

FINNINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

draft

*Minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on
Tuesday 9th March 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, Mrs. L. Charter & 3 members of the public

20.196 Visiting speakers

Cllr Jane Storey's report is on file. She is still trying to help with the flooding issues within the village i.e. Church Lane and Westhorpe Road.

Cllr Andy Mellen's report is on file, which he read during the meeting. He is struggling to get a response from Network rail with regards to them clearing the ditch, which they own, near the railway bridge along Wickham Road.

20.197 Contribution by Members of the Public

A member of the public, who lives along Westhorpe Road, raised her concerns about the proposed development of 8 dwellings, next to the new 6 dwellings by the same developer. She already opposed the 6 dwellings and feels an arable field is being taken for the proposed 8 dwellings and is worried about more flooding and how it will affect her neighbours and herself.

The Chairman asked the PC members for a show of hands with regards to the proposed 8 dwellings along Westhorpe Road. 1 voted for it, 4 voted against and 1 abstained. Therefore a majority decision against the development.

Cllr Andy Mellen said he would 'call it in' as it's a complex decision and there are issues that need to be brought in front of a committee. There are few public services within Finningham, no doctors surgery or school and people would have to use a car to get to these places in other villages. Cllr Mellen mentioned the need for social housing would be triggered by the 2 sites.

Flooding again was mentioned and whether conditions within the planning, if it was approved could be added. It seems though, the conditions within the 1st development of 6 houses were not kept i.e. roads are not swept daily and wheel washing and it feels the developer is breaching these conditions. The enforcement dept have been made aware that hard standing isn't in place within the first site.

Cllr Mellen reminded the PC that whilst a local plan hasn't been approved, old policies are out of date, therefore the NPPF is being followed and it's tilted in favour of the development of housing.

Cllr Jane Storey added that Building control at MSDC need to enforce the commitments made by the developers. If the PC had a village statement or neighbourhood plan, these help when the PC is against planning applications.

20.198 Apologies and approval of absence.

None.

20.199 Approve minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th February 2021.

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

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

None.

20.201 To co-opt new council member to fill casual vacancy, Lisa Charter.

Mr N. Arthur proposed, seconded by Mrs. C. Winter and agreed for Mrs. Lisa Charter to become a Parish Councillor.

20.202 Matters arising from the meeting held on 9th February 2021

None

20.203 Chairman's Report

Apart from various items on tonight's agenda which I have been following up and I will update them as we go along, there is not much else to report.

As you can see from Natalie's detailed analysis of the various grants we have received and expenditure against them, there is still a considerable sum left in the CIT kitty, which we need to address. From Andy's report, it looks as though there is a strong possibility that the additional proposed houses along Westhorpe Road could go ahead. In which case, there will be more CIL money coming our way in the fullness of time. We need to consider long term plans to use this money wisely.

We are still one Councillor short of our requirement so, if anyone has any knowledge of suitable candidates, please have a word in the right ear.

Some time ago, Finningham had a Welcome Pack which was distributed to all new residents arriving in the village. It was compiled by the Finningham Social Amenities Committee but fell out of use after the demise of that organisation. Now that has been resurrected under the Friends of Finningham banner they may be in a position to publish a new version. Considering the number of new people arriving in the village, this would be a good way of promoting the Parish Council. So saying, does anyone think that this should now fall under the Parish Council and not the FoF?

The Chairman of FoF is unaware of any welcome pack. He feels that the PC should produce it, as the PC should last longer than the FoF group and the FoF could always fold.

20.204 Update from the Track on The Green working group.

The cost of adding speed bumps would be roughly £250 + VAT per speed bump. It was mentioned about water collecting more and it was agreed not to install speed bumps.

It was asked whether the residents were still contributing £80 each, and they are. It was said, considering the track is being relaid, rather than just the pot holes being filled, could the residents contribute £100 each. Another councillor agreed, with another adding it would be a nice gesture from the residents to increase their contribution to £100 each. It was mentioned that the residents will be asked about increasing their contribution. It was added that it shouldn't be left 10 years again for maintenance on the track to take place and for the residents to take it onboard themselves with regular maintenance, which would also be at a lesser cost. One of the residents who is within the working group said on behalf of himself, Thank You to the PC. Another resident also agreed and said Thank You.

20.205 Update from the Village Footpath map working group.

QR codes were discussed and Mr. Black has spoken to Doug Aiken about it and needs to test that 1 QR code will work. With regards to having a leaflet, Doug is very keen on this. The 2nd proof of the village map will be on the website. Where can walkers park? It's felt people need to know where they can park within the village. Could they park at the pub? There is a position within the village, along one of the footpaths where 5 or 6 churches can be seen from the same position. It was also mentioned for a plaque to be placed along one of the walks.

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

It seems the VAS seems to be doing it's job, with reducing speed within the village.

20.207 To discuss flooding within the village.

The sewage issue has been discussed with MP Jo Churchill and the added load on the system with any new properties added to it. Anglian Water believe the pipes are still adequate but they will do a CCTV investigation on the pipes. At the pumping station, both pumps failed. It seemed one triggered the other one to stop.

20.208 To discuss the COVID-19 situation and current lockdown within the community/village.

It's felt that the PC can't do anything else that isn't already done within the village, considering there's still a group of people willing to help.

20.209 To discuss the cutting of the hedge along the 'footpath' from The Green to the White Horse pub. It appears this has been recently cut.

Yes, Mr. J. Miller said they have cut the hedge and the village green hedge and the 'footpath' from the Green to the pub. He was Thanked for doing this.

20.210 To approve the amended order for 2 new flags. It was approved in January 2021 to order 2 x 2yard flags to replace the current ones. It was noticed when placing the order, that previously the council had ordered 3yard flags. Therefore, a quote for 3yard flags has been obtained, this is £242.51 including VAT. The previous quote approved was £159.38 including VAT.

Mr N. Arthur proposed, seconded by Mrs. C. Winter and agreed to the above.

- 20.211 To discuss whether Finningham should have an emergency plan. A copy of Woolpit's emergency plan has been sent to all councillors.**
It was agreed that the PC should have an emergency plan in place.
- 20.212 To discuss whether the Parish Council should do anything to mark VE day on 8th May 2021.**
It was agreed to ask Doug Aiken to put his silhouettes of soldiers in the Churchyard and to fly the flag due to coming out of lockdown.
- 20.213 To discuss whether a litter pick and village clean should take place on the 3rd Sunday of March 2021. Do current lockdown restrictions mean this can't happen?**
With current lockdown restrictions, it's felt people should be encouraged to litter pick themselves. Mr. J. Miller said his wife had already litter picked and filled 7 bags. Other councillors said they will do litter picks around where they live.
- 20.214 To discuss and approve the service of all Parish Council equipment. The mower, hedge trimmer, push along strimmer etc. The Chairman is proposing to take all items down at the same time. An approx. cost will be £250.**
Mr N. Arthur proposed, seconded by Mrs. L. Charter and agreed for this servicing to happen.
- 20.215 To discuss and approve the budget for 2021-2022 now there's a figure for cemetery cutting. The cutting of the cemetery was quoted as £100 per cut, being completed twice a year.**
Mr N. Arthur proposed, seconded by Mrs. C. Winter and agreed the budget for 2021-2022.
- 20.216 To discuss the Leisure, Sport and Physical activity strategy by BMSDC. There's a questionnaire to be completed by 15th March. Do the Parish Council have any thoughts/views to be fed back?**
As there wasn't much information regarding the strategy, it was asked for the clerk to get more information and send it to all councillors.
- 20.217 To discuss and approve the quotes from Askew to fill in potholes and relay a surface of the track by The Green. £2,890 + VAT with no rumble strips or £????+ VAT with rumble strips. It's understood the residents will each contribute £80 towards this and as previously discussed and in the minutes, the Parish Council have agreed to this on its merits and the fact it currently has the funds, via CIL, to be able to carry out this work.**
As discussed earlier, it was mentioned whether the residents contribution should be more, but in need of getting the work completed sooner rather than later, whether the contribution is £80 per resident or higher, Mrs C. Winter proposed, seconded by Mr. J. Black and to go ahead with the quote, without rumble strips. The residents should have their own committee/group for any ongoing work on the track and keep it in good repair. During the work on the track, residents will have to park on the grass to the side of the barn. This is only to be done whilst work is happening on the track. In the future, maybe bollards should be looked into to ensure people don't drive/park on this part of the Green.
- 20.218 To discuss the request in a letter from a young resident of the village as to whether Astroturf could be laid on part of The Green. Pricing depends on the length of the faux grass, 19mm in height £7.99m², 30mm height £12.49m² or 40mm height £13.99m². Where could this be laid and would it interfere with cutting of the natural grass?**
To roll over to next month.
- 20.219 To discuss and approve the reimbursement to Andy Brownlie, for him charging the 4 batteries that power the VAS. It's been worked out it costs 50p a week to charge the batteries and Andy Brownlie should request annually for this money.**
Mr N. Arthur proposed, seconded by Mrs. L. Charter and agreed on reimbursing Mr. A. Brownlie.
- 20.220 Correspondence Received**
- 220.01 A resident of Finningham has emailed with regards to the proposed further development along Westhorpe Road. She is opposed to it and is sending her own response to BMSDC. The Chairman has replied to her and as yet we haven't heard anything back.
- 220.02 A list of potential grants that the PC could apply for has been emailed to the clerk.
- 220.03 A new consultation with regards to planning, a model design code has been received and forwarded to all councillors.
Mrs. C. Winter added that NALC's response to this was very good.
- 220.04 SALC have emailed over details of a free webinar about sleep and it's been forwarded to all councillors.
- 220.05 Suffolk Highways have emailing saying they are undertaking a re-filling of the county's grit bins following on from the recent severe weather. This prevents people having to log individual bins to be re-filled. This is being done as a one off due to the extreme weather.

- 220.06 A MidSuffolk area forum invite has been received to join the meeting via zoom. This information has been emailed to all councillors, as places must be booked in advance.
- 220.07 An email has been received that if prospective election candidates wish to attend meetings, they are able to, but they do not have the right to automatically speak.
- 220.08 The clerk from Bacton PC invited Finningham PC to attend an extraordinary meeting to discuss the planning apps. One for 51 dwellings and one for 8 dwellings. Due to the meeting clashing Finningham PC's own meeting, no one is able to attend. A councillor has already emailed her views in and another raised concerns over traffic. 4 councillors were against the 2 planning apps and 1 for it. The clerk will inform the clerk of Bacton PC.
- 220.09 MSDC emailed to say brown bins will begin to be emptied again soon.

20.221 Finance

221.01 Clerk's report

Previous meeting, last balance reported was from 30/1/2021.

Current account £28,188.15 (£160.82 still unrepresented, once presented, then balance is £28,027.33)

Deposit account £3,329.78

Balances as of 26/2/2021

Current account £25,789.49 (£198.12 still unrepresented (FSAC from sept 20 & play inspection from nov 20), once presented, then balance is £25,591.37)

Receipts since 30/1/21 – £0.00

Payments since 30/1/21 - £2,398.66 - (invoices approved at previous meeting)

Deposit account £3,329.78

221.02 **Requests for payment**

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

E:on - £15.70 - February's bill paid via DD

LADYWELL ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES - £30.00 – PAYE services for 2020-2021

MISS. N. HILL - £18.49 – clerk's expenses

MISS. N. HILL - £351.27 – clerk's wages

NEST - £32.35 – pension contribution via DD

HMRC - £92.40 – PAYE for the clerk

HARRISON - £242.51 – 2 x 3yrd flags

T.G.ASKEW - £3,468.00 – track by the Green repairs (excluding sleeping policeman)

Totalling £4,250.72

20.222 Planning

222.01

To consider applications.

DC/21/00366 – Application for outline Planning Permission (all matters reserved) Town and Country Planning Act 1990 – Erection of up to 8No dwellings with garages. Land South of, Westhorpe Road, Finningham, Stowmarket.

As discussed earlier, there is a majority against this and the clerk will add comments to this effect on the planning app on MSDC website.

DC/21/00990 – Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area – T1 (Ash) – Pollard to 50% existing height. Kent House, Gislingham Road, Finningham, Suffolk, IP14 4JA.

No issues with the above.

DC/21/01095 – Application for Listed Building Consent. Addition of 2no top level window – lights in a panelled front door. Old Black Horse Farm, Walsham Road, Finningham, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 4JN.

No issues with the above

222.02

Decisions & to consider planning matters coming forth.

DOES NOT WISH TO OBJECT – DC/2/00590 - 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.

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

20.223

Questions to Chairman

None.

20.224

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

None apart from the item rolled over to next month.

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 9.50pm