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, 10 July 2025 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors T Brown, Y Carty (arrived late to meeting), G Cooke, B Dosanjh, J Hawke, H Hettmann, S Holmes, C Smith and M Woodhouse.

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

3560/25 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were **NOTED** from Councillor M Ratcliffe.

3561/25 **Declaration of members interests**

- Councillor Woodhouse, as the leaseholder of land at Burton Road, declared an interest in item 18.1.

3562/25 **Public Speaking** (Councillor Hughes arrived during Public Speaking)

Members of the public:

- Trevor Yeomans had forwarded 2 documents; the first relating to observations on the role of the Planning Committee at SDDC; and the second, relating to the planning application at 2 Porters Lane. He stated he intends to attend future meetings of the Planning Committee as he felt it was important for residents to be present and to speak at these meetings so that Members of the Committee take into account local opinion on applications.
- A resident reported that the car park behind the church on Lower Green needed some attention. Weeds were encroaching on the car park, and the white lines needed to be re-marked as they were worn away. The Clerk would report this to the District Council.
- A representative of Findern Footpaths Group reported that Mr Hicklin had kindly offered to bale the hay on Cardales Meadow.
- The Clerk was asked to report to the District Council that the street sign on Longlands Lane was still missing.
- The Clerk was asked to report that the signage at both junctions on the A38 at the roundabout was either partly or fully missing.
- A resident reported a strong smell on Burton Road, close to the roundabout at the A38. The Clerk would enquire with residents living close by whether there was an issue with drains or sewer pipes.

Police Liaison Officer:

The South Derbyshire Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) Officer had not submitted a report for the meeting. Residents should note that the 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.

Councillor Carty arrived at the meeting.

District and County Councillor Reports:

Councillor Ian Hudson (District Councillor) was present at the meeting and gave the following report: -

- Details of a consultation regarding the reorganisation of Local Government had been circulated. This was supported by all 8 District and Borough Councils with Derby City Council; residents were being asked their opinion on the three proposed options for the division into a north and south authority: -
  a) South Derbyshire, Erewash and Derby City Council in the south authority, all other Borough and District Councils forming the north authority.
  b) South Derbyshire, Erewash, Amber Valley and Derby City Council in the south authority, all other Borough and District Councils forming the north authority.
  c) South Derbyshire, Erewash, parts of Amber Valley and Derby City Council in the south authority, all other Borough and District Councils with parts of Amber Valley forming the north authority.

  There may be a separate consultation issued by Derbyshire County Council, which would propose different options.

- There was also a consultation on Green Space in the District. Councillor Hudson would forward details of this if it had not already been sent directly by the District Council.

Councillor Martyn Ford (District and County Councillor) was present at the meeting and gave the following report: -

- Councillor Ford had attended a recent meeting at the County Council on their proposals for the reform of Local Government. Their options differ from the Borough/District/ City Group; broadly combining the County and City into one unitary Council, although the Reform party were looking at two of the options proposed by the Borough/District/ City Group. Proposals have to be submitted by November 2025, then an official government consultation would take place from January to May 2026; with a final decision on the proposal for the new unitary authority(ies) for Derbyshire being made in July 2026.
- The Members Community Liaison Scheme had been confirmed, sadly greatly reduced, but Derbyshire County Council Members would receive £1930 per annum to allocate to Community Groups across their Division.
- South Derbyshire District Council had received an award for the recycling/reuse of food; whereby in-date food could be advertised on a website and then picked up to be used.
- Local residents in Findern had reported issues with cars dropping people off in the village; this had been reported to PCSO Marley, who was looking into it.

3563/25 **<u>Response to emails from residents</u>**

a) <u>Unreliability of the V3 bus service</u>
A resident reported that the V3 Sunday bus service is unreliable; he asks whether the Parish Council could write to Trent Barton to request that they make this bus run on time and regularly. The Clerk would write to Trent Barton.

b) Report weeds growing on roads and pavements on Highfields
A resident reported poor maintenance of roads and pavements on Highfields. In the curves on the pavements and roads on Highfields, there are a lot of weeds growing up and getting tall; nobody is coming to spray them. The Sandbags over the drains were not helping. Whether responsibility lies with Greenbelt Group are with the Consortium of Builders, the Council is asked to raise this issue with the relevant body. The Clerk would make enquiries and report.

c) Noisy manhole cover on Beeston Drive, Highfields
A resident reported that the manhole cover outside 19 Beeston Drive on the Highfield estate rocks when cars go over it and makes a loud noise; he asked where this should be reported as Severn Trent say they haven't adopted it yet.

This is the first complaint around the Meadowview Homes area. The Clerk had customer care details for the Developer and both the resident and the Clerk have reported this to Customer Care for Meadowview Homes.

3564/25 **Minutes**
RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 12 June 2025 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

3565/25 **Variation of order of business**
None.

3566/25 **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 1 item in Exempt: -
a) Matter relating to land at Burton Road.

3567/25 **Chairman's Report**
The Chairman, Councillor T Brown welcomed all to the July meeting.

Councillor Brown welcomed a new Councillor, James Hawke to the Parish Council.

She reported that the Party in the Park event on 5 July 2025 had been a huge success. There had been around 650 people in attendance, the largest attendance number there had been at this sort of event. Both bands, Sugar Tree and The Money were outstanding. The Council wished to thank Willington Scouts for once again providing an excellent food and bar service. Ollie Cooke raised just under £30 for his trip to Tanzania where he is going to help build a school. We also raised £267 for the Linjoy Wildlife Sanctuary and Rescue; many thanks to all who donated.

Councillor Brown reminded residents that the Village Fete was on Saturday, 12 July from 12-4pm, on the Village Green and in the Village Hall.

The Speed Watch group have completed 5 sessions since the last Parish Council meeting. They recorded a total of 1,699 vehicles. There were 51 first letters, 5 second letters and 1 third letters sent and 4 were people local to Findern and 2 vehicles could not be verified.

Residents were reminded that there would be no meeting in August

3568/25 **Report of the Parish Clerk**

a) Stanhope Wood/ Severn Trent update

The new Project Manager for Severn Trent at Findern had advised that someone had carried out an assessment to lay a connection between the existing water supply to the eco-garden. Unfortunately, the cost was prohibitive and a tap was no longer possible. They were willing to meet with the Parish Council and Findern Footpaths Group at the site to discuss other options and possible solutions. This meeting had been arranged for 10.30 am on Thursday, 17 July 2025.

b) AGAR submitted for External Audit; Notices published

All the paperwork had been submitted to PKF Littlejohn for the external audit; and all the required notices had been published on the noticeboards and the website to comply with the requirements of public inspection. The Clerk advised there would be an update on the Conclusion of Audit available for the September meeting.

c) Response from SDDC re. overgrown cemetery

At last month's Parish Council meeting it was reported that the trees and shrubs In the cemetery at Common Piece Lane were overgrown and were blocking the pathway, making it difficult for visitors to access some of the plots. The Clerk had been asked to contact the District Council, who own the cemetery, to ask whether the trees and shrubs were due to be cut back soon.

The officer had replied to say that a willow tree had partially collapsed. The tree contractors had attended the cemetery to clear this; however, they had to stop work after finding a wasps' nest in it. She had arranged for a pest control company to attend and treat the wasps' nest; as soon as the wasps were no longer a problem, the contractors would be able to go back and finish the job.

The boundary hedges would be trimmed as per the scheduled maintenance, which usually took place around September time.

3569/25 **Members Reports**

a) Findern in Relief Fund

Councillor Cooke had no update to report. There had been no applications.

RESOLVED to include information about the Charity in the next newsletter.

b) Stanhope Wood

Councillor Hettmann updated the Members on work at Stanhope Wood. He was disappointed to hear Serven Trent's negative response on the installation of a tap at Stanhope Wood as the group desperately need water at the eco-garden site.

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

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group met recently to review the recent amendments to the Plan prior to submission to South Derbyshire District Council (SDDC). The first step for this would a screening of the Plan by the SDDC policy officer. This includes a five-week consultation with Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England. During this period, the Consultant, Helen Metcalfe would be preparing the Basic Conditions statement, which is a legal requirement that demonstrates why the Plan meets the basic conditions of a Neighbourhood Plan.

d) Warm Welcome

Warm Welcome had a very successful month. The library and jigsaw swap continued to be popular. New faces are welcomed and you do not need to live in the parish to attend. 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 had circulated the data from the two units to all Councillors and this was discussed at the meeting. Councillor Brown suggested that the data be isolated for the same times as the Speed Watch sessions were carried out. Councillor Holmes confirmed that identifying data this way was possible and would arrange for this to be available.

RESOLVED to move the units to their alternative spot asap. The Clerk needs to identify who has a key to move the units.

3570/25 Matters for Discussion or Determination

a) Party in the Park 5 July 2025 Review

The event was very successful with over 650 residents attending.

- Position of Stage and Marquee – Issues were discussed e.g.,facing into sun, security and safety risks (kids playing close to generator and band's changing area). Councillors agreed that next year, the site would be reviewed.
- The Marquee was not used this year, but Councillors agreed it was needed as back up in case of rain.
- Because of an incident at the event and the increased number of attendees, it was suggested that security be hired to be present during the event. Also police to be notified in advance of the event.
- Findern letters were broken but worked well; it was suggested that these be repaired and repainted for next year, or alternatives be found that were manoeuvrable.

The date for next year's event was discussed, and 11 July 2026 was decided upon because of Councillor availability. The World Cup was on so may present some challenges. (FIFA World Cup Thu, 11 Jun 2026 – Sun, 19 Jul 2026)

The Clerk would start the search for bands for the event, and confirm stage and lighting was booked for that date.

b) Findern Village Hall Fete 12 July 2025 – PC support

The Chairman would like the Parish Council to have a stall at the Village Fete. The Chairman asked for volunteers from the Council to man the games area.

RESOLVED that the Clerk and Councillors Cooke and Dosanjh could help man the games area.

c) Highfields Sports Pitch and Public Open Space

The Council had been told that work on the completion of the sports pitch would happen in June. This had not started. The only activity there had been some strimming of grass, and clearing of Herras fencing, which was laying down next to the SuDs.

The District Council had confirmed they had started an Enforcement case with the developer about the sports pitch and associated works, for non-compliance of planning permission

RESOLVED the Clerk would write again to the developer, addressed to the Managing Director at Barratts, outlining the concerns that the Council had and requesting a response.

d) Improvements on The Green

Following last month's site visit and subsequent discussions on what needed to be done to improve the visual appearance of The Green, the Clerk had contacted different contractors and companies to seek quotes.

- Tree works quote

  Andy Portlock had submitted a quote of £495 for a crown lift for the Plane tree, and to do work to the Oak tree; he has confirmed he can do the TPO application, with no charge for this.

  RESOLVED to accept to quote and schedule the work.

- Village sign refurbishment

  The Clerk had a quote from Claire at Norton Signs; her dad had painted the sign originally. The quote was approximately £2600 for the two sides.

  Tudor had looked at how to remove the sign for the work to be done. It should be possible to remove the sign at the top from its post, but would need a hilift to get it down safely. If the Council wanted to relocate sign, digging it out will cause quite a mess. Tudor suggested cutting off at base and have a new metal collar made for the post to slide into and be bolted on, which would then go into the ground

  RESOLVED to delay decision on this work until other work is completed on The Green.

- Replacement benches

  Tudor had looked at how to remove these. It should be possible to grind these off at the base and then relocate to KGV Park, having made new attachments to secure these. The cost for this would be £418.00

  RESOLVED to accept this quotation.

  They can then install the new benches in place at The Green – though they need to know which bench before quoting for the installation. They must not remove old benches before having new ones installed.

  Members considered the options for the new benches.

  RESOLVED to select the Lowther bench from Gladson UK Ltd, with green ends and mid-brown slots. They want to customise this with the Parish Council logo and wording. Approximate price for each bench is £630 + VAT

- Street Signage

  The Clerk had contacted South Derbyshire District Council (SDDC) about the refurbishment of the two faded road signs, showing the SDDC logo and the wording 'The Green'. The officer said he would put in an order to replace the signs.

- Replacing Posts
  Tudor looked at these and were concerned that these would have been cemented in; which would need drilling out. They do not have the equipment to do that. Martin Woodhouse assures the Council, that they just have a bit of postcrete at the base to keep them in place. Councillor Woodhouse said he would contact James at Easy Growing Landscapes and work with him in the autumn to replace the 6 posts that needed to be replaced.

- Moving bins
  Tudor had also looked at how to move these. They are held in place with a base plate which three pins which fit through and tighten. It should be possible to grind these off at the base and then relocate to a new position, having made new attachments to secure these. Their quote for moving these was £265.00.

  RESOLVED to accept this quote and ask for work to be scheduled.

e) Christmas Event at Highfields – Marquee/Grotto and Entertainment
The Clerk had some quotes form Marshall's for Marquee and Santa's Grotto. The Cost of Marquee was £266.67 plus £53.33 VAT = £320.00 (may need to add some fairy lights to the cost); and cost of Grotto with Internal and External decoration was £341.67+ VAT = £410.00

RESOLVED that the Clerk would book the Marquee, and book the basic Santa's Grotto for £210 inc VAT as there would not be room for the external decoration.

The Clerk had cancelled the puppeteer/storyteller; instead, the Clerk had contacted a singer, Johnny Victory, who was recommended by Jayne Darling. Based in Mickleover, he is available to come to do 2 sets of 45 minutes Christmas songs for £250.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would book Johnny Victory to sing at the event.

f) Electric supply for Highfields Christmas Tree – Deed of Easement and GTC-UK quote
The Clerk had circulated the Draft Deed of Easement proposed by the consortium's solicitor. The details were not quite correct, but Councillors were asked whether they had any questions on the content or concerns about what the Council was agreeing to.

RESOLVED that Members were happy to sign the Deed of Easement and did not have any questions on the content or concerns about what the Council was agreeing to.

GTC-UK are struggling to get a sub-contractor to quote for the civils part of the job of installing the cable. They have quoted £426.97 no VAT for connecting feeder pillar up to mains; however, the Council would need someone to dig the trench from the main cable under the footpath to beside the tree pit, and to install a feeder pillar there.

Councillor Ratcliffe has agreed to liaise with O'Connors (who did the work on The Green) to give them the specification of the job for them to quote against.

g) Storage of FINDERN letters
It is proposed to store the FINDERN letters in the Council's container.

RESOLVED to store these letters in the Council's storage.

h) Windows 11 laptop for Clerk – costs

The Clerk had been given a replacement laptop which had been upgraded to Windows 11, and which had been cleared and reset to factory settings. The Clerk may need some IT support to set the laptop up so that it is backing up to the cloud and everything is working. Deadline is mid-October.

RESOLVED that the Clerk could seek IT support to set up laptop.

i) Autumn Newsletter

Members discussed what to include in the newsletter. The Clerk would be working on this over the summer and would welcome some help if anyone wants to write something for it.

- Promote Christmas Events
- Meet your Parish Warden/Lengthsman
- History page linking to Findern Historical Society – King George V Playing Field
- Findern – Relief in Need
- John Allsop Foundation
- Update on Highfields – try to get update from Highways? Also on sports pitch7
- Perhaps an article on the Eco-garden and / or work of Footpaths Group

Other suggestions: -

- Details of Link bus service through Highfields
- Review of Party in the Park
- An article about the Council's charity for the year - Linjoy Wildlife Sanctuary and Animal Rescue

3571/25 **Planning Matters**

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

Consultations

- **Ref. No. DMPA/2025/0794 – 2 Porters Lane, Findern**
  The erection of a single-storey rear extension and associated works.

Decisions

None.

3572/25 **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
16/06 Multipay Corporate Card	Vinyl Banners Printing - 4 Banners for Summer event	£88.04	£0.00	£88.04
16/06 Multipay Corporate Card	Instantprint - 2000 Flyers for Summer Event	£54.94	£0.83	£55.77
16/06 Multipay Corporate Card	Google subscription for Workspace for June	£14.00	£0.00	£14.00
16/06 Multipay Corporate Card	Card monthly fee	£3.00	£0.00	£3.00
BACS UTB 26/06/2025	South Derbyshire CVS June Payroll	£2189.90	£0.00	£2189.90

BACS UTB 26/06/2025	Stage Connections - hire of stage and lighting for the event on 5 July 2025	£24.24.00	£484.80	£2908.80
BACS UTB 27/06/2025	SDDC – Annual & Monthly operational inspection & maintenance of play area at KGV for June	£204.65	£40.93	£245.58
BACS UTB 30/06/2025	Bank Charges Unity Trust Bank	£6.00	£0.00	£6.00
BACS UTB 07/07/2025	Insurance premium for Event cover for Party in the Park	£112.00	£0.00	£112.00
BACS UTB 11/07/2025	Easy Growing Landscapes Ltd June work	£200.00	£0.00	£200.00
BACS UTB 11/07/2025	Fox Landscaping and Grounds Maintenance Invoice - Work for June	£460.76	£92.15	£552.91
BACS UTB 11/07/2025	Shelter Maintenance Ltd. – Bus Shelter cleaning in June	£45.20	£9.04	£54.24
BACS UTB 11/07/2025	Tudor Landscapes – Installation of dog waste bin and new signage at KGV Park	£138.60	£0.00	£138.60
BACS UTB 11/07/2025	Clerk's Expenses Phone, `HWA, Mileage and Zoom subscription.	£72.07	£2.80	£74.87
BACS UTB 11/07/2025	Viking Direct – Inks for the Clerk	£75.53	£15.11	£90.64
BACS UTB 11/07/2025	S K Training Ltd Security for Party in the Park	400.00	£72.40	£472.40
BACS UTB 11/07/2025	Viking Direct – Inks for the Clerk	£50.16	£10.03	£60.19
BACS UTB 11/07/2025	SDDC – Annual & Monthly operational inspection & maintenance of play area at KGV for June	£54.65	£10.93	£65.58
BACS UTB 14/07/2025	1st Willington Scouts reimbursement for food provided for bands and first aid people at Party in the Park	£59.50	£0.00	£59.50

b) Members noted Income received: -

Date of credit	From	Into Account	Amount
31/05/2025	Interest on Nat West Reserve Account	NAT West Reserve	£69.20
01/07/2025	Sarah Pritchard / Find Ltd. - Parish Rooms Rent	Unity Trust Bank	£360.00
04/07/2025	50% Precept from SDDC	Unity Trust Bank	£24,926.00
11/07/2025	Balance of 2nd 50% Precept from SDDC	Unity Trust Bank	£607.50

c) Bank Account Reconciliation Report/Budget Monitoring Reports
Members **NOTED** the Bank Account Reconciliation Report/Budget Monitoring Reports up to 30 June 2025 (including Current and Reserve Accounts Balances).

3573/25 **Correspondence -** The following items of correspondence were **NOTED.**

a) Derbyshire Association Local Councils June Newsletter – forwarded 19/06
b) SDDC One Derbyshire Two Councils - Derbyshire local government reorganisation - public consultation open – forwarded 01/07
c) Details of Local Government Re-organisation Consultation from Councillor Hudson – forwarded 02/07

3574/25 **Reports from Councillors attending meetings of outside bodies**

None.

3575/25 **Date of next meeting(s)**

The next Meeting of the Parish Council would be an Ordinary Meeting held **at 7pm on Thursday, 11 September 2025** at the Methodist Church, Lower Green, Findern, DE65 6AD. It was to **NOTED** that there would be no meeting in August.

3576/25 **Exclusion of press and public**

It was **RESOLVED** that, because of the nature of the business about to be transacted it was advisable that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.

3577/25 **Exempt**

Members considered matters relating to: -

a) the Burton Road land owned by the Parish Council.

Meeting closed at 9.00 pm