

FINNINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

*Minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on
Tuesday 12th May 2020
A **virtual** meeting via Zoom, starting at 7:30pm*

Present: Mr. A. Kilbee, Mrs. M. Webb, Mrs. C. Winter and Mr. J. Black.

In attendance: Miss. N. Hill (Clerk), Cllr Andy Mellen and no members of the public.

20.1 Visiting speakers

Cllr Andy Mellen's report is on file.

20.2 Contribution by Members of the Public

None

20.3 Apologies and approval of absence.

Mr. J. Miller did not attend the meeting.

20.4 Approve minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th March 2020.

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.

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

None.

20.6 Matters arising from the meeting held on 10th March 2020

6.01 Sewage issues along Gislingham Road. How have things been? Better

6.02 A letter has been sent to the landlady of the The White Horse pub but have not heard anything back. Therefore, the Council do not know her chosen charity, so a cheque cannot be raised to complete this matter.

The clerk should email the landlady and ask her on her decision.

6.03 Siting of the poles for the VAS. Any update from Highways? No.

20.7 Chairman's Report

Although I made mention in my submission to the latest issue of the Newsletter, I feel that it is only right that I should repeat my thanks to those residents of the village who formed a volunteer group to help those who are unable to get out during the Covid 19 Lockdown. The speed with which it was set-up and running was totally amazing. I understand that they have been pretty busy with certain villagers taking advantage of their help. It just shows you what can be done with the right motivation.

Thanks also is overdue to Liam Cracknell for the sterling work he has done on the hedges on both sides of the Churchyard footpath. It has made a fantastic difference and will be much appreciated by those who use it, especially in the winter months.

Although there was an error in the Newsletter regarding the Litter Pick dates, I did not think that we should have one in May; due, of course, to the prohibition of holding gatherings. Had I thought about it earlier, I could have put something in the Newsletter, requesting the usual helpers to go and do "their own thing". Unfortunately, it was too late.

Recently, Mary reported that the damaged village sign on Station Road had been unearthed from the fallen tree. I had a good look at it and feel that, although it is in a pretty bad state, it could be straightened. However, the lettering is also not in a very good condition. I shall attend to it, as best that I can and re-erect it (I have some spare clamps from our previous purchase). However, I do not think that it is a very good advert for the village and propose that we purchase a new one. I shall ask Natalie to put it on the agenda for the next meeting. In the meantime, we can investigate the cost. It might be a good idea to purchase another one to install in Westhorpe Road, as the existing one is not up to the standard of the others. It is more cost effective to purchase two.

The goal posts are now repaired (thanks to Nige Arthur). All the bolts holding the side wings to the transverse pole were sheared. This should make them a little safer when being moved. On the subject of the Green,

B&MSDC are looking after it for us again this year but it was cut by persons unknown (I think that it was Andy) before they started. Thanks to him!

To save the Council some money, Colin & Doug very kindly undertook to carry out maintenance on the Flagpole. I understand this was done prior to the lockdown but they were unable to replace the halyard. This will have to wait until they can work together again. Catherine, please pass our thanks to Colin & Doug.

Thanks also go to Mary, as she has elected to remain on the Council until we can get ourselves sorted with a new signatory for the Bank Account. Of course, we are still looking for replacement Councillors and I do feel that we should step up our recruitment campaign. Any ideas on this would be welcome.

Last weekend's celebration of the 75th Anniversary of VE Day was, naturally not what it was intended. However, it was heartening to see that a number of people in the village had taken it upon themselves to celebrate the occasion by offering free refreshments to passers-by. It was a great pity that this had not been widely publicised, I only found out about it by chance when Aileen and I took a walk from home into the village. This spontaneous way of celebrating was another example of the latent innate sense of community in Finningham. (A Councillor mentioned that the Union Flag was flown on the flag pole on the Green on VE day)

Today I have received a reply to my enquiry to SCC Highways regarding the cost of replacing the damaged sign at Rob Hall Corner. Unfortunately, they have not given any information regarding the Scope of their supply so, I have requested clarification. Their price is £1 220.36 plus VAT, which is quite ridiculous, as I said that we would supply the signs and all they had to do was to plant two new poles! As a reminder, I suggested that we see if Gislingham are interested in sharing the cost, as their name plate would be on one side and ours on the other.

20.8 To discuss and approve the purchase of a sign, to explain rules within the play area on the Green.

Last time this is was discuss, the Council were happy to have a sign like this. The cost of this is £125.60 + VAT

Mr. J. Black proposed, seconded by Mrs. M. Webb and agreed the purchase of this sign. Some wood will need to be purchased when it arrives, to mount the sign onto it.

20.9 To discuss and approve the cutting of the cemetery. MSDC have quoted £100 per cut, as they believe it will take a day to complete. This service would only be needed twice a year.

