

FINNINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

*Minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on
Tuesday 10th December 2019,
in St. Bartholomew's Church, Finningham, starting at 7:31pm*

Present: Mr. A. Kilbee, Mrs. M. Webb (was 15 mins later but had passed on apologies), Mr. J. Miller, Mrs. C. Winter and Mr. J. Black

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

19.159 Visiting speakers

Cllr. Andy Mellen said he'd just been to a meeting about new houses and the standards of new housing including them being energy efficient.

19.160 Contribution by Members of the Public

The footpath wardens report was read out in his absence. The report is on file. The Council wanted the clerk to pass on their thanks for the efforts he puts in reporting issues to SCC as well as doing a report for the Parish meetings.

19.161 Planning - To consider application which is for Mrs. M. Webb and brought forward in the agenda, knowing that Mrs. M. Webb would be late to the meeting.

DC/19/05472 - Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation area – T1 (Mature Ash) – Reduce overhanging branches back to growth points - Kimberley, Gislingham Road, Finningham, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4HY

The Council have no objections.

19.162 Apologies and approval of absence.

None

19.163 Approve minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th November 2019.

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

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

None. The online register of interest forms have yet to be completed by Mrs. M. Webb and Mr. J. Black.

19.165 Matters arising from the meetings held on 12th November 2019.

165.01 Cutting of the long grass in the cemetery. The clerk is waiting for MSDC to visit the site before they can quote.

165.02 Has anything been done with the flagpole?

Yes, the flag has been taken down, washed and mended. The washing of the actual pole hasn't happened yet as waiting until the weather is better. The halliard will be changed when the pole is down.

165.03 The "children" road sign has been delivered.

Yes and the Chairman was also fitted it.

165.04 Mr E. Quantrill has kindly offered to donate money to cover the cost of the replacement football nets.

165.05 Is anything happening in the village for VE day, 8th May 2020?

It was suggested the Clerk contacts Friends of Finningham directly.

165.06 Hedge near the crossroads in the village, this has been trimmed/cut.

Actually the hedge really close to the crossroads hasn't been cut, but further up the hill towards Cotton has been cut.

165.07 Any news on whether there can be a footpath from the Green along B1113 to the crossroads by the pub?

No.

19.166 Chairman's Report

Since our last meeting I have sent Mrs Lisa Charter an e-mail, asking her if she is still interested in joining us. I am sorry to report that I have received no reply so, I can only assume that she is no longer interested. We really must have a concerted effort to recruit some more councillors. Being so close to the bone, we are going to run into problems in raising a quorum next year, after Mary retires. I should like to thank Mary & Jim for meeting me on the Green to finalise the positions of the various pieces of new equipment. Since that meeting, I have circulated the residents of the Green, asking for their response. I shall not mention the Playground equipment any further in this report, as it is a separate Agenda item but I sincerely hope that we can finally put this issue to rest and not let it continue into 2020.

As some may have seen, the "Children" road sign has arrived and I installed it last weekend. I also took the opportunity of cleaning three road signs which were covered in algae. We should encourage residents to adopt a sign or two in an effort to keep them clean.

Talking of matters highway; as you are aware, nothing much has happened since the dissolution of Parliament. For reasons only known to the inner sanctum, everything has to stop until a new Government is formed. Hopefully, that will be resolved on Thursday; one way or another.

It just remains for me to thank you all for your support over the past year and wish you and yours a very Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

19.167 To discuss and approve the precept for 2020-2021. The tax base has increased by 3% from last year, therefore the base rate for Band D will decrease if the precept is kept the same as last year. The Council need to consider a new notice board and potentially tree work for 2020-2021.

The Council want to be sure of the budget for 2020-2021 before finalising the precept amount.

Highways will pay for 1 set of poles as well as install them, it's whether the Council wish to pay for more poles to be fitted around the village.

19.168 To discuss and finalise the new play equipment after the positioning was marked out on the Green and people living nearby have given their feedback/views.

