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, 11 December 2025 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors T Brown, Y Carty, G Cooke, B Dosanjh, J Hawke, C Smith, M Ratcliffe & M Woodhouse.

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

3632/25 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were **NOTED** from Councillors H Hettmann and S Holmes.

3633/25 **Declaration of members interests**

None.

3634/25 **Public Speaking**

Members of the public:

- A resident from Burton Road affected by flooding there, was disappointed that there was no further news on any work to alleviate flooding on Burton Road. The proposal for replacement sandbags was insufficient. Note – Councillor Ford included an update on this in his report.
- A resident reported that a person was still driving their vehicle up the footpath on Castle Hill, causing damage to the grass outside the Village Hall. Councillor Ford would take this complaint to the District Council.
- A resident had noted that the District Council were not printing bin collection leaflets for residents; residents now have to go through to the website to print from there.
- A Governor from Findern Primary School updated Members on actions taken regarding the flooding on Buckford Lane. A senior Highways technician had jetted the drain outside of the school to clear it; and the ditch between the school and the brook would be cleared at weekends and over the Christmas holidays. Also, the Flood Rosk team had checked the school site and were working on a plan for that.
- The Governor also updated Members on the cesspit issue. There had been good news on the plan to build a new cesspit for the school. The contractor had come up with an acceptable plan, that would avoid digging up the play area! This would involve the removal of 6 trees, but 18 trees would be planted in their place

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:

- SDDC, as a cost cutting exercise, will no longer be printing and delivering leaflets with the bin collection dates for the year ahead. The leaflets are still available but need to be printed directly from the SDDC website. It's a fairly simple process, click a few links, pop your postcode in and the leaflet is generated to print. Follow this link https://www.southderbyshire.gov.uk/our-services/recycling-bins-and-waste/bin-collection-dates
- The SDDC Local Plan Part 2 Consultation opened on 24 November 2025, and it closes on 30 January 2026. SDDC Planners are coming the Findern Village Hall on Friday 23 January 2026, 4 – 7pm to listen and answer any questions residents may have. This of course doesn't leave a lot of time, in case anybody wants to comment formally. There are other meet and answer events taking place further afield. Here is a list for information: -

Repton School, Sports Centre (Hospitality Suite),Willington Road, Repton, Derby, DE65 6FH	Thursday 18th December	4pm – 7pm
Sharpes Pottery Museum, 23 West Street , Swadlincote, DE11 9DG	Friday 19th December 2025	4pm – 7pm
Hilton Village Hall, Peacroft Lane, Hilton, DE65 5GH	Friday 9th January 2026	4pm – 7pm
All Saints Heritage Centre, Shardlow Road, Aston on Trent	Wednesday 14th January 2026	4pm – 7pm
Rosliston and Cauldwell Village Hall, Main Street, Rosliston, DE12 8JW	Friday 16th January 2026	4pm – 7pm
Findern Village Hall, Castle Hill, Findern, DE65 6AL	Friday 23rd January 2026	4pm – 7pm

*Note - date for Hilton drop-in had been changed to 20 January 2026.

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

- The consultation for Derbyshire County Council's 2026/27 budget was currently live, ending on 16 January 2026. This would determine how the County Council spends its money in the coming financial year.
- South Derbyshire District Council were no longer printing leaflets for bin collection dates; though these were still available to print from the SDDC website.
- The consultation for the Local Plan Stage 2 was now active until 30 January 2026. A drop-in session was being held at Findern Village Hall on 23 January 2026 between 4pm-7pm for anyone who wished to come along to talk to planning officers about what was proposed.
- Derbyshire County Council had appointed a new Chief Executive who had previously worked at Alton Towers. They would take up the role in early January 2026
- Burton Road flooding had been put on the County's Capital Programme for the next Budget Year
- Both authorities had submitted plans to the Central Government for the Local Government Reorganisation. County proposed one Council to cover the whole of Derbyshire, South Derbyshire District Council had proposed, along with other Borough and District Councils, two unitary Councils – one in the north and one in the south.
- Councillor Ford had received a request from a resident for Speedwatch to hold a session on Willington Road between the junction and the corner with Heath Lane. Councillor Brown said she would look into this.

3635/25 **Response to emails from residents**

None received.

3636/25 **Minutes**

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

3637/25 **Variation of order of business**

None.

3638/25 **To determine which items, if any, of the Agenda should be taken with the press and public excluded**

In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, s1, Members had **RESOLVED** that they would consider 1 item in Exempt: -

a) Matter regarding the Parish Rooms

3639/25 **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman, Councillor T Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting. She gave the following report: -

December is a busy month for the Parish Council. Though we started a bit earlier on the 28 November when we held our Christmas Lights Switch-On at Highfields. We had Johnny Victory singing Christmas tunes, whilst characters from well-known children's movies wandered about, having photographs taken with the children. We had an inflatable Santas Grotto and Santa was very busy seeing all the children and giving out gifts. The event was extremely well attended. Then on Saturday 6 December we held the Findern Lights Switch-On, held on the Village Green, followed by Children's entertainment by Dream Parties in the Village Hall. This event was not so well attended. At both events we served complimentary refreshments, though we did raise £206 through donations for Linjoy Wildlife Sanctuary.

Thank you to Councillor Woodhouse for his donation of the Village Christmas Tree and for also erecting it for us. I think you'd all agree that the Green looks very festive with the lights, tree and candy canes.

I take this opportunity to thank each and every Parish Councillor for their hard work and dedication this year. We have once again worked as a team to achieve the best for our community. But, all of us around this table thank our hard-working Clerk, Kate Sharpe. She has kept us on the straight and narrow, allowing us to focus on doing what needs to be done.

The Speed Watch group have completed 7 sessions since the last Parish Council meeting, though I only have the data for 5 of those as the last two took place recently, I will include that data in the report at January's meeting. We recorded a total of 2.050 vehicles. There were 45 first letters, 3 second letters and 1 third letters sent. Only 27 people were local to Findern, and 4 vehicles could not be verified.

Lastly, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

3640/25 **Report of the Parish Clerk**

a) Electric supply for Highfields Christmas Tree – Deed of Easement
The Parish Council had received the signed Deed of Easement. Time had run out to install the feeder pillar for the 2025 tree. The feeder pillar would be installed early in 2026.

b) Installation of benches on The Green
` The benches had been delivered to Woodgrow; they were scheduled to be installed mid-November depending upon weather; however, this had been delayed because the contractor was ill. They would be installed in the new year.

c) Flooding on Buckford Lane – DCC Response
Governors at Findern Primary School had asked for this to be a regular item on the Agenda until progress was made. The Members were given a positive update on this matter during public speaking by a representative of the School Governors.

d) Installation of new cesspit at Findern Primary School
Governors at Findern Primary School had asked for this to be a regular item on the Agenda until progress was made. The Members were given a positive update on this matter during public speaking by a representative of the School Governors.

e) 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. The Council's website provider confirmed that the gov.uk domain had been registered and once they had control of this, they would commence migration. The Council's email addresses would also change from .org to gov.uk for all Members and Clerk.

The report was **NOTED.**

3641/25 Members Reports

a) Findern in Relief Fund
Councillor Cooke reported that there had been no applications to access the fund and had no further updates.

b) Stanhope Wood
Councillor Hettmann was not present at the meeting therefore no update was available for the Members on work at Stanhope Wood and Stanhope Hole.

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). The Clerk was chasing the Planning Policy department for a response.

d) Warm Welcome
The last few weeks have been extremely busy with around 40 residents attending Warm Space. The 16 December session was the final date for the year, until Warm Space reopens on the 6 January. Deborah Arnold and Tammy Brown would like to thank the Parish Council for their kind donation; because of this they planned to provide a longer session on 16 December with mulled wine as well as Turkey and stuffing cobs, pigs in blankets, Baileys and a choice of desserts. One of the wonderful volunteers, Lynette Nash has organised a quartet of acapella singers to perform at the session too. There would also be a quiz and a raffle. They wished to thank Murrays Funeral Home for their kind donation of a hamper and would like to thank all of the volunteers as without them they could not provide a warm and welcoming space for people to meet. 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. Warm 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 was not present at the meeting, and no update on data had been received. The unit on Burton Road was working intermittently, depending upon the amount of sunshine. This should be moved to the alternative site during the winter months. Councillors would check keys to locate the key that is needed to move the units.

f) Porters Lane development
Councillor Ratcliffe reported that the development was progressing well. There had been no issues with the builders who were working responsibly and within the construction site code of conduct.

3642/25 Matters for Discussion or Determination

a) Review of Christmas Events 2025: -

HIGHFIELDS – Members reviewed the event that had taken place on Friday, 28 November 2025. It had been well attended. Members NOTED the following points: -

- The generator had failed towards the end of the event as it had run out of petrol; spare petrol should be available next year, if mains electricity was not available.
- More flasks were needed next year as the refreshments team had, on occasion, run out of water. Hopefully next year, the tea urn from the Scouts would be available.
- A banner promoting that refreshments are free and grotto is free would be helpful.

FINDERN – Members reviewed the event that had taken place on Saturday, 6 December 2025. Numbers of residents attending both the switch-on at The Green and the event in the Village Hall afterwards were disappointing; factors that could have influenced this was the poor weather and the fact that the event was on a Saturday night. Members felt that the event needed to be refreshed with a new offering at the hall.

RESOLVED that the events for 2026 would take place on the evening of Friday, 20 November for Highfields, and the evening of Friday, 27 November for Findern.

b) Findern Fest 19 December 2025, moved to Village Hall – Risk assessment and Insurance
The event had now moved to the Village Hall and would take place between 5pm and 9pm, with Santa visiting on his sleigh around 5.45pm. Councillors confirmed their availability to help at the Event.

c) Signing Lease for Crow Park Way land
The Clerk had received a copy of the lease to sign. This was a 7-year lease on the land off Crow Park Way up till 31 May 2032 at a rent of £200 per annum.

RESOLVED that the lease would be signed and returned as soon as possible.

d) Summer Activities offer from Active South Derbyshire
Members considered the offer from Active South Derbyshire to deliver activity sessions in the summer. The two sessions at Highfields in the summer of 2025 had been well attended. Historically, the sessions at Findern had not been well attended.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council would book two sessions to take place at Highfields Spencer Academy over the summer holiday in 2026, if the school agrees to the use of their field.

e) Replacement posts for The Green
Councillor Woodhouse had reported that a number of the wooden posts around The Green had failed. He had brought to the meeting a sample polymer post as a potential, hard wearing replacement.

RESOLVED that a quote would be obtained to replace the posts with this polymer post.

f) SDDC Consultation on the Local Plan Part 2, Parish Council's response
Planning officers would be available at Findern Village Hall for a drop-in on 23 January 2026 between 4pm-7pm to discuss the proposals with residents.

RESOLVED that Members would attend the drop-in session on the 23 January if available.

3643/25 **Planning Matters**

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

Consultations

- **Ref. No. DMPA/2025/0042 New Range Farm, Findern Lane, Burnaston**
  Retrospective application for the erection of a single storey dwelling.
- **Ref. No. DMPA/2025/0261 Micklemeadow Farm, Rykneld Road, Findern**
  Change of use of farmhouse to form small scale children's care home (C2) and conversion of former farm buildings to education facilities (F1a) and head office (Egi) for Bayleaf Care Ltd.
- **Ref. No. DMPA/2025/1473 Dobbies Garden Centre, Burton Road, Findern**
  Change of use of 9 parking bays to a hand car wash including a cabin, canopy and associated works.
- **Ref. No. DMPA/2025/1489 Dobbies Garden Centre, Burton Road, Findern**
  Advertisement consent for fixed and freestanding non illuminated and fixed illuminated sign to new car wash facility.

  RESOLVED that the Parish Council would submit an objection to the planning application DMPA/2025/1473 based on noise pollution, drainage concern and safety of pedestrians concern.

Decisions

- **Ref. No. DMPN/2025/1262 124 Heath Lane, Findern**
  Retention of rear door.
  Approved (Delegated Decision).

3644/25 **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
16/11 Multipay Corporate Card	Amazon Wellington Boots (Ordered in error - Returned and same amount credited)	£11.62	£2.33	£13.95
16/11 Multipay Corporate Card	Amazon Zip Ties	£6.66	£1.33	£7.99
16/11 Multipay Corporate Card	Amazon Zip Ties – Invoice for £15.98 but only £0.98 taken from Corporate Card	£0.98	£0.00	£0.98
16/11 Multipay Corporate Card	Amazon Wireless Mouse	£7.49	£1.50	£8.99
16/11 Multipay Corporate Card	Amazon Zip Ties – 2 packs	£14.98	£3.00	17.98
16/11 Multipay Corporate Card	Instantprint Banners for Xmas events Findern	£65.93	£13.18	£79.11
16/11 Multipay Corporate Card	Instantprint Banner for Xmas events Highfields	£27.37	£5.47	£32.84

16/11 Multipay Corporate Card	Google subscription for Workspace for	£14.00	£0.00	£14.00
16/11 Multipay Corporate Card	Card monthly fee	£3.00	£0.00	£3.00
BACS UTB 24/11/2025	Gill Stoddard – Dream Parties for Findern Light Switch-On event entertainment	£260.00	£0.00	£260.00
BACS UTB 24/11/2025	Marshall Marquees Balance payment for Marquee hire for Highfields Christmas event	£245.00	£0.00	£245.00
BACS UTB 24/11/2025	Marshall Marquees Balance payment for Grotto hire for Highfields Christmas event	£105.00	£0.00	£105.00
BACS UTB 25/11/2025	Shauni Salmons for PDP Characters and Santa for Highfields Christmas event	£345.00	£0.00	£345.00
BACS UTB 25/11/2025	Johnny Victory Singer for Highfields Christmas Event	£250.00	£0.00	£250.00
DD UTB 30/11/2025	Bank Charges Unity Trust Bank	£6.00	£0.00	£6.00
SO UTB 01/12/25	Payment to FIND for use of electricity for external lights	£45.50	£0.00	£45.50
BACS UTB 04/12/2025	South Derbyshire CVS November Payroll	£1809.90	£0.00	£1809.90
BACS UTB 12/12/2025	Fox Ground Maintenance & Landscaping Ltd – Monthly Ground Maintenance for November	£460.76	£92.15	£552.91
BACS UTB 12/12/2025	Abacus Playgrounds – replacement of wet pour and grass play mats	£5106.50	£1021.30	£6127.80
BACS UTB 12/12/2025	SDDC – Emptying of Litter and Dog waste bins from 1 04 2024 to 31 03 2025	£2412.29	£0.00	£2142.29
BACS UTB 12/12/2025	Viking Direct - inks for Chairman	£74.24	£14.85	£89.09
BACS UTB 12/12/2025	Advanced Gas Services – Supply and Fit new thermostat to gas boiler	£296.80	£59.36	£356.16
BACS UTB 12/12/2025	DALC for 1 place on DALC Training Councillor Essentials	£55.00	£0.00	£55.00
BACS UTB 12/12/2025	SDDC – Monthly operational inspection & maintenance of play area at KGV November	£54.65	£10.93	£65.58
BACS UTB 12/12/2025	AP Tree Specialists – Crown lifting of London Plane on Village Green	£495.00	£99.00	£594.00
BACS UTB 12/12/2025	AP Tree Specialists – Pruning back of Oak on Village Green and pruning back of Ash and Goat Willow at KGV	£300.00	£60.00	£360.00
BACS UTB 12/12/2025	Total Hire Sales – Hire of Generator and festoon lighting and extension, delivery and petrol - November Hire	£28.82	£5.77	£34.59
BACS UTB 12/12/2025	Total Hire Sales – Hire of Generator and festoon lighting and extension, collection and petrol - December Hire	£37.22	£7.46	£44.78
BACS UTB 12/12/2025	Leisure Lites Ltd Year 1 of Christmas Tree Contract	£2610.00	£522.00	£3132.00
BACS UTB 12/12/2025	Reimbursement to M Ratcliffe for purchase of extra petrol for generator at Switch-on event	£6.82	£0.00	£6.82

BACS UTB 12/12/2025	Stuart Reeves for work at Crow Park Way banks and at Stanhope Wood	£755.00	£0.00	£755.00
BACS UTB 12/12/2025	Clerk's reimbursement for purchase of food and drink, books and toys for children's gifts at Christmas events	£313.77	£0.00	£313.77
BACS UTB 12/12/2025	Clerk's expenses – WFH Allowance, Phone, Mileage, Postage, Zoom Subscription	£111.27	£2.80	£114.07
BACS UTB 12/12/2025	Linjoy Wildlife Sanctuary – donations from the two Switch-On events	£206.00	£0.00	£206.00

b) Members noted Income received: -

Date of credit	From	Into Account	Amount
28/10/2025	Interest on Nat West Reserve Account	NAT West Reserve	£66.25
02/12/2025	Sarah Pritchard / Find Ltd. - Parish Rooms Rent	Unity Trust Bank	£378.00
09/12/2025	Cash from donations from the two Switch-On events	Unity Trust Bank	£206.00

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

3645/25 **Correspondence -** The following items of correspondence were **NOTED.**

a) SDDC Details of Consultation on the Local Plan Part 2, including poster of drop-in sessions - forwarded 26/11 (Findern Village Hall session is on 23 January 2026 between 4pm-7pm).

3646/25 **Reports from Councillors attending meetings of outside bodies**

Councillor Hettmann had attended the Flood Liaison Meeting on 20 November 2025; however, he was not present, and therefore, was not able to report on the meeting.

3647/25 **Date of next meeting(s)**

The next Meeting of the Parish Council would be an Ordinary Meeting held **at 7pm on Thursday, 15 January 2026** at the Methodist Church, Lower Green, Findern, DE65 6AD. The Parish Council meeting is moving back a week to allow for the Finance Committee meeting to take place on 8 January 2026.

3648/25 **Exclusion of press and public**

In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, s1, Members had **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.

3649/25 **Exempt**

Members considered matters relating to: -

a) Parish Rooms.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm