Event

Members considered a request from the Air Cadets to sell cakes and sweet cones at this year's Party in the Park to raise money for their Gibraltar Expedition. The Scouts had indicated that this would not be in competition with their burger stall.

RESOLVED the Air Cadets to sell cakes and sweet cones at this year's Party in the Park.

j) Offer of King's Portrait to the Village Hall

The Parish Council had been gifted a framed photographic portrait of King Charles III.

RESOLVED to offer this to the Village Hall for display.

3325/24

Planning Matters

Consideration of Screening request

- **Ref. No. DMOT/2024/0552 – Landown Farm, Bakeacre Lane, Findern**
Relating to proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).

Members discussed the details submitted by letter by the agent for the company proposing the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).

RESOLVED the Clerk would write a response to the letter received and circulate this to all Members for approval before sending to the agent by the deadline for responses on 16 May 2024.

Consultations

- **Ref. No. DMPA/2024/0450 – 80 Burton Road, Findern**
Erection of single storey rear extension.
- **Ref. Non. DMPA/2024/0488 – 40 Arundel Way, Highfields**
Erection of single-story rear extension.
- **Ref. No. DMPA/2024/0585 – Priory House, Findern**
The erection of a single storey rear extension to existing garage.

Decisions

None.

3326/24

Finance

a) Unaudited end of year accounts for 2023/24

Members **NOTED** the end of year accounts for 2023/24. The accounts would be discussed in more detail at the Council meeting in June, along with the internal auditor's report and the paperwork for the external audit submission.

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
16/04 Multipay Corporate Card	Amazon – Wireless Mouse for Clerk	£12.16	£2.43	£14.59
16/04 Multipay Corporate Card	M&S flowers for bereavement – from Chairs allowance	£35.00	£0.00	£35.00
16/04 Multipay Corporate Card	Amazon – 150 x Plastic Easter eggs for event	£26.97	£0.83	£26.97
16/04 Multipay Corporate Card	Corporate Card Monthly Fee	£3.00	£0.00	£3.00
BACS UTB 26/04/2024	South Derbyshire CVS - Salaries for March	£2099.98	£0.00	£2099.98
BACS UTB 26/04/2024	S137 donation to Etwall Air Cadets for their Gibraltar Expedition	£250.00	£0.00	£250.00
BACS UTB 26/04/2024	All Saints Church – s137 donation towards cost of exterior church lighting over winter	£133.00	£0.00	£133.00
BACS UTB 03/05/2024	Amberol Ltd. – Replacement voice box for penguin bin	£50.00	£0.00	£60.00
BACS UTB 10/05/2024	Fox Grounds Maintenance & Landscaping Ltd. April Work	£434.72	£86.94	£521.66
BACS UTB 10/05/2024	Easy Growing Landscapes - Ground Maintenance April work	£200.00	£0.00	£200.00
BACS UTB 10/05/2024	Viking Direct - stationery for Chair inks and paper.	£59.31	£11.86	£71.17
BACS UTB 10/05/2024	SWARCO – Supply of 1 SID Solar Unit and with 5-year warranty.	£3990.00	£798.00	£4788.00

BACS UTB 10/05/2024	SDDC – Monthly operational inspection & maintenance of play area at KGV in April	£54.65	£10.93	£65.58
BACS UTB 10/05/2024	Clerk's Expenses Phone, WFH Allowance, Travel, Postage, Zoom subscription.	£62.78	£2.60	£65.38
BACS UTB 10/05/2024	Reimbursement to Chair for flowers for bereavement – from Chairs allowance	£50.00	£0.00	£50.00
BACS UTB 10/05/2024	Blueprint Premier Ltd. – for summer event advert in Resource magazine	£68.00	£13.60	£81.60
BACS UTB 10/05/2024	Zurich Insurance – Annual renewal of Council's Insurance	£1086.84	£0.00	£1086.84
BACS UTB 10/05/2024	Viking Direct - stationery for Clerk – name badges inks and paper.	£83.56	£16.71	£100.27
BACS UTB 10/05/2024	Warwick Directories Ltd. – for summer event advert in Highfields magazine	£93.00	£18.60	£111.60

c) Members noted Income received: -

Date of credit	From	Into Account	Amount
28/03/2024	Interest on NAT West Reserve Account	NAT West Reserve	£72.89
02/04/2024	Cash Donation for Air Ambulance (paid over 23/24)	Unity Trust Bank	£67.00
05/04/2024	SDDC – 1 st instalment Precept payment 50%	Unity Trust Bank	£24,926.00
05/04/2024	SDDC – Top up payment	Unity Trust Bank	£1135.00
02/05/2024	Sarah Pritchard / Find Ltd. - Parish Rooms Rent	Unity Trust Bank	£360.00

d) Bank Account Reconciliation Report/Budget Monitoring Reports

Members **NOTED** the Bank Account Reconciliation Report/Budget Monitoring Reports up to 30 April 2024 (including Current and Reserve Accounts Balances).

3327/24

Correspondence

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

- SDDC Invitation to Civic Council – forwarded 22/04
- DALC Newsletter – forwarded 01/05
- SNT South Derbyshire Police Newsletter – forwarded 02/05
- DCC Environment Agency are looking to recruit more Flood Wardens – forwarded 03/05
- SDDC Draft Cycle Network Supplementary Planning Consultation – forwarded on 03/05

3328/24

Reports from Councillors attending meetings of outside bodies

None.

3329/24

Date of next meeting(s)

The next Meeting of the Parish Council would be held at **7pm on Thursday, 13 June 2024**, at the Methodist Church, Lower Green, Findern, DE65 6AD.

3330/24

Exclusion of press and public – if required

There were no matters requiring exclusion of the public.

3331/24

Exempt

None.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm.