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 November 2025 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors Y Carty, G Cooke, B Dosanjh, J Hawke, H Hettmann, C Smith, M Ratcliffe and M Woodhouse. The meeting was Chaired by Councillor M Ratcliffe.

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

3614/25 **Apologies for absence**
Apologies were **NOTED** from Councillors T Brown and S Holmes.

3615/25 **Declaration of members interests**
None.

3616/25 **Public Speaking**

Members of the public:

- A Governor from Findern Primary School updated Members on actions taken regarding the flooding on Buckford Lane. The school had contacted Samantha Hibbert MP about the flooding. An engineer had visited, and the gully had been cleaned, and the two drains cleared. The engineer had advised another drain would be installed and the ditches between the school and Hell Brook would be cleared. There had been no progress on the flooding issues at the school site as the engineer advised that this is a separate issue.
- The Governor also updated Members on the cesspit issue. There had been slow progress as building a new cesspit would be quite complicated; they had to come up with a plan.
- The Governor thanked the Parish Council for its involvement in Findern Fest, which is a fundraiser for the school.
- A representative from Findern Footpaths Group updated Members on the work of the group. She advised that some of the work that the Parish Council had agreed to fund, had been carried out by volunteers. Therefore, she asked for permission to divert some of the funding to other projects. This was approved. The representative also advised that the group were applying to the National Lottery Fund in order to purchase some equipment.
- A resident said that the recent newsletter was very good.

Police Liaison Officer:
The South Derbyshire Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) Officer had submitted a list of their priorities to the meeting. These would be added to the Council's website and Facebook page.
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.

District and County Councillor Reports:

Councillor Ian Hudson (District Councillor) was not present at the meeting. He had sent his apologies and had submitted the following report:

- Local Government Re-organisation (LGR) **–** South Derbyshire District Council **(**SDDC) held a slightly fractious extraordinary full council meeting on 04/11/25 to discuss the SDDC options regarding LGR. All current SDDC Elected members have concerns, including myself. You will remember that the Government propose to abolish all 2 tier Councils throughout England and Wales and replace them with new Unitary Councils. The Government require that existing Councils submit their preferred boundaries for the new Unitary Council(s). The purpose of this meeting was to discuss and decide on SDDC's submission. The to 'not engage' and submit no preferred solution was suggested and rejected. SDDC have decided to submit to Government their preferred option of a single Unitary 'Southern' Derbyshire Council with boundaries incorporating the current South Derbyshire District Council, Erewash Borough Council, Amber Valley Borough Council and Derby City Council. There is no consensus among the Derbyshire Councils, I see DCC seem to be leaning towards a single Derbyshire 'Mega Council'. A Government decision is expected late 2026, with the new Council fully operational in 2028.
- You will know that work has finally started on the Highfields Football Pitch, the Enforcement Officer for South Derbyshire District Council (SDDC) has made several visits.
- You will recall that the SDDC Emerging Local Plan incorporates a very large development, called 'South Mickleover'. Although located between Mickleover and Burnaston, so the other side of the A38, a main construction access is proposed off the Garden Centre Roundabout between Highfields and Dobbies Garden Centre. There is a Planning Application expected at SDDC in 2026 and a public consultation early 2026.

Councillor Martyn Ford (District and County Councillor) was not present at the meeting. He had not submitted a report.

3617/25 Response to emails from residents

a) <u>Trent Barton App for bus times not working</u>
A resident reported there was a problem with the Trent Barton bus service App. As winter approaches with the increased likelihood of poor weather, reliable notification as to the whereabouts of buses becomes increasingly important.
Members supported the Clerk writing a letter to the bus company to raise this issue.

b) <u>ASB at car park off Mackworth Avenue, Highfields</u>
A resident reported a recurring issue of anti-social behaviour outside their home at Mackworth Avenue; this involves cars parking outside the property playing very loud music, shouting and screaming from the occupants of the cars, headlights left on full beam etc. Despite repeated efforts by the resident to contact the police for support, the problem continues. The Clerk had gone back to the resident to advise he should report this via 101 or via the form on Derbyshire Police website as this outside the Parish Council's remit. Information on how to report ASB would be included in next newsletter.

