

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, 12 December 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 5 members of the public.

3428/24 Apologies for absence
None.

3429/24 Declaration of members interests
Councillor Hettmann declared an interest in item 11.4 as a member of Findern Footpaths Group.

3430/24 Public Speaking

Members of the public:

- A member of the public thanked the Parish Council for their efforts this year to improve road safety and for enhanced community relations.

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) attended the meeting and gave the following report:

- He highlighted the recent report from the Police Commissioner's Office about the recent crackdown on illegal E-scooters; 99 E-scooters had been seized and disposed of.
- Councillor Hudson wished all in the parish a very Merry Christmas.

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

- He praised the village of Findern for its lovely Christmas display on The Green; people passing through had commented on how festive this was.
- DCC had introduced a new scheme for residents of Derbyshire whereby they had to register their vehicle with the Council to use the waste recycling centres around the

county. This registration lasts for 7 years and has been introduced to stop people from outside of the county using the waste facilities; thus, saving money on disposing of other counties rubbish.

- He has asked Highways again about a date for installation of the non-skid surface on Main Street/Heath Lane corner. This is on the capital works list but doesn't have a start date at the moment.

3431/24 Response to emails from residents

No emails received this month.

3432/24 Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 14 November 2024 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

3433/24 Variation of order of business

None.

3434/24 To determine which items, if any, of the Agenda should be taken with the press and public excluded

None.

3435/24 Chairman's Report

The Chairman welcomed all to the December meeting of Findern Parish Council and gave the following report: -

We take great pride as a Council in organising and taking part in the events for switching-on of the Christmas lights. This year we were able to provide entertainment at Highfields in the form of Jayne Darling singing Christmas songs as well as an Elsa and Elf on the Shelf characters for the children to have photographs taken with. We had our very own Councillor Cooke playing an excellent Santa, taking time to talk to every child and give out small gifts, many thanks from us all for doing that and I hope you realise that's your job forever! Refreshments were also provided and the feedback we have received has been very positive.

In Findern we switched the lights on at the tree on The Green, this year we decorated the tree trunks of the other trees as well and I'm sure everyone would agree that it looked spectacular. We then had children's entertainment provided by Dream Parties and refreshments in the Village Hall. This was also very well attended. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Councillor Woodhouse for once again gifting the village a wonderful Christmas tree, as well as sorting out all the lights, including the new lights we've added to all the individual trees.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Trevor Yeomans for all his hard work this year regarding planning matters; his attention to detail has been invaluable to the Council and we hope he will continue to support us going forward.

Our thanks to Dave Tidy, the Findern Village Lengthsman and Richard Yates, the Highfields Warden for both going the extra mile in helping to keep both areas clean and safe; also to our Clerk, Kate Sharpe; she works so hard at making sure we do everything correctly, especially when it comes to finance, we couldn't do what we do without her.

On Tuesday 17 December there would be Community Carol Singing on the Green at 6pm followed by refreshments in All Saints Church and on Thursday 19 December the Festive Findern Event would take place, also on the Green from 5-9pm.

The Speed Watch group had held 7 sessions since the November meeting. They recorded a total of 2,450 vehicles. There were 67 first letters and 9 second letters sent and only 3 were local people.

3436/24

Report of the Parish Clerk

a) Update on work at Sports Pitch / Play Area at Mackworth Avenue, Highfields.

Following comments about the condition of the Sports Pitch made at the November meeting, the Clerk contacted the technical manager who is in charge of the project and he confirmed that there was still some work to be done to the pitch, the contractors have graded the soil and, in the Spring, they would install drainage and seed the pitch. Members queried whether there should be two pitches, not just one. The Clerk would check the original landscape drawing submitted at planning application stage. Also, the Clerk would check with project manager whether there will be a fence installed between the play area and the football pitch which is very close by.

3437/24

Members Reports

a) Findern in Relief Fund

The treasurer was still working with CCLA to prove that the new trustees are allowed to take over the account, but they were making progress; the information required had been sent to CCLA to pass to their risk committee.

b) Stanhope Wood

Councillor Hettmann updated the Members on work at Stanhope Wood. The group were now sowing seeds and whips down near pond and the children from the nursery had been involved in planting tree whips at Stanhope Hole. The group were proposing a set of steps on the circular walk near to the pond; however, the landowner was not keen on this idea, therefore the group would have a rethink. The landowner was impressed with the work that had been carried out at Stanhope Woods and was really pleased about the work with schools and nurseries. Councillor Ratcliffe would set up a visit for the landowner to visit the site. The group are still keen to have a water tap at Stanhope Wood; therefore, the Clerk would chase this up with Severn Trent as it is some time since they agreed to look in to the provision of a tap there.

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 group were given the opportunity to read this extensive document with a view to discussing substantive points at a meeting held on the 26 November 2024. All issues raised were now being addressed by both members of the group and Helen herself.

d) Warm Welcome

Warm Welcome had a very successful month, averaging between 35-40 people each week. The library and jigsaw swap continued to be popular. New faces are welcomed and you do not need to live in the parish. Warm Welcome operates every Tuesday between 12-2pm, offering a jacket potato, slice of cake and warm beverages. The Christmas meal would take place on 17 December, with turkey and stuffing cobs, cranberry sauce, mince pies and chocolate log, also a cheeky tot of Baileys in the coffee; a good week to come for the first time!

e) Data from VAS Unit

Councillor Holmes had submitted data downloaded from the units; however, there was no data available on either unit after 6 December. The Clerk would request a software update or a manual for the units to forward to Councillor Holmes who would try to reboot the units to get them working again.

3438/24 Matters for discussion or determination

a) Review of Christmas Events 2024

- **HIGHFIELDS** – on Friday 22 November 2024 6.00pm – 7.30pm
Members thought this had gone very well; with positive comments from residents received. The PA system had been an issue; also, more festoon lighting was required outside as the area was very dark; and more tealights were required.

RESOLVED that Councillor Cooke would investigate a replacement PA System and send details to the Clerk to be considered at a future meeting.

- **FINDERN** – on Saturday 30 November 2024 5.00pm – 7.30pm
This had also been well received; though numbers were thought to be less than in previous years. It was suggested that the event be held on a Friday evening. This would be considered when setting the date for the event in 2025. Also, a ‘magic button’ for the switching on of the lights was required.

b) Approval for spend on new boots for Santa

This item was deferred to the January meeting, as no receipt for the boots had been submitted.

c) Quote received for remedial works to Pump Track from Easy Growing Landscapes

This item was deferred to the January meeting, as no quote had been submitted.

d) Findern Footpaths Group Lease agreement for garages

Members considered the request from Findern Footpaths Group (FFG) for a formal lease arrangement which allowed them the use of the yard and garages behind the Parish Rooms for storage. This was required for their insurance.

RESOLVED to set up a lease agreement between the Parish Council and Findern Footpaths Group for the use of the yard and garages behind the Parish Rooms. There would be a peppercorn rent of £1.00 per annum; and the lease would run until 31/03/2027.

e) Summer Activities Offer for 2025 from Active South Derbyshire / alternative provision

Members considered the offer from Active South Derbyshire for summer 2025; along with the offer from other providers. The offer from Active South Derbyshire had worked well at Highfields with a good number of children attending each session; however, numbers had not been so high at the Findern sessions. Highfields Spencer Academy were yet to confirm they were happy for the sessions to take place at the school as in previous years.

RESOLVED that the Council would book two sessions with Active South Derbyshire for summer 2025 at Highfields, if Highfields Spencer Academy confirmed they were happy for the sessions to take place at the school. Members would revisit the provision for Findern at a future meeting.

- f) Review of Local Community Facilities for Findern's Neighbourhood Development Plan
Members considered a list of proposed Local Community Facilities for the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) for Findern parish. There was some discussion about what comprised a Community Facility. Members were interested to know what was included in the NDP for Willington parish.

RESOLVED the Clerk would circulate the information from the NDP for Willington parish and this item would be re-considered at the January meeting.

- g) Heath Lane Sign

The sign for Heath Lane on the corner of Heath Lane/ Willington Road was currently residing in the bushes. It had been reported to Highways by both the Clerk and the Lengthsman.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would report the issue once more to Highways via their portal.

3439/24

Planning Matters

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

Consultations

- **Ref. No. DMPA/2024/0986 – 130 Heathland Grove, Heath Lane, Findern**
The erection of a two-storey side extension. (Validated 14/11/24).

Decisions

- **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.
Approved (Delegated Decision).

3440/24

Finance

- a) To receive Minutes of Finance Committee meeting on 19 November 2024 and approve recommendations

Members received the Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 19 November 2024.

RESOLVED to accept the recommendations made at that meeting: -

- There were some budget lines that had an overspend; circumstances for this were explained and these would be adjusted.
- To accept that overall, the Council was £18,000 underspent; this was because some projects had not been delivered in 2024/25 budget year and therefore a budget would be allocated for the projects to be actioned in the next budget year.
- That the updated budget below (See Appendix) be approved.

At the Finance Committee meeting, Members had considered projects for 2025/26 and beyond. The Clerk had worked on a draft budget for 2025/26 and had circulated this to all Members, along with an illustration of the Precept figures resulting from 0% increase and other variations of % increase to Precept.

The Members accepted the draft budget; asking only for some additional funds to be allocated to the Remembrance Garden; also, some budget to replace one of the Remembrance figures from the display. The Budget would be finalised at the Parish Council meeting on 9 January 2025 and the Precept confirmed for 2025/26. It would be approved

by Full Council at the meeting and submitted to South Derbyshire District Council by their deadline in early February.

b) Move money from Current Account to Reserve to gain interest

Members discussed the balance held in the Nat West Current Account.

RESOLVED to transfer £10,000 from Nat West Current account to Nat West Reserve Account to earn interest on the balance.

c) 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
18/11 Multipay Corporate Card	RBL Poppy Shop - Lamp post Poppies x 20	£70.83	£14.17	£85.00
18/11 Multipay Corporate Card	Amazon Gel Light Covers	£19.98	£0.00	£19.98
18/11 Multipay Corporate Card	The Works - 40 Christmas Books for Christmas Events / Children's Gifts	£34.00	£0.00	£34.00
18/11 Multipay Corporate Card	Vinyl Banner Printing Professional Design Service Highfields Christmas Banner	£13.99	£0.00	£13.99
18/11 Multipay Corporate Card	Vinyl Banner Printing of Highfields Christmas Banner	£31.83	£0.00	£31.83
18/11 Multipay Corporate Card	Amazon Xmas Backdrops	£36.64	£7.34	£43.98
18/11 Multipay Corporate Card	Amazon Xmas Tablecloths	£27.96	£0.00	£27.96
18/11 Multipay Corporate Card	Amazon 100 x Paper cups	£13.78	£0.00	£13.78
18/11 Multipay Corporate Card	Amazon Jaiv Ltd Disposable Cups x 500	£33.29	£6.66	£39.95
18/11 Multipay Corporate Card	Amazon Jannon Ltd 5 litre flasks	£46.94	£9.00	£53.94
18/11 Multipay Corporate Card	Amazon Oma Range Ltd Water jugs x 2	£11.64	£2.34	£13.98
18/11 Multipay Corporate Card	Vinyl Banner Printing Professional Design Service Highfields Christmas Leaflets	£13.99	£0.00	£13.99
18/11 Multipay Corporate Card	Vinyl Banner Printing of Highfields Christmas Leaflets	£70.57	£0.00	£70.57
18/11 Multipay Corporate Card	Marks and Spencer's Get-Well Flowers from Chairman's allowance	£30.00	£0.00	£30.00
18/11 Multipay Corporate Card	Vinyl Banner Printing Professional Design Service Findern Christmas Banners	£13.99	£0.00	£13.99
18/11 Multipay Corporate Card	Vinyl Banner Printing of Findern Christmas Banners	£59.18	£0.00	£59.18

18/11 Multipay Corporate Card	Asda Tea, Coffee, Squash, Sugar etc for Christmas events	£30.58	£0.00	£30.58
18/11 Multipay Corporate Card	Card Monthly Fee	£3.00	£0.00	£3.00
BACS UTB 25/11/2024	South Derbyshire CVS November salaries	£2246.06	£0.00	£2246.06
BACS UTB 25/11/2024	Shauni Salmons PDP Characters	£180.00	£0.00	£180.00
BACS UTB 26/11/2024	O Heap Fire Alarm Service	£169.00	£33.80	£202.80
BACS UTB 26/11/2024	O Heap Servicing of Emergency Lighting	£218.00	£43.60	£261.60
BACS UTB 26/11/2024	O Heap Emergency Light Replacement	£363.80	£72.76	£436.56
BACS UTB 26/11/2024	O Heap Fire Extinguisher Service	£194.90	£38.98	£233.88
BACS UTB 30/11/2024	Monthly Bank Service Charge Unity Trust Bank	£6.00	£0.00	£6.00
BACS UTB 03/12/2024	Gillian Stoddard Dream Parties – entertainment at Christmas Event	£260.00	£0.00	£260.00
BACS UTB 05/12/2024	Clark & Kent Fee for track inspection and report	£750.00	£150.00	£900.00
BACS UTB 05/12/2024	SSE Energy Supply – unmetered electricity bill for Highfields	£127.29	£6.36	£133.65
BACS UTB 13/12/2024	Fox Grounds Maintenance & Landscaping Ltd. November Work	£434.72	£86.94	£521.66
BACS UTB 13/12/2024	SDDC – Monthly operational inspection & maintenance of play area at KGV Nov	£54.65	£10.93	£65.58
BACS UTB 13/12/2024	SDDC Supply of 6 x 240 litre bins to Findern Fest Event 19 12 24	£37.50	£7.50	£45.00
BACS UTB 13/12/2024	Viking Direct Stationery – Inks & A4 Paper for Clerk	£70.20	£14.04	£84.24
BACS UTB 13/12/2024	Viking Direct Stationery – Inks & Storage Boxes for Chairman	£99.97	£19.99	£119.96
BACS UTB 13/12/2024	Clerk's Expenses for Phone, HWA, Mileage and Zoom subscription	£80.24	£2.60	£82.84
BACS UTB 13/12/2024	Reimbursement to Chairman for purchases made on behalf of Parish Council – for Get Well gift for Councillor – out of Chairman's Allowance	£21.95	£0.00	£21.95
BACS UTB 13/12/2024	Reimbursement to Clerk for purchases made on behalf of Parish Council – for Christmas Events – children's gifts and refreshments	£177.68	£0.00	£177.68
BACS UTB 13/12/2024	The Air Ambulance Trust – paying over to charity the money collected at the Christmas Events	£155.50	£0.00	£155.50

d) Members noted Income received: -

Date of credit	From	Into Account	Amount
31/10/2024	Interest on Nat West Reserve Account	NAT West Reserve	£78.57
15/11/2024	Ardent / National Grid Payment for no invasive survey at KGV	Unity Trust Bank	£750.00
02/12/2024	Sarah Pritchard / Find Ltd. - Parish Rooms Rent	Unity Trust Bank	£360.00
13/12/2024	Cash paid in that was collected at the Christmas Events for the charity: The Air Ambulance Trust	Unity Trust Bank	£155.50

e) Bank Account Reconciliation Report/Budget Monitoring Reports

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

3441/24

Correspondence

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

- DCC Adult Social Care Consultation – forwarded 21/11
- DALC November Newsletter – forwarded 05/12
- PCC Policing Budget Survey – forwarded 27/11

3442/24

Reports from Councillors attending meetings of outside bodies

Councillor Brown reported that, because of a power cut, she had been unable to attend all of the Flood Liaison Meeting that was held online via Teams on 21 November 2024. She advised that Findern had not been referred to in the part of the meeting she was able to join. She will circulate the Minutes of the meeting to Councillors once they are issued.

3443/24

Date of next meeting(s)

The next Meeting of the Parish Council would be held **at 7pm on Thursday, 9 January 2025** at the Methodist Church, Lower Green, Findern, DE65 6AD.

3444/24

Exclusion of press and public

No exempt items; therefore, not required.

3445/24

Exempt

None.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

APPENDIX

FINDERN PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET 2024/25 - Amended 19 11 24			
	Budget 2024/25	Amended Budget 2024/25 following Finance meeting on 19 11 24	
INCOME			
Precept (raised via SDDC)	£ 49,852.00	£ 49,852.00	
Support Grant from SDDC	£ 1,135.00	£ 1,135.00	
Concurrent Function from SDDC	£ 16,382.00	£ 16,382.00	
Interest from Business Reserve account	£ 950.00	£ 950.00	
Parish Room Income estimated	£ 4,320.00	£ 4,320.00	
Rent from land on Burton Road	£ 7,000.00	£ 7,000.00	
Footpath Grants £385	£ 385.00	£ 385.00	
Other Greenbelt + NDP Grant + Ardent Grant	£ 10,700.00	£ 11,557.00	
VAT reclaim	£ 6,000.00	£ 6,000.00	
Sub-Total	£ 96,724.00	£ 97,581.00	
Required Transfer from Balances	£ 20,911.00		Sub-Total
Total	£ 117,635.00	£ 97,581.00	Total
	Precept/Budget 2023/24	Amended Budget 2024/25 following Finance meeting on 19 11 24	
EXPENDITURE			
Grounds Maintenance / Gardening	-£ 8,900.00	-£ 8,900.00	
Parish Rooms/The Green Maintenance&Costs	-£ 5,500.00	-£ 1,500.00	
Findern Amenity Hardware/ Maintenance	-£ 2,000.00	£ -	
Highfields Amenity Hardware/ Maintenance	-£ 3,500.00	£ -	
KGV Playing Field Items	-£ 1,000.00	-£ 2,773.00	
Garden of Remembrance	-£ 600.00	-£ 600.00	
Footpath Maintenance	-£ 385.00	-£ 385.00	
Bus Shelter Maintenance	-£ 1,500.00	-£ 200.00	
Refuse Collection / Dog Waste Bin	-£ 2,500.00	-£ 2,436.00	
Donations S137	-£ 3,000.00	-£ 2,000.00	
Staff Salaries / Payroll	-£ 23,000.00	-£ 23,000.00	
Phone/WFH Allowance/Travel	-£ 700.00	-£ 700.00	
Admin. costs.	-£ 2,000.00	-£ 2,000.00	
Newsletter	-£ 1,500.00	£ -	
Chairs Allowance	-£ 500.00	-£ 500.00	
Training	-£ 200.00	-£ 200.00	
Audit Fees	-£ 650.00	-£ 495.00	
DALC / SLCC / ICO SUBS	-£ 1,100.00	-£ 1,205.00	
Legal Fees/ Risk and Insurance	-£ 2,000.00	-£ 1,847.00	
Findern Christmas event	-£ 2,700.00	-£ 700.00	
Easter Event / Summer Event	-£ 5,750.00	-£ 7,080.00	
Remembrance Event	-£ 300.00	-£ 102.00	
Sportsmobile	-£ 1,200.00	-£ 1,442.00	
VAS / Speedwatch	-£ 5,000.00	-£ 4,650.00	
Stanhope Wood	-£ 3,500.00	-£ 3,500.00	
Afternoon Club at Village Hall	-£ 2,600.00	£ -	
Christmas Tree at Highfields	-£ 2,500.00	-£ 3,500.00	
Gateways signs x 4 at entrances to village	-£ 5,000.00	£ -	
New electric supply to The Green	-£ 3,000.00	-£ 5,145.00	
New posts/ hanging baskets for The Green	-£ 5,000.00	£ -	
Contingency / Miscellaneous	-£ 2,500.00	-£ 2,500.00	
Neighbourhood Development Plan	-£ 12,000.00	-£ 12,000.00	
VAT	-£ 6,000.00	-£ 6,000.00	
Total	-£ 117,585.00	-£ 95,360.00	Total