It was fed back, that the positioning of the log run is under trees, which it was suggested to the PC that they shouldn't do with new equipment. Should the council not purchase the log run and the money be used to purchase the rubber safety matting that will be needed for the monkey bars and potentially the basketball hoop. After discussion it was agreed to move the log roll further into the Green, away from the overhanging trees. The Council have complied to the comments and requests of the villagers living around the Green and the items will not be under the trees.

Wicksteed will need to be contacted to advise them to continue with the order and the Council will be using rubber matting, rather than playbark.

It was also mentioned about the sign in the play area, which was discussed at previous meetings.

Costs are £125 + VAT for a 400mm x 500mm sign. Wording was read out to the Council and everyone was happy with this. It was agreed the sign should be attached to a tree stump which is near the play equipment.

19.169 To approve the purchase of safety matting and pegs for the monkey bars and basketball hoop.

The grass around the table tennis table is thinning out, so could some matting be placed where people stand.

It was agreed, in principal subject to cost rubber matting is preferred to playbark.

19.170 To discuss and approve the litter pick banner. The design has already been emailed, cost is £45 + VAT.

Mrs. M. Webb proposed, seconded by Mrs. C. Winter and agreed for this litter banner to be purchased.

19.171 To approve buying 2 benches at £216.45 + VAT each. Dedicating one to Jimmy Downie. Mrs Bell said she would like one for her late husband and would donate to the Council to cover the cost.

Mrs. M. Webb proposed, seconded by Mrs. C. Winter and agreed for these to be purchased with Mrs. Bell paying for one of them. It was agreed for 1 of the benches to be along the Church path

19.172 To discuss, approve and agree any actions based on the completed play inspection report 2019.

It was mentioned at the last meeting to discuss when everyone met on the Green, but a discussion wasn't had.

Rolled over to next meeting

19.173 Correspondence Received

173.01 SALC have confirmed they will increase their part of the membership fee by 3% for 2020-2021.

173.02 The defibrillator is currently out of action as the lock on it isn't working properly. Well done to Mrs. C. Winter for noticing this during her routine checks. When calling 999 the defib in the village will not be suggested as it's currently marked as out of order.

- 173.03 BMSDC have sent an email explaining that they are working on the assumption that services for 2020/2021 will increase by 3%.
- 173.04 Annual collection calendar and Christmas bin information has been emailed. A copy of the annual collection calendar for 2020 will be put on the notice board.

19.174 Finance

174.01 Clerk's report

Previous meeting, last balance reported was from 29/10/2019

Current account £11,137.90

Deposit account £3,325.52

Balances as of 29/11/2019

Current account £11,819.78 (3 cheques totally £478.78 not yet presented, so £11,341.00 once presented)

Receipts since 29/10/19 – £1,055.00 (£1000 grant from Cllr Andy Mellen & a funeral fee)

Payments since 29/10/19 - £373 (invoices approved at previous meeting)

Deposit account £3,325.52

174.02 **Requests for payment** as listed below and to review matters coming forth.

HEARTBEAT - £54.00 – replacement pads for the defib.

E:on - £7.73 – November's bill paid via DD

N. Hill - £188.95 – expenses inc..£25 plaque & £128.06 for road sign

Totalling £250.68

19.175 Planning

175.01 To consider applications.

Decisions & to consider planning matters coming forth.

Withdrawal of application 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.

Withdrawal of application 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.

175.02 Decisions & to consider planning matters coming forth.

GRANTED – DC/19/04825 – Erection of a 3 bay cartlodge. The Osiers, Westhorpe Road, Finningham, Stowmarket, IP14 4TW.

Does not wish to object - DC/19/04903 – Notification of works to Trees in a Conservation Area – T1 (Ash) – Reduction of crown by 30%, T2 (Ash) - Reduction of crown by 30%, T3 (Weeping Willow) – Rouse crown and remove leaders – Walnut Tree Cottage, Church Lane, Finningham, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 4JB.

All planning applications received up to the date of the meeting will be discussed.

19.176 Questions to Chairman

The council need to discuss when and where to have their xmas meal.

19.177 Items to be discussed at the next meeting and included in the January's agenda.

To discuss whether a spare set of pads for the defib should be purchased.

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 8.45pm