c) <u>Request for larger bins at Mackworth Avenue play area, Highfields</u>
A resident had asked for larger bins be installed and be emptied weekly at the Mackworth Avenue play area, on Highfields.
The Clerk had contacted the Consortium Contact who agreed that these bins are too small. He advised that he had requested they are replaced with larger bins, which should avoid extra visits for emptying. The Clerk would also investigate the possibility of introducing additional dog waste bins outside play area.

d) Request to locate pizza truck on The Green
The owner of a pizza truck had asked for permission to park at The Green on a Friday evening to trade. Councillors refused this request as it would set a precedent; also, because of potential damage to The Green – this had happened previously when the Council had allowed wheeled vehicles access to The Green for events.

e) Frequency of cuts on verges by Greenbelt Group at Highfields
A resident queried the number of times Greenbelt were cutting the verge at Highfields. The Clerk had queried this with the Greenbelt Group contracts manager and he advised that Greenbelt Group doesn't cut the highway verges at Highfields. These would be adopted by Highways; however, currently these were still under the management of the consortium. However, for verges, cuts should stop Sept/Oct time dependant on the weather.

f) Request for support to have bus shelter installed at Portico Drive bus stop opposite Kelvedon Drive. Also, frequency of buses and cancellation of buses
A resident requested a bus shelter be installed at Portico Drive. The Clerk would respond to advise that this was within Derby City boundary, and not within the Parish Council's remit. The resident also complained about the frequency of buses and cancellation of buses – the Clerk would raise this with the bus company.

3618/25 Minutes
RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 9 October 2025 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

3619/25 Variation of order of business
None.

3620/25 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 regarding the Parish Rooms

3621/25 Chairman's Report
The Chair of the meeting, Councillor M Ratcliffe read the Chair's report on behalf of Councillor T Brown who had sent her apologies for not being at the meeting.

The Parish Council once again installed the Remembrance Day Commemorative silhouettes and poppies on the Green. This year there was a new addition of a Carrier Pigeon. It was also an honour to participate in the Remembrance service with All Saints Church and The Methodist Chapel.

The Speed Watch group have completed 7 sessions since the last Parish Council meeting. They recorded a total of 4,196 vehicles. There were 81 first letters, 5 second letters and 1 third letters sent; 1 motorist will be getting a visit from the Police. 7 people were local to Findern, and 8 vehicles could not be verified.

3622/25 Report of the Parish Clerk
a) Bus service for Highfields
Derby City Council acknowledge receipt of the letter to Sam Dennis, Strategic Director for Place regarding the ceasing of the bus service through Highfields. They advised they would respond to the Council's queries forthwith.

b) Electric supply for Highfields Christmas Tree – Deed of Easement
The solicitor had advised she was still waiting for Taylor Wimpey to sign the document. As the tree will be installed in the next two weeks, time had run out to install the feeder pillar for the 2025 tree. This would need to be done early next year.

c) Installation of benches on The Green
` The benches had been delivered to Woodgrow; they are scheduled to be installed mid-November depending upon weather.

d) Flooding on Buckford Lane – DCC Response
Derbyshire County Council (DCC) had opened a new file relating to the case; the new case number was 754121432. The school were waiting for a visit from an engineer.

e) Installation of new cesspit at Findern Primary School
Nicky Cooke, a Governor at Findern Primary School had asked for this to be a regular item on the Agenda until progress was made. The Members were given an update on this matter during public speaking.

f) Response to letter to Trent Barton re. John Port School bus
As previously discussed by Council, the school bus to John Port school had not improved on its punctuality. Councillor Dosanjh had drafted a letter to School Transport Department at Derbyshire County Council, and the Clerk had sent this to the department, copying in Councillor Ford and John Port School to highlight the issues. The representative from the School Transport Department had replied to advise that road works and other issues had been a factor in the late operation of the service; however, they would monitor the arrival times of the service over the course of the autumn term. Councillor Dosanjh reported that there had been some improvement to the punctuality of the service.

g) Response from SDDC re sandbags for property on Burton Road
In response to a complaint about the old sandbags and artificial grass with weeds outside a property on Burton Road, the Clerk had contacted both District and County Councils to ask whether they could provide free sandbags to replace those outside the property. None were available. After further discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would report again the issue of flooding on Burton Road that was the source of the issue, copying in Councillor Ford.

h) Website and email compliance
At a recent Council event, the Council was updated on the need to comply by next April with certain accessibility requirements for the website, also for email addresses. It is an additional requirement for the governance audit that will be done in May next year. The website must be a WCAG 2.2AA compliant accessible website, and Transparency Code and Assertion 10 ready. It would also need to be a .gov.uk domain. Also, the emails had to be gov.uk addresses and hosted in UK.

The Clerk had spoken to the Council's provider of web and email services, and he had confirmed that he will ensure that the Council would be compliant.

The report was **NOTED.**

3623/25 **Members Reports**

a) Findern in Relief Fund
Councillor Cooke reported that there had been no applications to access the fund despite the article promoting the fund being included in the Autumn edition of the Council's newsletter.

b) Stanhope Wood

Councillor Hettmann updated the Members on work at Stanhope Wood and Stanhope Hole. The volunteers had carried out some work on underplanting. Some bark chippings had been dumped against a fence causing some damage. This had been repaired and strengthened with postcrete. Councillor Ratcliffe had spoken with the local farmer who had confirmed that the pipework for the water tap would be installed in the spring and Councillor Ratcliffe would supply the tap and the flow meter.

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

The documents for the submission Neighbourhood Plan for Findern parish had been submitted to South Derbyshire District Council (SDDC). This included the submission Neighbourhood Plan, the Consultation Statement and the Basic Conditions Statement. The next steps would be an independent examination of the Plan and another consultation led by SDDC.

d) Warm Welcome

Each week around 35-40 residents attend Warm Welcome, with November seeing the highest number of people attend a session, 44 people. Residents are invited to pass on the word about the sessions, people do not need to live in the parish to attend and new faces are very welcome. Waren Welcome operates every Tuesday between 12-2pm at Findern Village Hall, offering a jacket potato, slice of cake and warm beverages.

e) Data from VAS Unit

Councillor Holmes had been unable to download any data from the units currently on Burton Road; because of its position under trees, it was only working sporadically because it was not fully charging. It is recommended that the unit be moved to its other site asap. Councillor Holmes had downloaded data from the Heath Lane unit. Councillor Ratcliffe had a key to the units, and the Clerk would have some copies made to give to the contractor who will move the units. The Clerk would also cost moving the VAS Post on Burton Road into another position.

f) Porters Lane development

Councillor Ratcliffe reported that the development is progressing well. There have been no issues with the builders who are working responsibly and within the construction site code of conduct.

3624/25 Matters for Discussion or Determination

a) Remembrance Day – Sunday 9 November 2025

Councillor Ratcliffe had represented the Parish Council at the service on The Green on Remembrance Sunday. The service had been well attended.

RESOLVED that the Remembrance display on The Green would be removed on Friday 21 November 2025.

b) Arrangements for Christmas Events 2025: -

HIGHFIELDS – the confirmed date is Friday, 28 November 2025, 5.30pm-7.30pm with Switch-on at 6.30pm.

For the Highfields Christmas Tree, the feeder pillar will not be installed in time for this year's Switch-On, therefore, electricity from the registered unmetered supply would be used, the same as in previous years. Councillors confirmed their availability for the Highfields Event, and logistics of getting tables etc. was discussed.

Councillor Cooke was not available for Santa duties this year. No one else was available. A Santa could be hired at a cost of £130.

RESOLVED to approve this expenditure.

FINDERN – the confirmed date is Saturday, 6 December 2025. 5.15pm at tree for Switch-On then back to Village Hall for party until 7.30pm. Councillors confirmed their availability to help at the Event. The usual Santa was not able to come to this year's event; therefore, Councillor Cooke would make himself available to play the part of Santa.

c) Findern Fest 19 December 2025, moved to Village Hall – Risk assessment and Insurance
The event had now moved from the Village Green to the Village Hall. The risk assessment had been reviewed by the Council's Health and Safety consultant, and the Insurance cover confirmed. Councillors confirmed their availability to help at the Event.

d) Request for a Christmas Event for older persons in the parish
Members considered a request for a Christmas event for older persons in the village. Councillor Brown had confirmed that Warm Space on 16 December had a singer booked for the session. Members suggested that the Parish Council could support with additional food or decorations.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council would support Warm Space with additional funding of £200 to provide a Christmas event for older people in the parish.

e) Signing Lease for Crow Park Way land
This item was deferred as the Clerk had not received a copy of the lease to sign.

f) Community Governor for Findern Primary School
Details of the vacancies have been circulated around Members.

RESOLVED that none of the Councillors could commit to the being a Governor at the school.

g) Advert for Swarkestone Nurseries seen on Village Green
An advert for Swarkestone Nurseries had been repeatedly displayed on The Green.

RESOLVED the Clerk would write a letter to Swarkestone Nurseries requesting they refrain from using the area for advertising.

h) Budget for 2026/27 – ideas for December meeting of Finance Committee
Members discussed possible projects for the new budget year including: -

- Plantscape pre-planted Planters for Highfields
- Refurbishment of village sign on The Green
- KGV Goal Post replacement costs
- Big Screen Football for World Cup event at Highfields

Other ideas could be sent to Clerk for costing.

RESOLVED that as December was a very busy month, the January meeting of the Parish Council would be moved back a week to the 15 January to allow the 8 January to be used for a Finance Committee meeting to review 2025/26 and consider the budget for 2026/27.

3625/25 **Planning Matters**

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

Consultations

- **Ref. No. DMPA/2025/1201 15 Wallfields Close, Findern**
  The erection of side and rear extensions and increase in height of roof.
- **Ref. No. DMPA/2025/1262 124 Heath Lane, Findern**
  Retention of rear door.

- **Ref. No. DMPA/2025/1270 26 Burton Road, Findern**
  The erection of an extension above existing garage.
- **Ref. No. DMPN/2025/1370 111 Tutbury Avenue, Highfields**
  Certificate of Lawfulness for proposed single storey rear extension and first floor side window.
- **Derby City Council Planning Portal**
  25/01544/OUT Land East of Moorway Lane, Derby
  Erection of up to 350 dwellings (Use Class C3) with a local centre (Use Classes E, F1 and F2) with associated landscaping, open space, drainage infrastructure and associated works (all matters reserved except access from Moorway Lane).

  RESOLVED that the Council would submit its objections to this application on email, despite the consultation deadline having passed. Concerns raised were around access being via Moorways Lane, which is deemed an unsuitable access for 350 houses; flooding concerns from further development adjacent to Hell Brook; and the environmental impact to the site which is close to Heatherton Pond and Millennium Wood.

Decisions

- **Ref. No. DMPN/2025/0554 124 Heath Lane, Findern**
  Certificate of Lawfulness for existing Outbuilding in the Rear Garden.
  Not Granted (Delegated Decision).

3626/25 **Finance**

a) Members approved the following items for payment: -
Authorised BACS payments – Councillors G Cooke and C Smith.

Cheque No./BACS	Payee and Description of service or goods	Nett	VAT	Gross
16/10 Multipay Corporate Card	Amazon Keyboard and Mouse	£16.66	£3.33	£19.99
16/10 Multipay Corporate Card	Google subscription for Workspace for September	£14.00	£0.00	£14.00
16/10 Multipay Corporate Card	Card monthly fee	£3.00	£0.00	£3.00
UTB Chq. 300023	Royal British Legion for Poppy Wreath Donation s137	£250.00	£0.00	£250.00
DD UTB 31/10/2025	Bank Charges Unity Trust Bank	£6.00	£0.00	£6.00
BACS UTB 03/11/2025	South Derbyshire CVS October Payroll	£1696.51	£0.00	£1696.51
BACS UTB 03/11/2025	SDCVS s137 donation to their Winter Giving Campaign for food banks	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00
BACS UTB 03/11/2025	Fox Ground Maintenance & Landscaping Ltd – Monthly Ground Maintenance for September	£460.76	£92.15	£552.91
BACS UTB 03/11/2025	CIS-Comms Systems Ltd. Support from IT Consultant to set up new laptop	£70.00	£14.00	£94.00
BACS UTB 03/11/2025	Findern Village Hall Room Hire for Findern Fest 19 12 25 - s137 Payment	£144.00	£0.00	£144.00
BACS UTB 03/11/2025	Community Heartbeat – replacement pads for School defib – adult and paediatric pads	£333.00	£66.60	£399.60

BACS UTB 03/11/2025	Planning with People - payment to planning consultant for work carried out on NDP	£2000.00	£0.00	£2000.00
BACS UTB 03/11/2025	DALC for 3 places at DALC Annual Day	£135.00	£0.00	£135.00
BACS UTB 03/11/2025	Glasdon Ltd for two Lowther benches for The Green	£1693.54	£338.71	£2032.25
BACS UTB 03/11/2025	Clerk Kate Sharpe reimbursement for payment made to Instantprint for printing of 2000 newsletters	£569.04	£0.00	£569.04
BACS UTB 14/11/2025	Advanced Gas Services - Boiler service in Parish Rooms	£80.00	£16.00	£96.00
BACS UTB 14/11/2025	East Growing Landscapes Ltd October work	£90.00	£0.00	£90.00
BACS UTB 14/11/2025	Viking Direct - inks for Clerk	£73.53	£14.71	£88.24
BACS UTB 14/11/2025	SDDC – Monthly operational inspection & maintenance of play area at KGV October	£54.65	£10.93	£65.58
BACS UTB 14/11/2025	Firs Farm Nurseries Ltd. Summer planting of Planters	£869.27	£173.85	£1043.12
BACS UTB 14/11/2025	Firs Farm Nurseries Ltd. Winter planting of Planters	£1073.49	£214.70	£1288.19
BACS UTB 14/11/2025	Clerk's reimbursement for purchase of books for children's gifts at Christmas events	£34.57	£0.00	£34.57
BACS UTB 14/11/2025	Clerk's expenses – WFH Allowance, Phone, Mileage, Postage, Zoom Subscription	£114.72	£2.80	£117.52
BACS UTB 14/11/2025	HMRC Payment for interest on late payment of PAYE in September 2018	£50.51	£0.00	£50.51
BACS UTB 14/11/2025	Guiding Sparks Circus for one performer at Findern Fest event on 19 12 25 - s137 Payment Deposit payment (from £254)	£100.00	£0.00	£100.00

b) Members noted Income received: -

Date of credit	From	Into Account	Amount
30/09/2025	Interest on Nat West Reserve Account	NAT West Reserve	£70.71
30/09/2025	Rent from Burton Road Land	Nat West Current	£1925.00
13/10/2025	Payment from Ardent for non-invasive survey at KGV	Unity Trust Bank	£500.00
31/10/2025	Donation Greenbelt Group for Highfields Xmas Tree	Unity Trust Bank	£750.00
02/11/2025	Sarah Pritchard / Find Ltd. - Parish Rooms Rent	Unity Trust Bank	£360.00
04/11/2025	Sarah Pritchard / Find Ltd. - Parish Rooms Rent Top-up	Unity Trust Bank	£36.00

c) Bank Account Reconciliation Report/Budget Monitoring Reports
Members **NOTED** the Bank Account Reconciliation Report/Budget Monitoring Reports up to 31 October 2025 (including Current and Reserve Accounts Balances).

3627/25 **Correspondence -** The following items of correspondence were **NOTED.**

a) SDDC Flood Liaison Meeting 20 November 10am-12noon - forwarded 07/10
b) SNT Leaflet on parking safely around our schools - forwarded 07/10
c) PCC Response to questions raised at Parish and Town Council Forum – forwarded 23/10
d) One Derbyshire Update on Local Government Reorganisation – forwarded 29/10
e) DCC Next Parish and Town Council Forum on 8 December – forwarded 30/10
f) Findern Primary School – details on Community Governor vacancy – forwarded 03/11
g) National Grid Upgrade Update – forwarded 03/11

h) Derbyshire Association of Local Councils Newsletter – forwarded 04/11
i) SDDC Teams meeting details for Flood Liaison Meeting 20 November 10am-12noon - forwarded 07/10
j) SDCVS Winter Giving Campaign - Thanks for donation
k) All Saints Church - Thanks for donation
l) Notification of Findern Footpaths Group resignations from Steve Tiso and Carol Caroll

3628/25 **Reports from Councillors attending meetings of outside bodies**

Councillors had not attended any meetings of outside bodies this month.

3629/25 **Date of next meeting(s)**

The next Meeting of the Parish Council would be an Ordinary Meeting held **at 7pm on Thursday, 11 December 2025** at the Methodist Church, Lower Green, Findern, DE65 6AD.

3630/25 **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.

3631/25 **Exempt**

Members considered matters relating to: -

a) Parish Rooms.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm