

FINNINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

*Minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on
Tuesday, 9th. January, 2018,
in St. Bartholomew's Church, Finningham, starting at 7:30pm*

Present: Mr. A Kilbee, Mrs. M. Webb Mrs. D. Sewell, Mr. J. Miller, Mrs. C. Winter and Mr. J. Black (late due to work)
In attendance: Miss. N. Hill (Clerk) and 4 members of the public.

17.154 Visiting speakers

None

17.155 Contribution by Members of the Public – Mr. John Sewell wishes to talk about and present plans for the village signs.

Mr. J. Sewell presented a map of the village with the proposed sites for the villages signs, he also showed different illustrations of sign designs. He acknowledged the work that Mr. J. Black has already done on this matter. Different hard woods have been looked at and they are similar prices to what Mr J. Black found. 7 welcome signs will be needed and there is only 1 site which can have a 'gate' design, on each side of the road. The bottom left design was agreed by everyone. Costing wise is roughly £200 per sign with an additional £100-£200 for fixings. Now a design has been agreed on Mr. J. Sewell was asked to get better costings. He said he also needs to speak to Mr. J. Black about the aluminium signs. The Chairman thanked Mr. J. Sewell for this work on this.

Footpath warden was unable to attend the meeting but sent over a report.

He is pleased to report the work at Saracens Hill has been carried out and has used the steps down to the road and it's much safer to use footpath no. 21.

Since his report in November he has now walked all the footpaths within the Finningham boundary and believes there are no more issues other than the footpath bridges being slippery or restricted with foliage. Some of the foliage he has cut back himself. He still feels it best to report back to SCC about the slippery surface on the bridges and allow SCC to decide what they wish to do from a safety point of view.

He has sent through a report to SCC relating to 'Way Marking' at grid ref TM05676 70098.

The Chairman thanked Mr. D. Aiken for his report and the Council are very pleased with his efforts, especially with making footpath no. 21 at Saracens Hill a lot safer.

17.156 Apologies and approval of absence.

Mr. R. Negus unable to attend due to another commitment.

Mrs. D. Sewell proposed, seconded by Mrs. M. Webb and agreed to accept this absence.

17.157 Approve minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th. November, 2017.

Mrs. D. Sewell proposed, seconded by Mrs. C. Winter and agreed that the minutes were a correct record and the Chairman then signed the minute book.

17.158 To receive any pecuniary or non-pecuniary declarations of interest from Members and any Gifts of Hospitality.

Nothing from any of the Councillors.

17.159 Matters arising from the meeting held on 14th November 2017

159.01 WW1 commemoration – any further forward on the pamphlet? Nothing from Mr. R. Negus.

159.02 Welcome pack for people moving to the village – How has Mrs. Sewell got on co-ordinating this? Mrs. D. Sewell showed a list she has created of what to include in the welcome pack which was very comprehensive. Mrs. M. Webb offered to lend Mrs. D. Sewell her copy of an old welcome pack that she has.

159.03 Water supply in the cemetery – what's the cost of a water butt? Nothing from Mr. R. Negus. Mr. A. Kilbee said he will ask a contact to the cost of installing a water supply with tap at the cemetery.

159.04 Compost heaps in the cemetery – has a skip been delivered? No, as it hasn't been asked for yet.

17.160 Chairman's Report

In spite of the fact there has been a gap of 2 months since our last meeting, there isn't a great deal to report on. The Ash tree on the Green has been cut down to the minimum height possible. The tree surgeon said there is a strong possibility that it will regenerate spontaneously but if it doesn't, it will gradually rot away (being a home for many species of bugs) and will not pose a threat during that time.

The Chairman has had communication with Mrs Laytham regarding the trees on the section of the Green next to Green Farm Barn which are interfering with the telephone lines feeding her house. This is an annual event. As the tree surgeon was on site, he was asked if he could do anything but did not have his long cropper with him, but said he would see what he would do.

The clerk's annual assessment is now due and would like to complete that in the next few weeks.

The row of trees bordering the Cemetery and Shadwell House have been removed, as requested.

Volunteers have carried out some work in the Churchyard. A pile of cuttings still has to be removed.

Mr. A. Brownlie has very kindly cut back the grass from the edges of the path through the Churchyard.

17.161 Working Groups Report – Defib & Recreation area

161.01 Defib

Progress is being made still, the electrician has a list of consumables needed. It has also only been realised now that Network Power do not install an Earth, therefore an Earth will be to be installed, into the new concrete base, which Mr. C. Winter will kindly do.

161.02 Recreation area

The swings should move 10m from their current location into the Green to move them away from the trees and to also be closer to the benches. It's suggested the table tennis table is moved and placed near where the cars are parked. Aerial photographs were shown to help people see the thoughts and to also see where the trees are in location to the proposed moves of the play equipment. It was thought to get the swings ordered and in place and then add pieces of play equipment as funds allow.

17.162 To discuss and approve the 2018-2019 Budget and what the precept should be set at. Government intends to defer the setting of referendum principles for three years. Average increase set in 2017-2018 was 6.3% Mrs. M. Webb proposed, seconded by Mrs. C. Winter and agreed to increase by 3% and set the precept at £6,895.

17.163 To discuss the celebrations of the end of WW1 and PCC & Friends of Finningham.

It is thought there will be a concert in the Church on 11th November 2018 with WW1 poems being read out and the Church being decorated with Union flags and poppies. Therefore it's felt the Council do not need to do anything separate themselves.

17.164 To discuss and approve the footpath from the Churchyard to Church Meadow. A quote of £100 has been received to cut back trees and shrubs along this footpath. Could a working party of parishioners get together to do this.

It is felt the trees/shrubs need trimming back to 7ft. A working party during the litter pick could potentially do this rather than the Council paying to have this done.

17.165 To discuss a strategy to try to get a lower speed limit imposed on Walsham Road.

The Chairman asked for any ideas and whether any precedents have been set elsewhere.

17.166 Correspondence Received

166.01 The clerks information and networking event in December was cancelled by SALC – therefore the clerk didn't attend.

166.02 Suffolk Walking Festival 2018 – 12th May until 3rd June 2018

166.03 SALC have emailed lots of information about the new Data Protection legislation. Still no finalised information on who parish councils should have as their data protection officers apart from the fact it cannot be the clerk.

166.04 New external auditor PKF Littlejohn LLP for the next 5 financial years. The annual return will be known as 'Annual Governance and Accountability Return'. A free briefing from them is being held at SALC on Tuesday 30th January 2018 which the clerk is attending.

166.05 New process around being informed about road closures. Register the area to be informed about on www.roadworks.org

17.167 Finance

167.01 Previous meeting, last balance reported was from 27/10/2017

Current account £8,235.10 (£465.26 not yet presented, afterwards £7,768.84)

Deposit account £3,313.36

Balances as of 29/11/2017

Current account £7,743.67 (£156.00, £315, £120, £8.63, £132, £628.80 not yet presented, afterwards £6,698.23)

Receipts since 27/10/17 – £532.50 (£360 burial fees & VAT claim)

Payments since 27/10/17 - £1,023.93 (cheques approved at last meeting)

Deposit account £3,313.36

167.02 **Requests for payment**

Mrs. D. Sewell proposed, and seconded by Mr. J. Miller and agreed to authorise the following payments
Approved at last meeting, but cheque not raised FRIENDS OF FINNINGHAM - £100 – annual donation of website
& magazine

FRIENDS OF FINNINGHAM - £100 – use of website & newsletter

J.LAWES - £5.30 – jubilee clips to fix dog bin near the Church

MSDC - £57.04 – Annual play equipment inspection

N.HILL - £8.03 – clerks expenses

FINNINGHAM PCC - £300 – cutting of the grass in the churchyard

Totalling £470.37

17.168 Planning

168.01 To consider applications. All planning applications received up to the date of the meeting will be discussed.
DC/17/05462 – Fell 1 T1 Holly tree, the crown of 1 T2 Cherry Tree, remove overhanging limb of T3 Thorn tree,
reduce large limb T4 Thorn tree & fell 1 T5 Sycamore Tree – Knock O’Ronald, Church Meadow, Gislingham
Road, Finningham.

DC/17/05156 – Silver Birch, fell and grind stump T1. T2/T3/T4 Silver Birch reduce the overall crowns by up to
25% - Knock O’Ronald, Church Meadow, Gislingham Road, Finningham.

DC/17/05164 – T1 ash – fell leaving stump cut close to ground level. T2 ash – prune crown – Yew Tree House,
Church Lane, Finningham, IP14 4JB.

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Church Lane, Finningham, IP14 4JB.

No comment on any of the above.

An application for 15 dwelling at Green Farm Yard came through on 9th January. An extraordinary meeting will be
called for Monday 22nd at 7.30pm at the Church and a leaflet drop will be done, to enable everyone to know about
the meeting.

168.02 Decisions

GRANTED – DC/17/03768 – Erection of ancillary annexe accommodation following demolition of existing
outbuildings. Stanwell Farm, Gislingham Road, Finningham, Stowmarket, IP14 4JA

17.169 Questions to the Chairman

What is the cost of hiring at Westhorpe Village Hall? Could this be an option instead of hiring a cold Church? The
cost is £8 per hour. It was thought even less people would attend the meeting if it was not in the village.

17.170 Items to be discussed at the next meeting and included in the February’s agenda.

Spring litter pick

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 9.21pm