

FINNINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

draft

*Minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on
Tuesday 13th April 2021*

*A **virtual** meeting via Zoom, starting at 7:30pm*

Present: Mr. A. Kilbee, Mrs. C. Winter, Mrs. L. Charter, Mr. N. Arthur, Mr. J. Miller and Mr. J. Black.

In attendance: Miss. N. Hill (Clerk), Cllr Jane Storey, Cllr Andy Mellen and 3 members of the public.

21.1 Visiting speakers

Cllr Andy Mellen's report is on file. He has finally got a response from Network Rail. It's no longer wet, therefore the flood along Westhorpe Road isn't there. Cllr Mellen confirmed he has called the application along Westhorpe Road for 8 dwellings to a committee. With regards to the complaint about the berm/bund near the site of the 6 dwellings along Westhorpe Road, a permit as well as planning approval would be needed to bury waste and neither have been granted. Anglian Water still needs to conduct a CCTV survey which should happen at some point.

Cllr Jane Storey's report is on file. Due to HRH Prince Philip passing away, there's a week of mourning. She mentioned the grant towards the footpath map would need to wait until the result of the election in May 2021.

21.2 Contribution by Members of the Public

Mrs. M. Webb asked about an email she sent, to which Mrs. C. Winter said she has a draft email she needs to send as a reply.

21.3 Apologies and approval of absence.

A member of the public saying he was unable to attend.

21.4 Approve minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th March 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.

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

None.

21.6 Matters arising from the meeting held on 9th March 2021

6.01

Flying the flag on 8th May now the order has been placed for the new flags.

6.02

The new flags have now arrived.

6.03

The PC outdoor equipment has been taken by the Chairman for servicing.

Bacton PC opposed the planning app for 8 dwellings and the planning app for 51 dwellings.

21.7 Chairman's Report

All the maintenance equipment has been serviced and the Mowing Rota for the Churchyard and the Cemetery starts this coming Saturday. There will be a "Pick Up Sticks" session in the Churchyard on Friday morning. A few volunteers have offered their services to help.

Thanks to Colin for his rapid attention to the Flagpole to reduce the position to half mast in recognition of the passing of HRH Phillip Duke of Edinburgh. I have been told by the Rector that there will be no Book of Condolence in the Church, for the foreseeable future. It is recommended that persons wishing to leave a message should do it online.

As you know, for some time now I have been concerned that our visibility to the residents of the village has been sorely lacking (except when there is a contentious issue, such as flooding, traffic or planning). We have tried this before with zero success but I feel that it is time to try and instigate a village database of email addresses. Westhorpe have done it successfully so, there is no reason why we cannot do the same. I shall post an invitation on the FoF Facebook page, the village website and in the Newsletter. Apart from these media, I think that the only other avenue left to us is to do a door-to-door leaflet drop. What are your thoughts on this?

I have received an e-mail from Stefan Henriksen about the measure that the Police are taking to curb speeding but, I cannot understand it so, have asked for clarification.

21.8 Update from the Track on The Green working group.

Askews have been chased for a date of when the work will be done. Residents are being kept informed.

21.9 Update from the Village Footpath map working group.

The person completing the footpath map is more of a designer than an artist which isn't helping with how it was thought the map would look. It was mentioned that Doug Aiken should be reimbursed for his printing. All councillors were in agreement with this and it will be added to the agenda of the next meeting and Doug was asked to produce an invoice to cover his costs.

There's just a few final bits to do on the map before accepting the proof. It would be good for all councillors to see it before signing it off.

Leaflets were mentioned, but felt it would be best to get them produced elsewhere, rather than use the same person doing the actual map.

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

5 poles have finally been installed by Highways. The exact positioning of these have been decided by Highways, based on the locations submitted to them.

21.11 To discuss flooding within the village.

This has already been discussed earlier in the meeting.

21.12 To discuss future meetings. The current legislation allowing virtual meetings ceases on 7th May 2021. Face to face meetings are unable to happen until 17th May 2021. Therefore, the PC meeting on 11th May 2021 cannot go ahead. Should it take place before 7th May 2021, via zoom, or after 17th May 2021, face to face? Unless things change, once back to face to face meetings, people cannot attend virtually.

Mr. J. Miller proposed, seconded by Mrs. L. Charter and agreed to have a face to face meeting on Tuesday 18th May 2021 with the annual parish meeting taking place before it at 7pm.

21.13 To discuss an emergency plan after it was agreed at the last meeting that the PC should have one. Who is willing to handle this, using Woolpit's emergency plan as a template?

Mrs. L. Charter said she will do this. She asked the clerk to give her a printed copy of the template.

21.14 To discuss if a litter pick and village clean should take place on the 3rd Sunday of May 2021, 16th May 2021.

Yes, it can go ahead, maintaining the current rules around social distancing and the Chairman will put the banner out at the beginning of May.

21.15 To discuss a village welcome pack. Should the PC do it or Friends of Finningham? The Chairman of FoF did state they could always fold and it's less unlikely the PC would.

Clarification is needed from Friends of Finningham that they will compile and distribute the welcome pack to new residents of the village.

21.16 To discuss the quote for tree work on the Green. To deadwood and target prune lateral branches and to reduce weight on six mature turkey oaks and to remove all material. £1,600.00 + VAT.

More quotes are needed to compare. The Chairman asked for recommendations of tree surgeons. Some of the councillors gave suggestions and will email him the details.

21.17 To discuss the installation of the new dog bins and switching of 2 current dog bins with bigger ones. The bins have arrived and ready to be installed.

The Chairman and Mr. N. Arthur will liaise and try to install these during the village litter pick.

21.18 To discuss whether to install plastic grid along the route from The Green to the crossroads by the pub.

As this isn't an actual footpath, if the PC installed a plastic grid along this route, then the PC would be liable for this area including any accidents. Therefore, it was agreed to not install anything.

21.19 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. Carried over from last month. Where could this be put on the Green and would it interfere with cutting of the natural grass? Pricing depends on the area of the faux grass, 19mm in height £7.99m², 30mm height £12.49m² or 40mm height £13.99m². This excludes prepping the area and labour.

It was discussed and agreed that due to cost, installing Astroturf on the Green isn't viable. A councillor also mentioned that the Green isn't just a play area. A letter of response will be compiled and sent to the young resident who made the request.

21.20 To discuss the annual appraisal of the clerk. Is anyone wishing to complete this with the clerk, or for the Chairman to complete?

As the Chairman works with the clerk the most in the PC it makes more sense for the Chairman to complete the appraisal with the clerk.

21.21 To discuss and approve the updating of the reserves policy. It currently states the council maintains "equal to 50% of the precept". During the internal report last year, it was recommended to include unspent Grants. Therefore, update the reserves and business risk policy to "The Council maintains a reserve policy equal to 50% of the precept, Election costs of £1100, any unspent Grants including CIL and other contingencies not yet known"

Mr. N. Arthur proposed, seconded by Mrs. C. Winter and agreed to update the reserves policy.

21.22 Correspondence Received

22.01 A resident of Finningham has made the PC aware of rubbish being buried on the site of the 6 houses being built along Westhorpe Road. The Chairman has submitted the complaint online with MSDC and has also made the district councillor, Andy Mellen aware

22.02 A resident of Finningham has been in contact with regards to raw sewage smell along Moon Lane and concerned that a chemical toilet is on site and it's unknown where it's emptied.
The environmental dept and planning have been informed.

22.03 SALC have been asked to circulate info from the Public Health Team at SCC with regards to any place-based groups on Facebook. SCC are wanting to know the purpose of the group, is it opened or closed and contact details of the administrators.

22.04 SCC/Highways have finally installed the long-awaited poles which the VAS can be attached to.

21.23 Finance

23.01 Clerk's report

Previous meeting, last balance reported was from 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)

Deposit account £3,329.78

Balances as of 29/3/2021

Current account £25,704.14 (£4,263.49 still unrepresented, once presented, then balance is £21,440.65)

Receipts since 30/1/21 – £0.00

Payments since 27/2/21 - £85.35 - (invoices approved at previous meetings)

Deposit account £3,329.86 – 8p interest

23.02 **Requests for payment as listed below and to review matters coming forth**

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

E:on - £9.47 - March's bill paid via DD

MISS. N. HILL - £19.93 – clerk's expenses

MR. A. KILBEE - £17.47 – mileage for getting maintenance equip. Serviced & fuel for mower

SALC - £266.61 – annual renewal of membership

GLASDON - £870.87 – 4 x dog waste bins

FSAC - £100 – replacement cheque to FoF for use of website & newsletter (previous cheque 100943 wasn't presented in time)

MR. K. HAXELL - £186.65 - serving on the PC's outdoor equipment.

21.24 Planning

24.01 To consider applications.

DC/21/0170 – Householder Planning Application - Erection of boundary wall and replace garage roof (following demolition of existing damaged wall. Church Mouse Barn, Gislingham Road, Finningham, Stowmarket, IP14 4JA.

No comment.

24.02 Decisions & to consider planning matters coming forth.

DOES NOT WISH TO OBJECT – 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.

DC/19/05842 – Discharge of Conditions Application - Condition 3 (Fenestration. Shadwell House, Church Lane, Finningham, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 4JB.

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

21.25 Questions to Chairman

None

21.26 Items to be discussed at the next meeting and included in the May's agenda. Earlier points raised.

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 9.10pm