

FINNINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

*Minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on
Tuesday 8th December 2020
A **virtual** meeting via Zoom, starting at 7:31pm*

DRAFT

Present: Mr. A. Kilbee, Mrs. C. Winter, Mr. N. Arthur, Mr. J. Miller and Mr. J. Black.
In attendance: Miss. N. Hill (Clerk), Cllr. Jane Storey, Cllr. Andy Mellen & 3 members of the public

20.129 Visiting speakers

Cllr. Jane Storey said looking at the criteria, a case for a 30mph, if not a 40mph, towards Rob Hall corner from the Old School could be made, if there is evidence this route is used by cyclists and walkers, then this will help the case to reduce the speed limit.

20.130 Contribution by Members of the Public

The footpath warden read his report including something he logged with the ROW at SCC back in January 2019, he has had to re-log as it hasn't been actioned. Mrs. M. Webb commented on the fact whilst walking along the B1113 she has only seen the VAS, sited near Quest along the B1113 has only flashed green once. She said she is interested in the maintenance of the track on The Green but would like to comment when it comes up later during the meeting.

20.131 Apologies and approval of absence.

None

20.132 Approve minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th November 2020.

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

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

None.

20.134 Matters arising from the meetings held on 8th November 2020.

134.01 Friends of Finningham are in contact with Andy Mellen with regards to contribution to a new storage shed.

134.02 The Chairman will do an article for the newsletter about usage of CIL money and inviting views from parishioners.

134.03 Has Mr. J. Miller had a chance to look at the hedge along the walkway from the Green to the pub?
No, but will do once it is drier, leave it with them.

20.135 Chairman's Report

My thanks go to Nige Arthur for standing in for me at the Traffic Zoom Meeting. His report is an Agenda item, so I hope that he has some welcome news for us. As you know, the VAS has been in position for two weeks now and the results of the data will be presented later.

I have recently spoken to the owner of Green Farmyard (Mrs Sandra Rankin) and she has informed me that all the necessary paperwork has now been completed (that is not only the Planning Permission but also arrangements with her ex-husband) and the property will go on sale next Spring. Her Agent does not think that it is worthwhile doing anything before Christmas but they feel there will be quite a lively interest when it goes on the market.

Reverting to the traffic subject, I have been in touch with Jane about the lack of a speed limit along Walsham Road; she was surprised that it was not a 40 limit from Rob Hall Corner. I have requested her assistance in presenting a case for the introduction of a 40mph limit.

From an Environment protection point of view, it has been suggested to me that we should investigate laying the hedge that runs alongside the B1113 at the Green. Especially as it suffered after the vehicle ran into it a few weeks ago.

It has been a funny old year and I hope that 2021 will see us back to some sort of normality. I should like to thank you all for your help and support throughout the year and wish you and yours a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

20.136 Update from the Track on The Green working group.

Mr. Arthur gave an update on behalf of the group. They spoke to Askews on 16th November 2020 with 1 option being to mound the track back up to fill in the pot holes, (using mound track, bitumen and pea single). Another option was to tarmac it, which would mean curbing it as well, but this would be in the region of £50k. It was noted that nothing will be done over the winter and the prices given by Askews will be held until March 2021. A camber to the track would help water run off, raising by 63mm. The quote for the mounding work is £2,890 + VAT. Mr. Miller said to ensure 3 quotes from different companies are obtained.

20.137 Update from the Village Footpath map working group.

The maps (currently 8 walks) and photos have been sent to the designer of the footpath map. If leaflets are produced, the cost should be able to be split between the parish council and MSDC. The home owners of the properties, where old photos of their properties may be used should, be contacted just in case they don't agree to them being used on the map. QR codes on the map, which then sends people directly to the website with info/the map of the walk they have chosen to do, is also being considered.

20.138 Report from Nige Arthur on the Zoom meeting around speeding and flooding in the village. To discuss any points raised and whether any further action is happening or needed.

Report from the Chairman on the traffic information generated from the VAS, whilst it was sited along B1113 near Quest.

With regards to speeding in the village, the VAS needs to collect a year's worth of data to see if it's had any effect before the powers that be will consider extra steps. Potential options being new village gateways, replacing the 30mph signs with yellow backed signs. For Highways to install the signs, if the data from the VAS shows it is needed can take around 18 weeks +.

The priority of traffic under the bridge from Finningham to Wickham Skeith was mentioned. Highways and others didn't see a benefit of changing the priority and Highways felt it wasn't value for money doing it. The Chairman stated that on reflection, it would be better to move the speed limit to the other side of the bridge, rather than try and get the priority of traffic changed, which other councillors agreed with.

Flooding along Westhorpe Road was discussed and the gullies have been cleaned so there must be other issues. Cllr Jane Storey offered her Highways budget but it can only be used for improvements and not maintenance. It was mentioned that drivers are mounting the pavement to seek higher ground to drive on, rather than going through the water. Driving through the water creates a wash, where water starts flowing into people's drives. Cllr Jane Storey said she would get a community engineer to look at it. Cllr Jane Storey and the Chairman will discuss the speed limit along Walsham Road with the potential of raising a freedom of information request. The Chairman talked through the data from the VAS when it was positioned along Walsham Road, just after Rob Hall corner, heading into the village.

20.139 To discuss the conversation the clerk had with Simon Burgess from the development along Westhorpe Road and the flooding. He had a resident talk to him about the flooding, hence him calling the clerk to try and find a solution.

