

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, 13 February 2025 at 7.00pm.

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

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

3464/25 Apologies for absence

Apologies were **NOTED** from Councillor S Holmes and M Woodhouse.

3465/25 Declaration of members interests

None.

3466/25 Public Speaking

Members of the public:

- A resident reported that the dog waste bin at King George V Playing Fields had lost its lid, and would need replacing. Also, the dog waste bin at the canal bridge was rusted.
- A resident reported that the bus stop on the Derby to Burton side of the road on Doles Lane was obscured by the hedge belonging to the adjacent house. It was agreed that the Clerk would write a letter to the home owner requesting this be cut back.
- Trevor Yeomans had submitted comments to assist the Members when considering the planning applications on the Agenda.
- A resident reported that there weren't any 30mph speed notification signs when turning off Rykneld Road into Tutbury Avenue. Councillor Ford said he would take this up with Highways at Derbyshire County Council; though he suspected this may be because the roads into Highfields had not been adopted yet.

Police Liaison Officer:

The Chairman updated Members on the priorities outlined in the latest South Derbyshire Safer Neighbourhood Team newsletter; also, a briefing on who is responsible for different types of parking issue; whether it be police or local council.

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:

- Further to the Government's 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 higher tier of local government e.g., the County Council. It had been confirmed that Derbyshire would not be in the first wave; it would be 2027 before changes would be implemented; therefore, the County elections due in May 2025 would go ahead. Discussions would need to happen about the footprint of the new unitary Council.

- Councillor Hudson had been approached about setting up a new 'over 60s' club in Highfields.
- The Planning application for the Battery Energy Storage System was now live. The closing date of the consultation was 14 February. Although it was marked as a delegated decision, members of the planning committee had requested training on BESS applications; therefore, the application would not be considered until this training had occurred.

Councillor Radcliffe asked whether there was any update from the meeting that he and Councillor Brown had attended, along with Councillor Hudson, with the local M.P. Samantha Hibbert to discuss Battery Energy Storage Systems development in the area. The feedback was that Samantha Hibbert had talked to the owners of Willington Power Station who had advised that they did not want to sell it piecemeal; they wanted to sell it whole as a going concern. There had also been some initial conversations about Wind/Solar/Battery Energy Storage Systems with the East Midlands Mayoral Authority.

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

- The County Council elections would go ahead in May 2025.
- There was a road closure planned for part of Findern Lane between Mercia Marina and the junction at Willington. This was to allow Cadent to do gas pipe work. The road closure was from 3 March to 5 May and would involve a diversion for vehicles via Findern and A38. The Council were discussing with the bus company about the diversion of the Villager bus that uses Findern Lane between Findern and Willington; a possible diversion via Buckford Lane and Twyford may be possible, if a temporary lifting of the weight limit on the Buckford Bridge was allowed.
- The County Council had set Council Tax increases at 2.99% with extra 2.00% for Social Care; a total Council Tax rise of 4.99%.
- Derbyshire County Council had just signed a new drain clearance contract.

3467/25 Response to emails from residents

No emails received this month.

3468/25 Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 9 January 2025 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

3469/25 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 an issue relating to the Neighbourhood Development Plan in Exempt.

Chairman's Report

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

The Council had a vacancy for a new Councillor as Councillor Bram was no longer with us. Any resident who would like to get involved in acting on behalf of the community, should look out for the advert for the vacancy on the Parish Council notice boards and website.

The Charman thanked Councillor Woodhouse who repaired the damaged chain on the Green and also installed four more removeable links, making access to the Green easier when events were being held there.

Regarding the Vehicle Activated Signage; the unit at Doles Lane had moved back to Burton Road and the unit at Willington Road had moved up to Heath Lane.

The Speed Watch group had held 11 sessions since the last meeting; recording a total of 4,044 vehicles. There were 109 first letters and 11 second letters sent and 9 were people local to Findern.

Report of the Parish Clerka) Deed of Easement Highfields Christmas Tree

The legal office at Greenbelt confirmed that the developers had agreed to meet the fees up to £950 for the Deed of Easement. Obviously if there were any fees beyond this the Council would need to bear the cost of these. The solicitor acting on behalf of the consortium had asked for the Council's details so that this can be progressed.

b) Stand pipe at Stanhope Hole / Severn Trent

The Clerk had spoken to the Waste Water Recycling Area manager at Severn Trent who advised he would speak to his colleague to set up a site meeting with the Footpaths Group to discuss the installation of a stand pipe.

c) Lease for Crow Park Way expires 31 May 2025

The current lease on the two plots of land that the Prish Council lease from National Highways expires on 31 May 2025. The Clerk had contacted the land agent for National Highways, Carter Jonas to highlight this and had requested a renewal of the lease.

d) Dates for Summer activities at Highfields school booked with Active South Derbyshire

Highfields Spencer Academy were happy to host two events at the school playing fields. Therefore, the Clerk had confirmed two dates with Active South Derbyshire and the school:

- Monday 11 August 2025 2pm-4pm for Adventure Mobile session.
- Thursday 21 August 2025 10am – 12 noon for Play Mobile session.

e) Result of Notice of Poll re vacancy on Parish Council / next steps

SDDC elections department had confirmed that, following the advertising of the Notice of Vacancy, no call for an election had been received up to the statutory deadline stated in the Notice. Therefore, the Parish Council were now able to fill the vacancy through Co-option. The Clerk would prepare the notice of vacancy to advertise the post to seek applications. There would not be enough time between the February and March meetings to advertise and process the applications; therefore, the Co-option would take place at the April meeting.

f) Centenary event at Findern Primary School on 16 May 2025

Council had been contacted about the Centenary event for the community on 16 May from 4.30 until 6.30pm. The school would be inviting former pupils, staff and any members of the community to this event. The school were reaching out to members of the community to ask for any help, expertise or talent that people may be able to offer.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council would contact the school to ask how the Parish Council could help to mark the occasion.

g) Road closure for Findern Lane 3 March – 5 May 2025

Council had been advised of a temporary road closure on Findern Lane between Mercia Marina and Willington. Work would be carried out by Cadent to facilitate gas mains replacement. They were working between 3 March - 5 May. There would be a diversion route in place – sending vehicles through Findern onto A38. The Clerk would post details of the road closure on to the Community Facebook page.

3472/25

Members Reports

a) Findern in Relief Fund

The treasurer reported that the advert and application form were being amended then the Trust could move forward to promote the fund and receive applications.

b) Stanhope Wood

Councillor Hettmann updated the Members on work at Stanhope Wood; 20 stumps of self-set trees had been removed by the contractor; and 20 stumps had been chemically killed off. The group had widened the pathway and planting was planned for later in the Spring.

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

The steering group met on the 14 January 2025 to agree the changes to be made to the draft Neighbourhood Plan for Findern Parish. The consultant made the necessary changes, then the updated draft Plan was forwarded to South Derbyshire District Council for an informal check. On the 4 February 2025 members of the steering group met again to discuss the plans for the regulation 14 consultation, which is for 6 weeks and is planned to begin in early March. The group discussed who it needed to consult with and how it was going to publicise the consultation to ensure it could demonstrate it had consulted with all individuals and groups in the parish. This would include an on-line questionnaire with QR code as well as hard copies for parishioners. All properties in the parish would receive a leaflet about the consultation with links to all of the information needed for a response.

d) Warm Welcome

Warm Welcome had a very successful month. On the 4 February, South Derbyshire CVS Safer Homes mobile joinery service attended and spoke to residents about ways of improving security in their homes, such as installing additional door and window locks and other safety equipment free of charge, as well as giving crime prevention advice. On the 11 February the group were joined by Sight Support Derbyshire, a charity dedicated to improving the lives of people with sight loss, providing support, services and information. PCSO Marley also visited that day to chat to local residents and offer reassuring advice. The library and jigsaw swap continues to be popular. New faces were welcomed and they 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 was not present at the meeting and no new data was available; therefore, this item was deferred until the March meeting.

3473/25 Matters for discussion or determination

a) Neighbourhood Development Plan Sign off for pre-submission

Councillors were asked to review the Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan and the Appendices. The steering group were seeking comments from members of the Parish Council, (as the qualifying body leading the plan), prior to the start of the pre-submission consultation period which is likely to be from Monday 10 March until Friday 25 April.

RESOLVED that the Members would each review the Plan; but they did not have any comments at this stage.

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

Easy Growing Landscapes had quoted £255 to do the work at the Pump Track, including filling in gaps at edges of track with gravel and soil and reseeding; turfing over bald areas; and spraying surface of tarmac to get rid of algae.

RESOLVED to approve the quote and the work to be done.

c) Quote for insulation/boxing in of the tap at cemetery

The Clerk had to call the plumber out again to the leaking water tap at the cemetery. The plumber advised that the issue was caused by the lack of insulation for the tap in the freezing weather; and suggested covering the tap in a purpose built wooden insulated box. The quote for a joiner to make the box and for the plumber to fit it was £120. This was inclusive of wood, insulation, waterproof coating and treatment and fitting.

RESOLVED to approve the quote and the work to be done.

d) Easter Event 2025

The Clerk had provisionally booked in Good Friday, 18 April 11am to 1pm with Dream Parties for £260 and booked the Village Hall for the event. The hall had advised that the capacity is for a maximum of 120 persons and asked the Council to manage this and the parking of cars.

RESOLVED to approve the booking of the venue and entertainment. Clerk would mention on any publicity, about limited parking and advising people to car share if possible.

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

The Clerk had brought to the meeting some prices for VE Day branded bunting, and flags to mark the occasion of VE Day. These were expensive if used for this one-off occasion: £4.99 for each RBL sign, Flags £7.00 each.

RESOLVED to use plain union jack bunting for round The Green in Findern; and purchase 12 RBL VE Day lamp post signs for Highfields at £4.99 each; and two 5ft x 3ft VE Day flags at £7.00 each. There would be no organised event at either the village or Highfields; residents could mark the occasion in their own way.

f) Summer Event: Party in the Park for Findern 5th July 2025

The band and stage had already been booked. Both toilets and marquee needed to be booked. The Clerk had approached the companies who had previously been used; both had said they would hold the price from previous year: -

- **Toilets** for 5th July Event - Delivery Saturday, Collection Sunday. To hire 3+1 Dovedale Toilet Unit £660.00 To hire 1 x Disabled Toilet Unit £140.00 Insurance £25.00 and weekend delivery / collection £30.00 Subtotal £855.00 plus VAT £171.00 TOTAL £1,026.00
- **Marquee** for 5th July Event. 6 x 16m Event Marquee and Globe Lighting (x4) and 100m Fairy Lights (x2) Including Delivery: £745.83 plus VAT £149.17 TOTAL: £895.00

RESOLVED to approve the quotes and place the orders.

Members considered whether to do something during the day; also, whether to extend the choice of food and drink at the event.

RESOLVED to not have something during the day; it was decided that organising the evening event was sufficient. Also, the members felt that it was important to keep this as a free event, and not expand the food and drink offer beyond what had been available in the previous years.

g) Improvements to The Green – including chain link fence

As Councillor Woodhouse was not present at the meeting, it was **RESOLVED** that this item be deferred until the March meeting.

h) Derbyshire Heartwood Community Forest

DCC is looking for farmers, businesses, councils and other landowners with space available to plant trees as part of their Heartwood Community Forest. Grants were available for Farmers and other landowners along the eastern and southern fringes of Derbyshire with space available to plant trees as part of the project. Members considered whether the Council had any suitable areas; Councillor Hettmann confirmed that Findern Footpaths Group did not want to plant anymore trees at Stanhope Wood and Stanhope Hole; only shrubs and ground covering plants were needed there.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council would not contribute to this initiative.

i) Conservation Area for Village Green area

Designating the immediate surroundings of the Village Green Area as a Conservation Area was something that had been spoken about by the steering group for the Neighbourhood Plan; though this could not be determined by the Plan. Members discussed whether this was something the Parish Council would like to pursue.

RESOLVED the Clerk would contact the Conservation Officer at South Derbyshire District Council to ask what was involved and what were the implications of Conservation Area status.

3474/25

Planning Matters

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

Consultations

- **Ref. No. DMPA/2024/1629 – 124 Heath Lane, Findern**
The erection of a single storey rear extension.

- **Ref. No. DMPA/2024/1588 – 34 Burton Road, Findern**
The erection of two-storey side and single storey rear extensions with associated works.
- **Ref. No. DMPA/2024/1639 – Landown Farm, Bakeacre Lane, Findern**
Proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Including Associated Infrastructure, Cabling, Landscaping and Access.

RESOLVED to object to planning application Ref. No. DMPA/2024/1639 on the grounds of not wanting industrial development in the countryside; the environmental impact, and access issues.

Decisions

None.

3475/25

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
18/01 Multipay Corporate Card	Card Monthly Fee	£3.00	£0.00	£3.00
BACS UTB 27/01/2025	South Derbyshire CVS January salaries	£1084.12	£0.00	£1084.12
BACS UTB 27/01/2025	Findern Methodist Chapel Room Hire – 12/09, 10/10, 14/11, 19/11, 12/12 2024	£100.00	£0.00	£100.00
BACS UTB 27/01/2025	Viking Direct Ltd Stationery - Inks for Clerk	£67.54	£13.51	£81.05
BACS UTB 27/01/2025	Stuart Reeves – Ground Maintenance at Stanhope Wood	£995.00	£0.00	£995.00
BACS UTB 27/01/2025	Findern Village Hall – Room Hire for NDP meeting on 14/01/25	£30.00	£0.00	£30.00
BACS UTB 27/01/2025	Martin Woodhouse – Reimbursement for chain links bought for the fence The Green	£5.28	£0.00	£5.28
BACS UTB 31/01/2024	Monthly Bank Service Charge Unity Trust Bank	£6.00	£0.00	£6.00
BACS UTB 14/02/2025	SDDC – Monthly operational inspection & maintenance of play area at KGV Jan	£54.65	£10.93	£65.58
BACS UTB 14/02/2025	Fox Grounds Maintenance & Landscaping Ltd. January Work	£434.72	£86.94	£521.66
BACS UTB 14/02/2025	Planning with People – Planning Consultant support for NDP to Reg 14	£2806.00	£0.00	£2806.00
BACS UTB 14/02/2025	Hornsby Limited – Moving of two VAS units in January 2025	£300.00	£60.00	£360.00
BACS UTB 14/02/2025	Firs Farm Nursery – Winter Planting of 9 Planters around the village + barrels on Green	£1042.26	£208.45	£1250.71
BACS UTB 14/02/2025	Clerk's Expenses for Phone, HWA, Mileage and Zoom subscription	£130.02	£2.60	£132.62

BACS UTB 14/02/2025	Findern Village Hall – Room Hire for NDP meetings on 04/02, 11/03, 15/03 2025	£72.00	£0.00	£72.00
BACS UTB 14/02/2025	Stuart Reeves – Ground Maintenance at Stanhope Wood	£605.00	£0.00	£605.00

b) Members noted Income received: -

Date of credit	From	Into Account	Amount
27/12/2024	Rent for land off Burton Road	NAT West Current	£1750.00
31/12/2024	Interest on Nat West Reserve Account	NAT West Reserve	£78.29
03/02/2025	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 January 2025 (including Current and Reserve Accounts Balances).

3476/25

Correspondence

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

- DALC January Newsletter – forwarded 13/01
- DCC Developer Contributions Protocol consultation – forwarded 21/01
- SDDC Update on Polling District and Polling Place Review – forwarded 21/01
- DALC February Newsletter – forwarded 07/02
- Safety of Lithium-ion batteries campaign – forwarded 27/01

RESOLVED that the Clerk would write to the Member of Parliament in support of this campaign and the current legislation that was going through Parliament.

3477/25

Reports from Councillors attending meetings of outside bodies

- Councillor Brown gave a report on the site meeting that took place on 5 February 2025 with PCSO Marley, a representative from Taylor Wimpey and Barratt Homes and the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer for South Derbyshire District Council to discuss the issues that had occurred at the car park near Mackworth Avenue play area. They had discussed ways of improving the reported anti-social behaviour in the area. Further to the Safer Neighbourhood police continuing with regular patrols; as a first step, it was agreed to add extra fencing at the entrance to the car park as well as some signage. Also piles of Herras fencing would be removed to tidy up the general area. Fencing around the SuDS ponds would be made safe as well as appropriate warning signs being installed.
- Councillor Brown gave a report from the Area Forum meeting which took place on 21 January at Newton Solney Village Hall.

3478/25

Date of next meeting(s)

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

3479/25

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.

3480/25

Exempt - Members considered a matter relating to the Neighbourhood Plan.