

FINNINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

draft

*Minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on
Tuesday 9th February 2021
A **virtual** meeting via Zoom, starting at 7:31pm*

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 & 2 members of the public

20.176 Visiting speakers

Cllr Jane Storey's report is on file. She talked about the covid rates going down in Mid Suffolk and Woolpit are doing well with vaccinations. Thursday 11th February is when the County Council will set their budget. There is also a scrutiny meeting on 10th February which includes emergency planning. She suggests it's worth while having an emergency plan. A sub-group within the council would have to be set up to create an emergency plan. She gave an example as to what would happen if a major road through the village was shut. Parishes uses the Church or Parish Councils as a form of resource. The Chairman asked Cllr Jane Storey about the results of the survey Tim Passmore wanted people to complete, but she hadn't seen the results. Cllr Jane Storey said she would send a copy of Woolpit's emergency plan to the clerk. Cllr Andy Mellen's report is on file. He mentioned that he will talk about flooding during the agenda item later in the meeting. He mentioned the new planning application by Burgess Homes for a potential 8 new properties along Westhorpe Road.

21st March is census day and residents will get a card through the door during February.

Elections for the Police & Crime Commissioner as well as the County Councillor elections are due to take place later this year.

With regards to the current development by Burgess Homes along Westhorpe Road, wheel washing should be taking place on site daily, but this doesn't seem to happen. It only seems to happen when they have been reminded.

Mid Suffolk didn't have a 5 yr house supply plan when the along Westhorpe Road, Gislingham Road or Green Farm were approved.

Due to the current snow, bin lorries are behind with their collections and will be a day or so behind.

A councillor asked a question about whether the parish council has a rule to attend planning meetings at Mid Suffolk. It was answered that sometimes the PC are invited to attend meetings.

Cllr Jane Storey said to keep a close eye on small planning applications by the same developer, as they can be 'drip fed' in, in smaller quantities, but in the end add up to a big development.

The Chairman asked a member of the public, Malcolm Walton, as he was previously on the Parish Council whether he remembers any of the PC attended planning meetings and he replied that he remembers the chairman at the time, Ray Birch attending some meetings.

Cllr Andy Mellen said there's a development control committee at BMSDC and he sits on 1 of these and they deal with big sites and controversial developments and generally a rep. from the PC and developer are only able to speak for 3 minutes.

20.177 Contribution by Members of the Public

Mr. Malcolm Walton said he wishes to thank the PC for the new fence on The Green and it helps the security of the Green, so no one is likely to camp there. Nige Arthur added that the new fence looks really good and does the PC have an odd job man that they use. The Chairman answered saying the PC doesn't and they have tried to get an odd job man on a self employed basis, but haven't been able to find one.

20.178 Apologies and approval of absence.

None

20.179 Approve minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th January 2021

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

20.180 To receive any pecuniary or non-pecuniary declarations of interest from Members and any Gifts of Hospitality.
None

20.181 Matters arising from the meeting held on 12th January 2021
None

20.182 Chairman's Report
Unfortunately, our new fence round the Green sustained some damage within a week or so of its completion. Two of the screws had sheared. The reason is unknown but it could be that the screws were over-torqued when inserted but I cannot see how that had caused both of them to shear at the same time. Alternatively, it could have been someone trying to jump the fence or deliberately standing on it. Thanks to Malcolm Walton for re-fixing it for us.
The most controversial subject in the village at the moment is the flooding we have had to endure. However, that is item 11 on the Agenda so, I shall leave that discussion until later.
With the subject of communication still problematical, I have to report that my email to Hayley Seeley, asking the about the popularity of the FoF Facebook page. Has remained unanswered. I have also been trying to find out the possible future of the Newsletter, as I know that Richard & Lorraine want to give up the Editorship. Perhaps someone could enlighten me.
I feel this PR for the Parish Council is very important and we need to do something about it. Is a separate regular door to door communication the way to go. If so, is anyone prepared to take on this task? If not, what other media can we use?

20.183 Update from the Track on The Green working group.
Nige Arthur talked through the 3 different quotes he had obtained which were shown to everyone during the meeting. The Chairman asked Malcolm's view and he said, in 10 years time it will need doing again. Askew has worked on the track before, therefore it's felt to go with their quote. It was mentioned that without the CIL money, the PC wouldn't be able to consider re-doing the track. The end result also needs to be considered and it wouldn't be right for the track to be tarmacked. The residents of the Green contribution was mentioned and the 4 residents on the Green were willing to put in £80 each, totalling £320. It was mentioned that if just the pot holes were dealt with, this would only last 1 to 2 years. Nige Arthur raised a concern that if the council spends out on this repair, as it has the CIL money to use, it may not have the money in the future to deal with future repairs. Malcolm Walton said that as a resident of the Green, he doesn't expect any commitment from the PC to pay for repairs in 10 years time. Another councillor agreed and said, as per minutes from the last meeting, any requests would be looked at on their own merit and also whether the PC had the funds. Nige Arthur proposed for it to be discussed and approved at the next meeting for the Askew quote to be accepted, being £2,890 + VAT. It was mentioned how a hearse had a not so smooth drive up to the Church recently and also how some people seem to drive quite fast along the track. It was suggested to get Askew to quote adding rumble strips whilst re-doing the track.

20.184 Update from the Village Footpath map working group.
The clerk shared the 1st proof of the footpath map and everyone seemed really pleased. It was asked whether there should be 1 QR code for each walk or just 1 QR code to talk you to the website where all walks are stored. Currently the QR code takes you through to the website where all the walks are then displayed.

20.185 To discuss the monitoring of traffic speed within the village.
80,000 vehicle movements past the VAS the previous week. Vehicles going up the hill seem to go over the speed limit more than those going down the hill. Generally the speed of vehicles seems to have reduced, especially with vehicles coming down the hill into the village. Andy Brownlie, who looks after the VAS and charges the 4 batteries, has asked if he can be reimbursed for the cost of charging the batteries. The Chairman, after getting figures off the VAS company, has worked out the cost to be 50p a week. The Chairman suggests the PC pays this annually.

20.186 To discuss flooding within the village. District Councillor Andy Mellen had an article with the EADT.
Cllr Andy Mellen said he had spoken to Simon Burgess of Burgess Homes earlier that day and he said he still hasn't heard from Highways with their suggestion to help. Andy shared Google Maps during the zoom call to explain the issue with flooding along Wickham Road and the ditch hadn't been maintained by Network Rail, which he had raised with them and it can take 20 days for them to respond. He said Chris Goddard, who lives near this area, had a visit from Anglian Water and a pump at the pumping station was down. It was suggested to email the environment MP to try and get the flooding issue looked at. It was mentioned that the more people within the village that do this the better, but again, it comes down to how the PC communicates with the people within the village, which has been an ongoing issue. It was mentioned on a map from 1904, it shows a natural water spring along Westhorpe Road, near where the new development is.

- 20.187 To discuss and approve whether to purchase road cones to be able to place into pot holes within the village to help people avoid them and not damage their vehicles. 750mm high £6.49 + VAT.**
Mrs. C. Winter said she had looked into this and it would be wrong for the PC to do this, as it was putting an obstruction in the road, which could cause accidents. Therefore this item was defeated and no cones will be purchased by the PC.
- 20.188 To discuss the COVID-19 situation and current lockdown within the community/village.**
It seems the Friends of Finningham have their group of people willing and able to help people and it's felt that there isn't anything else the PC can do, except to look into creating an emergency plan.
- 20.189 To approve for SALC to take over the PAYE & pension services as Ladywell Accountancy Services are ceasing at 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.**
Mrs. C. Winter proposed, seconded by Mr. N. Arthur and agreed to get SALC to take over the PAYE & pension services for the PC.
- 20.190 To discuss and approve the purchase of 4 dog bin. Glasdon offer a plastic bin, 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 (red or green) including hook for dog lead is £205.65 + VAT. A plastic 50ltr capacity bin is £238.57 + VAT. Glasdon do free delivery over £100.**
Mr. N. Arthur proposed, seconded by Mrs. C. Winter and agreed to purchase 4 plastic bins in red, 2 x 25ltr and 2 x 50ltr.
- 20.191 Correspondence Received**
191.01 Barclays have confirmed the mandate change request.
191.02 BMSDC have confirmed receipt of the precept. There is a small increase of 0.58% even though we kept the value the same. This is due to an increase of Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme reliefs and the reduced collection of rates. Due to the above issues, a grant of £138 is being given to the Parish Council at the same time as the 1st precept payment in April.
191.03 Secretary of State for Transport's (SoSfT) decision and the Inspector's report with regards to the original 24 level crossing proposals along the Norwich to London Liverpool St line.
- 20.192 Finance**
192.01 Clerk's report
Previous meeting, last balance reported was from 29/12/2020.
Current account £33,539.72 (£3,064.57 still unrepresented, once presented, then balance is £30,475.15)
Deposit account £3,329.78
Balances as of 29/1/2021
Current account £28,188.15 (£160.82 still unrepresented, once presented, then balance is £28,027.33)
Receipts since 30/12/20 – £37.00 – (Cemetery fees)
Payments since 30/12/20 - £5,388.57 - (invoices approved at previous meeting)
Deposit account £3,329.78
192.02 **Requests for payment**
Mr. J. Black proposed, seconded by Mrs. C. Winter and agreed to authorise the following payments (Retrospectively)M. BAIRD - £2,385.00 – Final 50% for replacement post and rail fence on The Green E: on - £13.66 - January's bill paid via DD
MISS. N. HILL - £19.75 – clerk's expenses
MR. COLIN WINTER - £17.55 – braid cord for flag pole
Totalling £2,435.96
- 20.193 Planning**
193.01 To consider applications.
DC/21/00590 – Works to trees in a Conservation Area – Fell 1No Plum tree and ground stump. Fell section of conifers within mixed hedge and ground stumps at Walnut Tree Cottage, Church Lane, Finningham, Stowmarket, IP14 4JB.
The PC has no issues with this application.
193.02 Decisions & to consider planning matters coming forth.
All planning applications received up to the date of the meeting will be discussed.
- 20.194 Questions to Chairman**
None
- 20.195 Items to be discussed at the next meeting and included in the March's agenda.**

Points already mentioned during the meeting and also the budget for 2021-2022 now it includes the cost of cutting the cemetery.

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 10pm