

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, 9 January 2025 at 7.00pm.

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

Also present: Kate Sharpe (Clerk) and 5 members of the public.

3446/25 Apologies for absence

Apologies were **NOTED** from Councillor H Hettmann.

Members **RESOLVED** that they would consider a request from Councillor Bram for dispensation for non-attendance at the January meeting in Exempt items.

3447/25 Declaration of members interests

None.

3448/25 Public Speaking

Members of the public:

- A member of the Findern Footpaths Group outlined the reasons for the request to reallocate the Parish Council's funding for Stanhope Wood and Stanhope Hole (item 10.2).
- A resident reported that one of the links on the chain around The Green had been broken. The Chairman confirmed this had been done at Findern Fest to gain access to The Green. It was suggested that more removable links be added to the chain for when there were events on The Green. It was agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting.
- A Parish Councillor from Repton Parish Council had expressed a wish to explore how to have more contact with neighbouring Parish and Town Councils.
- Trevor Yeomans thanked the Council for their kind words at the December meeting about the help he offered to the Council around the planning applications; he confirmed he was happy to continue doing this. He reported that new plans had been uploaded to the planning portal for 6, The Green; these now showed 3 car parking spaces per property and not two, as they shown previously.
- A resident reported that a pavement on Chester Road remained un-tarmacked. The Clerk would contact Taylor Wimpey to report this again.

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:

- The next Area Forum meeting would be held at Newton Solney Village Hall on 21 January 2025. All were welcome to attend.
- On 16 December the Government had issued a white paper about a change to Local Government; proposing the end of District and Borough Councils so that their responsibilities are taken up by the top tier of local government - the County Council. It is not known at the moment whether this would also mean a merging of Derby City and Derbyshire County Councils. No changes to Parish and Town Councils were proposed. The proposals will have a knock-on effect; e.g., it may mean that the County elections due in May 2025 would be delayed. The proposals, if upheld would take effect from 2026/27 with District and Borough Councils disappearing.

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

- The first item is a recent correspondence from Highways regarding the road surface at Heath Lane/Main St corner: -
I am currently in dialogue with the various parties about the co-ordinating delivery of the HFST for Heath Lane, and we are looking around provisional mid-January for installation, subject to weather constraints etc. I will confirm up a more definitive date next week when everyone returns.
- Regarding other matters, the Government settlement had fallen short of what was expected. This, combined with the effects of the National Insurance increases in the budget, would impact the council services by millions of pounds, both with direct council employees; where an earlier commitment to councils to cover this cost had now been reduced to a 'contribution', which again falls short; and sub-contractors to the council, especially care service providers, as covering these extra increases would have a significant cost running into several millions of pounds.
- Regarding the recent White Paper on Local Government Reform, the Government was keen to see unitarization, which means Districts and Boroughs Councils would, in effect, cease to exist in their current form, being absorbed into redefined authorities with greater responsibilities for service delivery. This is a complex issue with lots of talk between local Leaders and Government taking place, trying to work out the right mix demographically and politically; this will take time. We will get much more detail over time and a timeline for elections, reminding you that this year's County Council elections could be postponed for between 12 months or two years, leading to formation of the new authorities and boundaries in 2027.

3449/25 Response to emails from residents

No emails received this month.

3450/25 Minutes

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

3451/25 Variation of order of business

None.

3452/25

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

Members had **RESOLVED** that they would consider a request from Councillor Bram for dispensation for non-attendance at the January meeting in Exempt items.

3453/25

Chairman's Report

The Chairman welcomed all to the January meeting of Findern Parish Council, wishing everyone a Happy New Year and hoping that everyone had a lovely Christmas with time to relax and enjoy family. She gave the following report: -

As I mentioned at last month's meeting, as a Council we take great pride in organising our Christmas events in both Highfields and Findern; both events were well attended, with positive feedback received. Also, the Council supports the Festive Findern event financially as well as some members supporting on the day. The weather was much kinder this year and we were able to hold the event on The Green, which made it a very memorable occasion. Many thanks to Dawn Foote and Robert Taylor for all their hard work in organising and arranging everything for the day. Also, thanks to the Festive Elves who willingly give up their time to work together to make the event so successful. Around £1500 was raised at the event for Findern Primary School.

Sadly, the time comes when we must take all the Christmas decorations down in January. Thanks to Councillor Woodhouse, Jane Woodhouse and Gary Brown for helping this year. It's never as much fun as putting them up!

The Speed Watch group had held 4 sessions since the December meeting, as the members had two weeks off over Christmas and New Year. Sadly, there had been another accident early on New Year's Eve on the bend of Heath Lane and Main Street, thus proving how important Speed Watch was in educating people regarding speed limits. They recorded a total of 1,313 vehicles. There were 26 first letters and 3 second letters sent and only 4 were local people.

