

FINNINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

*Minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on
Tuesday 14th January 2020,
in St. Bartholomew's Church, Finningham, starting at 7:31pm*

Present: Mr. A. Kilbee, Mr. J. Miller, Mrs. C. Winter & Mrs. M. Webb

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

19.178 Visiting speakers

Cllr Andy Mellen read through his report, which is on file. He is happy to allocate £500 of his locality budget to allow the parish to purchase 3 more poles on top of the 2 that Highways/SCC will install free of charge. The Clerk needs to complete the grant paperwork and get it back to Cllr Mellen.

19.179 Contribution by Members of the Public

Nothing extra over the sewage issue again, which the Chairman is aware of.

19.180 Apologies and approval of absence.

Mr. J. Black was unable to attend due to work.

Mr. J. Miller proposed, seconded by Mrs. C. Winter and agreed to accept this absence.

19.181 Approve minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th December 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.

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

None

19.183 Matters arising from the meeting held on 10th December 2019

183.01 Cutting of the long grass in the cemetery. The clerk is still waiting for MSDC to get back to her. Is anything happening in the village for VE day, 8th May 2020?

183.02 No one has heard of anything happening. The Clerk should email Mrs. Marion Bell to see what the Church is doing and Greg, the Chairman of Friends of Finningham to see if they have any plans.

19.184 Chairman's Report

First of all, I hope that it is not too late to wish you all a Happy New Year and hope that 2020 will be a good one for you all. It looks as though this year has started off with some interesting problems which will be dealt with in the correspondence item in the Agenda.

With regard to the VAS, the next step I have been informed is to establish the positions of the mounting poles and canvas the nearby residents (there is a special form for that). Although it is not on the Agenda, I feel that we should discuss it at this meeting. We will then need someone to act as a VAS manager to take control of the device and move it around and keep it charged. Does anyone on the Council wish to take on that role? Perhaps the power point in the Defib cabinet could be used for charging. Cotton and Bacton PCs are organising a meeting to discuss the spending issue along the B1113. We have been invited to participate.

Mr Goddard has reported recently that again the sewer has flood outside his property. This time it had not rained for 6 days so, the problem was not due to excessive surface water. Although, it did flood again since then due to heavy rain.

As neither he nor I seem to be getting anywhere with Anglian Water, I decided to take the matter up with MSDC. Unfortunately, this was "Mission Impossible". I thought that it might be beneficial to get the Environment Department involved but believe it or not, the switchboard cannot or will not put you through to that department. I decided then to try through Highways at SCC. All they would tell me is that I must report the matter online via their website. So much for customer satisfaction! In the meantime – wonder of wonders, the lady at MSDC came back to me with a contact website for the Consumer Council for Water and Sewage. I duly spoke to this organisation and they informed me that

this sort of problem is right up their street and they look forward to receiving details of the complaint. You will recall that we have always said that infill and additional development in the village will only exacerbate the situation. Natalie has checked the records and found that in the recent past, planning permission has been granted for a further 28 dwellings in the village!

I have received a request from the PCC to give our thoughts on a project they wish to launch and that is to lay a pathway from the existing path alongside the Church to the Church door. I am not sure what they wanted exactly so I requested further information. At this stage, it seems that they only want our approval in principle. I am not sure why but I can only assume it is because the PC have a duty to look after the Churchyard. Anyway, I just replied that I would put it to you for comment. I do not think that there is any money involved but I would not be surprised if that didn't come later. We shall cross that bridge when we come to it.

We need to redouble our efforts to find additional Councillors. Obviously, a general call for help in the Newsletter does not work so, perhaps a more direct approach would be more successful. Does anyone know of anyone who we could canvass face to face?

I feel that it is about time that we found a handyman to do the various jobs around the village. We cannot employ him or her, as this gives rise to lots of complications regarding tax, pension and other Employer/ee issues. Has anyone got any ideas?

The Council said in principle they are happy for a pathway.

