

FINNINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

*DRAFT Minutes for the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on
Tuesday 10th September 2024 in St. Bartholomew's Church, Finningham, starting at 7:30pm*

Present: Cllr Kilbee, Cllr Winter, Cllr Charter

In attendance: Miss J. Challis (Clerk), Mr Aiken (Footpath Warden), Cllr Mellen

24.129 Chair's welcome and to consider and approve apologies for absence

Cllr Kilbee welcomed everyone to the meeting, and apologies received from Cllr Trew, Cllr Saunders, Cllr Davies and Cllr Black were approved unanimously.

24.130 Visiting speakers

Mr Aiken read his report, which can be found as an addendum at the end of the minutes.
Cllr Mellen's reports can be found as an addendum at the end of the minutes.
Cllr Kilbee thanked Mr Aiken.

24.131 Contribution by Members of the Public

No members of the public present.

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

None.

24.133 To consider requests for dispensations on agenda items

None.

24.134 To approve minutes of Parish Council meetings

6.1 Meeting held on 9th July 2024 – approval proposed by Cllr Winter, seconded by Cllr Charter and approved unanimously.

6.2 Meeting held on 13th August 2024 - approval proposed by Cllr Winter, seconded by Cllr Charter and approved unanimously.

24.135 Matters arising from the Parish Council meetings held on 9th July 2024 and 13th August 2024

All covered elsewhere on the agenda.

24.136 Chairman's Report

I have received a number of complaints or perhaps observations, regarding the state of the goal posts on the Green. You may remember that they were removed to allow the Green to be rolled prior to the Friends of Finningham sports day. One was replaced (by people unknown and the other was left under the trees as it had been damaged when being removed. Nige Arthur and I put it back on the Green after removal of the old bolts and replaced with new ones. However, that is only a temporary fix as the threads in the tubes have been stripped. They need to be retaped with a larger diameter bolt. Unfortunately, neither Nige nor I have an M10 tap. Can anyone help? Also, the hold-down hoops have disappeared. The second Goalpost also needs the same attention. The problem is that the posts must be moved to enable the grass cutting to be carried out and these posts are certainly not designed for this purpose. We need to find a solution to this problem.

The new Rector will be taking up her post shortly and I intend to represent the Council at her inauguration on 23rd September; as I did at the previous Rector's ceremony.

I am pleased to say that Nige Arthur was able to affect a more lasting fix on the Ride-on mower ignition switch issue. Hopefully, it will not need further attention. I have heard that our new Green MP Adrian Ramsay has been very active in the fight against NG and their proposed pylon line. Although not everyone in the village is against the project, those who are will be pleased to see that he is actively supporting the campaign.

I have been approached about the condition of the benches in the Churchyard. Paul has recently cleaned and retreated Marion Bell's bench on her behalf but the other two are not maintained by the donators and I suppose we need to do something about them. Paul has offered to do the work but the Council will have to pay for the materials. I propose that we add this to our next agenda to approve the expenditure.

The hedge alongside the B1113 has been cut back today but I do not know if it was at the instigation of the Council or The White Horse Landlady.

24.137 Clerk's Report

- As already reported by Mr Aiken the replacement dog bin has arrived.
- Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are undertaking two separate consultations on the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Part 2 Development Plan Document Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and the Proposed Approach to the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment from Thursday 22nd August until 4pm on Monday 30th September 2024. Full details sent to councillors.
- VE Day 80th Anniversary - 8th May 2025. The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) met with county association officers, where plans for the upcoming 80th anniversary of VE-Day were a key focus. The meeting featured a special briefing from Bruno Peek CVO OBE OPR, the distinguished pageant master renowned for his leadership in national commemorations. Mr Peek provided an in-depth overview of next year's VE-Day events, emphasising the importance of local (parish and town) councils in leading these significant commemorations. Building on the success of this year's D-Day anniversary events, where many local councils played a pivotal role in organising community celebrations, Mr Peek urged councils to take the lead once again in 2025. He highlighted the unique opportunity for communities to come together and honour this historic milestone, reinforcing the importance of local engagement in national celebrations. This will be a future agenda item.

24.138 Cemetery plot record keeping

Cllr Kilbee, Cllr Tree and the Clerk still to arrange meeting to carry out review.

24.139 Finningham Green Footpath Update

Denise Mortimer, Suffolk Highways Community works Project Manager, has updated to say that having recently met with the CIL team, they are very much waiting on the results from the further trial hole which was due to be dug on 09/09/24. Once Highways have the results from this and are able to see just how long a length of cabling will need to be lowered, they will be in a better position to give you an update and further discuss with them what this means from a funding point of view.

24.140 Churchyard Maintenance responsibility update, including approval of expenditure for professional advice

There is still no evidence of the closure Order for the churchyard. Suffolk County Council's legal department has said they can offer legal assistance at a cost of £175.00 per hour. After discussing, Cllr Charter proposed proceeding with one hour of legal advice in order to confirm the Parish Council's position. Seconded by Cllr Kilbee and approved unanimously.

ACTION – Clerk to arrange consultation with SCC's legal department as above.

24.141 Annual Village Maintenance Plan

The Clerk shared a draft plan with councillors showing the proposed maintenance items split into quarterly actions. The draft will be finalised for the next meeting.

ACTION – Clerk as above.

24.142 Hedge cutting; cemetery hedge and Station Road hedge including quotations and approval of expenditure

The cemetery hedge is very overgrown and needs to be cut back. It is an item for ongoing consideration within the annual village maintenance plan (item 24.141). Cllr Davies advised prior to the meeting that he has spoken with a resident who has volunteered to cut the hedge, for reimbursement of any expenses incurred. After discussing, Cllr Charter proposed proceeding with a one-off cut of the hedge by the volunteer resident, and reimbursement of any expenses incurred. Seconded by Cllr Winter and approved unanimously.

The Station Road hedge needs to be cut back to ensure the VAS device is visible. After discussing, it was agreed for the Clerk to contact the resident who owns the hedge requesting they cut it back by an agreed date, after which the Parish Council will arrange for it to be done in the interest of public safety.

ACTION – Clerk to contact resident who has volunteered to cut the cemetery hedge, as above. All Volunteers are required to read and sign a risk assessment form. Clerk to also contact owner of Station Road hedge, as above.

24.143 Village Flooding

The Clerk advised that there is now a report available regarding Suffolk County Council's investigation into the flooding suffered in Framlingham during storm Babet. The report will be shared with councillors for their review to see if there is anything relevant to flood prevention and/or mitigation in Finningham.

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/two-suffolk-flood-investigation-reports-published-in-latest-response-to-storm-babet>

24.144 Trees along byway by River Dove

Still waiting for Andrew Moore from SCC Highways to carry out a site visit.

8:12pm Cllr Mellen arrived.

Cllr Kilbee proposed returning to agenda item 2. Approved unanimously.

(24.129 Visiting speakers)

Cllr Mellen read through his reports.

There being no questions from councillors, Cllr Kilbee thanked Cllr Mellen.

8:28pm Cllr Mellen left the meeting.

24.145 Graffiti and antisocial behaviour in the village

Cllr Kilbee reported that the graffiti to the trees on the green has been removed. It is not known whether it was removed by Top Garden Services; the Clerk has contacted them and will update once they have replied.

CCTV cameras are still being investigated.

ACTION – Clerk as above.

24.146 To Consider UK Power Network quotation for installation of electrical connection on the Green

Following their site meeting with Cllr Kilbee, UKPN have provided a quotation of £2,398.80. This is in comparison to the £5,827.00 quoted in 2022. UKPN have said that a budget estimate, which is issued from the office without a site visit, was provided in 2022 and included excavation work and more cable than is actually needed following the recent site visit. After discussing, it was agreed unanimously not to proceed with this at the moment.

24.147

ACTION – Clerk to advise UKPN as above.

24.148 Report from Friends of Finningham August meeting – Cllr Davies

Cllr Davies attended the August Friends of Finningham meeting, and provided a report of items raised pertaining to the Parish Council, which was delivered by Cllr Kilbee on his behalf:

A resident suggested some improvements for the play items on the green, with a request for a zip wire with tyre, and an 'egg shaped spinner'. It was suggested the resident sends a photo of the latter to the Clerk. They also thought the slide was the wrong way round and that it gets covered in bird poo so is not used as unclean, and that the swings are quite stiff and don't readily swing. Re the slide it was suggested that it faced the way it does for H&S regs to avoid it becoming too hot and causing burns.

Cllr Davies was asked what was happening about the basketball hoop, and advised the council is looking into improvements to the green, as per the recent resident survey.

The next Friends of Finningham meeting is due to be held on 4th November.

Councillors noted the report from Cllr Davies. Improvements to the green will be discussed further at a future meeting.

24.149 Parish Council Insurance renewal 2024/25

The annual insurance is due for renewal on 1st October 2024. Quotations have been received from ANSVAR through CAS Business Services (current provider), Clear Councils, and Zurich, and were shared with councillors prior to the meeting. After discussing, Cllr Kilbee proposed proceeding with Clear Councils at £560.18 per year on a 3-year LTU (long term undertaking). Seconded by Cllr Charter and approved unanimously.

ACTION – Clerk to instruct Clear Councils and request pro forma invoice, and thank CAS and Zurich for their quotations.

24.150 Correspondence

Cllr Kilbee advised that he has received a complaint from a resident regarding the mobile chip van parking on the track around the green. After discussing, it was agreed for the Clerk to advise the proprietor of the chip van and speak to the owner of the White Horse Public House, where the van has previously been able to park.

24.151 Finance

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

Balances as of 29th May 2024

Community Bank Account: £14,103.53

Deposit Account: £3,377.64

b. Requests for payment

Clerk admin payment September	£412.71
Clerk expenses – mileage (August PC meeting & Sept agenda meeting)	£21.42
HMRC Sept 2024 PAYE/NIC	£104.43
R. Davies expenses – battery charger for VAS	£14.44
Top Garden Services, inv 2397	£144.00
Top Garden Services, inv 2399	£144.00
Top Garden Services, inv 2400	£144.00
Top Garden Services, inv 2401	£216.00
Glasdons, new dog bin	£320.71

Cllr Kilbee proposed authorisation of the above payments, seconded by Cllr Winter and approved unanimously.

ACTION – Cllr Kilbee and either Cllr Winter or Cllr Trew to pay approved payments above, online, (dual authorisation).

24.152 Planning

- a. To consider applications – none.
- b. Decisions and to consider planning matters coming forth:
 - DC/24/03098 - Application for Outline Planning Permission (all Matters Reserved) Town and Country Planning 1990 (as amended - Erection of 2no detached bungalows. Land South of White Horse PH, Station Road, Finningham, Suffolk - **REFUSED.**
 - DC24/02588 - Application for Outline Planning Permission (Access Points to be considered, all other matters reserved) Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) - Erection of 1No. detached (self-build) two storey dwelling and garage. Land South of Patcham House, Station Road, Finningham, Stowmarket IP14 4TH – **AWAITING DECISION.**
 - DC/24/03600 - Application for works to a tree in a conservation Area - Fell No1 Walnut tree to ground level as it is too close to house and neighbours and will allow growth of other trees. Hollis House Wickham Road Finningham Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4HT – **GRANTED.**

24.153 To discuss date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 8th October 2024, at 7:30pm in St. Bartholomew's Church, Finningham.

24.154 Questions to Chairman

Cllr Winter said the young resident who previously contacted the Parish Council requesting permission to conduct litter picks in the village as part of his Duke of Edinburgh award, has now completed it. Cllr Winter asked if the Parish Council could officially acknowledge completion of his award. The Clerk will arrange for this to be done.

24.155 Items to be discussed at the next meeting and included in the October agenda.

No new items.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9:16pm.

