

FINNINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

*Minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on
Tuesday 8th January 2019,
in St. Bartholomew's Church, Finningham, starting at 7:31pm*

Present: Mr. A. Kilbee, Mr. J. Miller, Mrs. C. Winter, Mrs. D. Sewell & Mr. J. Black

In attendance: Miss. N. Hill (Clerk), Cllr. Roy Barker, Cllr. Jane Storey & 1 member of the public.

18.166 Visiting speakers

Cllr. Roy Barker said that waste collections are back to normal as of next week. MSDC are looking to increase the council tax by 6p per week, based on Band D. The Police are also looking to increase tax by 2%. Neither of these have been approved yet.

The community strategy should be out soon and to contact him if there are any questions.

With regards to the accident at the crossroads by the White Horse pub just before Christmas, he doubts anything will change in terms of layout, bearing in mind the busier junction with Wickham Road and the A140 hasn't been changed considering more accidents have happened there. He suggested better and clearer road markings at the junction by the White Horse pub, as these are not as clear as they use to be. i.e. the white lines on the road are not as visible as they use to be.

Cllr. Jane Storey went through her report that she had already emailed out and is on file. She reminded the Council that she does have some locality budget available and as per her email to Mrs. M. Webb, it details the information she needs to be able to review and offer her budget to the Council.

With regards to the crossroads at the White Horse pub, she said there won't be a roundabout put in place and suggested renewing the white lines and improving the visibility at the junction, with regards to the hedge on the left hand side when coming to the junction from Wickham Skeith.

The Chairman suggested meeting up with herself and someone from Highways to discuss the best course of action at the junction by the White Horse pub.

18.167 Contribution by Members of the Public

The footpath warden's report was read out on his behalf and is on file.

18.168 Apologies and approval of absence.

Mrs. M. Webb was unable to attend due to illness.

Mrs C. Winter proposed, seconded by Mrs. D. Sewell and agreed to accept this absence.

18.169 Approve minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th December 2018

Mr. J. Miller proposed, seconded by Mr. A. Kilbee and agreed that the minutes were a correct record and the Chairman then signed the minute book.

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

None

18.171 Matters arising from the meeting held on 11th December 2018

- 171.01 An order has been placed for the slide. No delivery date has been given yet.
The Clerk needs to chase Wicksteed.
- 171.02 An order has been placed for the replacement parts for the bench. This has been chased as the items haven't been received.
These were received today.
- 171.03 Replacement Councillor – 1 person has applied.
The Chairman covers this in his report.
- 171.04 Smart meter for defib. is being fitted on Monday 14th January 2019.
- 171.05 Christmas meal booked at The Black Horse, Thorndon, 1pm on Sunday 20th January 2019.

18.172 Chairman's Report

First and foremost, a Happy New Year to you all and I hope that you all had a great Christmas. This year is the end of the four-year cycle so, we shall all have to step down and offer ourselves up for re-election in May. As you now, we are short of one Councillor at the moment and have had two ladies who have shown an interest in the position. The question is; do we co-opt one into the vacant slot now or leave it until the end of the term? The problem is that, if we have more than our allotted number of seven, we shall have to have full election and bear the brunt of the cost. At £1,100 - £1,200, it is a sum we could put to better use.

A few days ago, Margaret Birch phoned me and said that, while going through Ray's house, prior to his removal, they found an album full of photos of the Millennium celebrations in the village. I am sure that the Suffolk Records Office would be happy to take them but has anyone any other ideas?

Under the heading of Correspondence you will be told of a letter of complaint that we have received regarding the state of the Cemetery. This is most unfortunate, particularly as my request for offers of help for the winter maintenance programme has, with a couple of exceptions, fallen on deaf ears. I really am at a loss to think of a way to get more people in the village involved with its appearance. We have quite a good response to the Litter Picks but, generally speaking, not many people are prepared to "muck-in".

I am sure that you have all been keeping abreast of the situation regarding the accident at the Pub crossroads. Andy Brownlie has got our MP, Jo Churchill, involved and I have had correspondence with MSDC and our County Councillor. They all promise action but, not wanting to be a Jeremiahs, I cannot see what can be done to improve the safety of this junction. Some sort of passive traffic calming measures could be put in place (I do not think that a painted roundabout would do it) but we shall have to see what the "experts" suggest.

I have investigated the suggestion of using Stephen Barker of Old Newton to service our mower, since the demise of Fieldens. Unfortunately, they are so booked up that they would not be able to accept any more work until May. However, they suggested an ex-employee of Fieldens (Kevin Haxell), who has started up on his own in Stowmarket. Providing the Council approve the expenditure, I shall deliver the mower to him on Saturday.

18.173 Working Groups Report – Defib & Recreation area

- 173.01 **Defib**
Nothing to report, as the defib is up and running to ready to be used.
- 173.02 **Recreation**
Tesco have confirmed that £3000 is being paid soon. Nothing else to report. Hopefully after the coffee and book sale morning, there will be suggestions as to what play items the children in the village would like. This will then be the next stage within the recreation/play area project.

- 18.174 To discuss the accident at the crossroads at the White Horse pub.** It's been put forward by a member of the public that a roundabout should be added there to help reduce speed. Also is the hedgerow reducing visibility when coming from Wickham Skeith?
As already mentioned by Cllr. Roy Barker & Cllr. Jane Storey, Highways would not consider a roundabout being placed at the crossroads. The member of the public needs a reply to his suggestion, that it isn't viable, but the Parish Council are exploring other options and it's in discussion.
The hedgerow that is reducing visibility is the responsibility of the owner of the house and isn't Highways responsibility.

- 18.175 To discuss and approve when the Spring litter pick should be.** The deadline for the next village magazine is 15th February. There is no council meeting in February to agree a date. It was agreed to have litter picks on Sunday 7th April and Sunday 14th April. 2 dates have been set, in case the weather is really bad on one of the days. If the weather is good, it helps get more litter picked and hopefully more villagers are able to participate.

- 18.176 To discuss and approve replacing the Finningham signs that are no longer in place along the roadside.** Looking to order 3 signs for Walsham Road, Wickham Road and Gislingham Road. £372.19 + VAT
It's unsure whether one of the 3 sites, Gislingham Road actually needs a village sign. This would also reduce the cost as 2 poles, as well as 1 sign would not need to be purchased. Therefore put on hold to reconsider.
- 18.177 Welcome packs – are these in circulation and being given to new residents in the village?**
The welcome packs are about and ready to give out. Contact Mrs. D. Sewell if a pack is needed to give to someone that has moved into the village.
- 18.178 To discuss and approve the service of the mower.** This would include a new blade and cord and would be between £80 - £100.
Mrs C. Winter proposed, seconded by Mrs. D. Sewell and agreed for the service to be completed on the mower, which will include a new pull cord and blade.
- 18.179 Correspondence Received**
- 179.01 An email has been received about the state of the cemetery and the long grass hasn't been cut.
It was discussed about getting the long grass cut and Mr. J. Black offered his services to help Mr. A. Kilbee to do this.
- 179.02 An unknown male was spotted near Richard Groundwell's property on 27th December 2018 at 4.20pm. Nothing seemed to be un-toward but felt it should be known by the Council.
- 179.03 Someone living near Robb Hall Corner has asked whether a dog bin could be placed close, as there isn't one in walking distance. Are all dog bins in the village being used? Could one be moved or do the Council consider the additional cost of having another dog bin.
The footpath warden will be asked, as he walks the footpaths, if there are any dog bins that aren't being used and whether this could be placed at Robb Hall corner.
- 18.180 Finance**
- 180.01 Clerk's report
Previous meeting, last balance reported was from 29/11/2018
Current account £8,942.18 (£168.38 not yet presented, so £8,773.80)
Deposit account £3,318.89
Balances as of 28/12/2018
Current account £9,583.89 (£129.82 not yet presented, so £9,454.07)
Receipts since 29/11/18 – £800.00
Payments since 29/11/18 - £158.29 (invoices approved at last meeting & unrepresented cheque)
Deposit account £3,320.54 - £1.65 interest
- 180.02 **Requests for payment**
Mr. A. Kilbee proposed, seconded by Mrs. D. Sewell and agreed to authorise the following payments
N. HILL - £28.74 – expenses
A. BROWNLIE - £300.00 – cutting within the cemetery
E:ON - -£111.53 – credit on account, after current reading given. Invoice was £290.98 based on an estimated reading before a reading was given.
- 18.181 Planning**
- 181.01 To consider applications.
DC/18/05314 – Green Lane Farm, Green Lane, Finningham, IP14 4TJ
Full planning application – creation of vehicular access.
DC/18/05535 – Land south side of, Westhorpe Road, Finningham, IP14 4TW
Outline planning application (access to be considered) – erection of up to 6no dwellings with parking and creation of vehicular access.
The Council have concern over the drainage, causing additional pressure on the already overloaded system.
- 181.02 Decisions & to consider planning matters coming forth.
GRANTED - DC/18/04834 – Caravan at Green Lane Farm, Green Lane, Finningham, Stowmarket, IP14 4TJ.
Erection of a 4 bedroom dwelling and double cartlodge.
GRANTED – DC/18/03571 – Hill House, Westhorpe Road, Finningham, IP14 4TW. Erection of a granny annexe in rear garden.

18.182 Questions to Chairman

None.

18.183 Items to be discussed at the next meeting and included in the March's agenda.

The Chairman won't be at the March meeting, due to being away.

Could the parish council meetings be held at Westhorpe Village hall, which will be warmer. Very few members of the public attend, therefore it wouldn't be putting people out. The only thing is Westhorpe Parish Council have their meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, which is the same as Finningham Parish Council.

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 9.40pm