

FINNINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

*Minutes for the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on
Thursday 26th September 2019,
in St. Bartholomew's Church, Finningham, starting at 8:00pm*

Present: Mr. A. Kilbee, Mrs. M. Webb, Mr. J. Miller and Mrs. C. Winter (arrived later)

In attendance: Miss. N. Hill (Clerk), 10 members of the public (including a 9 year old)

19.127 Visiting speakers

None

19.128 Contribution by Members of the Public

The Chairman asked if anything wanted to contribute to items/issues that were not on the agenda.
None

19.129 Apologies and approval of absence.

Mr. J. Black unable to attend due to work. Mrs. C. Winter unable to make the 8pm start due to a prior commitment but would be at the meeting as soon as she could.

19.130 Approve minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th September 2019.

Roll over to next meeting, as the minutes hadn't been completed.

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

None

19.132 To discuss the positioning of the new play equipment, monkey bars and log run, on the Green.

The Chairman showed photo's of the monkey bars and log run, being the items agreed/suggested when children in the village were asked what they would like. The floor was then opened to the members of the public.

The Council were reminded that in March, concerns were raised by several residents around the Green about older children on the Green intimidating the younger children on the Green. It was felt it was agreed for any new equipment to be spread around the Green so the younger children could play out of earshot of any swearing and spitting by the older children. Also, nothing was said to the residents of the Green about the new equipment being installed. The safety of the play equipment being near oak trees doesn't seem to be taken into consideration.

The Chairman responded that the position of the existing play equipment can't be changed.

The Council were reminded the location of the swings were moved due to them being damaged by part of an Oak tree falling onto them in their old location. The question was asked why was the decision made to place the new items close to the other items. It was answered that partly due to cost, as it continued from an existing play bark area and the items required a certain fall area and it was to complete a circuit with the items already in place.

It was stated the residents of the Green 'police' it as it is, as there's a mix of age groups that use the Green and teenagers grouping on the Green intimidate the younger kids. If play equipment is placed in different areas it may defuse the situation. People just visiting the Green don't see as much as what goes on compared to someone living there. It was asked what the difference was cost wise, having the monkey bars and log run in a completely different part of the Green. This wasn't known.

Another member of the public spoke commending the parish council for bringing new items in and a longitudinal trail would be better than a round one.

The table tennis table was asked to be moved which it was. The new equipment should be spaced around the Green.

A councillor spoke saying they felt the quality of the village Green should be kept and not taken over with play equipment. And it was suggested for any adult play equipment to be around the periphery of the Green, not children's equipment.

Another member of the public felt the residents of the Green should have been asked directly. It was known there was a meeting to discuss about the different items but felt a map should have been made public for everyone to see where the items were proposed to be installed.

The Chairman as well as another councillor stated that the council fulfilled its duties with notices of the meetings including agenda items to discuss the location of the new play equipment. These were made public via the notice board as well as on the website. The Council would not want anyone to think it had acted in an improper manner. The meeting to discuss different items was not a council meeting but an informal way of finding out what items the children in the village would like.

Suggestions of where to put the new items was discussed. It was stated for the items to be the other side of the Green near the footpath that crosses along the Green near a small tree with red berries on. Another member of the public said a community police officer, years ago, suggested moving 1 of the seats on the Green as it's a known fact teenagers group together and by moving one of the seats would help this.

The Chairman proposed for the residents to draw up plans of where they suggest the items should go. It was then suggested for the company supplying the items to come up with a plan and drawing as they are the specialists. It isn't sure how much they know with regards to the different types of trees on the Green.

It was asked how committed the Council are to purchasing the items as if another position is suggested, then residents closer to the new position may not be happy.

The Council isn't committed to the purchase, but it was felt with the children being consulted and it being up for discussion numerous times during parish council meetings, people have had their chance to state their views before now. Some members of the public stated they are not always able to make the meetings.

Communication within the village seems lacking, which the Chairman of Friends of Finningham agreed with. It was said a map should be made available detailing the proposed site for the items, this should be on the notice board as well as put through people's letterboxes that live on the Green as well as putting a notice on the Green where the actual site would be.

An agreement was made that no equipment would be installed were it was going to be (a hole had been dug ready for the install). Mr. J. Miller kindly offered to fill the hole in and Mr. R. Negus said he would seed it.

The residents were asked for their suggestions where to put the new items and an indefinite hold placed on the order of the new items.

The Chairman ended the discussion saying he was sorry they felt the PC had moved in a direction they didn't like and hopefully an agreement had been made. He also thanked Mr. Miller for his gesture of filling in the hole.

Mrs. M. Webb stated she wishes to resign from the playground/playgroup working group.

19.133 Planning

To consider applications.

DC/19/04226 – Planning Application - Erection of two storey and single storey rear extensions following demolition of existing structures. Shadwell House, Church Lane, Finningham, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 4JB.

DC/19/04227 – Listed Building Consent - Erection of two storey and single storey rear extensions following demolition of existing structures: Internal alterations as per Schedule of Works. Shadwell House, Church Lane, Finningham, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 4JB.

No objections by the Council.

19.134 Correspondence Received

Notice of Public Consultant. Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan. 460 page document sent to the clerk if people wish to view it.

19.135 Questions to Chairman

None.

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

Play equipment.

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 9.40pm