

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, 10 October 2024 at 7.00pm.

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

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

3392/24 Apologies for absence

Apologies were **NOTED** from Councillor M Bram. Prior to the meeting Councillor Bram had requested a dispensation for non-attendance at meetings. This would be considered in Exempt.

3393/24 Declaration of members interests

1) Councillor Hettmann declared an interest in item 11.6 as a member of the Findern Footpaths Group.

3394/24 Public Speaking

Members of the public:

- A member of the Findern Footpaths Group reported that the Social Prescribing Team from the local GP Surgery had visited Stanhope Wood and the eco-garden and had been very impressed. As a result, the group will produce a leaflet for GP surgeries promoting the group and its activities as a way of improving mental health, making friends and getting involved in a project to help the environment.
- The Footpaths Group will also be active on Saturday 19 October between 12noon-3pm planting 400 bulbs and tree whips. They were meeting at Oak Tree near underpass at Noon.
- The Parish Warden for Highfields reported that the drainage works at the Mackworth Avenue play area had not yet been done. The Clerk had checked with the developer, and this work had just been delayed by bad weather. The Parish Warden also reported some sewerage issues in the area; speaking to Severn Trent he had been advised that the builder still has responsibilities for any issues up to 6 years after completion of building.

Police Liaison Officer:

The South Derbyshire Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) Officer had not submitted a report for the meeting; however, the Chairman read out an update from the SNT Newsletter that highlighted the Neighbourhood Priority for our area for this quarter being Road Safety Issues. They will: -

- Conduct High Visibility patrols across the areas to deter issues.
- Complete Media appeals re antisocial riding and use of E Scooters
- Liaise with Schools/ youth groups re antisocial riding and use of E Scooters
- Work with the community and partner agencies to identify offenders. Riders/drivers identified would be issued section 59 warnings or have their vehicles/E Scooters seized under S.165 of the road traffic act.

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) attended the meeting and gave the following report:

- Stage 1 of the National Grid Upgrade Consultation had now closed. The Stage 2 consultation would be next year.
- SDDC Local Plan Part 1 was now out for consultation. There were two strategic developments included in the plan; one being Mickleover South off Staker Lane. Although this was not in the parish of Findern it would have an impact on infrastructure and traffic.
- The next Flood Liaison meeting would be held on 21 November 2024.
- The planning application for the Porters Lane development was still ongoing.

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

- The Stage One consultation for the Chesterfield-Willington Power Line installations closed on 17 September 2024. Derbyshire County Council had submitted objections to this as it potentially affects 37 Heritage Sites.
- Bretby recycling centre had changed its opening and closing times.
- The County library service was consulting on proposals for changes to the way they run the library service; this is aimed at ensuring all the library buildings remain open, as well as creating a modern, agile, family-friendly and sustainable service across the county.
- Councillor Ford advised he had no update from Highways on the work at Heath Lane on the anti-skid surface for the corner of Heath Lane/Main Street; nor to the suggestion of putting boulders at the top of lay-by off Burton Road to stop fly-tipping.

3395/24

Response to emails from residents

a) Request for Well Dressing Boards

The Council had been contacted by a volunteer from the St Alkmund's Well Dressing Group in Derby, asking about the boards previously used in Findern for well dressings. The group were hoping to produce well dressings in 2025 and have asked if the boards are no longer required in Findern, could their group have them.

The Clerk emailed the WI and other people in the village that could have been connected with the well dressings in the past. It seemed that there was still a hope that well dressing would be resurrected in the village; and therefore, an unwillingness to give the boards away. Therefore, the request would be refused.

b) Resident wishing to recycle plants from planters

The Council has been approached by a resident who would like to recycle the plants that are in the planters around the village. She would like to bring them back to life, repot them and give them to residents in the village as gift.

The Clerk checked with Firs Farm; they are happy for someone to remove any plants from the planters that could possibly be rejuvenated – e.g. geraniums. They would normally just be thrown away. Therefore, the request was approved.

c) Highlighting concern about development on Staker Lane

A resident wrote to the Council to ask members whether they were aware of the proposed development of commercial and residential properties (including 2500 houses) on land off Staker Lane.

This proposed development is in the South Derbyshire District Council's emerging Local Plan. A summary of this Local Plan had been circulated to members and the consultation on the plan opened on 7 October giving everyone a chance to have their say. The Clerk also circulated plans to Members showing the proposed development was located in Burnaston Parish / Derby City. Whilst not in Findern parish, it would potentially affect infrastructure and traffic.

3396/24

Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 12 September 2024 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

3397/24

Variation of order of business

None.

3398/24

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

There was an item regarding the Parish Rooms to be considered in exempt. Also, Members would consider Councillor Bram's request for a dispensation for non-attendance at meetings due to ill health in exempt.

3399/24

Chairman's Report

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

Further to the work updating the electric supply on the Green, Councillor Woodhouse had installed new cabling ready for the Remembrance and Christmas celebrations.

The Parish Council were happy to participate in the Harvest Festival Celebrations organised by All Saints Church and The Chapel. Donations included clothing, toiletries, hygiene products, cleaning supplies and food items.

All Councillors and the Clerk had been busy listening to bands for the next Party in the Park ready to make a decision later this meeting.

Since our last meeting the Speed-Watch group has completed 8 x 1 hour road side sessions. The group recorded a total of 5,353 vehicles travelling in both directions through the village. 56 drivers received a 1st letter, 4 received a 2nd letter, no 3rd letters were sent out. 3 were locals, and 2 could not be verified. The number of vehicles is significantly higher at the moment due to the works on the A38. This is also keeping the speed down because there are long queues of traffic. Happily, the number of letters being sent out and the number of locals speeding has reduced.

Report of the Parish Clerka) Free trees ordered from SDDC

The Council received an email from SDDC advertising up to 10 trees free for organisations. The Clerk forwarded this to the Footpaths who requested the type that they wanted and then an order was made for the trees and Councillor Hettmann would pick these up from Rosliston in November.

b) Request made to Councillor Ford re. boulders on lay by on Burton Road

At the last meeting the Clerk was asked to look into whether this is possible. In the first instance the Clerk contacted Councillor Ford for help to determine which Council is responsible here; it should be Highways; however, the District Council were involved in getting the Public Space Protection Order to erect the gate. So still looking into this one.

c) Porters Lane Site / Application ref. DMPA/2024/0246 response from SDDC

The Clerk contacted the planning department to enquire about the progress of the application at the Porters Lane site. They advised that no amended plans had been submitted yet and application DMPA/2024/0246 had not been withdrawn. Amended plans are expected and when these are submitted, a further round of full public consultation (21 days) would be undertaken.

The Clerk also spoke to the site agent about fencing the site; he said that they have taken delivery of the solid Heras fencing; however, they had been advised to wait until the ground is leveled before erecting this fencing.

d) Bus Shelter repair

The broken panel on the bus shelter on Willington Road was reported to the District Council some weeks ago. This had now been repaired. Unfortunately, the frame had been damaged by a car. The Clerk reported this to the District Council and they advised that parts have been ordered and it would be repaired shortly.

e) Update on surfacing of corner at Main Street / Heath Lane

Councillor Ford enquired with Highways as to when the work would be done. The reply from Highways advised that the job had a status of issued to Contractor, but it had no planned start date. They have emailed the contracts manager in Construction Services to ask if they can give a date when the works would be scheduled for delivery. Councillor Ford said he would keep tabs on the progress.

f) Lengthsman has reported broken sign on Heath Lane

This was on Willington Road and was damaged by a car last year. The Lengthsman has reported this once again.

g) Numbers available for summer activity sessions

SDDC had provided the breakdown on numbers for each day of the summer sessions. Note that the 22 August was a day with high winds, so this may explain the low turnout.

