

FINNINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

draft

*Minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on
Tuesday 13th July, 2021,
in St. Bartholomew's Church, Finningham, starting at 7:31pm*

Present: Mr. A. Kilbee, Mrs. C. Winter, Mr. J. Miller and Mr. J. Black.

In attendance: Miss. N. Hill (Clerk) and 1 member of the public.

21.81 Visiting speakers

Cllr Andy Mellen's district and county reports were read out, both are on file. More slots are being made available at the waste recycling sites. Bin collections are running 1-2 days behind schedule. The advice is to put bins out as normal and leave them out until they are emptied. Andy Mellen is continuing to campaign for a resolution on the flooding along Westhorpe Road, through SCC Highways and BMSDC planning enforcement team.

21.82 Contribution by Members of the Public

A member of the public was unable to attend but wanted to make a couple of points, which were sent via email and read during the meeting. The hedge on the footpath through to the Church on on Green Farm side needs trimming back. It's too hgh for him to do.

With the recent road closures in and around the village, signage could be better and asks why it is necessary to go to Stowmarket via Walsham, which is the directed and diverted route.

Mr. Doug Aiken, the footpath warden read out his report, which is on file. Recent weather has seen the growth of grass and hedgerows at a very high rate. SCC mowing of the public rights of way, on their mowing schedule can't keep up, therefore some footpaths are becoming impassable. Reports have been sent to SCC about the 4 footpaths/bridlepaths, which are on the SCC mowing schedule. Mr Aiken has fixed a broken finger post along footpath 3 on Walsham Road as well as cleared some brambles and overgrowth there.

21.83 Apologies and approval of absence.

Mr. N. Arthur sends his apologies that he is unable to attend the meeting.

Mrs. L. Charter sends her apologies that she is unable to attend the meeting due to being away.

Mr. A. Kilbee proposed, seconded by Mrs. C. Winter and accepted these apologies of absence.

21.84 Approve minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th June 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.

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

None

21.86 Matters arising from the meeting held on 8th June 2021.

86.01 The Chairman and Mr. J. Black met with another tree surgeon about works on Oak trees on the Green. This is now an agenda item due to the outcome of the visit.

86.02 Wicksteed have attended and fixed the rolling log play equipment.

86.03 The clerk has contacted BMSDC about removing the grass mounds on the Green and in the cemetery. They need more information about the size of them, which the clerk is trying to get for them. They could hopefully do it in a months' time.

86.04 A sit-on lawnmower cannot be used on the public road unless it is registered, which can be done free of charge. The clerk is checking whether the current insurance policy covers use of a sit-on lawnmower or whether it needs to be added and at what cost.

The clerk needs to get a price from the insurance company to be able to use a sit-on lawnmower on the public road. Also, to contact local clerks to enquire whether they use a self employed handyman/woman, as the PC feel this is what's needed in the village to get small jobs completed.

86.05 The Chairman is still needing to look at the overgrown branches on some of the trees on the Green, stopping the grass underneath being cut to be able to suggest the best course of action.

21.87 This is Lime Farm area of the Green where the grass hasn't been cut under the trees.

Chairman's Report.

I am pleased to report that at a recent meeting of FoF, Greg announced that the Storage Hut was on order and he expected delivery soon. Obviously, the first stage of installation is to lay the foundation slab. That has not been done yet so, I fear that it will be sometime before we have our shed to ourselves.

I was unable to photograph and measure the extent of the grass mound on the Green prior to getting a quote for its disposal. This is due to the heavy nettle growth covering the whole area. These will need to be removed before I can continue. There are other mounds in the Churchyard and Cemetery, which will be included in the removal contract.

At the previously mentioned FoF meeting I raised the problem of support for the village litter picks. A suggestion was made that it may get more participants if the time was changed to a weekday evening. I'm not so sure but I would appreciate comments from the Council.

I have asked Greg if he would consider joining the Council. As yet, I have not received a reply but I do not want to push it too much, as he has only just retired from the Forces.

All the rest of my activities and correspondence are included in the Agenda.

21.88 It is discussed whether people serving community service could be used to help clear the Churchyard/cemetery. The clerk needs to make contact with the Police to enquire about this.

Update from the Track on The Green working group.

Letters have been sent to the 4 residents of the Green requesting their contribution of £80 each and also the expectations of the Parish Council on how the track should be treated and the ongoing maintenance of the track.

21.89 3 residents have sent through their contribution with 2 offering to fill in any potholes if a pile of planings are arranged to be placed near the track. The resident living at the beginning of the track also made a contribution.

Update from the Village Footpath map working group.

21.90 The map is being produced currently and should be delivered at the beginning of August.

To discuss flooding within the village.

CCTV was put down the sewage pipes at the end of the village towards Wickham Skeith, fat and silt was found to be reducing the capacity of the pipes. The soakaway for the 6 new homes along Wickham Road hasn't been started yet. Residents of Wickham Road are conscious of the path getting damaged, due to vehicles using the path to avoid driving through the standing water and flood.

21.91 Work was completed to deepen the ditch to the entrance of Church Lane, but it is still full of water.

To discuss the monitoring of traffic speed within the village.

21.92 Community Speed Watch has been out in the village at the crossroads by the pub.

To discuss the emergency plan.

The Chairman will create something to put in the newsletter to appeal to "skilled" people who would be willing to be added to the plan to offer help if needed.

21.93

To discuss and approve buying more keys for the notice board. Due to the clerk misplacing 1 of the keys, the PC only has 1 key to access the notice board. Additional keys are £2.50 each. How many should be ordered?

Mrs. C. Winter proposed, seconded by Mr. A. Kilbee and agreed to purchase 4 keys at £10 as well as any postage and packaging.

21.94

To discuss and approve getting an independent survey carried out on the Oak trees on the Green. Oakfield Arboricultural Services have quoted £450 + VAT for an independent tree surveyor. BTS attended the Green to look at the Oak trees. They suggested they are healthy and they shouldn't be touched. The Chairman contacted the arboricultural dept and BMSDC who suggested getting an independent survey as they are too busy with their own trees to be able to help.

The quote from BTS was £492 + VAT. After discussion Mr. A. Kilbee proposed, seconded by Mrs. C. Winter and agreed to go ahead with the quote from BTS and to ask them when is the best time of year for the survey to be carried out.

21.95

To discuss and approve the purchase of a supplementary banner to say "This Sunday" with regards to the litter pick. The cost is £16.18 inc VAT & delivery.

No decision as it was discussed whether litter pick days should be changed to 'adopt' an area of the village for people to look after. This can then be done at any point, when it suits them.

21.96

To discuss and approve the purchase of 8 x A2 correx signs to use in the existing A frames around the village to help promote the litter pick/village clean. The cost is £39.99 for 8 inc VAT & delivery.

- 21.97 No decision as it was discussed whether litter pick days should be changed to 'adopt' an area of the village for people to look after.
- 21.98 **To discuss the response sent to residents from SCC with regards to the flooding along Westhorpe Road. All councillors have been emailed a copy of SCC's response.**
Mrs. C. Winter will respond to the email from her personal view.
- 21.99 **To discuss and approve the purchase of a replacement battery for the defib. The current battery goes out of date on 31st August 2021. A replacement battery is £176 + VAT + £10 carriage, totalling £223.20.**
Mr. A. Kilbee proposed, seconded by Mrs. C. Winter and agreed to purchase a replacement battery.
- 21.100 **To discuss the CIL zoom training Mrs. C. Winter attended on Monday 28th June 2021.**
There are over 80 people in attendance. Various groups can get CIL. Capital grants and lots of other funding was mentioned which wouldn't help the PC due to not having a village hall or public toilets etc. Mrs. C. Winter was Thanked for attending this.
- 21.101 **To discuss and approve electricity quotes, as the current contract with E.on ends on 8th August 2021. Current pricing is 39.3p per day for standing charge & 20.66p per kWh. Renewal offer is 39.9p per day standing charge & 27.71 per kWh. SSE can offer a 24 mth contract, 28.58p per day standing charge & 18.03 per kWh. They did say quoted rates can change daily basis until it's accepted.**
Mrs. C. Winter proposed, seconded by Mr. J. Miller and agreed to move to SSE for the supply of electricity.
- 21.102 **To discuss and approve the model internal control statement. The Chairman and the clerk have gone through this and have asked SALC for some advice. This has been emailed to all councillors and points needed to be agreed on have been highlighted.**
102.01 The clerk needs to email the report with the comments to everyone and to put it at the top of the agenda at the next meeting.
- 102.02 **Correspondence Received**
- 102.03 2 emails have been received by the clerk with regards to the state of the footpaths in the village and some are nearly impassable. The footpath warden was made aware and he has logged it with SCC.
- 102.04 A resident has contacted the planning dept (and sent a copy to the Chairman) re. the lack of visibility of reports on site specific soil analyses and leachates of the land of Green Farm Yard.
- 102.05 SBA, the external auditor has notified that the paperwork (AGAR 3) has been received and now in a queue for processing.
- 102.06 The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022 – extended bank holiday from Thursday 2nd June 2022 to Sunday 5th June 2022. This can provide an opportunity for communities to come together to celebrate.
- 102.07 Click before you call – the message from the Police. Residents are reminded to consider reporting non-emergency incidents online to help police manage the summer surge.
- 102.08 Tree work in a conservation area - repollarding of 1 Willow and removal of large limb going towards powerline.
Road closure along B1113 Walsham Road from Gislingham Road to The Old Chapel due to removal of tree on 26th July between 9am and 4pm.
- 21.103 **There are 2 heaps of grass within the Churchyard, as well as the grass heaps in the cemetery and on The Green.**

Finance

Clerk's report

Balances as of 29/6/2021

- 103.02 Current account £22,877.22 (£150 still unrepresented, once presented, then balance is £22,727.22)
Receipts since 29/5/21 – £0
Payments since 29/5/21 - £4,116.83 - (invoices approved at previous meetings)
Deposit account £3,329.94 – 8p interest

Requests for payment

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

E:on - £11.55 - June's bill paid via DD

MISS. N. HILL - £456.28 – clerks salary

MISS. N. HILL - £19.03 – clerks expenses

NEST – £48.04 – pension contribution

HMRC - £120.00 - PAYE

ALI BECKETT DESIGN - £675.00 – final payment for footpath map

J. LAWES - £17.42 – jubilee clips

Totalling £1,347.32

current acct balance per b/s £22,877.22

less unrepresented cheques £ 1,497.32

	deposit account	£ 3,329.94
21.104	TOTAL	£18,049.96
104.01	Of which general funds	£ 2,299.67
	Of which restricted funds (CIL & Grants not spent)	£11,029.29
	Of which reserves (1/2 of precept & election costs)	£ 4,721.00

Planning

- 104.02 To consider applications.
DC/21/03512 – Application for planning permission – Erection of single storey extension (following demolition of conservatory) – Talbot Cottage, Gislingham Road, Finningham, Suffolk, IP14 4HZ.
No comment.
Decisions & to consider planning matters coming forth.
DOES NOT WISH TO OBJECT – Application for works to tree in a Conservation area – Re-pollard 1No Ash tree to 50% of existing height. Kent House, Gislingham Road, Finningham, Suffolk, IP14 4JA.
- 21.105** Discharge of Conditions for DC/21/01370 – Condition 8 (Details of Eaves & Verges) – Church Mouse Barn, Gislingham Road, Finningham, Suffolk, IP14 4JA.
All planning applications received up to the date of the meeting will be discussed.

- 21.106** **Questions to Chairman**
None

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

What to spend the remaining CIL money on.
Points mentioned during the meeting to bring up at the next.

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 9.56pm