- 19.185 To approve the precept for 2020-2021.** Should the council increase by 2% therefore a precept of £7243. An increase of £142 from last year.
Mrs. M. Webb proposed, seconded by Mrs. C. Winter and agreed for the precept of £7,243 for 2020/2021.
- 19.186 To discuss who will do the regular checks of the play equipment when Mrs. Webb retires as a Councillor.**
It was suggested that someone that lives on the Green should be offered/asked to do this role.
- 19.187 To discuss getting the defib cabinet working again.**
It seems Mr. Winter has worked out the issue with the lock on the cabinet and is looking for prices of the replacement part.
Mr. Winter has got the lock working, after getting free advice from the company that manufactured the lock. It seems to be working now.
- 19.188 To discuss and approve purchasing play matting for the new play equipment, rather than playbark.**
Wicksteed quoted £500 + £400 fitting. Another price from Technix £528 inc VAT + £50 delivery excluding fitting. It would be really useful if there is a self-employed handyman that the council could use.
Mr. J. Miller proposed, seconded by Mrs. M. Webb and agreed to go for the £528 inc VAT quote for the matting.
- 19.189 To discuss and approve buying a spare set of pads for the defib.** The cost of these are around £54.
Mrs. M. Webb proposed, seconded by Mrs. C. Winter and agreed to purchase a spare set of pads.
- 19.190 To discuss and approve a brass plaque for the memorial bench for Mr. Downie.** Cost is around £23.50. What wording should be put on the plaque?
Mrs. M. Webb proposed, seconded by Mr. J. Miller and agreed for a brass plaque and the council were happy with the suggestion of the wording to be used.
- 19.191 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.
Nothing in particular and any cleaning can be completed on litter pick days.
- 19.192 To discuss whether the Council should consider changing the day of when it has their meetings.**
Could this be a reason why people are not joining the Council, as they are unable to attend Tuesday meetings?
After a discussion, it was felt that it isn't needed.
- 19.193 To discuss and agree litter pick dates for 2020.** Now the banner has been approved and purchased, dates should now be set, so it can be put into the newsletter and give people plenty of warning. The 3rd Sunday of the month, as per banner, on the following days, 15th March, 17th May, 19th July and 20th September. The Chairman said he would inform the village newsletter editor of the dates.

19.194 To discuss where and when the Councillors would like to have their 'xmas meal'

Trowel and Hammer. Either Tuesday 18th Feb or Saturday 25th Jan. It was suggested for Chris Goddard and his wife Pauline to be invited, as Mr. Goddard attends most meetings. It was also suggested to invite the footpath warden, Mr. Doug Aitken and his wife June.

19.195 Correspondence Received

195.01 The clerk of Cotton Parish Council has emailed to see if Finningham and Bacton wanted 'to discuss a coordinated response to the well identified traffic speeding problems which we share'.

19.196 Finance

196.01 Clerk's report

Previous meeting, last balance reported was from 29/11/2019

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

Deposit account £3,325.52

Balances as of 27/12/2019

Current account £11,056.65

Receipts since 29/10/19 – £0

Payments since 29/10/19 - £763.13 (invoices approved at previous meeting)

Deposit account £3,327.18 - £1.66 interest

196.02 Requests for payment

Mr. J. Miller proposed, seconded by Mrs. C. Winter and agreed to authorise the following payments

E:on - £8.17 – December's bill paid via DD

T. KILBEE - £162.12 – purchase of goal post nets and litter pick banner

CLARKES OF WALSHAM LTD - £519.48 – 2 x benches

MSDC - £60.22 – Annual play inspection 2019

MSDC - £405.00 – 9 cuts of the Green

MR. A. BROWNLIE - £300.00 – cutting grass in the churchyard

19.197 Planning

197.01 To consider applications.

DC/19/05784 – Planning Application – Erection of single-storey rear/side extension (following demolition of garage). Willow Cottage, Westhorpe Road, Finningham, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 4TW.

DC/19/005781 - Planning Application - Erection of two storey and single storey rear extensions following demolition of existing structures: Replacement of fenestration to dwelling and outbuilding. Shadwell House, Church Lane, Finningham, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 4JB.

DC/19/05842 – Listed Building Consent - Erection of two storey and single storey rear extensions following demolition of existing structures: Internal and external alterations as per Schedule of Works. Shadwell House, Church Lane, Finningham, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 4JB.

197.02 Decisions & to consider planning matters coming forth.

Does not wish to object - 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

Granted - DC/17/06190 - Planning Application - Erection of 14 dwellings, construction of new access and associated works following demolition of farm buildings. Green Farm, Wickham Road, Finningham, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4HT

19.198 Questions to Chairman

None.

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

With Mrs. M. Webb leaving the council shortly, another signatory will have to be considered as Mrs. M. Webb is a signatory.

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 8.58pm