

# FINNINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

*draft*

*Minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on  
Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021  
in St. Bartholomew's Church, Finningham, starting at 7:30pm*

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

**In attendance:** Miss. N. Hill (Clerk), Cllr Andy Mellen and 2 members of the public.

**21.56 Visiting speakers**

Cllr Andy Mellen's SCC report is on file. There are 9 Green members which makes them the official opposition to the Conservatives at SCC.

Cllr Andy Mellen talked about the district and the planning for 8 homes along Westhorpe Road was turned down. There is still an appeal process that the developer could go through.

**21.57 Contribution by Members of the Public**

Mr. D. Aiken, the footpath warden read his report, which is on file.

**21.58 Apologies and approval of absence.**

None as everyone present.

**21.59 Approve minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021.**

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

**21.60 Approve minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021.**

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.

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

None

**21.62 Matters arising from the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021.**

62.01 The Chairman has met with another tree surgeon and is waiting on their quote for works on trees on the Green.

Mr. J. Black suggested BTS and offered to contact them.

62.02 The Chairman has chased Wicksteed again about the rolling log play equipment, no longer rolling. Wicksteed are attending on 9th June to look at the log.

62.03 The clerk has created a letter to add and remove councillors from the authorised list of people on the account at Lawes.

62.04 Zoom have confirmed cancellation of monthly subscription.

62.05 After a post was placed on the FoF facebook page about the PC creating a mailing list, the list is currently up to 12 people.

The clerk will continue to get posts put on the facebook page to help build the mailing list.

**21.63 Chairman's Report**

As you all probably know, I represented the Parish Council at a recent Planning Committee Meeting at Endeavour House, Ipswich. The issue put before the Committee was the planning application for a further development along Westhorpe Road by Burgess Homes. We have to thank Andy Mellen for his stance on this and for forcing it to appear on the Committee's agenda. The residents were represented by Andy Cardy, who lives in the Old Forge. Interestingly enough, the issue which caused the greatest comment was the "damage" the development would do to the environs of Hill house, a Grade 2 Listed Building. I'm not saying that they took no notice of the flooding issue because I believe they did but no one took it upon themselves to ensure that SCC Highways did anything about it. I'm afraid that we still have that uphill battle on our hands. There seems to be a bit of a problem with the Mowing Rota with people missing their turn which results in the following person having a more difficult task, due to the length of the grass. Nige and I have discussed this and thought that it might be worthwhile investing in a

ride on mower. There would be space enough in the lock-up shed, once the FoF equipment has been removed. Although FoF have got the money and they have agreed on the shed they want, not much else is happening. I shall talk to Greg about it. There is a large broken branch in the Churchyard which need attention, although I do not think that it constitutes a danger to pedestrians. We could have it attended to when we have the trees on the Green worked on and, in the meantime, we could possibly pull it down by a car in Church Lane with a long rope. Following the dismal support of our last Litter Pick, I am loathe to try and convene a work party to attend to the outstanding points from the Safety Check on the Green recreation equipment. Any ideas on how we can garner support for this?

The clerk is to look into whether a sit-on lawnmower could be used on a public road for 20 yds. Is the PC able to borrow a sit-on lawnmower from local residents to be able to cut within the Churchyard. This would save having to use a public road for 20 yds. Would the PC insurance cover a borrowed item? A date should be set to gather a group of people to clean the play equipment. This date should be promoted in as many places as possible via Facebook, newsletter, notice board, website and the mailing list and hopefully word of mouth.

**21.64 Update from the Track on The Green working group.**

The track won't improve due to the road planings not sticking together as a binding agent wasn't included. If it was, the quote would have been more and also the overall finished result would have looked more like a tarmacked road, which was never the wanted outcome. A letter is being compiled requesting the contribution from the residents as well as reminding them to respect the track with no heaving braking/quick acceleration. A pile of planings is being organised to be left near the track, so pot holes can be filled in by the residents as they start to happen. The PC will send the cheque to Askews for the work.

**21.65 Update from the Village Footpath map working group.**

A comment will be added to the map about the PC being involved. Everyone is happy for an aerial view of the village pointing to the centre of the village. Mr. J. Black has offered to create a 'soft' newsletter.

**21.66 To discuss flooding within the village.**

There is a new person at SCC who deals with these issues. Anglia Water did put CCTV down the pipes and they wouldn't see west of Westhorpe Road. Their findings haven't been given to the PC or Cllr Andy Mellen yet.

Surface water is getting into the sewage system, which shouldn't be happening. There was a time were rainwater from roof gutters were allowed into the sewers, but permission had to be granted for this.

**21.67 To discuss the monitoring of traffic speed within the village.**

There was an accident recently involving 1 car along Wickham Road near the bridge heading to Finningham from Wickham Skeith. A telegraph pole was damaged and the road was shut and the Police attended.

The use of VAS has been beneficial in reducing speeding vehicles. The message under the numbers displayed on the VAS has been changed to say 3 points when vehicles are travelling faster than 30 mph. It was mentioned by a councillor that this isn't right for this to be displayed as no one is being issued with any points.

