

# FINNINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

*Minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019,  
in St. Bartholomew's Church, Finningham, starting at 7:30pm*

**Present:** Mr. A. Kilbee, Mrs. M. Webb, Mr. J. Miller, Mrs. C. Winter and Mr. J. Black (late).

**In attendance:** Miss. N. Hill (Clerk), Cllr Andy Mellen and 1 member of the public.

## **19.105 Visiting speakers**

Cllr Jane Storey sends apologies for not being able to attend the meeting. Her report is on file.

Cllr Andy Mellen reported that there had been some issues with the changes of bin days and changes of routes. It seems that Finningham residents were not affected by this. BMSDC seem to be ahead of budget with regards to planning and a 5 year plan for properties. Along Broad Road, Bacton/Cotton a proposal of 65 houses is going back to planning as approval has now lapsed. Cllr Mellen stated he would be opposing this development.

BMSDC have purchased land more towards business.

The local plan is in consultation.

The Northern bypass of Ipswich potentially can affect Finningham as extra buildings would have to be built in the county to cover the cost of completing the bypass.

Cllr Mellen has kindly offered the council £1000 of his locality budget towards a VAS.

The footpath report was read out as Mr. Aiken was unable to attend. The report is on file.

It was stated during the meeting that if there isn't a bus service, people with bus passes can cash these in for taxi vouchers.

## **19.106 Contribution by Members of the Public**

None.

## **19.107 Apologies and approval of absence.**

Mr. J. Black sent his apologies as was running late due to train issues from London.

## **19.108 Approve minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2019.**

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

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

None

## **19.110 Matters arising from the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019 and 13<sup>th</sup> August 2019.**

110.01 Cutting of the long grass in the cemetery. The clerk is waiting to hear back from MSDC to see whether they can cut this and what the cost would be.

Mrs. Webb said her husband will cut the hedge in the cemetery before winter.

110.02 The gate has now been installed, with a spring attached, rather than a self-closing mechanism.

A few comments have been made within the village about it looking good.

It was mentioned that the gate had been left open a few times. During installation of the gate it was advised the gate will close itself due to a spring attached. This doesn't seem to be the case and it needs looking into, as the gate should not be left open. Maybe the council need to consider a notice saying, 'please close the gate'.

110.03 Has anyone heard any more news about the bus service?

No, just in Jane Storey's report.

110.04 Any news on anyone wanting to become a councillor?

No

110.05 Hedges at the crossroads by the pub. Has this been cut back bearing in mind Highways were due to be dealing with this?

- 110.06 Not aware Highways have done anything.  
Has the Chairman heard anything back from Highways with what it would involve, including the cost to have a footpath from the crossroads by the pub to the Green?
- 110.07 Nothing heard from Highways.  
Bank holiday on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020, 75 years of VE day. What are the Friends of Finningham doing to commemorate/celebrate this day?  
Friends of Finningham haven't discussed it yet.

**19.111 Chairman's Report**

"You may have seen, from my piece in the Newsletter, that I have been busy following up the meeting held with SCC Highways to improve traffic safety through the village. As this is the subject of a separate agenda item, I shall leave the details for then. However, in the meantime, I have just received an e-mail from Andy Brownlie. He has the bit between his teeth and is determined to take the SCC Highways Department to task, as they seem not to be telling the truth about what can and cannot be done. For instance, they say that they do not use bumps or rumble strips where there is not street lighting and yet there are numerous examples around the county. Similarly, they will not entertain 4 access roundabouts and yet there are also many examples. He is just gathering additional material and then proposes attending a full County Council Meeting to air his views. Although I do not necessarily agree with all his proposals, I do feel that we, as a Council, should support him. Liam Cracknell has kindly cut back the overgrown hedge on the Church footpath, making it a much pleasanter route to use, especially in winter. He has also cut a considerable amount of long grass in the Churchyard. This may leave us with a bit of a dilemma, as Andy Brownlie is supposed to cut it on our behalf. I shall have to address this when the time comes for him to raise his account. Once again, the Garage Sales brought a number of people into the village last Saturday. The individual stall holders seem to have done well and the Tea room, run by the Church raised over £270. The new gate and fence were installed a couple of weeks ago; as yet, I have heard no comment, one way or another. At least, we have taken the appropriate steps to make the area safer. The only remaining item is a "Children" Sign on the main road. The cost is £55.88. plus £20 Delivery and VAT. This should be added to the next Agenda. We have not decided what we should do with the area where the old swings used to be. No one seems to be interested in a Petanque Terrain so, it would probably be best to use the overburden from the excavations for the new recreation equipment to fill in the area. Does anyone have any other ideas? As the hedge adjoining the Green and the B1113 is looking a bit overgrown, I should like to ask Jim Miller if he could see his way to attending to that at some convenient time."

**19.112 Working Group Report – Recreation area**

Nothing to report. Once the new play equipment is in place, this working group should be disbanded.

**19.113 To discuss and approve whether the Council should purchase their own VAS (vehicle activated sign).** The cost would be in the region of £2500 - £3000. Cllr Andy Mellen has kindly offered £1000 towards this, from his locality award budget. Other fund raising/grants would need to be found to make the difference up. If approve, then a working group would need to form, to help with fund raising etc. Who would like to be involved with this?

Friends of Finningham will not contribute to a VAS but would be happy to help fundraise towards it. It was suggested to add something in the newsletter to make people aware a VAS may be purchased. Therefore, this agenda item is to be rolled over.

**19.114 To discuss and approve having the flagpole serviced.** Since the installation of the flagpole in 2016, the pole hasn't been serviced. The cost of a service is £269 + VAT. This price includes a replacement halyard only and assumes the pole can be lowered to ground level.

Someone in the village may be able to do this free of charge, therefore the council will hold fire on approving paying to have the flagpole serviced, if someone within the village is able to do it.

**19.115 To discuss and approve the reserve policy.** It was recommended during the internal audit to amend the reserves policy to include an amount that is for play equipment or the amount of grants received but unspent at the year end. Also, to increase the election cost. Currently policy states £1000 (for election costs) but that cost is £1,300. If there are any grants unspent at the end of the year, then should it be noted within the reserve policy what the amount is and why? Therefore, the reserve policy reviewed in March each year, just before the end of year accounts are produced.

Mr. J. Miller proposed, seconded by Mrs. C. Winter and agreed to make the changes to the reserve policy.

**19.116 To discuss and approve whether October's meeting should be brought forward by a week?** Both the Chairman and Mrs. C. Winter have already stated they would be unable to attend the October's meeting due to take place Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October. Leaving the 3 remaining councillors having to attend. Therefore, if the meeting was brought forward by a week to Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October would more councillors be able to attend?

Mr. A. Kilbee proposed, seconded by Mr. J. Black and agreed to postpone October's meeting and the next meeting to be in November, unless any extraordinary meetings were needed.

- 19.117 To discuss and approve the renewal of ICO – the data protection fee.** The cost is £40. If a direct debt is set up then there is an annual reduction of £5. Therefore, would the council approve of setting up a direct debt to renew the ICO?

Mr. A. Kilbee proposed, seconded by Mr. J. Black and agreed to renew the ICO subscription and to set up a direct debt to do this each year.

- 19.118 To discuss and approve whether the council should buy banners, to be placed around the village to promote the date of the litter picks.** With 2 litter picks each year, could banners help promote and make people aware of when they are? Have it where the date can be changed, or something put over it, to enable the banners to be re-used.

Roll over to the next meeting to enable everyone to think of the wording to use.

- 19.119 To discuss and approve replacing the pads on the defibrillator.** These need replacing every 2 years, regardless of whether they have been used or not. The cost is in the region of £35.

