

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 July 2024 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors T Brown, G Cooke, B Dosanjh, H Hettmann, S Holmes, Y Hughes, C Smith and M Woodhouse.

Also present: Kate Sharpe (Clerk) and 9 members of the public.

3356/24 Apologies for absence

Apologies were **NOTED** from Councillors M Bram and M Ratcliffe.

3357/24 Declaration of members interests

Councillor Hettman declared an interest in item 11.5 as a member of Findern Footpaths Group; the group had made a request for funding.

3358/24 Public Speaking

Members of the public:

- A representative of the Village Hall Fete Committee thanked the Council for providing the marquee, generators and toilets at Hillside for the Fete.
- A resident congratulated the Parish Council & the Fete committee for the events on 6 July.
- A representative of Findern Footpaths Group reported that they had received a letter from Derbyshire County Council (DCC) about the possibility of upgrading Derby Way from a public footpath to a bridleway. The group had spoken to the British Horse Society; who said their aim was to improve facilities for their members. As this footpath crosses the A38, DCC would have to introduce a bridge; the cost of which may prove to be prohibitive.
- A resident queried the payment made each month to South Derbyshire CVS. The Clerk explained that this payment was for the payroll, which South Derbyshire CVS carry out on behalf of the Council.
- The Parish Warden for Highfields reported that contractors were working on pavements and roads at Highfields prior to them being adopted by the County Council.
- A resident raised a concern that the exit from Cromwell Avenue onto the main road of Doles Lane was dangerous because of the reduced view. It was suggested a convex mirror be introduced to improve visibility. The Clerk would contact Councillor Ford about this suggestion as it would need to be raised with Highways.

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: -

- There was a drop-in event with information about the Chesterfield / Willington National Grid upgrade on Friday 19 July at Findern Village Hall. This was between 2pm and 7pm.
- The District Council were trying to meet with representatives of National Grid to talk with them about the plans.
- The new Police and Crime Commissioner has started a public consultation about what the public want to see for policing in the county.
- Work on the new sports pitch at Highfields was due to start at the end of July; works would include improving drainage in the play area.

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

- Congratulations to all those involved with the Village Hall Fete and Party in the Park event; feedback was that they were fantastic events and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.
- A Planning Application had been submitted for a BESS Facility at Twyford, very close to Findern DMPA/2024/0664. Councillor Ford had attended a recent presentation at Willington Parish Council from the applicant of the BESS at Egginton, which he had found very interesting indeed.
- The County Council had presented Derby City Council with a bill for £93 million, which represented an outstanding invoice regarding the energy from the Waste Plant in Sinfin.
- The Highway teams are out repairing potholes; residents are asked to keep reporting any new ones through the County Council website.
- No further developments on Villager 3 bus service improvements.

3359/24

Response to emails from residents

a) Footpath from Heatherton Pond

A resident reported that the footpath between Heatherton Pond and Findern (Priory Way) was not obvious and it was just a field of high grass. There was currently no definitive route and sections were hard to navigate.

A representative from the Footpaths Group was present at the meeting and they said they would visit the site to trim it. However, the signage fell to Derby City Council as the start of the footpath was within its boundary; therefore, the Clerk would contact the Rights of Way Officer at Derby City to ask for improved way marking.

b) Cost of road surface being installed on the corner of Heath Lane / Main Street

A resident had emailed the Council with concerns about the anti-slip surface being installed on the corner of Heath Lane/Main Street. The resident asked the Council to confirm how much this was actually going to cost, as the resident was of the opinion that it was not a cure to stop speeding; it may protect the properties on the bend but they believe it doesn't give out the message to slow down. They would prefer that any costs be put towards a better deterrent before vehicles get to that point in the village.

Clerk had replied that it was a Highways matter and referred the resident to Councillor Ford.

3360/24

Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 13 June 2024 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

3361/24

Variation of order of business

None.

3362/24

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

None.

3363/24

Chairman's Report

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

Firstly, the Council would like to thank Councillor Cooke and his son Ollie for cutting back the overgrown brambles and hedges bordering Baxter's Way; these had been encroaching on the footpath, making it difficult to get by.

This year the Parish Council and the Village Hall Fete Committee joined together to try something new for the Fete. The Parish Council were able to provide facilities that would be financially out of reach for the hall, as all funds raised during the day go towards keeping the hall running. The Fete was spread over three sites; The Green had a more traditional Fete beginning with crowning the Fete Queen and King. There was a Bric-a-Brac stall, a used book stall, tombola and some stalls run by local groups, as well as the fabulous Tutbury band. A burger van and bar were new additions and very well received. Up at the Village Hall, there was a wide range of stalls with handmade items as well as cream teas; and totally new this year, at Hillside Playing Fields there was a dog show, Findern Knocks it out the Park, a Bake Off and children's inflatables, as well as street food. All three sites were very well attended throughout the day.

We then had a couple of hours to tidy away and get ready for 'Party in the Park' held at Hillside. There were two bands; Abba Express kicked off the show with some really well-known Abba songs that got everyone going, ready for Waking Vegas who most definitely ended the evening with a bang! It was an absolute pleasure to see everyone enjoying themselves dancing. And thankfully the weather was a bit kinder to us this year. Willington Scouts ran their BBQ and bar again and made some money for their funds. We also had the local cadets raising money selling sweets for their trip to Gibraltar.

These events could not take place without a lot of willing volunteers, there are far too many to name individually, but you know who you are, many thanks from us all for your hard work. A special thanks to our local farmer John Hicklin for loaning us the hay bales that were used at Hillside.

Since the last Council meeting the Speed-Watch group had completed 9 x 1 hour road side sessions. A total of 3,436 vehicles were recoded travelling in both directions through the village. 73 people received a 1st letter, 2 received a 2nd letter, no 3rd letters were sent out. 8 were locals, and 11 could not be verified.

Report of the Parish Clerka) Installation of Sports Pitch at Highfields

The Council had been given a start date for the sports pitch installation at Highfields, 28th July (around). Contractor, Pugh-Lewis would prepare risk assessments and method statements prior to the commencement of the works. In addition to the sports pitch, they would be installing 200m of land drains to the play area. This work was essential as some areas of the play area become waterlogged in heavy rain.

b) Update from Agent on land at Porters Lane

The Council had received an update from the Agent for the land at Porters Lane: - He appreciated that the site looks unsightly at the current time and extended an apology to the local residents for the time it was taking to resolve the scheme; he would ask a colleague to visit the site and erect the fencing again. As far as it being overgrown, over the last couple of months it had grown considerably; the hope was to be on site by September. Regarding planning, they had push back on the proposed scheme; they had a successful pre-application meeting with the planners. The revised scheme would be for bungalows and they have just completed a new topographical survey which means that application can be amended and a decision made in the next month or so. As soon as they had approved planning, their intention was to start the development.

c) Update from allotments holders re. cutting of hedge on Common Piece Lane

Further to the offer from the farmer to cut the hedges on the boundary of allotments on Common Piece Lane; Heather Hall had spoken to the allotment holders on and they have indicated they would all prefer to cut their own hedges

d) Stanhope Wood water tap

A representative of Findern Footpaths Group asked about the possibility of a water tap being installed at Stanhope Wood. As Severn Trent have indicated in the past that they may be willing to install; the Clerk had emailed their agent. They had replied to say they had put this out to the wider Severn Trent team on the project and would update on their response.

Members Reportsa) Findern in Relief Fund

Councillor Cooke had brought paperwork to the meeting for signature. He said he would have an update for September; with an idea of floating funds, which were circa £4000.

b) Stanhope Wood

Councillor Hettmann updated the Members on works at Stanhope Wood. The thinning of the wood was now complete; and this had brought a lot more light to lower levels which would encourage habitat. Volunteers were not working on clearing brambles; therefore, the group had brought a three-year plan to this meeting to rake off areas of brambles and then fence and treat to prevent regrowth. There was an item on the agenda to discuss the request for funding for these works.

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

The Steering Group had received the Findern Design Guidance and Codes for review. Discussions regarding this document would be held at the next meeting on the 29 July. One of the Steering group members, Pete Price had worked very hard on creating a 'Traffic and Public Transport Report' which would be included in the aspirational section of the final Neighbourhood Plan. The group had a signed off version of the Housing Needs Assessment. During

the Fete there was an opportunity for villagers to have a look at the progress so far and give their feedback on the work.

d) Warm Welcome

The numbers continued to hold steady with the last couple of weeks being around 40 at each event; including visitors from Hilton, as they could not find anything similar in their area. At the moment the donations were covering costs. In honour of Wimbledon, the group had strawberries and cream as a treat. There were a couple of new volunteers. Warm Welcome is a free event held every Tuesday between 12 - 2pm at Findern Village Hall – anyone is welcome to come along and make friends, have a warm meal, a piece of cake and a cuppa.

e) Data from VAS Unit

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. The contractor had been unable to find the issue and Councillor Holmes had been unable to connect with the unit. He would take another look and if a solution could not be found, it was agreed that the Clerk could call in SWARCO engineer.

3366/24 **Matters for discussion or determination**

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

Members discussed the details for the event; what had worked well and possible improvements for next year.

RESOLVED to set the date for next year's event as 28 June 2025

(Note: Subsequently changed to Saturday 5 July 2025 after the meeting because 28 June would clash with another popular event in the village.)

b) Arrangements for Summer Activities at KGV / Highfields Spencer Academy.

The Clerk outlined the dates and times for the four sessions that SDDC were running on behalf of the Parish Council this year; 2 at Highfields Spencer Academy and 2 at King George V Playing Field.

RESOLVED that Councillor Cooke would be on site at the start of the two Highfields sessions; and Councillor Brown would be on site for the two Findern sessions.

c) Upgrades to electrics at The Green

Members considered the three quotes submitted for the electrical upgrade work on The Green.

RESOLVED to accept the quote from O'Connor electrical at £3257.00 plus VAT.

d) Health & Safety Consultant – renewal of annual support

Members considered the renewal of the annual contract with the Council's Health & Safety Consultant support; this was at £660.00 for the year.

RESOLVED to approve the renewal of the annual contract with the Council's Health & Safety Consultant, Melanie Eckersley.

e) Stanhope Wood – proposed funding for 3-year plan

Members considered a request for ongoing funding for works at Stanhope Wood; this would be for £750.00 in August 2024 and for the next two years, 2025 and 2026.

RESOLVED to approve ongoing funding for works at Stanhope Wood; this would be for £750.00 in August in each year, 2024, 2025 and 2026.

f) Quote for Painting of play equipment at KGV

Members considered a quote for the repainting of certain items of play equipment at the King George V Playing Fields; these had been highlighted in the inspection report as requiring remedial work. The goal posts were considered not suitable for painting and perhaps should be replaced.

RESOLVED to accept the quote from Mike Warner for the repainting of the items of play equipment and the picnic tables at a cost of £640.00 for labour and materials.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would look in to costs for new goal posts.

g) Lock on gate to rear of Parish Rooms

Members were made aware that the lock on the gate to rear of the Parish Rooms was in need of replacement.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would have a contractor replace the lock on the gate.

h) 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.

i) Scarecrow Trail

At the previous meeting, Councillor Brown had suggested this activity for children to get involved in over the summer holidays. However, the Council was running out of time to put this in place.

RESOLVED to defer this activity until next summer.

3367/24

Planning Matters

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

Consultations

None.

Decisions

- **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
Approved (Delegated Decision).
- **Ref. No. DMPA/2024/0623 – 50 Hillside, Findern**
The erection of a garage extension, rear extension and re-roofing.
Approved (Delegated Decision).
- **Ref. No. DMPA/2024/0585 – Priory House, Lower Green**
The erection of a single storey rear extension to existing garage
Approved (Delegated Decision).

Financea) 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
16/06 Multipay Corporate Card	Vinyl Banners Printing – 4 banners printed to promote summer event	£76.65	£0.00	£76.65
16/06 Multipay Corporate Card	Corporate Card Monthly Fee	£3.00	£0.00	£3.00
BACS UTB 27/06/2024	South Derbyshire CVS - Salaries for June	£1888.26	£0.00	£1888.26
BACS UTB 27/06/2024	Pictorial Ltd. No Parking signage for Parish Rooms and Lower Green	£180.00	£36.00	£216.00
BACS UTB 27/06/2024	Waking Vegas – balance payment for band to play at summer event	£949.00	£0.00	£949.00
BACS UTB 27/06/2024	Abba Express – balance payment for band to play at summer event	£950.00	£0.00	£950.00
BACS UTB 27/06/2024	Marshalls Marquees – balance payment for hire of marquee for summer event	£559.37	£111.88	£671.25
BACS UTB 27/06/2024	Kniftons Mobile Toilets – balance to pay for hire for summer event	£660.00	£132.00	£792.00
BACS UTB 27/06/2024	SDDC – Supply of general and recycling waste bins for summer event	£43.50	£0.00	£43.50
BACS UTB 02/07/2024	Stage Connections – hire of stage and lighting for the Party in thre Park event	£2359.00	£471.80	£2830.80
BACS UTB 03/07/2024	Total Hire Sales – hire of generators, festoon lighting and extensions for the Summer event	£400.00	£80.00	£480.00
BACS UTB 12/07/2024	Melanie Eckersley - Health and Safety Support Annual subscription	£660.00	£0.00	£660.00
BACS UTB 12/07/2024	SK Training Overnight Security for summer event	£354.00	£0.00	£354.00
BACS UTB 12/07/2024	Blueprint Premier advert for Sportmobile events Findern Magazine	£68.00	£13.60	£81.60
BACS UTB 12/07/2024	Clerk's Expenses Phone, WFH Allowance, Travel, Postage, Zoom subscription.	£58.64	£2.60	£61.24
BACS UTB 12/07/2024	Fox Grounds Maintenance & Landscaping Ltd. May Work	£434.72	£86.94	£521.66
BACS UTB 12/07/2024	Easy Growing Landscapes – working May and June	£425.00	£0.00	£425.00
BACS UTB 12/07/2024	SDDC – Monthly operational inspection & maintenance of play area at KGV in June	£54.65	£10.93	£65.58
BACS UTB 12/07/2024	Zurich Insurance – additional premium to cover event items	£112.00	£0.00	£112.00

BACS UTB 12/07/2024	Reimbursement to Councillor Ratcliffe for money paid to security guard at summer event to stay till 9am	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00
BACS UTB 12/07/2024	Tutbury Band – Fee paid by Parish Council as agreed at earlier meeting to support Village Fete	£250.00	£0.00	£250.00
BACS UTB 12/07/2024	Community Heartbeat – replacement pads for Garden Centre defibrillator	£57.95	£11.59	£69.54

b) Members noted Income received: -

Date of credit	From	Into Account	Amount
28/06/2024	Interest on Nat West Reserve Account	NAT West Reserve	£73.06
28/06/2024	Locality Grant	Unity Trust Bank	£9990.00
03/07/2024	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 30 June 2024 (including Current and Reserve Accounts Balances).

3369/24

Correspondence

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

- National Grid: Chesterfield to Willington Grid Consultation Update – forwarded 19/06
 - Response received to the Council's letter to agent for BESS development at Landown Farm – forwarded 25/06
 - DALC Newsletter – forwarded 03/07
- Councillor Hettmann drew the attention of Members to the offer mentioned in the newsletter; the Woodland Trust was offering free trees and plants to community groups.

RESOLVED the Clerk would order 3 packs of hedging plants for Findern Footpaths Group to use in Stanhope Wood.

3370/24

Reports from Councillors attending meetings of outside bodies

None.

3371/24

Date of next meeting(s)

The next Meeting of the Parish Council would be held **at 7pm on Thursday, 12 September 2024**, at the Methodist Church, Lower Green, Findern, DE65 6AD. There was no planned meeting for August.

3372/24

Exclusion of press and public

There were no matters requiring exclusion of the public.

3373/24

Exempt

None.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm.