

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, 14 November 2024 at 7.00pm.

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

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

3410/24 Apologies for absence
Apologies were **NOTED** from Councillor S Holmes

3411/24 Declaration of members interests
None.

3412/24 Public Speaking

Members of the public:

- A member of the Findern Footpaths Group reported that they had held a planting session recently and had planted 350 bulbs, 12 dog roses and a walnut tree. Another planting session would take place on 20 November 2024 with children from the Nursery. They would be planting trees and hedging donated by The Woodland Trust. The Footpaths Group plan to have a stall at Findern Fest; also, they would be arranging another visit to Teen Valley Nature Reserve in the spring, for the new members of the group to see what Findern Footpaths Group are aiming to achieve at their own nature reserve.
- Councillor Dosanjh thanked Trevor Yeomans for his reports on each of the planning applications; Councillors Dosanjh and Ratcliffe supported the points made, raising their concerns about 3 of the planning applications; these would be discussed further at the relevant item on the Agenda.
- The Parish Warden for Highfields reported that the road drains were still sand bagged on the side roads. These needed to be cleared to improve drainage. The Clerk would report this to the contact for the Builders Consortium.

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 not attended the meeting; however, he had submitted the following report:

- A meeting of the Flood Liaison Forum would take place on Thursday 21 November 2024, on Teams, 10am – 12pm.
- There was a Freeport webinar on 23 October 2024, it was quite poorly attended, which possibly was because of an error with invitations not being sent out appropriately. No new details discussed, but it is understood that the Freeport would be going ahead. One timescale given was for businesses to be on site, up and running by 2031. This was ambitious.
- The next Area Forum meeting would be on 21 January 2025, 6pm-8pm at Newton Solney Village Hall.
- Councillor Hudson noted that planning application Ref. No. DMPA/2024/0246 - Farm House, Porters Lane, Findern was on the Agenda for discussion. He advised that this application was lodged with the 'Planning Committee'; this was based on the previous more controversial plan. Councillor Hudson requested that Members consider whether they were happy for this application to re-vert back to a 'delegated decision'.
- South Derbyshire District Council had held a drop-in event at Findern Village Hall to consult on the Local Plan Stage 1. Feedback from planners on this was positive. Planners would be at the Willington Old School on Wednesday 20 November, 4pm – 7.45pm, all were welcome.

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

- *I don't have much in the way of a DCC report. Our challenges are well documented regarding Adult Social Care, Dementia Care and Children's Services as costs for providing these services are spiralling on a daily basis.*
- *I have asked Highways again about a date for installation of the non-skid surface on Main Street/Heath Lane corner.*
- *On a SDDC update, we have a new Executive Director covering Environmental Services and also a new Environmental Services Manager is now in post.*
- *Planning, I have made a personal objection to the development on The Green. I think the design is appalling for such a prominent position on The Green, I have also cited overdevelopment and access concerns. I don't have too many issues with the revised Porters Lane application.*
- *Note McDonalds have lodged an appeal for the site on Castleway, Willington.*

3413/24

Response to emails from residents

a) ASB at car park off Mackworth Avenue

The Council had been contacted by a resident concerned by anti-social behaviour taking place at the car park off Mackworth Avenue on Highfields. A number of cars congregate there late at night on weekends and individuals play loud music and are drinking. This had been reported to the police but no action had been taken. The Clerk would ask for incident numbers from the resident to follow this up with the Safer Neighbourhood Team.

3414/24

Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 10 October 2024 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

3415/24 Variation of order of business

None.

3416/24 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, an update on the Local Government Pay Award for staff.

3417/24 Chairman's Report

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

As always, the Parish Council considers it a great privilege to take part in the Remembrance Day Commemoration Event. We decorated the Green again this year, with a few new additions, the church arch way, the village pump and some of the trees on the Green but also a magnificent horse's head made out of horseshoes by Ian Woodcock, who has the stables on Common Piece Lane. It was also an honour for Councillors to attend the service led by the two churches on the Green and to lay a wreath in honour of the fallen. Our thanks go to Mick Reid for hammering in a cross for each of those fallen soldiers.

The Village planters have been replanted recently and one of our local residents, Thelma Cooper very kindly re-potted some of the plants that were being removed and gifted them to residents during Warm Space.

I attended the drop-in session for the Draft Local Plan, Part 1 consultation at Findern Village Hall on Friday 25 October. There were very low attendance numbers, and I urge people to go to one of the other venues to find out how this affects our area.

The Speed Watch group had held 11 sessions since our last meeting.

We recorded a total of 5,097 vehicles.

There were 61 first letters and two second letters sent and only two were local people.

I also attended the first Speed Watch Co-ordinators' meeting which included Officer Bob, Debbie Turner who is the Admin Officer for Speed Watch as well as members of groups from Ticknall, Newton Solney, Repton, Smisby, Willington and Milton. Mercia has more active groups than any other area and it expected that Bretby will be up and running soon. It was nice to compare notes and make sure we are all operating in the same manor.

3418/24 Report of the Parish Clerk

a) Hedging from Woodland Trust delivered to Councillor Hettmann for Stanhope Wood

The four free packs of hedging from the Woodland Trust had been delivered to Councillor Hettmann. The hedging would be planted shortly in Stanhope Wood.

b) Site appearance at Porters Lane

The Clerk had contacted the Agent to ask for the fence to be re-erected and the rubbish be removed from the site. The Clerk has been copied into an email asking for this to happen.

3419/24 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 have passed their risk committee.

b) Stanhope Wood

Councillor Hettmann updated the Members on works at Stanhope Wood. The group were now sowing seeds and a number of shrubs were purchased to be planted shortly.

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

The Steering Group had received a first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan from the consultant, Helen Metcalfe. Members of the Steering Group were in the process of reading this extensive document with a view to discussing substantive points at the next meeting of the group on 26 November 2024.

d) Warm Welcome

Again, the group had a very successful month, averaging between 35-40 people each week. A visit from The Citizens advice bureau took place, who gave advice on winter heating and gave away Carbon Monoxide alarms. The library and jigsaw swap continues to thrive. New faces are welcomed; the group operates every Tuesday between 12-2pm, offering a jacket potato, slice of cake and warm beverages.

e) Data from VAS Unit

Councillor Holmes had submitted data downloaded from the unit in the 30mph zone on Doles Lane along with data from the other unit in the 40mph zone on Willington Road. The data showed a marked increase in number of vehicles going through the village; probably drivers trying to avoid road works on A38. The plan was to move the units to the alternative sites on the north and south of village in January 2025

3420/24 Matters for discussion or determination

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

Members reviewed Remembrance display and service.

RESOLVED to approve the £80 payment made for materials to make the horseshoe horses' head for Remembrance display.

b) Quote for additional lighting to complete Christmas lighting scheme

Members considered the purchase of additional lighting to complete the Christmas lighting scheme. Councillor Woodhouse advised about 6 more lengths of lights were needed.

RESOLVED that Clerk would order the required lights, with the condition that overall cost was under £250,00.

c) Arrangements for Christmas 2024

- HIGHFIELDS – confirmed date is Friday 22 November 2024 6.00pm – 7.30pm
Members considered arrangements for this event and indicated whether they would be available to help at the event.
- FINDERN – confirmed date is Saturday 30 November 2024 5.00pm – 7.30pm
Members considered arrangements for this event and indicated whether they would be available to help at the event.

Regarding the permissions needed from the Consortium to introduce an underground cable and pillar in place of the catena cable; the 3 developers in the consortium have agreed to this in principle however they want a Deed of Easement in place, the cost of this to the Parish Council would be £950.

RESOLVED that this was agreed in principle however, the Clerk would ask whether the consortium could cover this cost as a gesture towards the residents of the development. However, if not the Parish Council would meet the cost.

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

Following discussions at the October meeting of Council, the Clerk had gone back to the agent to 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. This had been done and the Sugar Tree had been selected as the opening band.

RESOLVED that the bands be confirmed as The Money and Sugar Tree including sound support £1199

e) Quote received from Clark & Kent for remedial works at the Pump Track

Clark & Kent had submitted their inspection report. They confirmed that the track surface was sound and did not need a new dressing of tarmac. However, they recommended other ground maintenance work around the site. The quote for this was very high. Members discussed the quote and the work recommended.

RESOLVED that Councillor Woodhouse would discuss the work required with Easy Growing Landscapes and seek a quote from them.

f) Recommendations from the Tree Survey for KGV and The Green

Members considered the tree survey carried out at KGV and The Green. The recommendation was for work to be carried out on 1 tree on The Green and 1 tree near the King George V Playing Fields. The quote for this work was £300 plus VAT. The tree on The Green was subject to a TPO and therefore permission would be sought for the work to be carried out.

RESOLVED to approve the quote from Andy Portlock at £300 plus VAT.

g) Quote for repair to gaps in hedge at KGV

At the October meeting it was agreed 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. He had submitted a quote for this at £725.00.

RESOLVED to accept the quote of £725.00 and ask for the work to be scheduled asap.

h) Response to National Grid Scoping Consultation

Members considered whether the Council should comment as a statutory consultee on the criteria to be set for the scoping consultation.

RESOLVED to return a response of 'No Comment'.

i) Response to SDDC Local Plan Consultation

Members considered their response to this consultation by SDDC on their Local Plan Part 1.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council would respond to the consultation raising concerns around access to A38 island and the impact of increased traffic coming through Findern; particularly if the Southern Relief Road was now not to be built for some time.

Planning Matters

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

Consultations

- **Ref. No. DMPA/2024/1314 – 86 Burton Road, Findern**
The conversion of existing garage to boot room/utility and erection of a single storey rear extension and glass veranda.
- **Ref. No. DMPA/2024/1197 – The Cottage, Buckford Lane, Findern**
Demolition to part of existing dwelling, erection of extension and alterations, installation of new sewage treatment plant, detached triple garage with ancillary accommodation and erection of new gate
- **Ref. No. DMPA/2024/0246 - Farm House, Porters Lane, Findern**
Erection of six dwellings.
- **Ref. No. DMPA/2024/1351 – 6 The Green, Findern**
Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of two dwellings with landscaping and new driveway.

RESOLVED Following discussion, the Clerk was asked to submit responses on 3 of the applications:

- **Ref. No. DMPA/2024/1197** – No objection to application but raise concern about the lack of detail on the proposed new sewerage treatment plant; also, concern about the potential contamination of water course following incidents of flooding.
- **Ref. No. DMPA/2024/0246** – No objection subject to conditions of improving access/egress to Plot 2; improved consideration for pedestrians; position of boundary with the road; and the necessity of a report to be submitted on nature conservation and loss of green space.
- **Ref. No. DMPA/2024/1351** – Objection to application due to concern about constrained development on the plot, access and egress unsafe and Visual Impact on the vicinity.

Decisions

None.

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
CHEQUE UTB No. 300022	Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal – s137 donation for poppy wreath	£250.00	£0.00	£250.00
BACS UTB 12/10/2024	Contact19 Electrical items for display at The Green	£1209.81	£241.96	£1451.77
16/10 Multipay Corporate Card	Keys by post-additional keys for pillar on The Green	£8.07	£0.00	£8.07
16/10 Multipay Corporate Card	Amazon - purchase of trolley for Speedwatch Group	£58.32	£11.67	£69.99
16/10 Multipay Corporate Card	Contact19 Electrical items for display at The Green - cable	£90.42	£18.08	£108.50

16/10 Multipay Corporate Card	My Pure Core Ltd via Amazon Tarpaulin to cover Salt Grit bags	£24.92	£4.98	£29.90
16/10 Multipay Corporate Card	Amazon - 6 x A5 plastic signs danger barbed wire	£27.48	£5.52	£33.00
16/10 Multipay Corporate Card	Amazon - Cable Ties for Remembrance Poppies	£21.69	£4.35	£26.04
16/10 Multipay Corporate Card	Card Monthly Fee	£3.00	£0.00	£3.00
BACS UTB 22/10/2024	South Derbyshire CVS October salaries	£1888.26	£0.00	£1888.26
BACS UTB 22/10/2024	Easy Growing Landscape September work	£200.00	£0.00	£200.00
BACS UTB 22/10/2024	Reimbursement to Parish Warden, R Yates for purchase of new shoe laces for work boots	£4.99	£0.00	£4.99
BACS UTB 22/10/2024	Get Happy Entertainment - entertainment for Highfields Christmas Event	£195.00	£0.00	£195.00
BACS UTB 22/10/2024	Reimbursement to the Clerk - purchase of toys for gifts at Christmas event	£58.00	£11.60	£69.60
BACS UTB 29/10/2024	Advanced Gas Service - Boiler Service at Parish Rooms	£80.00	£16.00	£96.00
BACS UTB 29/10/2024	Marshall's Marquees - deposit invoice for Highfields Christmas event	£110.00	£0.00	£110.00
BACS UTB 29/10/2024	Altogether Entertainment - deposit invoice for 2 x band and sound support for Party in the Park 2025	£499.00	£0.00	£499.00
BACS UTB 29/10/2024	Reimbursement to Chairman, T Brown for money given to Ian Woodcock for materials to make shoe horse's head	£80.00	£0.00	£80.00
UTB DD	Monthly Bank Service Charge UTB	£5.40	£0.00	£5.40
BACS UTB 14/11/2024	Pictorial Ltd – Replacement signage for KGV to replace peeling sign	£105.00	£21.00	£126.00
BACS UTB 14/11/2024	SWARCO for additional key for unit	£25.00	£5.00	£30.00
BACS UTB 14/11/2024	Planning With People – planning consultant for NDP Drafting Reg14 compliant NDP	£3250.00	£0.00	£3250.00
BACS UTB 14/11/2024	Easy Growing Landscape October work	£100.00	£0.00	£100.00
BACS UTB 14/11/2024	SDDC – Monthly operational inspection & maintenance of play area at KGV	£54.65	£10.93	£65.58
BACS UTB 14/11/2024	Fox Grounds Maintenance & Landscaping Ltd. October Work	£434.72	£86.94	£521.66
BACS UTB 14/11/2024	Andy Portlock Ltd for Tree Survey	£650.00	£130.00	£780.00

BACS UTB 14/11/2024	Clerk's Expenses for Phone, HWA, Mileage and Zoom subscription	£80.24	£2.60	£82.84
BACS UTB 14/11/2024	Reimbursement to Clerk for purchases made on behalf of Parish Council – for Christmas Events – children's gifts and mulled wine	£155.92	£0.00	£155.92
BACS UTB 14/11/2024	Marshall's Marquees - balance invoice for Highfields Christmas event	(£366.67)	(£73.33)	£330.00
BACS UTB 14/11/2024	Findern Footpaths Group – reimbursement for shrubs bought for Stanhope Wood	£250.87	£0.00	£250.87

b) Members noted Income received: -

Date of credit	From	Into Account	Amount
25/09/2024	Rent for Land at Burton Road	Nat West Current	£1750.00
28/09/2024	Interest on Nat West Reserve Account	NAT West Reserve	£81.18
04/10/2024	Greenbelt Group Ltd Donation towards Highfields Tree	Unity Trust Bank	£750.00
02/11/2024	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 October 2024 (including Current and Reserve Accounts Balances).

d) Councillors **NOTED** that there would be a Finance Committee meeting held at 7pm on Tuesday 19 November 2024 at Methodist Church, Lower Green, Findern, DE65 6AD. This will look at current and future budgets and projects for next year.

3423/24

Correspondence

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

- DALC October Newsletter – forwarded 09/10
- National Grid Scoping Consultation – forwarded 04/11
- DALC November Newsletter – forwarded 04/11
- East Midlands Airport Community Flyer – forwarded 05/11
- PCC Change of Policy on E-Scooters – forwarded 05/11

3424/24

Reports from Councillors attending meetings of outside bodies

Councillors Brown reported that she would attend the Flood Liaison Meeting on 21 November 2024.

East Midlands Intermodal Freeport Community Forum Meeting on Monday 23 October 2024 @ 9.30am via Teams

Councillor Brown attended this meeting and submitted this report: -

They hope to start up regular meetings again after a period of no contact, potentially every three months. There is no start date yet for the planning process to begin as Goodmans are still looking at the site with work still to be done on geological areas and the associated costs around the road and rail connections which is expensive. There still needs to be sensitive development dialogue with local communities. Freeports don't get any special planning rights, or ways of getting around workers' rights.

It is a public and private partnership between South Derbyshire, Goodmans and Severn Trent. It will bring large scale investment into the region, creating 28,000 additional jobs. It will deliver through three major sites: East Midlands Airport and Gateway Industrial Cluster, Ratcliffe-on-soar power station site and the East Midlands intermodal park, creating connectivity with nearby businesses including Toyota, Rolls Royce, JCB, Alstom, Experian and DHL.

The East Midlands has the lowest level of public investment with pockets of deprivation. Job growth is only 53% of the national average and lags behind the rest of the UK. We are situated in the heart of the UK on a 530-hectare site that offers connectivity across road, rail and air. If businesses can be operating by 2031 there will be tax benefits. The Space Park in Leicester is a tariff free zone for imports and exports.

BESS Systems meeting - 25 October 2024 @ 5pm Willington Village Hall.

Councillors Brown Ratcliffe met with two Willington Parish Councillors and Samantha Niblett, Member of Parliament for South Derbyshire regarding the BESS (Battery Energy Storage Systems) sites around Willington and Findern. There are four sites that would need to be routed to Willington Power station. The group discussed what the issues were surrounding this, especially the disruption to the road networks as each site would be operated by different companies. Councillor Niblett would go away after the meeting to find out more information.

3425/24

Date of next meeting(s)

The next Meeting of the Parish Council would be held **at 7pm on Thursday, 12 December 2024** at the Methodist Church, Lower Green, Findern, DE65 6AD.

3426/24

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.

3427/24

Exempt

- a) Members discussed an item relating to the Parish Rooms.
- b) Members were informed of the Local Government Pay Award that is relevant to staff salaries.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm.