

FINNINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

draft

*Minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on
Tuesday 14th September 2021
in St. Bartholomew's Church, Finningham, starting at 7:30pm*

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.

21.107 Visiting speakers

Cllr Andy Mellen was unable to attend the meeting. He sent his district and county report to the clerk which were emailed to everyone and are on file. It was requested for the reports to be emailed to the 2 members of the public present.

21.108 Contribution by Members of the Public

It was asked whether there was any news on Green Farm Yard. The Chairman answered stating there wasn't.

Doug Aiken read out his footpath warden report, which is on file.

21.109 Apologies and approval of absence.

Mr. N. Arthur sent his apologies that he was unable to attend the meeting due to being away.

Cllr. A. Mellen sent his apologies that he was unable to attend the meeting due to being away.

Mrs. L. Charter sent her apologies that she was unable to attend the meeting.

Mr. A. Kilbee proposed, seconded by Mr. J. Black and agreed to accept these apologies.

21.110 Approve minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th July 2021.

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

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

None.

21.112 Matters arising from the meetings held on 13th July 2021.

112.01 The hedge along the footpath through the Church, on the Green Farm side has been cut by James Black and the Chairman.

112.02 The grass mounds are still an ongoing issue. Once the size of these mounds can be established, the clerk will get BMSDC to remove them. They are in the cemetery, 2 different piles in the Churchyard and on The Green.

112.03 The clerk is waiting to hear back from the insurance company as to what the additional fee would be to cover the use of a sit-on lawnmower on a highway.

112.04 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.

112.05 Mrs. C. Winter was going to respond to SCC regarding their response to the ongoing issue of flooding along Westhorpe Road. Mrs C. Winter stated she didn't do this, but it seems Cllr Andy Mellen got a response.

112.06 The clerk is waiting to hear back with regards to community service people carrying out work within the village.

21.113 Chairman's Report

In the middle of August, Natalie received a phone call from Mrs Sue Birch regarding the damage to a family gravestone in the Cemetery. This is the second time that it had happened and so, she contacted the Police.

The Police were not much use and suggested that she should collect evidence before they would act further.

I visited the Cemetery and then phoned her to find out the background. After a while, she said that there was some sort of family feud going on and she felt that it was due to this that the gravestone was damaged. She wanted to instal a CCTV camera, but I explained that this was not possible for the Parish

Council to do, as it required approval from various bodies. However, if she wanted to do something privately, then we do not know anything about it. I have since visited the Cemetery and not seen any evidence of a surveillance and, as far as I am aware, no further action has been taken.

You may remember that I reported previously that Erlin Quantrill had been in touch with MSDC regarding the possible soil contamination at the Green Farm Yard site. After some correspondence, it seems that the responsibility for checking and remedying any possible contamination lies in the hands of the new owner/developer. Not a very satisfactory state of affairs, as there is no control over if it has been carried out or not.

Last weekend, David Ogden arranged for a work party to clear some debris from the river Dove which was hindering water flow and would aggravate the flooding problem. Erlin was able to recruit someone from Moon Lane with a tractor and they were able to remove a large tree that had fallen and was collecting smaller debris which was effectively created a dam. Although it is very commendable for this group to do this work, the legality of it is open to question. Any work done on a watercourse has to be approved by the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA). Actually, they are probably meant to maintain it themselves but that is an unlikely event. I have managed to get a contact from Andy in that department and hope to get some guidance on the matter.

After long and complex email exchanges with the supplier of Honda spares, I was able to get the correct cable for the mower. Thanks to Doug for helping me to fit it.

I received a telephone call from the resident of No 3 Rob Hall Cottages with a worry about the large tree that is on the verge outside her house. Evidently, this had been reported before as it was thought that power lines were running through the branches. However, UK Power identified them as phone lines and withdrew for the discussion. I turned to Andy for help and have just received the response from the appropriate SCC department. The conclusion they have reached is that they will not do anything about it, as they feel that it does not constitute a danger to the public or motorists. We shall see!

In response to my pieces in the last issue of the Newsletter I have received two replies for Adoption of a Road for Litter picking and one from an ex-Fireman to help with the Emergency Plan.

21.114 Update from the Track on The Green working group.

All contributions have been received from the residents of The Green.

21.115 Update from the Village Footpath map working group. The map has been received but not put in place. The group feel the map shouldn't be sited until all 8 QR codes are ready and available for people to use and view. The group would like a paper version of the map, similar to what surrounding villages have. The position of the footpath map hasn't been decided yet, but suggested it's position at the entrance of The Green track.

21.116 To discuss flooding within the village. A resident has been in touch with regards to the River Dove and it needs to be cleared.

This was mentioned during the Chairman's report as well as Westhorpe Road being mentioned due to ongoing flooding.

21.117 To discuss the monitoring of traffic speed within the village. Andy Brownlie has stepped down as Community Speed Watch co-ordinator. It was also mentioned that there was an accident at the crossroads by the pub a few days before the meeting.

21.118 To discuss the emergency plan. There have been 2 offers of help/guidance since the Chairman put something in the newsletter. No other news to pass on.

21.119 To approve the model internal control statement. The Chairman and the clerk have gone through this and have asked SALC for some advice. The internal report has been completed by the Chairman and Clerk and sent to all Councillors.

Mr. A. Kilbee proposed, seconded by Mr. J. Miller and agreed the statement as well as the comments in the internal report.

21.120 To approve the fee to the external auditor, PKF Littlejohn LLP. Due to the income for 2020-2021 being over £25,000, there is an automatic fee of £200 + VAT.

Mrs C. Winter proposed, seconded by Mr. A. Kilbee and agreed to this fee from the external auditor.

21.121 To discuss and approve the renewal of the parish council insurance policy. The renewal quote is £299.78. The clerk needs to ensure that it gives the cover that the parish council needs.

Mr. J. Miller proposed, seconded by Mrs. C. Winter and agreed with the insurance renewal quote. The Chairman and clerk have read through the policy and are happy with the cover.

21.122 To discuss and approve the tree survey and recommendations. BTS have attended the Green to look at the Oak trees as well as the other trees on the Green. Their report has been sent to all Councillors before the meeting.

Mr. J. Black will make contact requesting a quote for all the high priority trees to be dealt with, as well as a quote for dealing with the high and medium priority trees.

21.123 To discuss the damaged kerb stones along Westhorpe Road, near the new 6 properties.

The clerk will contact the planning officer/dept that dealt with the approval of the 6 new properties to state the damage caused, which hasn't been put right by the developer.

21.124 Correspondence Received

- 124.01 A gravestone within the cemetery has been 'vandalised'. A lady whose parents gravestone it is, has asked if she could place CCTV nearby to gain evidence for the Police. The Chairman has spoken to her about this.
- 124.02 A resident near Rob Hall corner, is concerned with a big tree near their property. Cllr. A. Mellen is trying to assist with who takes responsibility for this.
- 124.03 Since the recent newsletter, 2 people, new in the village have offered to help with adopting a section of the village to litter pick.
- 124.04 BMSDC have emailed the following - Our operative has found a number of bins throughout the district that are obscured or partially obscured due to vegetation growth. Could we please ask you to check bins in your parish and complete vegetation clearance as required

21.125 Finance

- 125.01 Clerk's report –
Previous meeting, last balance reported was from 29/6/2021.
Current account £22,877.22 (£150 still unrepresented, once presented, then balance is £22,727.22)
Deposit account £3,329.94
Balances as of 29/7/2021
Current account £21,929.86 (£641.42 still unrepresented, once presented, then balance is £21,288.44)
Receipts since 29/6/21 – £412.54 (VAT & 3 x track repair contributions)
Payments since 29/6/21 - £1,359.90 - (invoices approved at previous meetings)
Deposit account £3,329.94 –

125.02 **Requests for payment**

Mr. J. Miller proposed, seconded by Mrs. C. Winter and agreed to authorise the following payments
BTS - £590.40 – tree survey on trees on the Green
E:on - £12.79 & 14.83 - July's & August's bill paid via DD
ICO - £35 – renewal via DD
MR. A. KILBEE - £25.66 – cable for the lawnmower
THE PARISH NOTICE BOARD COMPANY - £12 – additional keys for notice board
PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP - £240 – external audit fee for 2020-2021
CAS LTD - £299.78 - annual renewal of insurance
Totalling £1,230.46

current acct balance per b/s	£21,929.86
less unrepresented cheques	£ 1,871.88
deposit account	£ 3,329.94
TOTAL	£23,387.92
Of which general funds	£ 8,141.63
Of which restricted funds (CIL & Grants not spent)	£10,525.29
Of which reserves (1/2 of precept & election costs)	£ 4,721.00

21.126 Planning

- 126.01 To consider applications.
DC/21/04872 - Application under S73a for removal or variation of conditions following grant of planning permission DC/18/01302 dated 22/05/2018 for conversion of outbuilding to dwelling utilising existing vehicular access. Town and Country Planning 1990. To vary (Condition 2 - Approved Plans and Documents) as per COT064 P3 REV F drawing received 02/09/2021.
No Comment.
Decisions & to consider planning matters coming forth.
- 126.02 GRANTED – DC/21/03833 - Full Planning Application - Erection of 1No detached dwelling and double cart-lodge building with storage above. Larjay View, Station Road, Finningham, Suffolk IP14 4TH.
GRANTED – DC/21/03512 - Erection of single storey extension (following demolition of conservatory). Talbot Cottage, Gislingham Road, Finningham, Suffolk IP14 4HZ
All planning applications received up to the date of the meeting will be discussed.

21.127 Questions to Chairman

None

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

ICO renewal which is automatically paid yearly via direct debit.

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 8:55pm.

