

# FINNINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

*Draft*

*Minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on  
Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2020,  
in St. Bartholomew's Church, Finningham, starting at 7:30pm*

**Present:** Mr. A. Kilbee, Mrs. C. Winter, Mr. J. Miller and Mr. J. Black..

**In attendance:** Miss. N. Hill (Clerk), Cllr Andy Mellen and 5 members of the public.

**20.61 Visiting speakers**

Cllr Andy Mellen's report was read out, which is on file.

He mentioned when trying to change a speed limit, various assessments have to be completed. Bacton are currently trying to get a speed limit change and extend the 30 mph, when travelling east out of the village.

**20.62 Contribution by Members of the Public**

Mr. Doug Aiken, the footpath warden read out his report, which is on file. The trip hazard he reported to SCC has been sprayed with yellow markings. He gave an update on the Map of Finningham he is working on, with different lengths of walks, 1.6 miles up to 7 miles. He showed a watercolour of the Church, which he thought would be good as part of the Map of Finningham to be displayed in the village. He asked if there were any other points to think about or consider. Everyone appreciated the work Mr. Aiken had already put into the project and suggested maybe incorporating the village sign.

Mr. Greg Atkins, a resident of The Green, said the 4 residents of The Green are looking into repairing the potholes in the track, which the Council own and they use. It's felt that it isn't just them using the track, but others, either to visit The Green/Church/coffee caravan and wondered whether the Council would contribute to the cost. The Chairman said he would like to see some figures for the Council to consider, making it clear this request isn't in any way agreeing to their request.

**20.63 Apologies and approval of absence.**

None

**20.64 Approve minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020.**

Mr. J. Black proposed, seconded by Mr. A. Kilbee and agreed that the minutes were a correct record and the Chairman then signed the minute book.

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

None

**20.66 To co-opt new council member to fill casual vacancy, Nigel Arthur.**

The Council co-opted Nigel Arthur onto the council and he signed the Acceptance of Office. The register of interest will be completed online.

**20.67 To appoint a Vice Chairman for the remainder of 2020-2021, now Mrs. M. Webb has retired from the Parish Council.**

No one came forward to do this.

**20.68 Matters arising from the meetings held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020.**

68.01 Mr. D. Aiken is underway with the map of Walks in Finningham.

68.02 Benches in the Churchyard. The Diocese have given agreement (excluding the slabs). The slabs that were in front of the benches, have been removed. At some point in the future, something needs to happen to aid grass cutting around and under the benches.

Mrs Bell has offered to cut the grass under the benches.

68.03 Mrs. C. Winter needs to take her ID to Barclays as part of her being a signatory on the Barclays bank accounts. As per her email to councillors, she has tried, but due to her work and also Barclays reduced opening days and times due to COVID-19, this isn't as easy as expected.

The 3 new 'Finningham' signs have been delivered.

- 68.04 The Chairman said he will need help fitting these along Station Road and Westhorpe Road and Mr. J. Black offered to help.
- 68.05 Highways have yet to look at the Council's application on the VAS sites. Therefore, ordering of the VAS has been put. Once out of the EU in January 2021, the 19% VAT on the quote, won't be charged, but there may be import duty and VAT charged on the value of the item (hopefully this VAT charge can be claimed back).

### **20.69 Chairman's Report**

First, thanks to the Reverend Philip Merry for permission to use the church and Marion (Bell) for preparing it, so that we may resume having our meetings here. You are requested to keep to the area behind the font and not to use the toilets or kitchen.

Welcome to Nige Arthur into the ranks of the Parish Council. We are lucky to have him join us, as he has had experience as a Parish Councillor in a previous life before he moved to Finningham.

I have received a phone call from Malcolm Walton (resident on the Green) about the condition of the track around it. As you will remember, some time ago, the Parish Council agreed to make a contribution to the cost of repairing the potholes etc. It was made clear to the residents that this was a once-off payment and did not create precedence. However, that stretch of roadway is used extensively by other members of the public so, I feel that we should re-visit the situation regarding the cost of maintenance.

As you know, we have another Litter Pick on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> of this month. I urge you to attend, if you can and encourage your neighbours to join in. When you consider the number of residents that we have in the village, the turn-out is usually pretty poor. I do not know if the display of the banner at the crossroads has made any difference.

There are a number of points I should like to address but they will be raised later in the Agenda

- 20.70 To discuss and agree actions on the current anti-social behaviour, vandalism and graffiti on The Green. People living next to The Green has made the chairman aware of these issues. What can be done? CCTV has been mentioned. The ICO would need to be informed, as well as signs placed on The Green to state CCTV is in operation.**

It's understood a police warning has been given out to one of the culprits. The Chairman stated he had spoken to the Police about CCTV. It would cost around £1200. Mr. N. Arther mentioned at the parish council he was on previously, CCTV was installed. It started with a dummy unit and sign. A resident of The Green offered to have it set up at his address, but it was felt it could cause an issue as he isn't part of the Parish Council. It was agreed to not go down the CCTV as things stand.

