

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, 13 June 2024 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors T Brown, G Cooke, H Hettmann, Y Hughes and C Smith.

Also present: Kate Sharpe (Clerk) and 7 members of the public.

3332/24 Apologies for absence

Apologies were **NOTED** from Councillors M Bram, B Dosanjh, S Holmes, M Ratcliffe, and M Woodhouse.

3333/24 Declaration of members interests

None declared.

3334/24 Public Speaking

Members of the public:

- A resident noted that planning applications for Highfields were no longer listed under Findern on the planning portal. They were under Littleover, which was incorrect. The Clerk would contact the District Council and ask for this to be changed to Highfields.
- The Parish Warden for Highfields reported that the gate to the play area off Tutbury Avenue was now closing properly.
- A resident reported dangerous parking on the corner of Main Street and Longlands Lane. Councillor Brown would speak to PCSO Marley about this issue.

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) was present at the meeting; and gave the following report: -

- A temporary alcohol licence had been granted for the event on 6 July.
- The water logging issue at Highfields was being looked at but there was no quick fix. Some improvements are planned during the sports pitch installation
- Grass cutting and litter picking visits had been increased at Highfields NEAP
- The Consortium were still waiting for a start date for the sports pitch installation at Highfields.
- The number of issues at Highfields had led to the matter being referred to the Scrutiny Committee at the District Council; residents are paying a management fee and they do

not feel they are getting value for money. Scrutiny committee are seeking comments from affected residents/Parish Councils throughout South Derbyshire.

- The planning application for the development of Porters Lane had been referred to the Planning Committee for decision.
- Councillor Hudson had attended the first webinar for the Chesterfield / Willington National Grid upgrade. All subsequent meetings and webinars had been postponed because of the general election. New dates for these would be announced.

Councillor Martyn Ford (District and County Councillor) did not attend the meeting; however, he had submitted the following report: -

COUNTY MATTERS

- Residents may be aware that the 'Drop In' event for the Chesterfield to Willington Power Line consultation has been postponed until after the election and this would be re-advertised.
- He had re-reported the large pot hole at the junction of Heath Lane and Willington Lane.
- He was still waiting for any further updates on the V3 bus service through Highfields, noting the issues and challenges raised in the earlier update given a few weeks ago.
- Discussions are still ongoing around the solution to the drainage problems at Findern Primary School. A further site visit had been arranged with contractors.
- A 'High Friction' surface would be laid on the bend leading into Main St off Heath Lane to reduce the accident risk at this point, drawings and scheme approved. Chevrons not recommended at this point.

DISTRICT MATTERS

- South Derbyshire District Council Festival of Leisure was to be held in Maurice Lea Park, Church Gresley on Saturday, 22 June from 11.30am to 5.00pm.
- He had received several complaints regarding the very poor standard of grass cutting recently. Hopefully, this service would improve after 'No Mow May'. This had been raised with the Service Director.
- Residents should remember that if bins were not emptied on the allotted day, they should leave the bins out until the following day when they would be emptied.
- Councillor Ford had received a request from a local farmer regarding the overgrown hedges along Common Piece Lane. These hedges belonged to the private allotments. The farmer had offered to trim these hedges back if permission was granted, but details of ownership of these allotments was required to contact the individuals to gain permission.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council would make enquiries to find out the ownership of the allotments.

3335/24

Response to emails from residents

a) Complaint of overflowing bins and long grass at Highfields play area

This area was still the responsibility of the Consortium of builders and not Greenbelt Group. The Clerk had spoken to the contact at the Consortium of builders and they had agreed to increase number of cuts and emptying of bins over the summer.

b) Email reporting that there are still some items from the developers site compound, which have not been removed. (Taylor Wimpey)

The Clerk had asked for photos of the issues from the resident.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would write to the Customer Services Director at Taylor Wimpey to raise these issues; also, to ask for an update on what is happening with the re-surfacing of the footpaths at Stafford Drive and Chester Road; as these were still unsurfaced.

3336/24 **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 9 May 2024 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

3337/24 **Variation of order of business**

None.

3338/24 **To determine which items, if any, of the Agenda should be taken with the press and public excluded**

None.

3339/24 **Chairman's Report**

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

Residents may have noticed some work being done on the Green; this was to install cabling underground to reach to all of the trees to allow the Council more flexibility when lighting The Green for the Remembrance and Christmas events.

Overgrown brambles and foliage had been cut back around the road signs on Heath Lane/Willington Road, this was done by a Councillor.

