

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 March 2025 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors B Dosanjh, H Hettmann, Y Hughes, M Ratcliffe (Chair of meeting), C Smith and M Woodhouse.

Also present: Kate Sharpe (Clerk) and 7 members of the public.

3481/25 Apologies for absence

Apologies were **NOTED** from Councillor T Brown, G Cooke and S Holmes.

3482/25 Declaration of members interests

Councillor Hettmann, as a member of Findern Footpaths Group, declared an interest in item 11.5.

Councillor Woodhouse, as the leaseholder of the land at Burton Road, declared an interest in item 18.3.

3483/25 Public Speaking

Members of the public:

- A resident requested that the advert for Findern in Relief be issued as soon as possible. She was aware of residents in the parish that would benefit from the fund. The Clerk would contact Councillor Cooke to request a copy of the advert to promote on the website and via Facebook.
- A resident reported that the Porters Lane site was still unsightly, with fencing down and rubbish piled up across the site. The Clerk had spoken to the agent; he said that clearance had been delayed because of an ecological survey that was requested by the planning department. They were hopeful that the application would be considered by the planning committee on 1 April; they then had teams ready to move on site straightaway, if the application was approved.
- A resident raised concerns about the timing of the school bus to John Port School. This was scheduled to come through the village at 8.32am; however, pupils are expected to be in school for 8.35am ready to start at 8.45am. The resident was advised that it was the County Council that commissioned school buses; therefore, the intention was that the resident would write to the Council, bus company and school to raise this matter. He would also contact Councillor Ford, requesting help with this matter.

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) did not attend the meeting; however, he had submitted the following report: -

- Local Government Re-organisation - South Derbyshire District Council (SDDC) and Derbyshire County Council (DCC) would cease to exist in the near future, likely 2028, and new Unitary Council(s) created to replace them. Parish Councils are not directly affected, but they would need to forge a new relationship with a new Council. The remaining question is what borders these new Unitary Councils would have. DCC want a unitary council of all Derbyshire excluding Derby City. SDDC were discussing their interim proposal next week at an Extraordinary Full Council Meeting. It was likely that SDDC would go for a North and South approach, and Findern parish would be in the Southern Unitary Council with Derby City, Erewash and perhaps Amber Valley. All proposals would be evaluated and decided by Central Government in 2026. DCC currently had a live online consultation open to all; SDDC are committed to engage with residents and Parish Councils in the near future, after their next full council meeting.
- Councillor Hudson had been approached by several Highfields residents, to set up a new Asian over 60s Club, similar to one that already exists in Sinfin/Stenson Fields. He was awaiting a date for a second meeting to take matters further.

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

- Further on from last month's query about speed limit signage for Highfields, Highways have confirmed that roads on Highfields haven't been adopted yet by Derbyshire County Council, so Highways are not able to introduce signage to enforce any speeding restrictions.
- There were plenty of Highways issues ongoing because of the planned works on Findern Lane near Willington. The 'Shuttle Bus' appeared to be working well; hopefully the works would stick to schedule and the V3 service would revert back to normal schedule on plan. To keep pace with all the closures and diversions, check on one.network.
- Lots also happening with Local Government Reform; South Derbyshire District Council had commenced a consultation on their draft Local Plan and Findern Parish had commenced their consultation for their Neighbourhood Plan.
- Council meetings would be held in March to discuss proposals and 'next steps' for all the District and Borough Councils in Derbyshire, plus the City and County Councils. Political groups appear far apart on their views regarding the best option going forward.

3484/25

Response to emails from residents

No emails received this month.

3485/25

Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 13 February 2025 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

3486/25

Variation of order of business

None.

3487/25

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 3 items in Exempt: -

- Matter relating to lease of Stanhope Wood and Stanhope Hole
- Matter relating to Parish Council's role regarding the Neighbourhood Plan
- Burton Road land, rent review.

3470/25

Chairman's Report

The Chairman, Councillor T Brown had sent her apologies to the meeting; however, she had submitted the following report, which Councillor Ratcliffe read out on her behalf: -

The Council still had a vacancy for a new Councillor. If any resident felt they would like to get involved in acting on behalf of the community they were asked to apply before 5pm on Monday 17 March 2025.

Please be aware of the road closure on Findern Lane until the 5 May 2025. Some of the signage had been a little misleading.

The water tap leak at the cemetery had been repaired and upgraded with a protective box to keep out the elements.

The Speed Watch group had held 6 sessions since the last meeting; recording a total of 1,978 vehicles. There were 58 first letters and 3 second letters sent and 4 were people local to Findern and 3 vehicles could not be verified.

The Chair attended the Speed Watch conference on 1 March 2025 and heard how the data the group collects was being scrutinised in regard to the impact on speeding after letters had been received; there was a very large difference in letter 1's and letter 2's reported. In 2024 there were 1134 road side sessions, with 844 volunteers over 95 groups. There would be a National 'All Out Day' on Wednesday the 11 June 2025, when every group in South Derbyshire would be out on the same day.

3488/25

Report of the Parish Clerk

a) **Neighbourhood Development Plan Pre-Submission Consultation launched 10 March 2025**

A consultation launched on 10 March 2025 and would continue through to Friday 25 April. All residents had received a leaflet, and businesses and landowners contacted; along with Statutory Consultees. There were 5 informal drop-in sessions arranged during the consultation period, for residents to come along to view more information and talk to members of the steering group. The consultation survey was available both on-line and in paper format.

b) **Vacancy on Parish Council**

Following the confirmation by electoral services at South Derbyshire District Council that no one had requested an election for the vacancy; the Parish Council had proceeded to advertise the vacancy to be filled by co-option. Closing date was **Monday 17 March 2025 at 5pm by post or email**. No applications had been received by the date of the meeting.

c) **Suggested date for Annual Parish Meeting – Thursday 24 April or Thursday 1 May**

The Clerk advised the Council that it was close to the time of year when the Annual Parish Meeting for the village is held. The suggested date for this was either Thursday 24 April or Thursday 1 May. The preference was for the meeting to be on Thursday 24 April. The Clerk

would contact all groups and organisations in the parish to invite them to submit a report to the meeting.

- d) Reply from Highways re. speed signage on Tutbury Avenue / Rykneld Road
Councillor Ford forwarded a reply from Highways, sent in response to a question submitted to them following a query at the February Parish Council meeting about perceived speeding and the need for 30mph signage. Highways had advised that until Tutbury Avenue is adopted, Derbyshire County Council are legally unable to install any speed limit signage. Until that point, it would be the responsibility of the developer.
- e) Severn Trent Stand Pipe
On Thursday 13 March, Councillor Hettmann and members of the Findern Footpaths Group were meeting representatives from Severn Trent and Fisher German at Stanhope Hole to discuss outstanding work at the site, including replacement shrubs for those removed in error; also, provision of a stand pipe for the site.
- f) Request from Olde Forge Nursery to use The Green to celebrate Holi
Council has received a request from the Olde Forge Nursery to use The Green for an event. They would like to educate the children on the Hindu festival of Holi, which traditionally uses colourful paints to mark the end of winter and the arrival of spring. The Council was advised that the powders used are biodegradable, eco-friendly, children safe and don't stain.

RESOLVED to allow the nursery to use The Green for their event.

3489/25

Members Reports

- a) Findern in Relief Fund
Councillor Cooke was not present at the meeting therefore, there was no update given.
- b) Stanhope Wood
Councillor Hettmann updated the Members on work at Stanhope Wood; trees had been planted. On 13 March representatives of the Footpaths group had met with managers from Severn Trent to discuss the replacement planting scheme for the shrubs and trees lost during the recent pipe replacement work at the site; also, the installation of a stand pipe for use by the group at Stanhope Hole and at Eco- Garden. The discussion had been very positive and they are hopeful something can be arranged, though a legal agreement may need to be put in place. Severn Trent do have a legal obligation to improve the bio-diversity of their site and they have had an ecologist look at Stanhope Wood; they have written a bio-diversity report; they had spoken to the landowner about this.
- c) Local / Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) for the Parish
The Neighbourhood Plan had reached its Pre-Submission consultation stage; therefore, leaflets had recently been delivered to every household in Findern Parish to publicise the consultation; asking all residents to have a look at the draft Plan and give their views on it. A series of drop-in sessions had been organised; these are at Findern Village Hall on: -
- Saturday 15 March 9.30-11.30am
 - Friday 21 March 2-4pm
 - Friday 4 April 6-8pm
- And at Highfields Co-Op on: -
- Friday 28 March 5.30-7.30pm
 - Friday 11 April 5.30-7.30pm

Paper copies of the survey would be available at these sessions; there would also be paper copies available in Findern Village shop and Findern Village Hall.

d) Warm Welcome

Warm Welcome had a very successful month. On the 4 March, a journalist from the Rural Derbyshire magazine attend to talk about the impact of the group for local residents as it is one of the only groups that have continued throughout the year. There will be an article published about the success of the group. 4 March was Shrove Tuesday, therefore, the group enjoyed pancakes with a variety of toppings. 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 April meeting.

3490/25 **Matters for discussion or determination**

a) Improvements to The Green – including chain link fence

Councillor Woodhouse confirmed that he had introduced removable links to the chain on The Green to improve access for events on The Green. Members were asked to suggest possible improvements to the appearance of The Green.

RESOLVED that an on-site meeting would be arranged prior to the May meeting at 6pm for members to discuss possible improvements to the appearance of The Green.

b) New dog waste bin for KGV

The dog waste bin by the gate at the King George V Playing Field was broken. The Clerk had brought details of replacement bins to the meeting.

RESOLVED to purchase the 66-litre steel bin from Earth Anchors at £157.00 + VAT.

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

Findern Primary School had written to the Parish Council requesting help with their centenary celebrations. The school would like to give each pupil a bookmark with their centenary logo on it; they trying to source a Maypole for the event; and they would like any old-fashioned games such as hook a duck, hoopla etc. if the Council have these.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council would fund bookmarks for the children; and would enquire whether any games are available within the village for the school to use. Councillor Smith offered to teach the children traditional Maypole dances if a Maypole can be located.

d) DALC Subscription Renewal

The annual subscription for membership of the Derbyshire Association of Local Councils was due for renewal. This was offered at a basic cost of £1021.04 or at an enhanced rate of £1361.04, which would include some free training.

RESOLVED to renew at the basic level, at a cost of £1021.04.

- e) Licence for Findern Footpaths Group re. yard and garages to rear of Parish Rooms
A draft Licence for Findern Footpaths Group to use the yard and garages to the rear of Parish Rooms for storage had been circulated to both the Footpaths Group and to all Members. Both parties were in agreement to sign this licence.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would sign this document on behalf of the Parish Council, witnessed by Councillor Ratcliffe. Mike Barber, as Chair signed the document on behalf of Findern Footpaths Group. Each party retained one copy of the signed licence.

- f) Condition of SuDS and area adjacent to Mackworth Play Area
The Council had received several reports of issues at Highfields, mainly around the Mackworth Road Play Area and Public Open Space; including abandoned builders' debris, unfinished or broken fencing, concerns about the safety of the SuDS, the lack of progress on the unfinished sports pitch, and flooding of play area. The Clerk reported that her previous contact for reporting these issues had left Barratts.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would write to the Managing Director of all 3 main builders requesting action on the identified issues; also, a contact at each company to report any issues in the future.

3491/25

Planning Matters

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

Consultations

- **Ref. No. DMPA/2025/0003 – 34 Burton Road, Findern**
The erection of a detached annexe.
- **Ref. No. DMPA/2025/0191 – 6, The Green, Findern**
Approval of details reserved by conditions 13 (Species Enhancement Plan), 14 (Boundary Treatment Details) and 19 (Landscaping) relating to planning permission DMPA/2024/1351 (Demolition of existing dwelling. Proposed two detached dwellings with parking to the front and large residential rear gardens to the rear. Creation of shared access to front)

Decisions

- **Ref. No. DMPA/2024/1588 – 34 Burton Road, Findern**
The erection of two-storey side and single storey rear extensions with associated works. Approved (Delegated Decision.)

3492/25

Finance

- a) Concurrent Function Claim for 2024/25

Members considered the prepared Concurrent Function Claim for 2024/25.

RESOLVED to accept the figures in the claim and this was signed by the Chair of the meeting, Councillor Ratcliffe and the Clerk.

- 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
18/02 Multipay Corporate Card	Card Monthly Fee	£3.00	£0.00	£3.00

18/02 Multipay Corporate Card	M&S Flowers to thank Riley Rushworth at Greenbelt for Highfields legal matters (Chair's allowance)	£40.00	£0.00	£40.00
BACS UTB 26/02/2025	South Derbyshire CVS February salaries	£1968.40	£0.00	£1968.40
BACS UTB 26/02/2025	Viking Direct Stationery for Chairman – Inks	£61.91	£12.38	£74.29
BACS UTB 26/02/2025	Marshall Marquees - deposit for marquee and lighting for Party in the Park event	£223.75	£0.00	£223.75
BACS UTB 26/02/2025	Findern Village Hall - room hire for Easter event 18 April 2025	£60.00	£0.00	£60.00
BACS UTB 26/02/2025	Shelter Maintenance - Bus Shelter cleaning September 2024	£41.10	£8.22	£49.32
BACS UTB 26/02/2025	Shelter Maintenance - Bus Shelter cleaning January 2025	£41.10	£8.22	£49.32
BACS UTB 26/02/2025	Richard Yates - reimbursement for purchase of new work boots	£57.00	£0.00	£57.00
BACS UTB 26/02/2025	Findern Village Hall – Room Hire for NDP meetings on 15/03, 21/03, 04/04 11/04 2025	£120.00	£0.00	£120.00
BACS UTB 28/02/2024	Monthly Bank Service Charge Unity Trust Bank	£6.00	£0.00	£6.00
SO UTB 03/03/2025	To Sarah Pritchard as contribution towards electricity for external lights on Parish Rooms	£45.50	£0.00	£45.50
BACS UTB 14/03/2025	SDDC – Monthly operational inspection & maintenance of play area at KGV Jan	£54.65	£10.93	£65.58
BACS UTB 14/03/2025	Fox Grounds Maintenance & Landscaping Ltd. February Work	£434.72	£86.94	£521.66
BACS UTB 14/03/2025	Clerk's Expenses for Phone, HWA, Mileage and Zoom subscription	£92.69	£2.60	£95.29
BACS UTB 14/03/2025	Kniftons Mobile Toilets – deposit payment for 5 July event toilet hire	£171.00	£34.20	£205.20
BACS UTB 14/03/2025	Easy Growing Landscapes – work on maintenance of Pump Track at KGV	£155.00	£0.00	£155.00
BACS UTB 14/03/2025	Planning With People – interim charges for work on NDP to prepare for Regulation 14 consultation	£660.00	£0.00	£660.00

c) Members noted Income received: -

Date of credit	From	Into Account	Amount
31/01/2025	Interest on Nat West Reserve Account	NAT West Reserve	£82.98
17/02/2025	VAR Reclaim up to 31 January 2025	Unity Trust Bank	£3962.59
03/03/2025	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 28 February 2025 (including Current and Reserve Accounts Balances).

3493/25

Correspondence

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

- Toyota Community Liaison Committee: Meeting 05/03/25 and Community Questionnaire – forwarded 26/02
- Derbyshire Association Local Councils March newsletter – forwarded 04/03

3494/25

Reports from Councillors attending meetings of outside bodies

Councillor Ratcliffe read out a report from Councillor Brown who had attended the Toyota Community Liaison Committee meeting held on 5 March 2025 to keep local councillors informed of their progress.

- The Corolla Hybrid was the car manufactured at Burnaston. 5 million cars have left the production line since 1992.
- A Charitable Trust was set up in 2008 and had raised 8 million pounds so far. The funds are raised by doing Christmas activities and leading seminars on Toyotas best practice. 117 donations had been made to 110 charitable organisations. Food bank and Toy appeals were also held.
- They had an 8-seater van that could be borrowed by communities.
- They are working towards Carbon zero, by Energy saving measures (using brains not money), expanding renewable energy, introducing technology that already exists, carbon offsets and introducing new technology.
- Burnaston was the first of all the 68-72 Toyota factories to be Carbon neutral. They are planning to extend their solar panels at a cost Of 10 million pounds. There will be minimal change to the environment.
- Notable events: -
 - The track was used for a photo shoot for Classic and Sportscar magazine
 - A Toyota Mirai Hybrid car was leased to the Mayor of Derby.
 - The East Midlands Japan Association held its Annual New Year celebrations there.
 - They also won the What Car Award for the Corolla for the 2nd year in a row.

3495/25

Date of next meeting(s)

The next Meeting of the Parish Council would be held **at 7pm on Thursday, 10 April 2025** at the Methodist Church, Lower Green, Findern, DE65 6AD.

3496/25

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.

3497/25

Exempt

Members considered matters relating to: -

- Lease of Stanhope Wood and Stanhope Hole
- Parish Council's role regarding the Neighbourhood Plan
- Burton Road land, rent review