Mr. A. Kilbee proposed, seconded by Mr. J. Black and agreed to order these. Mrs. C. Winter said she would order them through the Community Heartbeat Trust, which is where the defib came from.

- 19.120 To discuss what projects the council wish to embark on next year. Budget setting will need to place soon, so what would be good to happen in and around the village?** A dog bin at Robb Hall corner?

More Finningham signs? A replacement notice board? Needing to deal with an Ash tree on the Green? Could a working party be formed to help with tasks around the village, namely putting play bark around the new play equipment once it's installed?

The only thing mentioned was an Ash Tree on the Green has ash dieback and may need dealing with next year.

- 19.121 To discuss and approve the insurance renewal.** The information has been sent out to councillors, as it would be moving to a new policy called Parish Protect, underwritten by Royal and Sun Alliance Insurance Group, still through CAS. Renewal price, if committing for 3 years is £299.76, or £315.56 if not in a long term undertaking. Last year's renewal price was £438.86 with the policy through Zurich. Are the council happy to move to the Parish Protect policy and go for the cheaper option of £299.75? Mr. A. Kilbee proposed, seconded by Mr. J. Black and agreed to go for the 3 year option, as long as the cover was like for like compared to the old policy. It was mentioned that there is a car parking on the grass which is part of the Green nearly the recently completed barn. It was agreed for a polite notice to be placed on the car asking them to park their car somewhere else.

#### **19.122 Correspondence Received**

- 122.01 Register of Interest forms have been published on MSDC website, as these haven't changed. A link has been sent to Mr. J. Black for him to complete his, as he didn't register to be a Councillor in May and was co-opted back onto the council.

#### **19.123 Finance**

- 123.01 Clerk's report –

Previous meeting, last balance reported was from 29/07/2019

Current account £9,101.57 (£181.62 not yet presented, so once presented £8,919.95)

Deposit account £3,323.86

##### **Balances as of 29/08/2019**

Current account £8,965.88 (£740.38 not yet presented, so once presented £8,225.50)

Receipts since 30/07/19 – £25 (memorial fee)

Payments since 30/07/19 - £160.69 (invoices approved at previous meeting)

Deposit account £3,323.86

- 123.02 **Requests for payment**

Mr. A. Kilbee proposed, seconded by Mrs. M. Webb and agreed to authorise the following payments  
Retrospectively approve an invoice for J. Lawes from last year, for £14.91. The invoice and cheque was signed by 2 councillors, but not minuted that the payment had been approved.

CLARKE FENCING LTD - £640.00 – New gate, fencing and installation on the Green & B1113

E:ON - £7.73 – August's bill paid via DD.

Totalling £647.73

#### **19.124 Planning**

- 124.01 To consider applications.

DC/19/04053 – Erection of single storey front extension, fenestration alteration to side and insertion of roof window to front. Carousel, Westthorpe Road, Finningham, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 4TW.

DC/19/03859 – Works to Trees in a Conservation Area – lift and thin crown on 1 no Walnut Tree (T1).  
Yew Tree House, Church Lane, Finningham, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 4JB  
The Council do not wish to object to either.

124.02 Decisions & to consider planning matters coming forth.

Does not wish to object - DC/19/03031 – Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation area – T1  
(Maple tree) – reduce crown by approx. 40%. Martins, Church Lane, Finningham, IP14 4JB

Granted - DC/19/02074 – Full planning application – Construction of a ménage. Eastlands Farm,  
Eastlands Lane, Finningham, IP14 4HX

Reserved matters have been approved – DC/19/03437 – Reserved matters granted under Outline  
Planning Permission DC/18/05535 for the scale, appearance, landscaping and layout for 6No. dwellings  
with associated parking and vehicular access.

Granted – DC/19/03163 – Erection of 1no. dwelling. Land North of Gosford House, Station Road  
Stowmarket, Suffolk

**19.125 Questions to Chairman**

None

**19.126 Items to be discussed at the next meeting and included in the October's agenda.**

N/A

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 9:40pm