

FINNINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

*DRAFT Minutes for the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on
Tuesday 11th June 2024 in St. Bartholomew's Church, Finningham, starting at 7:30pm*

Present: Cllr Kilbee, Cllr Winter, Cllr Saunders, Cllr Davies, Cllr Trew, Cllr Charter, Cllr Black

In attendance: Miss J. Challis (Clerk), Cllr Mellen, PC Adam Ferguson

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

Cllr Kilbee welcomed everyone to the meeting.

24.54 Visiting speakers

The Footpath Warden's report can be found as an addendum at the end of the minutes.

PC Ferguson reported there to be no new incidents of graffiti in the village. The main issue is speeding and he is carrying out speed checks.

Cllr Kilbee asked whether there is any action the Police can enforce regarding the increase in traffic, should National Grid's (N2T) Norwich to Tilbury proposals be given consent. PC Ferguson said that this would be a Highways issue.

7:36pm Cllr Trew arrived.

Cllr Davies raised concern regarding overloaded vehicles using inappropriate roads during the potential construction phase of N2T, and asked whether weight limits could be checked, noting there to be two private weighbridges nearby.

Cllr Kilbee thanked PC Ferguson for attending the meeting, and the work he has done so far to address issues within the village.

Cllr Mellen read through his reports which can be found as addendums at the end of the minutes.

7:45pm Cllr Black arrived.

Cllr Mellen reported that the flood issues are ongoing. There are lots of gulleys in need of unblocking, which Cllr Mellen has asked Andy Moore at Suffolk Highways to look at.

Cllr Mellen is looking into the trees on the byway by the River Dove, and has spoken to Richard Parmee MSDC Biodiversity Manager, and David Pizzey MSDC Arboricultural Officer.

DC/23/04466 Green Farm – Cllr Mellen has requested an update from the Planning Officer and is awaiting their response.

Cllr Kilbee shared his disappointment at the lack of progress, and increasing costs, in relation to the Finningham Green Footpath. Cllr Mellen concurred but advised to keep moving forward, and confirmed he has funds within his Highways budget to cover the revised estimate of approximately £6k received from BT Open Reach, in relation to the design costs.

Cllr Trew asked about the call for residential sites with BMSDC's JLP Draft Supplementary Plan. Cllr Mellen said MSDC has land supply until 2036 so very few sites are likely to come forward.

Cllr Kilbee thanked Cllr Mellen for his reports and updates.

8:00pm Cllr Mellen left the meeting.

24.55 Contribution by Members of the Public

None.

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

None.

24.57 To consider requests for dispensations on agenda items

None.

24.58 To approve minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 14th May 2024

Cllr Davies proposed approval of the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 14th May 2024 as a true and correct record; seconded by Cllr Saunders and approved unanimously with one abstention (councillor who was not present at the meeting).

24.59 Matters arising from the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 14th May 2024

All covered elsewhere on the agenda.

24.60 Chairman's Report

I should like to start this report by thanking all those who helped with the Beacon preparation and lighting. As you know, this event was part of a nationwide commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings on 6th June 1944. Miller Farms kindly supplied the fuel for the Beacon and Perry and Roger prepared it in time for our Chief Pyrotechnics Officer, Paul to ignite it on cue (9:15pm). The turnout was not great but probably better than I had expected. Thanks to Jane for writing an ad for the Finningham Newsletter. I put a piece on the Friends of Finningham Facebook page so, no one could say that they didn't know about it. Although, they probably would. Just to let you know that the Friends of Finningham are intending to go ahead with their plans to erect a pavilion or similar structure on the Green. As custodians of the Green, we must take great care of how we handle this issue. You may have noticed that the Parochial Parish Council have heeded our concern regarding the danger from falling roof tiles off the Church roof and have marked off an area of risk to passers-by. I have been informed that they do not intend to do anything about the repair until the new Rector is in post. I believe this to be in September. Why the wait, I do not know but the responsibility for any further damage to the roof is theirs. The boundary hedge of the Cemetery is getting out of hand and requires attention. However, I tried to use the Hedge cutter a few days ago and it is not functioning very well so, I fear it will need a service. Other items I should like to discuss form part of the agenda.

24.61 Clerk's Report

- Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Call for Sites 2024. Following the publication of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Gypsy and Traveller, Travelling Showpeople and Boat Dweller Accommodation Needs Assessment (May 2024), Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are undertaking a Call for Sites exercise for sites intended for use by Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. This evidence supports the preparation of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Part 2 Development Plan Document (DPD), following adoption of the Joint Local Plan Part 1 DPD in November 2023, and can be viewed on the Council websites at: <https://www.babergh.gov.uk/web/babergh/w/current-evidence>. <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/web/mid-suffolk/w/current-evidence>. The Councils will be accepting sites for these intended uses between Friday 31st May and 12 noon on Friday 28th June 2024.
- SALC AGM – Monday 1st July 2024. The SALC Annual Report is now available.
- Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk recently held a Cost-of-Living Forum to discuss how the community can work together to help people who are struggling with the cost of living. They have put together a guide to helping people with cost-of-living problems. It's aimed at anyone who works directly with people who might be struggling with the cost of living: [Guide-Helping-your-service-users-with-cost-of-living-problems-v3-DIGITAL-VERSION.pdf \(midsuffolkcab.org.uk\)](#)
- St Bartholomew's church roof – further to the 14th May 2024 meeting, and Cllr Kilbee's report, the PCC are aware of the issues with the roof, and have taken action to cordon off the area underneath.

24.62 National Grid Norwich to Tilbury Statutory Consultation

The consultation has been extended to 11:59pm Friday 26th July 2024, due to the election on 4th July 2024.

Cllr Kilbee and Cllr Saunders reported that they attended the Parish meeting in Wortham held on 28th May 2024. The meeting was attended by Bron Curtis MSDC Principal Planning Officer (remotely), Richard Rout SCC, and Graham Gunby SCC Development Manager Growth Highways and Infrastructure. Cllr Saunders said he is concerned that Finningham residents are unaware of the impact on roads, and disruption caused by construction of the access routes. One statistic given at the meeting is an estimated increase in HGV traffic on Walsham Road off 96% between 7am and 7pm. Cllrs discussed holding a meeting in Finningham and agreed unanimously to call a Parish meeting on 11th July 2024, post elections.

Cllr Saunders has prepared a draft submission to National Grid detailing the PC's reasons for objecting to N2T, which was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.

Cllr Kilbee thanked him for his hard work in preparing the draft paper, which will be finalised for submission prior to the deadline.

ACTION – Cllr Kilbee/Clerk to arrange for Parish meeting to be called as above.

24.63 Parish Council village survey update

The response to the survey has been disappointing, with approximately 10 received. The results will be collated, kept anonymous, and shared with councillors.

ACTION – Clerk as above.

24.64 Finningham GREEN Footpath update

As discussed during Cllr Mellen's report, the trial holes have now been completed, and BT have provided an updated estimate of approximately £6k for the works required as part of the design costs. This cost is to divert the BT infrastructure along the whole length of the proposed footpath. The Suffolk & Essex Water main will not require diverting as it is below the carriageway and not beneath the footpath. Cllr Mellen has confirmed he can fund the new estimated cost from BT from his Highways budget, however MSDC are due to hold a CIL fund meeting, and will discuss whether the additional cost can be included with the District CIL offer.

ACTION – Clerk to pursue update.

24.65 Churchyard Maintenance update

No further updates.

24.66 Annual village maintenance survey

Deferred: The Clerk is preparing the draft maintenance plan, which will be presented at the next meeting.

24.67 Village flooding update

Updated on within Cllr Mellen's report.

24.68 To discuss trees along byway by River Dove

Updated on within Cllr Mellen's report.

24.69 Graffiti and antisocial behaviour in the village, including approval for vandalised dog bin

Top Garden Services have identified a chemical solution which they believe will remove the graffiti from the tree. They will try to remove it as soon as possible.

The vandalised dog bin on Mill Lane is a red 50 litre Retriever bin from Glasdons. The cost to replace it is £305.63 including VAT. Purchase proposed by Cllr Charter, seconded by Cllr Black, and approved unanimously.

ACTION – Clerk to follow up with Top Garden Services, and arrange purchase of new bin, both as above.

24.70 To consider installation of electrical connection on the Green

Cllr Winter proposed this be reconsidered following the 27th September 2022 meeting, when councillors voted not to proceed with a permanent electrical connection on the Green. At this time, UK Power Networks provided an estimated cost of £5,827.00, plus the ongoing daily rates and standing charges. Cllr Winter said that whilst the generators work ok, they are not as convenient as a fixed power supply, and are quite noisy. It was agreed for the Clerk to request an updated estimate from UK Power Networks.

ACTION – Clerk as above.

24.71 To consider and approve quotations for purchase of a mulcher, to be used with ride on mower

Cllr Trew requested at the previous meeting that consideration be given to the purchase a mulcher to fit to the ride on mower. This will make mowing much easier, and be beneficial to the soil. Cllr Kilbee has obtained quotations for the correct model to fit to the Honda ride on mower, with the lowest one being £60.41 plus VAT. After discussing, Cllr Trew proposed proceeding with the purchase of the mulcher at £60.41 plus VAT. Seconded by Cllr Charter and approved unanimously.

ACTION – Clerk/Cllr Kilbee to arrange purchase as above.

24.72 Volunteer Risk Assessments

The Clerk circulated the Volunteer Risk Assessments for the cemetery maintenance and grass cutting rota prior to the meeting. Any volunteer must read the relevant risk assessment, and sign a separate confirmation form. Councillors confirmed they had reviewed the risk assessments. Cllr Davies suggested the risk assessments be merged into one document, as the content is so similar. Approval agreed unanimously, based on the documents being merged.

ACTION – Clerk to update the documents as above.

24.73 To approve AGAR statements and Certificate of Exemption 2023/24

The AGAR statements and Certificate of Exemption were shared with councillors. Approval of AGAR Sections 1 and 2, and Certificate of Exemption proposed by Cllr Charter, seconded by Cllr Davies, and approved unanimously.

The Clerk and the Chairman then signed AGAR Sections 1 and 2.

ACTION – Clerk to publish and send Certificate of Exemption to the external auditor by 30th June deadline.

24.74 To Approve the Accounting statements 2023/24

The Accounting statements, including the Neighbourhood CIL Expenditure Report, for financial year 2023/24 were shared with councillors. Approval proposed by Cllr Charter, seconded by Cllr Davies, and approved unanimously. The Chairman and Clerk sign the CIL Report.

ACTION – Clerk to publish. CIL Report to be submitted to MSDC.

24.75 Correspondence received

Indirect correspondence received via FOF (Friends of Finningham) Facebook page. FOF posted a question on their Facebook page asking if the PC is planning to hold a separate meeting to discuss the pylons. This question had apparently been raised with FOF by residents. This has been discussed under agenda item 24.62.

The Clerk is the first point of contact for the PC. Meeting agendas are posted on the village noticeboard in advance of the meeting, and also on the PC's website. The PC has a new Facebook page will be kept up to date with and news and notifications for residents.

Parish Clerk: Jane Challis, email clerk@finninghamparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Website: finninghamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61556497889695>

24.76 Finance

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

Balances as of 28th April 2024

Community Bank Account: £13,530.51

Deposit Account: £3,377.64

b. Requests for payment

Clerk admin payment June	£365.04
Clerk expenses – mileage (May PC & June agenda meetings)	£20.61
HMRC June 2024 PAYE/NIC	£91.26
CAS website hosting	£22.83
R. Davies expenses – new VAS key	£9.00

Cllr Trew proposed authorisation of the above payments, seconded by Cllr Charter and approved unanimously, with one abstention against R. Davies expenses (Cllr Davies).

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

24.77 Planning

a) To consider applications – none

b) Decisions & to consider planning matters coming forth

- DC/24/00567 Proposal: Householder Application – erection of timber framed th cartlodge (following the demolition of existing outbuilding). Yeoman House, Church Green, Finningham, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 4HU – **GRANTED.**
- DC/23/04466 – Proposal: Application for the Modification of a Section 106 Planning Obligation - Variation of S106 legal agreement dated 11.12.2019 relating to DC/17/06190 (affordable dwellings). Location: Green Farm Wickham Road Finningham Suffolk IP14 4HT – **AWAITING DECISION.**

24.78 To discuss date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 9th July 2024, at 7:30pm in St. Bartholomew's Church, Finningham.

24.79 Questions to Chairman

None.

24.80 Items to be discussed at the next meeting and included in the February agenda.

Cllr Winter said the Union Flag is looking tatty and requested purchase of a new one be an agenda item. The rope has been cleaned, but will also need replacing at some point.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9:33pm.