The new VAS sign, which was now situated on Doles Lane, was not working at the moment, it was experiencing technical difficulties that it was hoped to rectify this soon.

The Parish Council had been working with the Findern Village Hall Fete Committee to create an amazing fun packed day on 6 July; with day and evening events.

The Village Hall Fete would take place from 12noon till 4pm and was being held over 3 areas: -

- The Village Hall would have a wide variety of craft stalls and gift stalls as well as cream teas.
- The Green would have a more traditional Fete feel with stalls such as Bric-A-Brac and books; also, lots of things for the children such as fairground rides and a bouncy Helter Skelter. There would be a bar; and All Saints Church would be open for refreshments.
- Hillside Playing Fields was hosting a Dog Show; a Bake-Off competition; a Tug-o-war and 'Findern Knocks it Out the Park'. If any resident would like to take part in any of these competitions please visit the Village Hall website, alternatively, all properties would be receiving a leaflet through the door with details very soon.

Of course, the same evening, the 'Party in the Park' event with live music from Abba Express and Waking Vegas would take place. This was a free event but there would be opportunities to donate to the Air Ambulance Charity.

Since the last meeting, the Speed-Watch group had completed 11, 1 hour road side sessions. The group recorded a total of 3,075 cars travelling in both directions through the village. 104 people received a 1st letter, 3 people received a 2nd letter and 2 people received a 3rd letter. 1 person received a visit from the police, but unfortunately had been recorded speeding a 4th time, this would now be dealt with by the police.

Report of the Parish Clerka) Grant funding for Neighbourhood Development Plan

Locality had re-opened the applications process for grants. The Clerk had applied for funds for the planning consultant to complete Stage 2 of the work on the Neighbourhood Development Plan; plus, some money for projects costs. The Council had confirmation that £9990.00 had been granted and the money should be in the Council's bank account shortly.

b) Painting of play equipment at KGV

The Clerk had contacted the painter whose name was given at the last meeting. Unfortunately, the painter was very busy and could not do the work until next year. The Clerk would put a request out on the Community Facebook page for other contacts. Councillor Brown said she may have a contact and would bring an update to the next meeting.

c) Update from Highways re Main Street corner

Councillor Ford had forwarded an email that he has received from Richard Handbury, Highways Officer at Derbyshire County Council. This email gave an update for planned works at the corner of Main Street / Heath Lane with the aim of reducing the number of accidents there. Highways planned to introduce a scheme of high friction surfacing around the bend to attempt an improvement in this location which had given historic cause for concern. There was no plan to install chevrons at the corner, as had been suggested by the Parish Council, but this could be reviewed after 12 months following the installation of the new road surface.

d) Signage for Lower Green

Residents at 3 Common Piece Lane had agreed that 'No Parking' signage could be displayed on their boundary. The signage had been ordered and would be put in place as soon as it was delivered.

Members Reportsa) Findern in Relief Fund

Councillor Cooke reported that he had drafted an advert for the fund; and that he hoped to have an update next month following a planned meeting of the trustees.

b) Stanhope Wood

Councillor Hettmann updated the Members on works at Stanhope Wood.

- The group were aiming to use corporate volunteers to dig out bramble roots and to clear the floor; however, this had proved difficult to organise because of the lack of toilet facilities.
- There needed to be a meeting between the Stanhope Wood Working Group, Findern Footpaths Group and Stuart Reeves to decide on a plan.

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

On the 14 May the Steering Group met with Stefan Saunders, the head of Planning and Strategic Housing for South Derbyshire District Council (SDDC). He stated that the Government had given a deadline of June 2025 to SDDC to submit their Local Plan to the Secretary of State; SDDC are reviewing Part 1 of their Local Plan. He was unable to give the group any firm information on Findern specifically.

The maps covering Key Views, Local Green Spaces, Heritage, Significant Green areas and Biodiversity were sent to AECOM; and subsequently on 11 June a small group met over Zoom to go over the first draft of the Housing Needs Assessment, picking out any areas that may need adjusting. This would then be shared with the whole Steering Group, hopefully at the next meeting in July. The group would be hosting a stall on The Green at the Village Hall Fete on 6 July to share the information with members of the public.

d) Warm Welcome

Councillor Brown reported that once again, Warm Welcome had a very successful month. The numbers continue to hold steady, with a couple of first timer visitors who have then returned. It is planned that Warm Welcome would keep going through the summer.

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 recently re-located to the Willington Road site in the 40mph zone. The new unit had been installed in the 30mph zone coming into the village from the north; however, it was not yet active because of a technical issue.

3342/24

Matters for discussion or determination

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

Members discussed final details for the event. Security was discussed; also, it had been suggested that because of the size of the stage, improved lighting would be required. Stage Connections, the stage supplier, had quoted £640.00 for a basic lighting set up, with an additional £700.00 for an enhanced lighting arrangement.

RESOLVED to hire security for over night at the weekend; and to hire the basic lighting set up at £640.00.

b) Upgrades to electrics at The Green

It was reported that ducting had been laid across The Green in preparation for the new electrics. Because Councillor Ratcliffe was not present, the decision on which electric contractor would do the work was deferred until the next meeting.

c) Bus Shelter on Willington Road requiring repair

The bus shelter had been damaged. The Clerk had a quote for repair at £459.00 to replace the panel. However, the Clerk was checking whether this bus shelter was the District Council or Parish Councils' responsibility.

RESOLVED that if the bus shelter was the Parish Council's responsibility, the cost of repair was approved.

d) KGV Play Area Inspections highlighting maintenance

The annual inspection of the play area at King George V Playing Field had highlighted an issue with two of the pieces of equipment. The District Council had provided a quote to repair the pieces of equipment. Roundabout – estimate is £675 + VAT and See-Saw - estimate is £260 + VAT. It would require the removal of the two items to the workshop.

RESOLVED to accept the quote for the repair of the two pieces of equipment. The Clerk would ask for this to be scheduled as soon as possible.

e) Land at Porters Lane

Councillors were concerned about the lack of progress to clear the land at Porters Lane following the demolition of the house and the clearing of hedge boundary. Councillor Brown had 'phoned the agent for the land; she had been unable to speak to the agent but had left a list of issues for him to reply to.

f) SIDS Training – reference information sent by Councillor Brown

Councillor Brown outlined the offer of SIDS training put forward by another Parish Council.

RESOLVED to defer further discussion on this whilst Councillor Brown went back to the other Council for more information; also, when more Councillors were present to discuss.

g) Alternative for Community Hall at Highfields – reference information forwarded

Members considered a report submitted by T Yeomans which suggested an alternative Community space for Highfields. The Chairman thanked him for the excellent report.

RESOLVED that this could not be taken forward at this time until consortium had responded on the query about the availability of land. The Clerk would however, look into the costs involved for the suggested alternatives.

h) Memorial for Joan Tidy

Members considered options for a lasting memorial for Findern resident and community member, Joan Tidy. Her husband and representatives of Findern Footpaths Group were consulted. The Footpaths Group were naming the education centre at Cotes Close after Joan.

RESOLVED further suggestions would be brought to a future meeting.

3343/24

Planning Matters

Members **NOTED** the following planning applications, with reference to a report prepared by T Yeomans: -

Consultations

- **Ref. Non. DMPA/2024/0534 – 28 Wallfields Close, Findern**
The erection of a part two-storey and part single-storey extension
- **Ref. No. DMPA/2024/0610 – Dhami Acres, Bakeacre Lane, Findern**
Alternative garage scheme to that already approved and partially built under previous approval DMPA/2021/1743
- **Ref. No. DMPA/2024/0623 – 50 Hillside, Findern**
The erection of a garage extension, rear extension and re-roofing.
- **Ref. No. DMPA/2024/0692 – 6 Tutbury Avenue, Highfields**
Erection of single storey rear extension.

RESOLVED the Clerk would make comments on the planning applications for 28 Wallfields Close and 50 Hillside, not objecting to the applications, simply making relevant comments.

Decisions

- **Ref. No. DMPA/2024/0450 – 80 Burton Road, Findern**
Erection of single storey rear extension.
Approved (Delegated Decision)

End of Year accounts and External Audit 2023/24

3344/24 Receive the Internal Auditors Report and recommendations
Council received the Internal Auditor's report for 2023/24.

RESOLVED that the report of the Internal Auditor be received and approved.

3345/24 Approve the Receipts and Payments Accounts for 2023/24 and for these to be signed by the Chairman and the Clerk/RFO.

It was noted that the accounts had been approved by the Internal Auditor and there were no matters to be drawn to the attention of the Council. Council was then asked to approve the Receipts and Payments Accounts for 2023/24.

RESOLVED that the Receipts and Payments Accounts be approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk/RFO.