EventDate	Location	EventName	Count of Created
31 July 2024	Findern (Sch)	Play Mobile	79
08 August 2024	Findern (Park)	Adventure Mobile	41
15 August 2024	Findern (Sch)	Adventure Mobile	61
22 August 2024	Findern (Park)	Sports Mobile	4
Total			185

Members Reports**a) Findern in Relief Fund**

The treasurer is still working with CCLA to prove that the new trustees are allowed to take over the account, but they are making progress. They now know how much was in bank accounts. The trustees would be meeting soon to discuss the advert promoting the charity and the form which people would use to apply. An email address has now set up.

b) Stanhope Wood

Councillor Hettmann updated the Members on works at Stanhope Wood. The group had cleared the woodland floor but had left some ground cover for wildlife. This had improved the area. The group had submitted a management plan to the Parish Council to be considered later on the agenda.

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

The Steering Group were waiting for the Draft Neighbourhood Plan document from the consultant Helen Metcalfe; this was due around the end of October or the beginning of November.

The District Council's Draft Local Plan Review Part 1 was now available and there are several drop-in sessions for people to go and have a look and find out any information and ask any questions. These sessions were at: -

- Derby Mickleover Hotel on the 14th October from 4.00pm- 7.45pm
- Sharpes Pottery Museum, Swadlincote on the 17th October from 4.00pm- 7.45pm
- Stenson Fields Primary Community School on the 23rd October from 4.00pm- 7.45pm
- **Findern Village Hall on the 25th October from 4.00pm- 7.45pm**
- Frank Wickham Hall, Etwall on the 5th November from 4.00pm- 7.45pm
- All Saints Heritage Centre, Aston on Trent on the 7th November from 4.00pm- 7.45pm
- Hilton Village Hall on the 12th November from 4.00pm- 7.45pm
- Melbourne Assembly Rooms on the 14th November from 4.00pm- 7.45pm
- Roliston Village Hall on the 15th November from 4.00pm- 7.45pm
- Barrow on Trent Village Hall on the 18th November from 4.00pm- 7.45pm
- Willington Old School on the 20th November from 4.00pm- 7.45pm

d) Warm Welcome

The numbers attending continue to hold steady at around 40. At the moment the donations are covering costs. The group continue to serve jacket potatoes with a variety of toppings, cake and cups of tea and coffee. The Chairman, on behalf of all the volunteers who run the group, recently accepted an award from the SDCVS charity which included recognition for keeping the Warm Space going throughout the year. Warm Welcome is a free event held every Tuesday between 12-2pm at Findern Village Hall; all are welcome to come along and make friends, have a warm meal, and a chat.

e) Data from VAS Unit

Councillor Holmes shared data downloaded from the new unit in the 30mph zone on Doles Lane along with data from the other unit in the 40mph zone on Willington Road. The graphs produced in this data were a very visual way of sharing the speeds at which vehicles are travelling, along with the numbers passing through the village. These graphs would be shared on the Community Facebook page to highlight why the work of the Speedwatch group was so important.

3402/24 Matters for discussion or determination

a) Quote for electrical items to complete lighting scheme

Members considered the quote for the Items needed to complete the upgraded lighting scheme for The Green. The budget for this was £3000; and so far, spend was £3844 on the ducting and the new pillar. The quote for the remaining electrical items is £1209.81 plus VAT and that is for 3 lights per tree. 2 lights per tree would be £846.39 plus VAT and one light per tree is £482.97.

RESOLVED to order 3 lights per tree at costs of £1209.81 plus VAT.

b) Remembrance arrangements for Village Green – Sunday 10 November 2024

Members discussed arrangements for Remembrance display and service.

RESOLVED that: -

- Installation of poppy display on The Green would be on Saturday 26 October
- Clerk would order 20 extra lamp post poppies at cost of £85.00, 15 for village and 5 for Highfields.
- Donation for Wreath would be £250 and cheque was signed by Councillors Cooke and Smith.

c) Arrangements for Christmas 2024

- Members considered a request from the Olde Forge Nursery to use The Green for Carols on 6 December day time for carol service.

RESOLVED to approve the request.

- FINDERN – confirmed date is Saturday 30 November 2024 5.00pm – 7.30pm
Members considered arrangements for this event.

RESOLVED to approve: -

- Entertainment from Dream Parties at a cost of £250.00 for 2 hours
- Refreshments – Clerk would order these in Mulled Wine/Tea/Coffee/ Hot Chocolate and Mince pies
- Santa has confirmed but will need padding
- Clerk would source gifts for children at cost of approx. £1.00/head

- HIGHFIELDS – confirmed date is Friday 22 November 2024 6.00pm – 7.30pm
Members considered arrangements for this event. LITE Ltd had confirmed that they were ok with the new earlier switch-on date.

RESOLVED to approve: -

- Sign agreement with Greenbelt giving permission to host the event on site
- Quote for Marquee 6m x 8m up to 80 people standing £305 plus VAT
- Entertainment, Jayne Darling Christmas Songs £195 6pm to 7.30pm
- Order of a generator – 6KW at £65.00 plus VAT and Festoon Lighting at £20.00 plus VAT.
- Characters Elsa and Elf on a Shelf at cost of £180 – to give out gifts / photos
- Refreshments – Clerk would order these in Mulled Wine/Tea/Coffee/ Hot Chocolate and Mince pies
- Clerk would order in 2 x 5 Litre Flasks @ £25.00 each
- Purchase of tea lights for children
- Clerk would source gifts for children at cost of approx. £1.00/head

d) Request for funding for Findern Fest on Thursday 19 December

Members considered a request for funding for this event. Total funding from the Parish Council last year was £675 which was more than the £550 agreed originally by Council. The organiser of the event said she would be clearer on which invoices the PC would pay.

RESOLVED to give £550 s137 funding to the event in the form of invoices that the Parish Council would cover. The organiser must send a list of items that the Parish Council would pay.

e) Bands for Summer Event – Party in the Park 5 July 2024

The Clerk had requested some help selecting bands for next year's event; Members had also discussed offering local bands the opportunity to play. The Clerk had circulated, prior to the meeting, some links to various bands.

The Clerk had booked the stage, lighting and transport for next year; and the contractor had sent a quote over for sound support and sound technician to consider. This was around £2000 plus VAT.

Members were interested in the offer from an agency for the band called 'The Money'; they could offer sound support for the band and also a first act, which they could suggest some options for. Members were happy to go with this option, but just wanted to hear the options for the first act.

RESOLVED the Clerk would go back to this agent and ask for some options for the first act and a total quote for all in to circulate to Members by email for a choice to be made and signed off.

f) Plan for Stanhope Wood

Members considered the management plan for Stanhope Wood submitted by the Footpaths Group. This had been circulated to all Members prior to the meeting. The total for the work was £2120.00. This work would be done in the current budget year; the Clerk asked the members to note that the budget line for Stanhope Woods was £3500 and so far, only £1500 had been spent.

RESOLVED to approve the request for funding of £2120.00

g) Quote for Clark & Kent visit to Pump Track

The Annual ROSPA check had suggested the surface of the pump track needed attention. Clark & Kent had quoted £750 to come out to do full inspection of all elements with the amount being discounted off the cost of any subsequent work.

RESOLVED to approve the quote and schedule the visit.

h) Quotes for Tree Survey for KGV and The Green

Members considered the quotes for a tree survey to be carried out at KGV and The Green. These were between £650 and £675.

RESOLVED to approve the quote from Andy Portlock at £650.00

i) Request to site bench on The Green / KGV

Members considered a request to site a Memorial Bench for a resident who had passed away during Covid. The Clerk explained that there were only two areas available; the King

George V Playing Field and The Green. They would prefer The Green; however, as there was a project scheduled to improve the appearance of The Green, they were advised that this could be delayed and after a review of the street furniture at The Green the decision may be to not add any further items.

RESOLVED to reply to resident to let them know this information and offer them the choice.

j) Request for donation of PJs to Hospital Pyjamas Charity

The Council has received a request for a donation again to PJs to Hospital Pyjamas Charity – the Council had donated £200 for the last two years. Councillor Brown suggested donating to a local charity instead.

RESOLVED to refuse the request for a donation and look at appointing a local charity to be the Council's charity for the year.

k) Health & Safety Management Report – Gaps in hedge at KGV

The Council's Health & Safety consultant, Melanie Hambley has completed the annual review of the Health & Safety Management Report. One item of concern was at the King George V Playing Field; there are gaps in the hedges to the farmers field and all warning signs for the presence of barbed wire are missing.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would ask James at Easy Growing Landscapes to introduce some fencing to close gaps in the hedge; also, to replace posts with signs along the length of the boundary with new barbed wire warning signs.

l) Support All Saints Church with funding towards cost of exterior lighting over the winter

Members considered whether the Council should support All Saints Church with funding towards the cost of exterior lighting at the church over the winter; from Clocks going back at the end of October, to clocks going forward in March. This cost £133.00 last year.

RESOLVED to approve the funding under S137 towards the cost of lighting up the church over the Winter.

3403/24

Planning Matters

Members **NOTED** the following planning consultations and decisions: -

Consultations

None.

Decisions

- **Ref. No. DMPA/2024/0883 – Holly Bank House, 25 Main Street, Findern**
Advertisement consent for the display of signage.
Approved (Delegated Decision).

3404/24

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
16/09 Multipay Corporate Card	Card Monthly Fee	£3.00	£0.00	£3.00

BACS UTB 26/09/2024	South Derbyshire CVS September salaries	£2044.98	£0.00	£2044.98
BACS UTB 11/10/2024	Viking Direct Stationery - Inks for Clerk, A4 paper, lamination pouches and stamps	£56.93	£11.39	£68.32
BACS UTB 11/10/2024	SDDC – Monthly operational inspection & maintenance of play area at KGV	£54.65	£10.93	£65.58
BACS UTB 11/10/2024	SDDC – Summer Play Scheme 4 sessions	£1200.00	£240.00	£1440.00
BACS UTB 11/10/2024	Findern Village Hall – Room Hire for NDP Meeting on 26 November 2024.	£30.00	£0.00	£30.00
BACS UTB 11/10/2024	Fox Grounds Maintenance & Landscaping Ltd. September Work	£434.72	£86.94	£521.66
BACS UTB 11/10/2024	Hornsby Ltd – moving and installing of VAS	£300.00	£60.00	£360.00
BACS UTB 11/10/2024	Clerk's Expenses for Phone, HWA, Mileage and Zoom subscription	£58.64	£2.60	£61.24
BACS UTB 11/10/2024	Reimbursement to Chairman for purchases made on behalf of Parish Council – donation of items towards Harvest Festival / Padley Trust (Under S137)	£148.65	£0.00	£148.65

b) Members noted Income received: -

Date of credit	From	Into Account	Amount
30/08/2024	Interest on Nat West Reserve Account	NAT West Reserve	£78.47
02/10/2024	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 September 2024 (including Current and Reserve Accounts Balances).

3405/24

Correspondence

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

- DALC Newsletter – forwarded 11/09
- SDDC Invitation to Climate Workshop (respond by 10/10) – forwarded 24/09
- SDDC Local Plan Consultation – forwarded 25/09
- DCC Have Your Say Consultation – forwarded 25/09
- SDDC Local Plan Consultation issued on 7 October – forwarded 03/10
- East Mids. Freeport Invitation to Teams update on 23 Oct 9.30 -11.00 – forwarded 03/10

3406/24

Reports from Councillors attending meetings of outside bodies

Councillors Brown and Ratcliffe advised they would be attending a meeting on 25 October 2024 with the local MP regarding the planning applications for lithium battery farm developments in our area.

3407/24

Date of next meeting(s)

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

3408/24

Exclusion of press and public

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.

3409/24

Exempt

- a) Members discussed an item relating to the Parish Rooms.
- b) Members discussed Councillor Bram's request for dispensation from non-attendance at Parish Council's meetings due to ill health.

RESOLVED to grant Councillor Bram a dispensation for non-attendance at Parish Council meetings due to ill health until the new year. This dispensation would be reviewed at the Parish Council meeting on 9 January 2025.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm.