

FINNINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

*Minutes for the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on
Tuesday 14th June 2022
in St. Bartholomew's Church, Finningham, starting at 7:30pm*

Present: Cllr A. Kilbee, Cllr C. Winter, Cllr J. Miller, Cllr L. Charter, Cllr N. Arthur

In attendance: Miss J. Challis (Clerk), DC & CC Cllr Mellen, Mr D. Aiken - Footpath Warden, and 2 members of the public.

22.59 Visiting speakers

The Footpath Warden read out his report, a copy of which can be found as an addendum at the end of the minutes.

Cllr Mellen sent a copy of his DC and CC reports prior to the meeting, which can be found as addendums at the end of the minutes.

22.60 Contribution by Members of the Public

A member of the public wished to express thanks to the Parish Council for organising the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations and lighting of the beacon on Thursday 2nd June, and also to Cllr Winter and her husband for the picnic on the green organised by Friends of Finningham on Sunday 5th June.

22.61 Apologies and approval of absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Black and Cllr Trew (both working late) and approved unanimously.

22.62 Approve minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 10th May 2022

Cllr Miller proposed approving the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 10th May 2022 as a true and correct record; seconded by Cllr Charter and approved unanimously with one abstention, (Cllr who was not present at the meeting). The Chairman then signed the minute book.

22.63 Approve minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 10th May 2022

Cllr Miller proposed approving the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 10th May 2022 as a true and correct record; seconded by Cllr Winter and approved unanimously with one abstention, (Cllr who was not present at the meeting).

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

None received.

22.65 Matters arising from the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 10th May 2022

All covered elsewhere on agenda.

22.66 Chairman's Report

First, I should like to record my thanks to everyone who made our Beacon Lighting evening such a success. Also, to those who have assisted in the distribution of the Commemorative mugs. From the reaction I have received when delivering them, I feel that it was money well spent and a very acceptable addition to our Jubilee festivities.

Jim has said that they will remove the basket from the beacon and refurbish it in their workshop. They will also add a removable lid to it to keep out extraneous footballs etc! Special thanks go to Miller Farms for all their hard work to provide and install the Beacon.

On Saturday 14th May I attended the presentation by East Anglia Green Energy Enablement's presentation at Palgrave. The place was absolutely mobbed but I was able to have a one-to-one chat with one of the people manning the event. He was supposed to be an engineer, but I have my doubts. It was all very unsatisfactory, and I left with a feeling of *fait accompli*, although there was a good representation of the Anti-Lobby. I tried to join a subsequent on-line video meeting, but I could not get on to it. I really did not learn any more than what is in their booklet

You may remember that a few weeks ago, we had an e-mail from Emily Durrant. She wanted us to consider additional play equipment on the Green. I explained the problems we had had with the residents, but she was quite keen for us to do or a least plan to enhance the facilities. I met her during a Friends of Finningham meeting and then at the Sunday Jubilee picnic.

I subsequently had a meeting with her and felt that she could be a great asset to the village. Obviously, not as a Councillor but perhaps, as a member of a working group. I have asked her to put together some ideas on how we could communicate better with the village together with more detail on her original enquiry. She will be presenting her ideas as a member of the Public at the next meeting.

A point of general interest and safety concern was the condition of the hedge on Wickham Road outside The Limes. During my meeting with SCC to discuss the footpath (more about that later) I was told that SCC would not do anything about it (surprise!) even though it was a safety hazard by making people walk onto the road as the footpath was too narrow, especially for mothers pushing prams and buggies. We felt that a letter from the Council should be addressed to the owners of the property to see if they would take action. Failing that, we would have to get some volunteers together and do the job ourselves.

You will have seen in emails from Jane, that the Parish Council has received a couple of acknowledgements and thanks for the mugs and the Beacon Lighting Event. I have received similar comments from quite a number of people when I have been delivering mugs to those who did not attend either of the events on the Green. It looks as though we got it right there!

22.67 Clerk's Report

Further to the Parish Council's approval to adopt the new model Code of Conduct at the 10th May 2022 meeting, the MSDC Monitoring Officer has requested that all current register of interests are reviewed to assess whether or not councillors need to register any further interests under the category 'other registrable interests'.

ACTION – Clerk to advise Monitoring Officer of any further interests

22.68 Update from the Village Footpath Map Working Group

The working party has not been able to meet yet, and still need to ascertain whether Cllr Black is able progress with the leaflets. Cllr Kilbee will call Cllr Black to discuss moving forward with the leaflets.

ACTION – Cllr Kilbee to speak to Cllr Black as above

22.69 To discuss the emergency plan.

The updated Version 1 of the Emergency Plan was circulated to councillors by the clerk. Cllr Kilbee asked the Clerk to look for the database of contact details which was started by the previous clerk. Councillors discussed ways to share details of the plan to residents other than the website. Cllr Winter said a new Friends of Finningham newsletter is due to be published soon, which may be one way. To be discussed further at next meeting.

ACTION –Clerk to look for database

22.70 To discuss and approve an Annual Newsletter to everyone in the village, incl. approval of Newsletter name.

Cllr Kilbee reminded councillors and the clerk to forward a photograph of themselves with a short autobiography to be included in the first newsletter, and asked them to consider suggestions for a name. Cllr Kilbee confirmed the newsletter will be for Parish council news only, and asked councillors to also put forward any ideas for other contact information that could be included in the style of a welcome pack for new residents.

ACTION – Clerk/all councillors

8:02pm Cllr Mellen arrived.

Cllr Kilbee proposed returning to agenda item 1. Approved unanimously.

(22.59 Visiting Speakers)

Cllr Mellen read highlights from his DC and CC reports, drawing attention to item 3 within his CC report; petition for an inhouse Suffolk Highways maintenance contract, with a link to the petition. As an example of the need for an inhouse bid, Cllr Mellen advised that he has received an estimate from Suffolk Highways for the installation of kerbs surrounding the traffic Island at the junction of Church Lane and Walsham Road, in the region of £10,800 - £12,600.00.

Cllr Kilbee thanked Cllr Mellen for his reports and said the health and safety implications of the traffic island as it is at the moment, really needed more consideration by Suffolk Highways, and it would be a future agenda item.

22.71 To discuss the footpath from the crossroads to the green

Cllr Kilbee had a site meeting with the Principal Engineer of Growth, Highways and Infrastructure at SCC, and the contractor. SCC have agreed to the works but will only approve concrete edging to the path, not timber. However the contractor has advised that the concrete edging is only £220

more than the original price quoted. Councillors discussed the works required with Cllr Winter suggesting the footpath should be named the 'Platinum Pathway' to further commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The overall cost for the footpath will now be £7,820 including the concrete edging, plus vat, and £1,000 to SCC for the minor works licence required. Cllr Winter proposed that the council proceed with the footpath; seconded by Cllr Winter and agreed unanimously.

ACTION – Clerk/Cllr Kilbee to instruct contractor and SCC to proceed as above

22.72 Approval of letter of thanks to resident regarding grass cutting access.

A resident has kindly given permission for the council's new ride-on lawnmower to be driven over their land to gain access to the Churchyard, without having to use the public highway. Cllr Kilbee would like to write a letter of thanks on behalf of the council which councillors agreed to unanimously.

ACTION – Cllr Kilbee to draft letter for Clerk to send

22.73 Approval to proceed with Annual Play Inspection 2022

Councillors discussed whether they would like to go ahead with the inspection, which is arranged by MSDC and usually conducted in August, or organise an independent inspection. It was agreed unanimously to go ahead and ask MSDC to arrange the inspection.

ACTION – Clerk to advise MSDC as above

22.74 Correspondence received

BMSDC have developed a draft parking strategy outlining both on-street and off-street parking provisions for the next 20 years. They are inviting anyone with an interest in parking to provide feedback via an online survey running from 14th June to 31st July 2022.

SCC Rural and Green Transport are holding an event regarding Suffolk rural transport in Kesgrave War Memorial Community Centre on Friday 22nd July 2022.

The Clerk for Westhorpe has forwarded details of a guided farm walk around Fairoaks Farm in Westhorpe on Friday 24th June 2022.

The clerk has forwarded details of the above to councillors.

22.75 To discuss and approve response to East Anglia Green Energy Enablement (GREEN)

As reported at the 10th May 2022 meeting, The National Grid is proposing to reinforce the high-voltage electricity transmission network from Norwich Main substation in Norfolk, to Tilbury substation in Essex, by way of an overhead line of 50m high pylons. The proposed route passes to the east of Finningham. The current non-statutory public consultation runs until 16th June 2022. After discussing, councillors agreed unanimously that they object to National Grid's East Anglia GREEN proposal.

ACTION – Clerk to submit the council's objection response to National Grid

22.76 To discuss Shepherd's Grove Development on A143

There is a proposal by JAYNIC Developers to apply for planning permission to site a large second-hand/damaged car sales area on the A143 near Stanton, which will increase the volume of traffic on the A143 significantly. Walsham le Willows Parish Council have asked neighbouring parishes if they will support their objection response to the proposal. After discussing councillors agreed that they support Walsham le Willows Parish Council's objection to the proposal.

ACTION – Clerk to advise Walsham le Willows Parish Council that Finningham Parish Council supports their objection to the above development

22.77 To discuss and approve purchase of a suitable plaque to be fixed to the beacon pole

Cllr Kilbee has obtained prices for an engraved plaque which will be fixed to the beacon pole to commemorate the lighting of the beacon for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The plaque will cost £124.99 including VAT and delivery.

Cllr Kilbee proposed proceeding with the plaque costing £124.99 incl VAT and delivery; seconded by Cllr Charter, and approved unanimously.

ACTION – Cllr Kilbee will request a proof of the plaque so councillors can check the wording before proceeding with the order.

22.78 Approval to adopt internet banking

The council currently issues cheque payments, but the current account, which is a Barclays Community account, does have the facility to make online banking payments using dual authorisation. Councillors discussed the benefits of internet banking commenting that it would be an easier process, and more economical bearing in mind the cost of stamps.

Cllr Kilbee proposed the council adopt internet banking; seconded by Cllr Miller and approved unanimously.

ACTION – Cllr Kilbee, Cllr Winter, and Cllr Black to each call Barclays Bank as the signatories on the account, to arrange for internet banking to be set up.

Clerk to prepare an Internet Banking Policy for approval at the next meeting.

8:52pm a member of the public arrived

22.79 Finance

a. RFO's report (bank balance, receipts, and payments)

Balances as of 27/05/2022

Community Bank Account

Balance as of 27 May 2022: £24,790.09

(Balance as of 30 April 2022: £26,929.30)

Receipts (since 30 April 2022): £0.00

Payments (since 30 April 2022): £2,139.21

Deposit Account

Balance as of 27 May 2022: £3,330.18

General funds: £13,599.13

Reserves (1/2 of precept & election costs): £4,721.00

Restricted funds (CIL & grants not spent): £9,800.14

b. Requests for payment

Admin N. Hill - £598.05

HMRC N. Hill - £161.52

SALC (payroll services) - £9.60

Admin (Clerk/RFO J. Challis) - £396.38

Clerk expenses (J. Challis mileage) - £20.61

HMRC J. Challis - £99.00

Walsham le Willows (Food bank donation agreed at May 2022 meeting) - £250.00

MSDC (emptying of bins) - £603.36

Partners by Design (Commemorative QPJ mugs) - £1,700.40

TOTAL payments - £3,838.92

Cllr Kilbee proposed authorisation of the above payments; seconded by Cllr Charter and approved unanimously.

Cllr Kilbee and Cllr Winter signed cheques for the above approved payments, excluding the payment to Partners by Design. This payment was agreed at the meeting held on 12th April 2022, minute reference 22.15, but as the final invoice was received after the 10th May 2022 meeting, and payment needed to be made in order for the mugs to be received in time for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on 2nd June 2022, the Clerk/RFO prepared a cheque on 22nd May 2022 and arranged for it to be signed by Cllr Kilbee and Cllr Black.

Cllr Kilbee and Cllr Winter signed a letter to Barclays Bank prepared by the Clerk, requesting the address for bank statements and correspondence, for the Community account and Deposit account be updated to the new Clerk's address.

22.80 Planning

a. To consider applications.

- **DC/22/02811** – Application for Planning Permission. Planning Application – Erection of an open Dutch style barn for storing machinery, equipment, and hay for agricultural purposes. Mill Farm, Station Road, Finningham, IP14 4TH.

After discussing councillors agreed unanimously that they have no objection to this application.

ACTION – Clerk to add no objection comment to MSDC planning portal.

b. Decisions & to consider planning matters coming forth.

- **AWAITING DECISION:** DC/22/02242 – Application for Planning Permission. Full Application – Erection of agricultural building for the drying, cleaning and storage of combinable crops, machinery, and agricultural inputs. Rob Hall, Walsham Road, Finningham, Suffolk, IP14 4JL.
- **DECIDED: NOTICE OF INTENT GIVEN:** DC/22/02300 – Application for Works to Tree (s) in a Conservation Area – Reduce 1No. Walnut Tree by 3m (T1). Fell 1No. Walnut Tree (T2). Reduce 1No. Conifer by 3m (T3). Orchard House, Gislingham Road, Finningham, Suffolk, IP14 4HT.
- **WITHDRAWN:** DC/22/02033 – Application for Planning Permission. Householder Application – Erection of garage with office above. Conversion of chimney with internal wood burner flue. Riverside, Gislingham Road, Finningham, Suffolk, IP14 4HY.
- DC/22/02359 – Application to determine if Prior Approval is required for a Proposed: Erection, Extension or Alteration of a building for Agricultural or Forestry Use. Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 as amended

Schedule 2, Part 6 – Erection of a steel framed open dutch style barn with a corrugated roof to protect farm machinery and cropped hay. Mill Farm, Station Road, Finningham, Stowmarket, IP14 4TH

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

22.81 Questions to Chairman

None.

22.82 Items to be discussed at the next meeting and included in the July agenda.

None.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.03pm

FINNINGHAM FOOTPATH WARDEN REPORT MAY 2022

We have been fortunate with the weather over the last month, and have mostly had dry footpaths etc. to negotiate.

The 'Platinum Jubilee walk' held on the same evening of the lighting of the village Beacon, was well supported with around forty people, having a lovely evening walking to 'skirt' Westhorpe Hall and return to our village green.

Having been given permission by Ken Larcombe of SCC p.r.o.w, and Alison Guy of Mill House, Mill Lane, I have placed an additional bridleway post and marker at the entrance driveway at Mill House on bridleway 19, grid ref; TM 06726 68595, ppost code IP14 4NG. This should help both horseriders and walkers to know the direction they should be taking.

I have also placed a report to SCC p.r.o.w as follows;

Ref. 00363805 Finningham footpath 005, grid ref. TM05501 69839 approx 800M west of Finningham Hall. - Wooden Footbridge has rotted/broken boardwalk, and although wire netted, is a possible trip hazard. 12/06/2022

With reference to our rights of way grass cutting schedule, which once again seems very delayed, I have written an email to Ken Larcombe of SCC p.r.o.w to ask if he knows when our first scheduled cut might be, as we have considerable growth on some of our footpaths at present.

Dog Bins; I have been in touch with James (parish council) and we hope to get together to see if we now have matching bins to suit our posts, with a view to getting these installed/changed in the near future. In particular the one to replace the burnt-out bin on footpath 16. I have said that I would be happy to help with the installations if needed?

Doug Aiken

District Councillor's Report for Parish Councils - June 2022

Councillor Andy Mellen, Bacton Ward (Bacton, Cotton, Finningham, Westhorpe and Wyverstone)

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| <p>Annual Council Meeting 26 May 2022</p> | <p>Once again, the Green and Liberal Democrat group put forward suggestions for working together with the Administration. We remain a group of 17; the Conservatives have 16 + one independent. The Conservative leader refused all our requests and decided not to accept our offer to cooperate. This will result in the Chairman needing to use his casting vote on many occasions. We feel that this is undemocratic and the rejection of our offer will continue to hamper our desire to improve services to residents.</p> |
| <p>National Grid proposal for overhead cables through Mid Suffolk</p> | <p>This proposal for grid reinforcement cables from Norwich to Tilbury is in the pre-consultation phase; councils, businesses and residents have an opportunity to give their views on the scheme. The proposed route passes north-south through Finningham and Cotton parishes on 50 metre high pylons which will be clearly visible from a wide area. In Nationally Designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), the cables will be laid underground: the nearest is the Dedham Vale.</p> <p>There have been calls for the whole of the route to be laid underground, but this has significant problems, not just higher cost. In particular, the works would cause disruption along the whole of the route for many months and the wide swathe of land which would need to be disturbed in order to lay the cables would take many years to return to its present condition. A far better solution may be to lay cables undersea with connections from the various windfarms to Tilbury. It is the view of Green Councillors that the consultation is flawed because very little information is readily available in respect of alternatives to the proposed route; also, no details of an undersea option are available for comparison. Clearly, the environmental and visual effects of an undersea option would be much less than the current proposal.</p> <p>I raised these concerns at the Cabinet meeting on 6 June. Cabinet resolved to object to the proposals, but it is still important that the Parish Council, individual Councillors and residents make their views known to National Grid by 16 June.</p> |
| <p>Cost of Living Crisis</p> | <p>On 6 June, Cabinet approved a 5-point plan to help residents deal with the cost of living crisis.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Co-ordinating Government Support to ensure it reaches those people who need it. 2. Exercising discretion when providing welfare support and advice to support those people who could potentially fall on hard times. 3. Maximise partnership working and established systems to provide targeted support where there is a particular trend and need, implementing a targeted family-first approach. 4. Helping people maintain good health. 5. Ensuring everyone has access to food and nutrition – whether that be participating in healthy eating exercises/initiatives, organising a community garden to grow produce, setting up of a Community Larder or providing extra support to local food banks to meet any unmet need. |
| <p>Stowmarket Health, Education and Leisure Facilities (SHELF)</p> | <p>Mid Suffolk District Council have produced plans for developing outdoor and indoor sports facilities and a wellness hub on land off Chilton Way. Proposals include grass pitches for cricket football and rugby, artificial turf pitches, a mini athletics track, a Park Run track, a multi-use games area and sports hall. There will be limited on-site parking so we are pressing for improved walking and cycling routes, and public transport to be provided.</p> |
| <p>Local Planning Issues</p> | <p>At planning committee on 8th June, the plans for improvements to the railway bridge at Bacton were finally agreed. This will include a raised 2m wide footpath, and a one-lane priority /give-way scheme for traffic. We still have concerns about the safety of cyclists who could potentially meet vehicles head-on if they are not seen.</p> <p>Work on the Bellway site off Birch Avenue was halted by a Temporary Stop Notice as the developer had not discharged various pre-commencement conditions, including their Construction Management Plan with lorry routes.</p> |
| <p>Locality Funding</p> | <p>This year's locality funds are now available - I welcome applications from local clubs or organisations in need of funding towards any local project – please contact me to discuss.</p> |

Councillor Andy Mellen

Andrew.Mellen@midsuffolk.gov.uk, 01449 782971 / 07790 992619

Parish Report – June 2022

Councillor: Andy Mellen

Thedwastre North division

Councillor contact details

Mobile: 07790 992619

Email: andy.mellen@suffolk.gov.uk

Latest SCC information is available here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>

For information on supporting Ukrainian refugees in Suffolk, email: refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk

Welcome Guidance for Ukrainians arriving in the UK: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/welcome-a-guide-for-ukrainians-arriving-in-the-uk>

1) Motion Passed, further commitment to Suffolk rivers

Full Council convened on the 19th May. Our Group proposed a motion for greater commitment towards improving rivers in Suffolk. Currently, all Suffolk rivers have been reported by the Environment Agency to have failed government standards. Increased pollution comes from a rise in untreated sewage discharges, as well as chemicals and other pollutants that run off into waterways.

Our motion committed SCC to improving rivers, investigating what more can be done to enhance waterways, and increase engagement and support with farmers and environmental groups in any future strategies. The motion was amended with input from the administration and was subsequently passed unanimously.

2) Pressure for rail improvements

Council also agreed to request Network Rail to make progress with strategic works on the network, specifically improvements to the Haughley junction to improve the flow of traffic through the junction, in particular freight trains coming to and from Felixstowe - this should remove more freight traffic from the road. Alongside this, other minor improvements to the network were also mentioned, such as the improvements to Thurston station and the replacement footway at Elmswell. Again this was agreed unanimously

3) Current petition for in-house Suffolk Highways maintenance contract

The opposition group has started a petition, requesting that SCC considers an in-house bid for the new Suffolk Highways contract. The contract, which will have been held by Kier for 10 years, is up for renewal in September next year.

Recently we have seen astronomical price quotes for the maintenance of Suffolk's highways, including £5,000 for a pair of dropped kerbs, £7,500 to cut down a single tree, and £10,000 to design (not build) four humps in a road. These seem to result from Kier's financial losses in other parts of the contract and hence the need to claw back costs on small works.

Our Group believes an in-house bid from SCC to take back control of Suffolk Highways is needed. The bid would also provide a necessary benchmark for any competitive bid coming from external companies, making sure Suffolk taxpayers get value for money.

We need 3,675 signatures to bring this to debate at the Council. If you agree with this initiative you can sign here (ensure you make your name public, or it won't count!):

<https://www.petitions.net/for-suffolk-county-council-to-develop-an-in-house-bid-for-suffolk-highways-maintenance>

4) National Grid consultation

National Grid are consulting on their proposal to install a new line of overhead high voltage power lines, supported by pylons, across Suffolk's countryside. The justification for this is the need to connect electricity produced by off-shore wind farms into the grid. Our Group are strongly against this development, which will have a severe impact on Suffolk's rural landscape and cultural heritage. The proposals have even been criticised by Conservative MPs Dan Poulter and James Cartlidge. The emerging consensus is that power should be brought down the north sea using undersea cables as part of a strategic network, rather than over land.

We are hoping to see a cross-party response from the County Council and meetings are going on this week in order to facilitate this.

If you would like to voice your opinion on the matter, click here (Deadline is the 16th June):

<https://eastangliagreen.participatr.io/index.php?contentid=13>

Our website - [Suffolk Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group – The GLI Group at Suffolk County Council \(suffolkgli.wordpress.com\)](http://suffolkgli.wordpress.com)