3454/25

Report of the Parish Clerk

a) **Letter sent to Spencer Academy regarding community space**

The Clerk confirmed that a letter had been sent to the Chief Executive of Spencer Academies Trust requesting a conversation about the use of Highfields Spencer Academy as a community space. No response had been received by the date of the meeting.

b) **Deed of Easement Highfields Christmas Tree**

The Clerk had followed up with the legal officer at Greenbelt about the status of the Deed of Easement that had been requested by the developers, before they would grant permission for the work required to lay a cable underground for the electric supply for the Highfields Christmas Tree. The officer confirmed she had asked the developers to cover the £950 cost for this, as a gesture of goodwill. Two developers had responded, with one still to come back to her. The Clerk would continue to chase.

c) **Findern Footpaths Group Lease agreement for garages**

At the previous meeting Members had 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. Members had resolved to set up an agreement with a peppercorn rent of £1.00 per annum; running until 31/03/2027. The Clerk had looked for a suitable lease, however had suggested that a simple licence would suffice. An example of this had been forwarded to the Members

of the Council and to Findern Footpaths Group to consider; and if this was agreeable to all, this could be amended for the purpose, and signed at the February meeting.

3455/25

Members Reports

a) Findern in Relief Fund

The treasurer reported that CCLA had finally approved access to the account for the new trustees. The Trust could now move forward to promote the fund and receive applications.

b) Stanhope Wood

Councillor Hettmann was not present to update the Members on work at Stanhope Wood; however, Members considered the request from Findern Footpaths Group to re-allocate funding already approved at a previous meeting. The footpaths group has been allocated £825 to provide steps from the Causeway to the north path along side of the wetlands up to Stanhope wood. The landowner was not in favour of this modification, so this task has been put on hold until an aggregable alternative could be found. Therefore, the group wished to reallocate some of this funding to move forward with the further improvements to Stanhope Wood; with work to be undertaken by Stuart Reaves. Expected cost was around £640.

RESOLVED to approve this reallocation of funding.

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

After receiving the first draft of the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) from the consultant, Helen Metcalfe, Members of the Steering Group were given the opportunity to read this extensive document with a view to discussing substantive points at the meeting that was held on the 26 November 2024. Most issues raised had been worked upon with a couple of items still ongoing with a view to discussing again at the next meeting of the Steering Group on 14 January 2025. Advisory letters had been sent to residents who lived in properties which the group wished to list in the NDP as a Non-designated Heritage Asset in the village. Also, some land owners would be contacted if part of their land had been identified for designation as a 'Local Green Space' in the NDP.

d) Warm Welcome

Warm Welcome had a very successful month. The Christmas session on the 17 December 2024 was attended by around 55 people, the highest number yet. In the first week of January, All Saints Church and the Methodist Chapel hosted around 40 people, 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, a slice of cake and warm beverages.

e) Data from VAS Unit

Councillor Holmes advised that he was unable to download any data from the units; there was no data available on either unit after 6 December 2024. The Clerk would forward to Councillor Holmes the contact details for the help desk at the supplier. It was planned to move the two units in January.

3456/25

Matters for discussion or determination

a) Approval for spend on new boots for Santa

Councillors considered the receipt for £67.00 which had been submitted by Mr Oliver for the purchase of new boots. These would remain the property of Findern Parish Council.

RESOLVED to approve payment of £67.00 for the purchase of the boots

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

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

e) 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, and the Members reviewed the information in the Neighbourhood Development Plan for Willington.

RESOLVED that the Members would like to see businesses, including nurseries and hairdressers, included in the list of community facilities for the Neighbourhood Development Plan. This recommendation would be taken to the next NDP Steering Group meeting on 14 January 2025.

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

At the January meeting, it was agreed 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. Highfields had now confirmed that they were happy to host these two sessions and therefore the Clerk would go ahead and book these.

Members revisited the provision for Findern, with the suggestion made that this form part of Party in the Park Day.

RESOLVED to defer further discussion, and this would be revisited at the February meeting along with other arrangements for the summer event on 5 July 2025.

g) 80th Anniversary of VE Day on 8 May 2025

Members considered whether there should be an organised event for this occasion; however, it was decided that as the Parish Council already hosts several events over the year, they would simply look at decorating The Green in Findern and lampposts in Highfields with bunting or suitable decoration.

RESOLVED the Clerk would look at the Royal British Legion shop website for suitable items to bring to a future meeting for consideration.

3457/25

Planning Matters

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

Consultations

None.

Decisions

- **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.
Approved (Delegated Decision).

Finance**a) Budget setting for 2025/26 and setting of Precept**

Members had previously discussed possible projects for 2025/26 civic year at the Finance Committee meeting in November 2024 and a draft budget had been prepared and amended further after review at the December 2024 Ordinary meeting. Members considered this amended draft budget, which was submitted to the January 2025 meeting for approval.

RESOLVED to approve the budget for 2025/26 as set out in the APPENDIX of these Minutes. The Parish Council had been advised by South Derbyshire District Council that the concurrent function allocation would be frozen at the 2024/25 rate and the Council Tax Support scheme would no longer be paid. In addition, there would be a review of concurrent function allocation in 2025/26 with the possibility that this would be reduced or no longer paid in the future.

Following consideration of the proposed budget and a discussion by Members it was **RESOLVED** that a precept figure of £51,067.00 be set by the Parish Council. With a Council Tax Base of 1547, this would reflect a 2.9% increase to households in Findern and equates to £33.01 per year for a Band D property, an increase of £0.93 from the previous year.

b) 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
NWC DD 11/12/2024	Information Commissioner's Office Annual Subscription Fee	£35.00	£0.00	£35.00
18/12 Multipay Corporate Card	eBay LED Candles for Christmas Event	£31.95	£6.40	£38.35
18/12 Multipay Corporate Card	Amazon 3ft Christmas Tree for church event	£14.99	£3.00	£17.99
18/12 Multipay Corporate Card	Amazon Fairy Lights pack 1 - 100 lights	£7.49	£1.50	£8.99
18/12 Multipay Corporate Card	Amazon Fairy Lights pack 2 - 50 lights	£7.34	£1.47	£8.81
18/12 Multipay Corporate Card	Amazon Santa Suit for Christmas Event	£39.99	£8.00	£47.99
18/12 Multipay Corporate Card	Amazon 300 Cable Ties	£29.97	£6.00	£35.97
18/12 Multipay Corporate Card	Total Hire Sales – hire of generator for Christmas Event	£67.53	£13.51	£81.04
18/12 Multipay Corporate Card	Contact19 Ltd. 6 sets of fairy lights for Christmas Display on The Green	£125.42	£25.08	£150.50
18/12 Multipay Corporate Card	Amazon LED Candles for Christmas Event	£32.26	£0.00	£32.26
18/12 Multipay Corporate Card	Card Monthly Fee	£3.00	£0.00	£3.00

BACS UTB 20/12/2024	South Derbyshire CVS December salaries	£2094.88	£0.00	£2094.88
BACS UTB 20/12/2024	Payment to Air Ambulance – donations made at Christmas Events for Charity	£155.50	£0.00	£155.50
BACS UTB 20/12/2024	Fox Grounds Maintenance & Landscaping Ltd. Supplementary Work	£310.00	£62.00	£372.00
BACS UTB 23/12/2024	Derby Serenaders – payment for their performance at Findern Fest – s137 funding	£150.00	£0.00	£150.00
BACS UTB 23/12/2024	Woodgrow Horticulture – 2 bags of wood bark for The Green for Findern Fest	£10.18	£2.04	£12.22
BACS UTB 23/12/2024	Easy Growing Landscapes – fencing work at KGV	£725.00	£0.00	£725.00
BACS UTB 31/12/2024	Monthly Bank Service Charge Unity Trust Bank	£6.00	£0.00	£6.00
BACS UTB 10/01/2025	SDDC – Monthly operational inspection & maintenance of play area at KGV Nov	£54.65	£10.93	£65.58
BACS UTB 10/01/2025	St John Ambulance - First Aid Cover for Findern Fest	£114.40	£22.88	£137.28
BACS UTB 10/01/2025	Guiding Sparks Circus – Entertainment for Festive Findern from s137	£250.00	£0.00	£250.00
BACS UTB 10/01/2025	Fox Grounds Maintenance & Landscaping Ltd. December Work	£434.72	£86.94	£521.66
BACS UTB 10/01/2025	LITE Ltd Supply, install and removal of Highfields Christmas Tree and Lights	£2385.00	£477.00	£2862.00
BACS UTB 10/01/2025	Clerk's Expenses for Phone, HWA, Mileage and Zoom subscription	£79.04	£2.60	£81.64
BACS UTB 10/01/2025	Reimbursement to Chairman for purchases made on behalf of PC – gifts for staff & refresh's at Christmas event– out of Chairs' Allowance	£302.38	£0.00	£302.38
BACS UTB 10/01/2025	Richard Yates – reimbursement for pair of work gloves	£5.00	£0.00	£5.00
BACS UTB 10/01/2025	Ian Oliver - reimbursement for pair of Santa Boots	£67.99	£0.00	£67.99

c) Members noted Income received: -

Date of credit	From	Into Account	Amount
18/11/2024	Credit from DDC for Licence Fee payment refund	Corporate Pay Card	£445.00
29/11/2024	Interest on Nat West Reserve Account	NAT West Reserve	£70.88
02/01/2025	Sarah Pritchard / Find Ltd. - Parish Rooms Rent	Unity Trust Bank	£360.00

d) Bank Account Reconciliation Report/Budget Monitoring Reports

Members **NOTED** the Bank Account Reconciliation Report/Budget Monitoring Reports up to 31 December 2024 (including Current and Reserve Accounts Balances).

3459/25

Correspondence

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

- SDDC Budget Consultation – forwarded 13/12
- DALC December Newsletter – forwarded 16/12

3460/25

Reports from Councillors attending meetings of outside bodies

Councillor Brown advised that she would be attending a proposed site meeting on 17 January 2025 with PCSO Marley and a representative from Taylor Wimpey to discuss the anti-social behaviour that had occurred at the car park near Mackworth Avenue play area.

3461/25

Date of next meeting(s)

The next Meeting of the Parish Council would be held **at 7pm on Thursday, 13 February 2025** at the Methodist Church, Lower Green, Findern, DE65 6AD.

3462/25

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 that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.

3463/25

Exempt

Members considered the request from Councillor M Bram for a dispensation for non-attendance at this meeting. This request followed a dispensation for non-attendance at meetings granted for the October, November and December meetings of Council.

RESOLVED to not grant Councillor Bram a dispensation for non-attendance at the January meeting. Because Councillor Bram had not attended a Parish Council meeting since May 2024, she had breached the rule that requires Councillors to attend one meeting in 6 calendar months. Therefore, Manjit Bram was no longer a Parish Councillor and the Clerk would declare a vacancy on the Council.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

APPENDIX

	2025/26 Precept/Budget (Precept + 0%, +/- 0% from SDDC on CF, +/- £0 from SDDC on SG) £32.08 per Band D property, CTB 1547
INCOME	Budget 2025/26
Precept (raised via SDDC)	£ 49,628.00
Support Grant from SDDC	£ -
Concurrent Function from SDDC	£ 16,382.00
Interest from Business Reserve account	£ 1,100.00
Parish Room Income estimated	£ 4,320.00
Rent from land on Burton Road	£ 7,000.00
Footpath Grants £385	£ 385.00
Other incl Greenbelt for Highfields Tree	£ 750.00
VAT reclaim	£ 6,000.00
Sub-Total	£ 85,565.00
Required Transfer from Balances	£ 18,770.00
Total	£ 104,335.00
	Budget 2025/26
EXPENDITURE	
Grounds Maintenance / Gardening	-£ 9,350.00
Parish Rooms/The Green Maintenance&Costs	-£ 5,500.00
Findern Amenity Hardware/ Maintenance	-£ 2,000.00
Highfields Amenity Hardware/ Maintenance	-£ 3,500.00
KGV Playing Field Items	-£ 1,500.00
Garden of Remembrance	-£ 800.00
Footpath Maintenance	-£ 385.00
Bus Shelter Maintenance	-£ 1,500.00
Refuse Collection / Dog Waste Bin	-£ 2,500.00
Donations S137	-£ 3,000.00
Staff Salaries / Payroll	-£ 25,750.00
Phone/WFH Allowance/Travel	-£ 700.00
Admin. costs. Incl. new laptop	-£ 2,500.00
Newsletter x 2 per year	-£ 1,500.00
Chairs Allowance	-£ 500.00
Training	-£ 200.00
Audit Fees	-£ 500.00
DALC / SLCC / ICO SUBS	-£ 1,200.00
Legal Fees/ Risk and Insurance	-£ 2,000.00
Findern Christmas event	-£ 700.00
Easter Event / Summer Event	-£ 7,300.00
Remembrance Event	-£ 350.00
Sportsmobile	-£ 1,500.00
VAS / Speedwatch	-£ 1,000.00
Stanhope Wood	-£ 3,500.00
Afternoon Club at Village Hall	-£ 2,600.00
Christmas Tree at Highfields	-£ 4,500.00
Gateways signs x 4 at entrances to village	-£ 5,000.00
New posts/ hanging baskets for The Green	-£ 5,000.00
Link Pathway for the Highfields	-£ 5,000.00
Contingency / Miscellaneous	-£ 2,500.00
Neighbourhood Development Plan	£ 5,500.00
VAT	-£ 6,000.00
TOTAL	-£ 104,335.00