**21.68 To discuss the 2 quotes obtained for the works needed on the Oak trees on the Green. 1 quote by Adam Clint is £3,560 (no VAT) for up to 30% reduction, balance and remove dead wood or anything that's potential hazard and leave the area clear. The other quote by Ben Boyce is £1,600 plus VAT to deadwood and target prune lateral branches and leave the area clear.**

Mr. J. Black has offered to get an extra quote before a final decision is made.

**21.69 To discuss the contents of the emergency plan which Mrs. L. Charter has started. The clerk has sent version 1 to all councillors.**

Mrs. L. Charter was thanked for starting this and it was asked for everyone to look at the 1st version of the plan and to get back to her with ideas/content.

**21.70 To discuss making the VAS look doubled sided by putting yellow on the back of it. Vehicles travelling away from the VAS travel faster than those travelling towards it (which shows the speed).**

It seems Andy Brownlie is going to do this himself.

**21.71 To discuss purchasing smaller banners about the litter pick so they can be placed at all the entrances into the village. Also what can be done with the current banner, to place THIS SUNDAY on it, to try and get more volunteers during the litter pick.**

The response at the last litter pick was awful and the Chairman will look into adapting the big banner, to say 'This Week' to help people know when it's taking place.

It was suggested to use the A frames to be placed around the village to help promote when the litter pick is on. The Chairman said he will get costs of the signs that can be used within the A frames. Mrs. L.

Charter said she is happy to put these out the week of the litter pick.

- 21.72 To discuss and approve the model internal control statement. Rolled over from the last meeting. SALC have sent through an updated template, which all PC's should follow to manage risk to a reasonable level, rather than eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims & effectiveness.**  
The Chairman and the clerk will discuss this and create a plan to complete this statement and present it to everyone.

- 21.73 To discuss and approve reimbursing Mr. D. Aiken £50 for ink/paper etc he has used for his work on the village footpath map. As discussed at the last meeting, the PC felt very strongly that Mr. Aiken shouldn't be left out of pocket for the work he has done.**  
Mr. J. Black proposed, seconded by Mrs. L. Charter and agreed to payment to reimburse Mr. Aiken for his expenses.

- 21.74 To discuss what to do with the pile of grass cuttings on the Green. It seems people have been adding their own rubbish to this pile on the Green and it needs dealing with and removing. Do the PC pay contractors to come in and clear it all, or hire a skip and fill it ourselves?**  
There is a big mound of grass cuttings in the cemetery as well as on the village Green. Could BMSDC collect this? The clerk needs to contact BMSDC about this.

- 21.75 To discuss the trees along the boundary of the Green near Wickham Road that have become overgrown, therefore the grass under it isn't being cut. When YGIWMI cut the Green, they would trim this area, but BMDSC do not. Would it only need doing twice a year? If so, could volunteers to do this?**  
This needs to be looked into to see what needs to be done and by who? Could someone be employed to do it? It was suggested that when the grass cutting contract is up with BMSDC to see if they can add this to their quote as well as when other quotes are obtained.

#### **Correspondence Received**

- BMSDC paper bank collections have stopped from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2021. Until a new contractor has been brought in to offer paper recycling banks, please recycle via the kerbside bin collections.
- 21.76** Community Heartbeat Trust advises against using the Ambulance Trust's governance system. We are already registered with Webnos, which is the CHT package providing a robust system for checking and recording the condition of our equipment regularly. The kit is registered with the Ambulance Trust as a community asset and as such, details will be given to any rescuer at the time of a 999 call if in the vicinity.
- 76.01
- 76.02

#### **Finance**

- Clerk's report –  
Previous meeting, last balance reported was from 29/4/2021.
- 21.77** Current account £28,682.10 (£4,892.13 still unrepresented, once presented, then balance is £23,789.97)
- 77.01 Deposit account £3,329.86

#### **Balances as of 28/5/2021**

- Current account £26,994.05 (£4,171.36 still unrepresented, once presented, then balance is £22,822.69)
- Receipts since 30/4/21 – £55 (cemetery)
- Payments since 30/4/21 - £1,743.05 - (invoices approved at previous meetings)
- Deposit account £3,329.86 –

#### **Requests for payment**

- Mr. N. Arthur proposed, seconded by Mr. J. Black and agreed to authorise the following payments.
- E:on - £12.79 - May's bill paid via DD
- 77.02** MR. D. AIKEN - £50 – expenses during footpath map project
- MR. A. KILBEE - £25.42 – mileage expenses to attend planning meeting in Ipswich
- J. LAWES - £7.26 – bin bags for litter collection

Totalling £95.47

current acct balance per b/s	£26,994.05
less unrepresented cheques	£ 4,266.83
deposit account	£ 3,329.86

**TOTAL £26,057.08**

Of which general funds £ 6,741.79

Of which restricted funds £14,594.29

(CIL & Grants not spent)

Of which reserves £ 4,721.00

(1/2 of precept & election costs)

#### **Planning**

To consider applications.  
None to consider

- 21.78** Decisions & to consider planning matters coming forth.
- 78.01 REFUSED - 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, Suffolk
- 78.02 planning applications received up to the date of the meeting will be discussed.

**Questions to Chairman**

None.

**21.79 Items to be discussed at the next meeting and included in the July's agenda.**

Additional quote for tree works on the Green.

**21.80** The Chairman then closed the meeting at 9.18pm