Drainage engineers were involved with the design of the development. More muck/dirt/mud is on the road due to the site. It seems a pipe goes under the road and a camera would be needed to go down the pipe to see if there are any issues. It's presumed the pipe goes into the river, but it's not known for sure. Cllr Andy Mellen has offered to take a look and take it from there.

20.140 To discuss the quotation for work on the Oak trees and other trees on the Green.

A quote has been obtained from another tree surgeon, but they don't have their own cherry picker. Councillors were asked if they know of other tree surgeons that people have used that the council could consider.

20.141 To discuss and approve the donation of £50 to CAB Mid Suffolk.

Mrs. C. Winter proposed, seconded by Mr. J. Miller and agreed to give a donation of £50 to CAB Mid Suffolk after discussing the good work they do and have helped people within the village.

20.142 To discuss the maintenance of the Track on The Green, whether it should not be as a one off. What other byways/bridleways within the village would have to be maintained by the Parish Council?

Mrs. Webb, a member of the public asks if she can say something, to which the Chairman agreed. She says the layby outside her house isn't owned by Highways, it's actually part of her property. She is having to resurface it at her own cost when it's used by others, when people don't know it's actually her property. The Chairman suggested if she wanted to make an application to the Parish Council she could.

It was discussed which byways/bridlepaths etc are actually within the parish council's remit and therefore the potential need to have to resurface these. The Chairman said he will look into it and come back to the Parish Council at the next meeting with his findings.

20.143 To discuss and approve additional dog bin/s within the village. CIL money can be used to purchase the bins. On-going emptying will have to be paid for out of precept.

There's a total of 8 new bins suggested with where they can be sited. It was agreed that 8 wouldn't be needed but agreed the following 4 sites, having seen the locations on a map shown during the zoom meeting, could benefit from having dog bins. Beside B1113 Walsham Road, 100m NW of Old Chapel, Beside Walsham Road, 150m from Rob Hall corner, Beside Gislingham Road at the 'S' bend lending to Jeny's lane and beside the concrete pad on Easlands Lane off Wickham Road. The footpath warden suggested maybe removing a current bin, but it was agreed that as it was used, to keep it. Mr. N. Arthur proposed, seconded by Mrs. C. Winter and agreed to purchase 4 new dog bins for the locations agreed and not to remove any existing dog bins. CIL money will be used to purchase these.

- 20.144 To discuss and approve the quote from Mr. M. Baird for the replacement post and rail fence surrounding The Green including bitumen sleeves. The quote is £3,975.00 + VAT. The posts would be concreted into the ground.**
Mr. J. Black proposed, seconded by Mrs. C. Winter and agreed to go ahead with this quote. The clerk is to raise an order with Mr. Baird. CIL money will be used for this work.
- 20.145 To discuss and a consider 2 new flags for the Flagpole on the Green.**
The prices of the flags hadn't been added to the agenda at the time of setting it. It was discussed that the flags do need replacing and to discuss and approve at the next meeting with the prices.
- 20.146 To discuss and approve the quotes for the design of the footpath map and the lecture style frame. Frame is £420 + VAT and the design for the footpath is £885.**
Mr. A. Kilbee proposed, seconded by Mr. J. Miller and agreed to accept the quotes. CIL money will be used for this.
- 20.147 To discuss the budget for 2021-2022.**
Rolled over to the next meeting as the clerk hasn't fully completed it.
- 20.148 To discuss and approve the precept for 2021-2022 to be set at £7,243, which is the same of the previous year.**
Mr. N. Arthur proposed, seconded by Mr. J. Black and agreed to keep the precept for 2021-2022 the same as 2020-2021.
- 20.149 Correspondence Received**
- 149.01 Dog and Litter bin charges are increasing in 2021-2022. Litter bin emptying currently £36.05 moving to £37.13 and dog bin emptying currently £42.23 moving to £43.49. Prices exclude VAT.
- 149.02 Community Heartbeat Trust have confirmed we conform to the impending legislation. Their confirmation will be kept on file.
- 149.03 MidSuffolk have confirmed the tax base for 2021-2022. Changing to £212.68 in 2021-2022 from £212.87 in 2020-2021. A decrease of 0.1%.
- 149.04 Christmas, New Year & 2020-2021 waste collection schedule calendars are live on MidSuffolk's website. The info will be sent to be added to the next newsletter.
- 20.150 Finance**
- 150.01 Clerk's report
Previous meeting, last balance reported was from 29/10/2020
Current account £31,901.75 (£100 still unrepresented, once presented, then balance is £31,801.75)
Deposit account £3,329.70
Balances as of 27/11/2020
Current account £33,525.53 (£156.42 still unrepresented, once presented, then balance is £33,369.11)
Receipts since 30/10/20 – £2000.00 – Grant from Cllr Jane Storey
Payments since 30/10/20 - £376.22 - (invoices approved at previous meeting)
Deposit account £3,329.70
- 150.02 **Requests for payment**
Mr. A. Kilbee proposed, seconded by Mr. J. Black and agreed to authorise the following payments
E: on - £11.55 - October's bill paid via DD
MISS. N. HILL - £14.23 – clerks expenses
ELANCITY - £2,272.74 – VAS
MRS. A. BECKETT - £220 – deposit for footpath sign design
MR. A. BROWNLIE - £300 – cutting of the Churchyard
J. LAWES - £12 – cord & araldite
CAB MID SUFFOLK - £50 - donation
Totalling £2,880.52
- 20.151 Planning**
To consider applications.
None.

Decisions & to consider planning matters coming forth.

None.

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

20.152 Questions to Chairman

None.

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

Nothing extra over what's been said during the meeting.

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 9.40pm