

FINNINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

*Minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on
Tuesday 12th January 2021
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 & 4 members of the public

20.154 Visiting speakers

Cllr Jane Storey's report is on file. She said there is help out there for people and there are lots of grants available. She spoke about the covid vaccinations and this is being led by each doctor's surgery. The NHS covid app can give some information of the numbers of covid cases. Cllr Jane Storey mentioned the issues the village is having with flooding and said she will help as best as she can and email someone at Highways. The recent flood along B1113 by Church Lane around Christmas is because the drains had collapsed, so the water couldn't drain away. It was mentioned that a tanker attended the site and drained the water away. It's believed this was a contractor Highways deal with. If a drain goes under a road, then it lies with Highways to fix. It was mentioned by the Chairman that all 3 issues within the village, where there is flooding (Westhorpe Road, Gislingham Road and B1113 by Church Lane) all have drainage pipes under the road.

Cllr Andy Mellen spoke about the flooding in the village and the ditch along Wickham Road, heading from Finningham to Wickham Skeith is down to Highways to maintain, as the hedge is the farmers side of the ditch. Some of the land around that area, near the railway bridge, is owned by British Rail and they don't seem to be clearing the ditches. He talked about the flooding along Westhorpe Road and Simon Burgess of Burgess Homes is trying to help, but needs approval from Highways. Mrs. Catherine Winter said she tweeted Anglian Water about the issue. It seems Anglian Water will only get involved when sewage is within the water.

20.155 Contribution by Members of the Public

Due to technical issues on the zoom call, this item didn't happen.

20.156 Apologies and approval of absence.

None

20.157 Approve minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th December 2020

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

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

None

20.159 Matters arising from the meeting held on 8th December 2020

159.01 Andy Mellen kindly looked at the flooding along Westhorpe Road and couldn't find any outfall from the road drains. He's looked into the plans and contacted the planning dept to ensure they are being followed with regards to drainage etc. He's also heard from Simon Burgess from Burgess homes (the developer) who believes there's a large soakaway and he's offered to excavate it and try to enlarge it. Mr Burgess said they sweep the road every day.

159.02 The cutting of trees on the Green and getting quotes have been put on hold whilst in the current situation of Tier 4 and now national lockdown.

159.03 As stated last month, Mr. J. Miller will look at the hedge along the walkway from the Green to the pub once it's dried out.

20.160 Chairman's Report

In the last couple of weeks there has been a lot of activity in the village as a result of flooding in three areas. These are B1113 opposite the entrance to Church Lane, Westhorpe Road opposite the new building development and Wickham Road just before the Railway bridge.

Our thanks go to the members of the community who helped a number of motorists who got stuck in the flood. What is very annoying is that the PC has come in for some very severe criticism via Social Media. One posting on the FoF Facebook page even went to the lengths of encouraging people to sue the PC when their cars were damaged by a large pothole under the railway bridge. Obviously, this shows a complete lack of understanding of the role and powers of the PC. We all know that we no more count than an ordinary member of the public in reporting potholes.

Chris Goddard took it upon himself (as he has done many times in the past) to report the flooding at the railway bridge, as it backs up into his drains. He actually received a reply from Jason Skilton, a Flood and Water Engineer of SCC. He took great pains to advise Chris of the landowner's responsibility and said that if the pipe runs under a road, then the Highways Dept should be advised, using their reporting tool. Not a great deal of help! One would think that, being the Water and Flood Engineer, Mr Skilton would be able to be a bit more proactive.

Last Thursday I was interviewed by Radio Suffolk at 7:25am about the measures we are taking to curb the speeding through the village. Their researchers had seen the post on the Friends of Finningham Facebook and decided they wanted to talk about it. The experience was quite interesting, as I was able to express our frustration when dealing with SCC Highways. Mark Murphy (the presenter) was very sympathetic and said that they had invited both SCC and the Police to join the programme but both declined.

20.161 Update from the Track on The Green working group.

Two further companies have been contacted to get quotes. They need to look at the track first, which they will do in the next week before they send their quotes in.

20.162 Update from the Village Footpath map working group.

Doug read out his footpath report, which is on file.

An update was given on the village footpath map saying that Discover Suffolk could help promote the map. Old photos in black and white will be used. 8 walks are being proposed to be used, with the dog bins being marked on the maps.

Doug did ask a question about parking within the village, especially if some people drive to the village to then do the walks. The Chairman said the Green can't be used for parking as it's protected by Bylaws. Doug asked whether an opportunity was missed with regards to additional parking at the new development at Green Farm. The Chairman replied saying that the developer/planners wouldn't allow the suggested village parking. Within the development.

20.163 To discuss the monitoring of traffic speed within the village.

The results are posted on the Friends of Finningham facebook page and the monitoring is ongoing. There needs to be 1 year's worth of data before anything can be done with the data.

20.164 To discuss the recent flooding within the village along B1113 by the Green as well as along Gislingham Road and Westhorpe Road. Also, the knock on effect of all this rain, where drains along Gislingham Road have been backed up for days. What can be done in the future? Signs for residents/councillors to put out?

A tanker from Keir, which is part of Highways attended the flood and drained the water.

20.165 To discuss the statutory consultation for a solar energy farm and battery storage facility near Burwell, Newmarket by Sunnica Energy Farm. Do the parish have any comments they formally wish to submit?

After discussing, the Chairman asked for everyone to send him their views and he will collate them and give a response back. Mrs. C. Winter had already emailed her views to everyone.