- 20.71 To discuss an Oak tree on The Green, where a limb broke off during the recent high winds. Mr R. Negus said he would cut it up. He reminded the Council of his previous comments of the play equipment being close to the Oak trees.**

The Chairman wants to meet with the tree surgeon to discuss the issue with the Oak trees. There is also a branch/limb hanging down from a horse-chestnut tree on The Green.

- 20.72 To discuss the trees on the Green and to approve the quote to cut back the dead timber on an Ash Tree that has Ash dieback.** The quote is in the region of £150 and it was said the tree itself is in quite good health and just needs the dead wood removed. With regards to the play equipment close to the Oak trees, should the Council get some of the limbs removed to pre-empt any potential damage of the play equipment due to fallen limbs during high winds?

It was agreed to not accept this quote yet, incase work needs to be done on the Oak trees on The Green and to get a quote for ALL work to be completed on trees on The Green

- 20.73 To discuss the lowering of the speed limit along the B1113 north of the village.** The Chairman has been in contact with Highways whilst chasing the VAS location, to enquire about the criteria to reduce the speed limit to 40mph, considering the B1113 between Old Newton and Stowmarket has recently been reduced.

The Chairman had borrowed a VAS and placed it near Rob Hall corner for a week and shared the data. 40% of the traffic was travelling over the speed limit. The community speed watch has started again and Mr. A. Brownlie has trimmed the hedge on the southboard side of the B1113, near the crossroads.

- 20.74 To discuss and approve the new website accessibility regulations that come into effect from 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020.** SALC have given guidance on this and the steps that need taking. The website needs to be checked for any accessibility problems. This has already been done and it's around 80% compliant. A plan needs to be made to address these problems and to fix these within reason. A website accessibility statement also needs to be produced and published. A request has already been put into the newsletter to see if anyone in the village is able to help with this to increase the compliance.

It's believed the website is 85%-90% compliant, which seems to be an acceptable level.

- 20.75 To discuss and approve purchasing grass seed to seed the area within The Green.** Is this even the right time to try and grow grass?

The best time to grow grass is now. Mr. G. Atkins said he would mention it to Mr. R. Negus, who originally offered to seed the area.

**20.76 To approve the National Salary Award for 2020-2021. It's only now, that this has been agreed and to be implemented from April 2020.**

Mr. J. Black proposed, seconded by Mrs. C. Winter and agreed to this increase of award.

**20.77 To approve the renewal of the ICO registration. £35 for a year, as it's paid via Direct Debt.** This is due to come out of the bank account on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020.

Mr. A. Kilbee proposed, seconded by Mr. J. Black and agreed for this renewal.

**20.78 Correspondence Received**

- 78.01 The Chairman has received a note of Thanks from Penny Downie regarding the bench in the Churchyard in memory of Jimmy Downie.
- 78.02 Mrs. S. Miller has emailed the clerk. She has a ledger of parish council minutes she has come across that she has offered to the clerk & Council.
- 78.03 The external auditor has emailed confirming the receipt of documents re. notification of exempt status for 2020.
- 78.04 Suffolk on Board have confirmed the bus timetables for the 110, 112, 113 & 114 buses have returned to pre COVID-19 timetable.
- 78.05 Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils have sent their 124 page of consultation land supply statements to the clerk, which the clerk has sent to all Councillors.
- 78.06 'Respecting the Outdoors' campaign information has been sent to all Councillors. It includes posters encouraging people to 'respect the outdoors; which could be used around within the village.
- 78.07 The Noticeboard Company who supplied the new notice board, do not supply a stay to hold the doors open.
- 78.08 East Anglian Air Ambulance sent a letter acknowledging receipt of the donation and offered to send a certificate. The clerk replied asking for the certificate to be sent directly to Lorna Doyle at The White Horse pub.

**20.79 Finance**

79.01 Clerk's report

**Balances as of 28/08/2020**

Current account £18,196.96 (£218.66 still unrepresented, once presented, then balance is £17,978.27)

Receipts since 29/06/20 – £1,119.13 – VAT claim

Payments since 29/06/20 - £3,112.63- (invoices approved at previous meeting)

Deposit account £3,329.24 –

79.02 Requests for payment

Mr. A. Kilbee proposed, seconded by Mr. J. Black and agreed to authorise the following payments

Retrospectively – MR STOREY - £5.46 fuel for mower

E:on - £7.48 – July's bill paid via DD

E;on - £9.03 – August's bill paid via DD

MISS. N. HILL – £29.86 – expenses including zoom

J. LAWES - £9.40 – Paint & brush for notice board mounts

BUSINESS SERVICES at CAS LTD - £299.78 – renewal of insurance

Need to re-write £100 donation cheque for Friends of Finningham, as account name is actually FSAC.

**20.80 Planning**

80.01 To consider applications.

DC/20/02955 – Planning permission – Erection of single-storey rear extension (following demolition of garage)(amended scheme to DC/19/0574) – Willow Cottage, Westhorpe Road, Finningham Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 4TW.

No comment.

80.02 Decisions & to consider planning matters coming forth.

GRANTED – DC/20/02145 – Erection of extension to garage – Southwood, Wickham Road, Finningham, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 4HT.

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

**20.81 Questions to Chairman**

None

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

Footpath from The Green to the Pub. The Chairman will try and get a price from Highways.

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 9.07pm