3346/24 Approve the Annual Governance statement for 2023/24 (Section 1 of the Annual Return) and for this to be signed by the Chairman and the Clerk/RFO.

Council was asked to approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24.

RESOLVED that the Annual Governance Statement 2023/24 (Section 1 of the Annual Return) be approved by Council and signed by the Chairman and Clerk/RFO.

3347/24 Approve the Accounting statement for 2023/24 (Section 2 of the Annual Return) and for this to be signed by the Chairman and the Clerk/RFO.

Council was asked to approve the Accounting Statement for 2023/24.

RESOLVED that the Accounting Statement for 2023/24 (Section 2 of the Annual Return) which was signed by the Clerk/RFO before being presented to the authority, be approved by Council and signed by the Chairman.

3348/24 Approve the Annual Return to be sent to PKF Littlejohn for 2023/24 and the prescribed notices and accounts to be published.

RESOLVED that the Annual Return be submitted to the External Auditor and the prescribed notices and accounts be published on the website and displayed on the notice boards for the period of 24 June to 2 August 2024.

3349/24 Appoint an Internal Auditor for 2024/25

The Clerk asked the Council to approve John Marriott as Internal Auditor for the civic year 2024/25.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would ask John Marriott to act as Internal Auditor for civic year 2024/25.

3350/24 **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
16/05 Multipay Corporate Card	Microsoft Office 365 extension of subscription to 5 users	£66.66	£13.33	£79.99

16/05 Multipay Corporate Card	Corporate Card Monthly Fee	£3.00	£0.00	£3.00
BACS UTB 24/05/2024	South Derbyshire CVS - Salaries for May	£1888.26	£0.00	£1888.26
UTB SO 03/06/2024	Quarterly Payment to FIND as contribution to cost of electricity for external lights	£45.50	£0.00	£45.50
BACS UTB 14/06/2024	J S Marriott & Co Annual Internal Audit Service	£180.00	£0.00	£180.00
BACS UTB 14/06/2024	SDDC – Monthly operational inspection & maintenance of play area at KGV in May and Annual inspection	£204.65	£40.93	£245.58
BACS UTB 14/06/2024	Fox Grounds Maintenance & Landscaping Ltd. May Work	£434.72	£86.94	£521.66
BACS UTB 14/06/2024	Stuart Reeves – installing ducting for lights on Village Green	£295.00	£0.00	£295.00
BACS UTB 14/06/2024	Carter Jonas Annual Licence Fee for land at Crow Park Way	£100.00	£0.00	£100.00
BACS UTB 14/06/2024	Clerk's Expenses Phone, WFH Allowance, Travel, Postage, Zoom subscription.	£69.44	£2.60	£72.04
BACS UTB 14/06/2024	Reimbursement to Clerk for purchase of replacement office chair	£82.45	£16.49	£98.94
BACS UTB 14/06/2024	Woodgrow Horticulture Ltd. Reimbursement for purchase of ducting for Village Green	£292.19	£58.44	£350.63
BACS UTB 14/06/2024	Warwick Directories – for half page advert in magazine for Sportmobile events	£93.00	£18.60	£111.60
BACS UTB 14/06/2024	Viking Direct – stationery for Clerk and the Chairman, inks and paper	£125.88	£25.38	£152.26

b) Members noted Income received: -

Date of credit	From	Into Account	Amount
30/05/2024	Interest on NAT West Reserve Account	NAT West Reserve	£85.89
03/06/2024	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 May 2024 (including Current and Reserve Accounts Balances).

d) Asset Register/Statement of Holdings

Members considered the updated Asset Register / Statement of Holdings.

RESOLVED to approve this as a true record and the document was duly signed by the Chairman.

3351/24

Correspondence

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

- National Grid: Chesterfield to Willington Grid Upgrade Consultation – forwarded 12/05
- Local Government Boundary Commission Consultation – forwarded 20/05
- DALC Newsletter – forwarded 06/06
- SDDC Email about Boundary review – forwarded 06/06

3352/24 Reports from Councillors attending meetings of outside bodies

None.

3353/24 Date of next meeting(s)

The next Meeting of the Parish Council would be held at **7pm on Thursday, 11 July 2024**, at the Methodist Church, Lower Green, Findern, DE65 6AD.

3354/24 Exclusion of press and public

There were no matters requiring exclusion of the public.

3355/24 Exempt

None.

Meeting closed at 8.10pm.