20.166 To finally decide whether the maintenance of the Track on The Green, whether it should not be as a one off. The Chairman has looked into the different byways/bridleways/footpaths etc within the village and what has to be maintained by the Parish Council?

Mrs. C. Winter proposed, seconded by Mr. A. Kilbee and agreed to overturn the previous decision set years ago, that the repair of the Green track should only be a once off. The principal being that each application will be judged on its own merit. The parish council do not have any other obligations to any other tracks/byways/bridleways as they all fall under Suffolk County Council and Highways.

20.167 To discuss and approve the purchase of 4 dog bins. Last month it was discussed and approved to have 4 more dog bins and the sites were agreed. Glasdon offers plastic bins, red or green 25ltr capacity £90.85 + VAT with a plastic liner or £9.22 for a metal liner. Post mounting brackets free but need £16.72 tamtorque banking kit to fit 70-100mm post. A metal 50ltr capacity one including hook for dog lead is £205.65+VAT. Glasdon does free delivery over £100. Broxap offers steel body bins, 40ltr capacity £115 + VAT or 60ltr capacity £124 + VAT. Post mounting bracket £10 and both bins include a hook for dog lead. Delivery charge is £41.

Glasdon smallest bin, 25ltr totals £116.79 + VAT each and Broxap smallest bin 50ltr totals £125.00 + vat each + £41 delivery. Should different capacities be purchased and swap with current ones that get full quickly?

After discussing, it was agreed that a hook on the bin isn't needed, The current bins are red. It was asked if Doug could suggest which current bins, would benefit from having bigger bins. Therefore, rolled over to the next meeting to agree on what sizes and therefore what the total cost would be.

20.168 To discuss and approve the purchase of 2 new flags for the Flagpole on the Green. 2yd Union Flag, anti fray £87.20 & 2yd St. George's Flag, handsewn, anti fray £60.24. Delivery of £11.94, totalling £159.38 including VAT.

Mrs. C. Winter proposed, seconded by Mr. N. Arthur and agreed to purchase these 2 flags.

20.169 To discuss the budget for 2021-2022. Rolled over from last meeting as the clerk hadn't fully completed. Councillors would have received this before the meeting.

The parish council would like the exact price that BMSDC quoted for cutting the cemetery twice a year before agreeing with the budget.

20.170 To discuss whether the parish council have a meeting in February 2021. Part of the reason for not having a meeting in February was due to the cold temperatures in the Church where the meetings are normally held. As they are currently being done via zoom, would it make sense to have a meeting?

The parish council agreed to have a meeting in February 2021, as long as it doesn't set a precedent.

20.171 Correspondence Received

171.01 Knock & Check on a neighbour is a Mid Suffolk communication. A poster has been put on the notice board, as well as asking it to be put onto the villages Facebook page.

171.02 SALC stated it is unlawful to have physical meeting whilst Suffolk was in Tier 4. With a full national lockdown, physical meetings are not lawful either.

171.03 The landlady of The White Horse pub had emailed the office of Jo Churchill after the zoom meeting raising a few points. One being she didn't think there was a 'cross road' sign as you enter the village. Also adding that Bacton have a flashy speed light sign and is it up to Finningham to raise the funds for this and where does the money go from the events held by the parish council. A letter has been posted to the landlady informing her there is a crossroad sign and you enter the village. Also, explaining about the VAS recently purchased and the council do not hold events to raise money, but gets a very small proportion from the council tax the parishioners pay.

171.04 Ladywell Accountancy Services have emailed to say they are ceasing their services as of the end of March 2021. SALC offer these services for £38+VAT a year for the same service that Ladywell Accountancy Services currently do, who charged £40 a year. Does anyone know of someone to do this payroll service?

171.05 Police & Crime Commissioner has published proposals for the policing element for the council tax precept for 2021-2022. There is a survey to complete, which has been emailed.

171.06 The clerk has received the full electoral registers for 2020-2021.

171.07 E;on have emailed stating they made an error and took the direct debt too early. They would be refunding it as quickly as they could and then taking the DD at the correct time

20.172 Finance

172.01 Clerk's report

Previous meeting, last balance reported was from 27/11/2020.

Current account £33,525.53 (£156.42 still unrepresented, once presented, then balance is £33,369.11)

Deposit account £3,329.70

Balances as of 29/12/2020

Current account £33,539.72 (£3,064.57 still unrepresented, once presented, then balance is £30,475.15)

Receipts since 28/11/20 – £132.60 – (Cemetery fees reserving plots & e.on refund)

Payments since 28/11/20 - £118.41 - (invoices approved at previous meeting)

Deposit account £3,329.78 – 8p interest

172.02 **Requests for payment**

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

E;on - £12.60 - December's bill paid via DD

MISS. N. HILL - £26.40 – clerk's expenses

M. BAIRD - £2,385.00 – 50% as deposit for replacement post and rail fence on The Green

Totalling £2,424.00

20.173 Planning

173.01 To consider applications.

None

173.02 Decisions & to consider planning matters coming forth.

None

20.174 Questions to Chairman

Mr. N. Arthur wanted to check with the Parish Council, if he were to take over the Bonus Ball, run by Friends of Finningham, due to the current organiser of this is moving out of the village, are the Parish Council happy for him to do this? Full agreement for Mr. N. Arthur to do this.

20.175 Items to be discussed at the next meeting and included in the February's agenda.

To discuss and approve for SALC to take over the PAYE and pension.

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 9.20pm