Mr. J. Black proposed, seconded by Mrs. M. Webb and agreed with the quote and it should be cut twice a year, Spring and Autumn. It was mentioned that Mr. Richard Webb will cut the hedge in the cemetery once the birds have stopped nesting.

20.10 Annual risk assessments need completing, when safe to do so. Who will be able to complete the annual risk assessments once lockdown due to COVID-19 his relaxed? Also, we need to ensure regular checks are completed on the play equipment.

The Chairman said he will ask someone in the village, who may be interested to do this. If they are not, then the Clerk said she will take this role on.

20.11 To approve to update the reserves policy. To state that £2,121.84 remains unspent from the play equipment grant and £1,500 of grants gain for the VAR project.

Mrs. C. Winter proposed, seconded by Mr. J. Black and agreed to make these changes.

20.12 To discuss and approve the purchase of a new notice board. The current one is in an extremely poor state of repair. A replacement of similar size and design, in powder coated aluminium is £895 + VAT. In a dark green finish to blend in with the surroundings.

Mrs. M. Webb proposed, seconded by Mrs. C. Winter and agreed the purchase of the new notice board.

20.13 To discuss how to spend the CIL money that has recently been paid to the Council. This CIL money has primarily been generated from the building of 6 houses along Westhorpe Road. There are rules around what the money can be spent on. How should the people in the village be asked and have their say?

The clerk will send the criteria out for all councillors to see what the CIL money can be spent on. It was mentioned that this money should not be frittered away on small jobs. Once the Council have some ideas/suggestions on how the money can be spent, then these ideas should be put in the newsletter for everyone in the village to have their say.

20.14 Correspondence Received

14.01 Due to COVID-19 End of year accounts and external audit deadlines have been extended. The end of year accounts folder is nearly complete, to enable me to take to the internal auditor.

14.02 Mrs. C. Winter has confirmed that her husband and Doug Aitken have cleaned the flagpole.

14.03 A lot of information about COVID-19 and help groups for people in need.

14.04 2 VAT claims have recently been completed, totalling £1,353.61.

14.05 Issue with a tree in the churchyard, overhanging a resident's property. Was dealt with as a matter of H & S, after a tree surgeon attended and advised it to be dealt with quickly. Work was due to take place on Friday 1st May, but due to illness, work had to be postponed.

20.15 Finance

15.01 Clerks report – The clerk will request online banking with Barclays. Also Mrs. C. Winter said she was prepared to be a signatory when Mrs. M. Webb leaves the Council.
Previous meeting, last balance reported was from 28/02/2020
Current account £9,892.94
Deposit account £3,327.18
Balances as of 29/04/2020
Current account £23,777.96
Receipts since 28/02/20 – £14,600.98 - (£500 grant, £80 memorial fees, £3,621.50 precept & £10,399.48 CIL)
Payments since 28/02/20 - £715.96 - (invoices approved at previous meeting)
Deposit account £3,328.35 - £1.17 interest

15.02 **Requests for payment** as listed below and to review matters coming forth.
Mrs. C. Winter proposed, seconded by Mr. J. Black and agreed to authorise the following payments.
E:on - £7.73 – April’s bill paid via DD
E:on - £7.22 – March’s bill paid via DD
MSDC - £585.86 – Emptying of dog and litter bins for 1/4/2020 – 31/03/2021.
MISS. N. HILL - £17.16 – expenses
MR. R WEBB - £6.31 – fuel for the mower
SALC - £258.47 – Annual membership for 2020-2021
THE PARISH NOTICE BOARD COMPANY - £537.00 – notice board total is £1,074.00 but wanting 50% as a deposit when placing order.
Retrospectively approve the following
TECHNIX - £539.94 – rubber play matting - £559.14 was approved at meeting in March, but an amendment needed to be made to the order, so the value changed.
COMMUNITY HEARTBEAT TRUST - £54.00 – Spare set of pads for defib.
MR A KILBEE - £97.08 – 2 brass plaques for memorial benches.
J. LAWES - £19.50 – Items to secure litter pick banner.

20.16 Planning

16.01 To consider applications.
None

16.02 Decisions & to consider planning matters coming forth.
GRANTED - DC/20/00395 - Planning Application - Erection of two storey side extension and single storey front extension (following demolition of existing single storey extension) Location: 5 Westhorpe Road, Finningham, Suffolk, IP14 4TN.

20.17 Questions to Chairman

None

20.18 Items to be discussed at the next meeting and included in the June’s agenda.

2 or 3 new Finningham road signs – to replace along B1113 by the water tower, Westhorpe Road and maybe near Rob Hall Corner going into Gislingham.

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 8.40pm