

FINNINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

*Minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on
Tuesday, 10th. October, 2017,
in St. Bartholomew's Church, Finningham, starting at 7:30pm*

Present: Mr. A Kilbee, Mrs. M. Webb, Mrs. D. Sewell, Mr. R. Negus and Mrs. C. Winter

In attendance: Miss. N. Hill (Clerk) and 23 members of the public.

17.113 Visiting speakers

None

17.114 Contributions by Members of the Public. To discuss items on recently distributed flyer

114.01 Footpaths and Bridleways

The Footpath Warden spoke about not walking as much as she use to but Doug and June Aiken walk more, therefore she has asked if they could be the footpath wardens as she wishes to step down from the role. Therefore Dug Aiken will take on the footpath warden role. The Chairman thanked Beryl and everyone attending the meeting applauded her for the work she has done. It was stated the footpath in the Church is almost impassable due to the trees hanging down.

114.02 Amenities

The installation of the defibrillator is happening and thanks go to Cllr C. Winter for being the driving force of this project including obtaining grants. This will be located on the grass corner opposite the pub. In the play area the slide had to be dismantled and disposed of due to rot within the wood and repairs were unable to made to the 20 year old slide to make it comply with current BS standards. A limb of an Oak tree broke and fell onto the swings. With the recreation equipment near oak trees, it could happen again, therefore a working group is being put together to look at re positioning the recreation within the Green away from trees. An Ash tree on the Green has Ash dieback and will be pollarded. An insurance claim has been accepted for the swings and Friends of Finningham have donated £1000 to help towards the recreation area. The Chairman asked the members of the public if they had any ideas. Nothing was mentioned therefore he asked everyone to go away and ask their children/grandchildren what would be good to have as part of the recreation area. Bus routes will continue but if bus routes are being cut or reduce, then the Parish Council will make it known that the village needs to be serviced with buses and would not want services cut or reduced. Currently the bus route goes as far as the White Horse. Could the Council ask for the bus to go as far as Robb Hall Corner. A request for a water supply within the Cemetery was asked. The Council will contact the local water authority. It was mentioned that the area near Green Farm Barn has been grass seeded but it is felt it will not grow to how it should be and maintenance of it will be harder. The person who cuts the Green for the Council is worried about the windows that go to ground level and he doesn't want to be breaking the glass whilst cutting the grass of the Green. A comment was made about the recreation equipment being moved away from the trees and that fact we are in a village surrounded by trees and is questioning whether the recreation area should be moved. It was explained that the Council need to mitigate risk of damage to equipment in the future bearing in mind it's recently happened. A precedent has been set and if the Council did nothing and it happened again, then the Council could be seen as being negligent.

114.03 Environment

Maintenance of the trees is quite a burden of the Council's funds and reserves have to be kept for this reason. Litter picks works well, but maybe to have more than 1 pick per year. People 'adopt' a piece of road, keeping it clear of litter and they do a great job. Could there be other options/ideas? It was said that some litter cannot be reached due to it being within a ditch or uneven ground. People can only do what they can do, and to do it safely. Timing of the litter pick can also be an issue due to the length of the grass. It was said this time of year, in October and early Spring would be the better times and people were happy for a litter pick to happen twice a year.

114.04 Road Safety

The Community Speed Watch group appealed for volunteers. Training is 10 mins and it isn't difficult. 2 cars had a combined speed of over 100mph and a van from Sackers was over 60 mph in a 30mph zone in the village.

Some drivers don't seem to understand the consequences. Agricultural vehicles haven't been caught speeding and only 1 motor bike has. It's mainly commercial vehicles, but more people are needed to help.

Robb Hall Corner, Walsham Road and Old School Corner is governed by the national speed limit of 60 mph. Only recently a van went off the road in this area. Due to no one being hurt, a report isn't made to the Police so they don't hold records as to the amount of accidents unless someone is hurt. Wheelie bin stickers, either stating 30 mph or slow down speed kills have been purchased by the Council for people to stick to their wheelie bins. Some people in the national speed limit area have stuck them on boards and put on the side of the road. There are a few more stickers if anyone wants them.

It was suggested that you can make your own fake Gatso speed camera but it cannot be put on the Highway, only on private land.

Someone suggested whether the crossroads at the White Horse pub could be turned into a roundabout to help slow people down. The Clerk will make enquiries with Highways to see if this is possible.

Road Signs also need replacing due to them either falling down or have faded. Also some of the white lines along the road have worn away and need re-painting. The Clerk will contact Highways about these issues.

The Council have been looking at the approaches to the village and Welcome signs/gates and white line to give the impression of a narrower road. It was suggested whether the Council could get sponsors for these village signs. It was explained that these welcome signs/gates have to be installed by certain contractors as set out by Highways. The Highway extends 1 mtr from the verge. 1 person has offered to make these village signs/gates. Any ideas of the design, could they please let the Council know.

114.05 **Emergency Planning**

If there was flooding or an outbreak of flu in the village, or in the past foot & mouth there currently is no plan. What would the village do if there was prolonged power outage. The social amenities group in the village started a Good Neighbour Scheme, but it fell apart, as it wasn't used. It was suggested that there is someone in the village that could be good at writing an emergency plan for the village.

114.06 **Anything else**

Local plan consultation – there are 3 areas ear marked – Old Green Farm yard, near Saracen Hill and Gissingham road, on the left hand side. It was mentioned by a member of the public that the Council should work with the developer so something is done for the village as part of the development. The Chairman said that the Council have done just that with regards to Green Farm yard in terms of having a meeting room. It was also pointed out that the village cannot cope with many more dwelling in terms of the sewage infrastructure, due to previous issues. The Chairman did say that the affected areas have been rodded, so hopefully shouldn't have issues again.

Someone asked is there a plan for the trees in the churchyard as some footpaths are hard to walk due to the low hanging branches. The Chairman explained how it's the Parish Council that maintains the churchyard and not the Church. So the Council need to deal with the trees. A member of the public offered to trim and cut branches below 6ft to enable people to walk from the Green to the churchyard, as it is nearly impassable. The Council said they were happy for him to do this. The Chairman told everyone what is going on with the conifers at the bottom of Shadwell House, which back onto the cemetery. On 20th November, these are being cut. The Horse Chestnut trees will be left. It may look strange for a while.

Another member of the public talked about the compost heaps left in the churchyard – 3 of them in different parts of the churchyard not looking very attractive, especially when 2 of the heaps are by 2 of the entrances.

It was suggested for a note to go into the next newsletter offering the compost for free and for people to help themselves. Another member of the public offered to pay for 2 skips a year to help with removing the grass/twigs from the Churchyard. The Chairman thanked him for his very kind offer. The path in the churchyard from gate to gate is getting smaller in width, and it should be 2 mtrs in width. Cllr R. Negus said he would spray in the early spring to see if it will kill the encroaching grass to then help clear it and get the path wider again.

The Chairman ended this section of the meeting with saying that the appearance of the churchyard is a concern to people in the village. If people have views or thoughts on amenities on the village Green then to let him know. The damaged swings are being replaced like for like by the insurance and there are plans to replace the slide. He then thanked everyone for attending and for their input and if they wished to leave they could, or remain for the rest of the meeting.

17.115 **Apologies and approval of absence**

Mr. J. Black and Mr. J. Miller were both unable to attend the meeting due to work commitments.

Mrs. D. Sewell proposed, seconded by Mrs. C. Winter and agreed to accept these absences.

17.116 **Approve minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th. September, 2017**

Mrs. M. Webb proposed, seconded by Mrs. D. Sewell and agreed that the minutes were a correct record and the Chairman then signed the minute book. It was requested for the minutes to be sent out earlier, a week before the meeting.

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

Nothing from any of the Councillors.

17.118 **Matters arising from the meeting held on 12th September 2017**

118.01 Joint Local Plan – Has every Councillor read it that wants to?

- The document has been passed onto Mr. R. Negus.
- 118.02 Update on the insurance claim on the swings.
The claim has been accepted and the excess is £100. Now need to find out if there is a timescale to the claim
- 118.03 The trees at Shadwell House are being removed.
This has already been mentioned.
- 17.119 Chairman's Report**
Firstly the Chairman welcomed the new Councillor, Richard Negus and is looking forward to working with him and putting his skills to good use.
The Chairman had a meeting with the Rev. Philip Merry regarding the cutting of the long grass in the churchyard. New volunteers need to be found, by the Church, to cut the long grass for the Parish Council to continue paying £300 a year for the long grass to be cut.
The Chairman had further contact with the brother of the former owner of Shadwell House and he is arranging for the removal of the trees at the rear of the cemetery week commencing 20th November.
The pathway in the churchyard is overgrown and requires some attention.
- 17.120 Working Group Report - Defib**
Mrs. C. Winter reported that they have the green box to house the electrics, this can be sited. The ducting will need to be purchased as well as the practise defibrillator. The gentleman that helped with the green electrical box needs to be thanked and asked whether he is happy for him and the company he works for to be mentioned in any press release the Council do.
- 17.121 To discuss the formation of the Recreation working group.**
Mr E. Coward is happy to lead the group, Mr. R. Negus and Mrs. M. Webb said they would like to be in this group and they will see if there are other people they know that may be interested in helping.
- 17.122 To discuss and approve for any Councillor to carry out repairs as they see fit as long at it doesn't incur any costs.**
After discussion, Mr. A. Kilbee proposed, seconded by Mr. R. Negus and agreed for any Councillor to carry out repairs as they see fit as long as it doesn't incur any costs.
- 17.123 To discuss and agree the 'sub-committee' for the defibrillator is actually a working group and will be referred to as a working group.**
After looking at the differences between a sub-committee and a working group, Mr. A. Kilbee proposed, seconded by Mr. R. Negus and agreed it is a working group and it will be referred as such.
- 17.124 To discuss and approve the quote of £550 to carry out work on the Ash Tree on the Green.**
The Council discussed the state of the tree and the felling of the tree is the best option. Mrs. D. Sewell proposed, seconded by Mrs. C. Winter and agreed to have the tree felled. It was also discussed what could be done with the wood and it was suggested if the wood could be bought by anyone in the village. Mr. R. Negus offered to deal with this and for something to be put on the notice board to make people aware.
- 17.125 To discuss protecting the area/grass around Green Farm Barn once it has been restored.** It was mentioned last month to consider permanent posts.
It was discussed it would be another expenditure for the Council and how effective would posts be? Big stones, painted white were discussed but they wouldn't protect the corner. It was mentioned that the pot holes are larger and whether the track/drive should be returned to original state before work was started but the Council are fully aware these pot holes haven't increased solely due to the work around Green Farm Barn. It was discussed that parking could become more of a problem in the future when the development of Green Farm yard starts, therefore it was agreed for the owner of Green Farm Barn to be written to regarding this. In terms of protecting the area which has now been grass seeded, it was suggested and agreed to use parts of the felled Ash tree to be used as edging. This means the Council to not have to purchase anything, unused parts of the Ash tree are using used and it's also good for the environment.
- 17.126 To discuss if the Parish Council should do anything for WWI commemoration.**
It was suggested a pamphlet on how WW1 affecting Finningham and the families within Finningham. This was thought to be a good idea. Mr. R. Negus said he would look to see what information can be obtained. It was suggested whether the local history groups in Finningham and surrounding areas would like to get involved and whether the Church's Flower Festival also wanted to be involved.
- 17.127 To discuss the play equipment report for 2017.**
After discussing the report there isn't anything that needs urgent attention. The Council will look at replacing a couple of bins next year and make sure this is within next years budget.
- 17.128 To discuss the 2018-2019 Budget.**
It was discussed to get a quote of what it would cost for someone to assess the Green and advise the best place

to site the play equipment taking into consider the trees on the Green and what tress are as risk free as possible. Bearing in mind one has already fallen and damaged the swings already..

17.129 To approve that the Clerk is to work the hours necessary to complete the role. The Clerk is on a timecard contract and works the hours needed to complete her role. During the external audit BDO raised the point that it has never been minuted that the hours worked by the Clerk can change year on year.
Mr. A. Kilbee proposed, seconded by Mrs. C. Winter and agreed for the clerk to continue working on a timecard basis, which could means the hours worked differs year from year.

17.130 Correspondence Received

- 130.01 In November the trees between Shadwell House and Cemetery are being cut down and the question has been asked as to whether anyone could use the wood trimmings and the logs. Due to the type of trees being cut down, the Council do not want the chippings or the logs.
- 130.02 SALC have said that Government are still in consultation about whether Councils would have to have a referendum (at their cost) they the precept is raised too much.
- 130.03 Mr. A. Brownlie has confirmed he will not be changing his prices for next year.

17.131 Finance

- 131.01 Clerk's report
Previous meeting, last balance reported was from 29/08/2017
Current account £4,031.62 (£46.60 already presented) so before £46.60 presented £4,078.22
Deposit account £3,313.36

Balances as of 29/09/2017

- Current account £6,383.67 (£130 not yet presented)
Receipts since 29/08/17 – £3,947.50 (2nd part of pre3cept and £600 grant from Cllr Roy Barker)
Payments since 29/08/17 - £1,595.45 (approval of payments from last month)
Deposit account £3,313.36
- 131.02 **Requests for payment**
Mrs. M. Webb proposed, seconded by Mrs. D. Sewell and agreed to authorise the following payments
CAS - £438.86 – Renewal of insurance
SALC - £26.40 – Data protection reform briefing
Totalling £465.26

17.132 Planning

- 132.01 To consider applications. All planning applications received up to the date of the meeting will be discussed.
None
- 132.02 Decisions
GRANTED - Erection of a new dwelling and cart lodge. Gosford House, Station Road, Finningham, IP14 4TH.

17.133 Questions to the Chairman

None

17.134 Items to be discussed at the next meeting and included in the November's agenda.

Welcome pack

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 10.05pm