FINNINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes for the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on
Tuesday 11th October 2022
in St. Bartholomew's Church, Finningham, starting at 7:30pm

Present: Cllr A**.** Kilbee, Cllr N. Arthur, Cllr P.Trew
In attendance: Miss J. Challis (Clerk), Mr D. Aiken (Footpath Warden), Cllr A. Mellen, 1 member of the public.

22.138 Visiting speakers
Mr Aiken read out his Footpath Warden's report, which can be found as an addendum at the end of the minutes. Cllr Kilbee thanked Mr Aiken for his report, and his work with the installation of the new dog bins.
Cllr Mellen sent his DC and CC reports in advance of the meeting, which can be found as addendums at the end of the minutes.

22.139 Contribution by Members of the Public
The member of the public reported that a settee has been fly tipped south of the junction of Eastlands Lane and Wickham Road. The Clerk will report to MSDC and request it is removed.
ACTION – Clerk as above

22.140 Apologies and approval of absence
Apologies were received from Cllr Winter, Cllr Charter, and Cllr Miller. Approval proposed by Cllr Trew; seconded by Cllr Arthur and approved unanimously.

22.141 To receive any pecuniary or non-pecuniary declarations of interest from Members and any Gifts of Hospitality.
None received.

22.142 To consider requests for dispensations on agenda items
None received.

22.143 To approve minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 27th September 2022
Cllr Trew proposed approving the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 27th September 2022 as a true and correct record; seconded by Cllr Arthur and approved unanimously. The Chairman then signed the minute book.

22.144 Matters arising from the Parish Council meeting held on 27th September 2022
Cllr Trew and Cllr Arthur reported that they have met up to look at the VAS bracket and are work to fix the VAS machine securely to the pole on Station Road is ongoing.

22.145 Chairman's Report
As it is such a short time since our last meeting, I have not got a lot to report, other than that which is in the agenda.
A short while ago, our Rector, Philip Merry, forwarded an email to me from a lady who was looking for a grave in our Cemetery. The person she was looking for was buried in 1965. Unfortunately, the grave was not marked but, using the Cemetery Map, I was able to establish where it was. However, this proved to be a bit difficult and inconclusive, as there seems to be an error in the map. I believe there is misalignment somewhere, as the map includes other graves (naturally) which do not relate properly to the one I was looking for.
This concerns me greatly, as we definitely do not want to offer a grave space which is already occupied!
Sometime ago, I suggested that we should mark graves which are reserved but that was not agreed by the Council. I should like you to reconsider this proposal, as I feel that it would help to mitigate that worry. I shall ask Jane to add this to next Month's Agenda.
I suggest that the three spaces left on that row of graves (first on the right-hand side) should be blocked, in case there are any other interments that we do not know about. I have received the Poppy wreath in good time for Remembrance Day.

I have received some news from the Church regarding the ownership and responsibility of the fence between the churchyard and Walnut Tree Cottage. As I suspected, they absolve themselves from all responsibility regarding the maintenance of the fence. However, I am still pursuing this aspect.

Councillors discussed the concerns regarding the cemetery with Cllr Trew suggesting a winter working party to clear the grave area. This would make it easier to remap the graves. Cllr Kilbee said that he will look at pricing for reserve markers, noting they will need to be fixed in position and able to be mown over. These will be future agenda items.

ACTION – Cllr Kilbee to investigate suitable grave markers, and Clerk to seek advice from SALC regarding the PC's responsibility for maintenance of the churchyard fence

22.146 Clerk's Report

- Parish Council Neighbourhood CIL Payment – October 2022; a remittance has been received from MSDC confirming a CIL payment of £6,211.01.
- BMSDCs have forwarded the results of their Tree Canopy Survey. This is the first step in developing a tree planting strategy for the district, which will allow MSDC to focus on the best new planting locations that deliver the greatest environmental benefits: https://www.babergh.gov.uk/environment/planting-schemes/tree-planting-strategy/
- CIL Bid Application – Footpath from Walsham Road to the Green; Suffolk Highways have responded regarding the process for submitting a joint application, and this is being now being pursued in order to submit a bid by 31st October deadline for the current round.
- The PC Facebook page is nearly ready to go live, and more residents have requested their contact details be added to the village database.

22.147 To discuss the emergency plan.

Ongoing; Cllr Trew suggested seeking a professional company to write the plan in order to ensure all liability requirements are met. Councillors discussed this option and decided it was worth further investigation. Cllr Arthur asked whether CIL funds could be used for this. The Clerk thinks they can but will check.

ACTION – Cllr Trew to investigate further, and Clerk to ask for confirmation on CIL eligibility from MSDC Infrastructure

22.148 To discuss Annual Newsletter to everyone in the village

No further updates. Cllr Trew suggested the footpath QR codes should be included. To be discussed further at the next meeting.

22.149 Parish Council Communications including Database and Facebook page update

Already reported on in the Clerk's Report.

22.150 To discuss purchase of a generator

Cllr Kilbee has obtained pricing information for new generators which he shared with councillors, leading to a discussion on whether the generator needs to be silent or not, due to the variation in prices for both. There was also a discussion on whether a generator could be housed in the PC shed, or whether other equipment would need to be moved elsewhere to make room. Cllr Kilbee asked Cllr Arthur to investigate generator costs in more depth for further discussion at the next meeting. The Clerk will confirm CIL eligibility with MSDC Infrastructure.

ACTION – Cllr Arthur/Clerk as above

22.151 To discuss and approve works to trees on the green

8:24pm Cllr Mellen arrived

A resident has reported that some of the trees on the green have grown to the extent that they are pushing against the roof of their barn which backs on to the green. Cllr Kilbee has obtained quotations for work to cut the trees back. Councillors discussed the quotations and decided on their preferred one which involves removing one whole bough to ground level, and another back far enough so it is not encroaching on the roof of the resident's property. Proposed by Cllr Arthur, seconded by Cllr Trew and approved unanimously.

ACTION – Clerk to instruct tree surgeons to proceed in liaison with MSDC's Tree Officer.

Cllr Kilbee proposed returning to agenda item 1, agreed unanimously.

(22.138 Visiting speakers)

Cllr Mellen read through his DC and CC reports. In addition he reported that a Finningham resident has contacted him directly with concerns over incidences of a drone being flown over their property in the evenings. Councillors were not aware of any reason for this, and Cllr Kilbee agreed to speak to the resident to discuss further.

ACTION – Cllr Kilbee as above.

22.152 BMSDC Draft 5 Year Housing Land Supply Position Statements Consultation

The National Planning Policy Framework requires that Local Planning Authorities should identify and update annually a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide a minimum of five years' worth of housing against their housing requirement. This is known as the housing land supply (HLS). The HLS is calculated by comparing the anticipated supply of new homes within the district over a five-year period against the Council's housing requirement and is published annually.
The consultation is for a four-week period from 30th September 2022 until 12:00 (midday) on 31st October 2022.
Councillors discussed the consultation and agreed to advise the Clerk by 31st October 2022 if they wished to make comment.
ACTION – Councillors as above

22.153 To discuss and approve cemetery costs

The cemetery costs have not been updated since 2018. Councillors discussed the current costs including whether the reservation fee is, or should be, taken off the interment fee. Cllr Trew suggested that the fees should be increased to take into account plot markers should they be something the council decides to proceed with. Cllr Arthur suggested that the costs could be reviewed in a set month, every 5 years with the first review being June 2023. To be discussed further upon clarification of the current reservation fee procedure, and decision on plot markers.
ACTION – Clerk to look at reservation fee procedure

22.154 Correspondence received

All dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

9pm Mr Aiken left the meeting

22.155 Finance

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

Balances as of 29/09/2022
Community Bank Account
Balance as of 29 September 2022: £26,292.02
(Balance as of 29 July 2022: £22,864.86)
Receipts (since 29 July 2022): £3,621.50
Payments (since 29 July 2022): £194.34
Deposit Account
Balance as of 29 September 2022: £3,331.46

General funds: £15,690.45
Reserves (1/2 of precept & election costs): £4,256.85
Restricted funds (CIL & grants not spent): £9,675.15

b. Requests for payment

Admin J. Challis - £161.25
HMRC J. Challis - £40.20
Clerk expenses (J. Challis mileage) - £20.61
T. Kilbee expenses (remembrance wreath) - £23.98

Direct Debit payments:
NEST (N. Hill) - £41.76

TOTAL payments - £287.80

Cllr Arthur proposed authorisation of the above payments; seconded by Cllr Trew and approved unanimously with abstention against T. Kilbee expenses (Cllr Kilbee).
ACTION - Cllr Kilbee and Cllr Winter to pay the remaining above approved payments by bank transfer (dual authorisation), except for the NEST payment which is paid by direct debit.
Cllr Black to confirm when he has access to online banking.

22.156 To consider and approve Asset Register

Sent to councillors prior to the meeting.
Approval proposed by Cllr Trew; seconded by Cllr Arthur and approved unanimously.
ACTION – Clerk to publish

22.157 Planning

a. To consider applications

- DC/22/04916 – Application for works to tree (s) in a conservation area – thin crown and target prune 1 No. oak (T1) - Martins, Church Lane, Finningham, IP14 4JB.
- DC/22/05051 (received after publication of the agenda) - Householder Application- Replacement and resiting of oil tank. Green Hall, Wickham Road, Finningham, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4HT

After discussing councillors agreed unanimously that they have no objections to either application.
ACTION - Clerk to add no objection comments to MSDC planning portal

b. Decisions & to consider planning matters coming forth.

- DC/22/04486 – Application for Planning Permission – Householder application – Erection of three bay cartlodge with home office over. Black Horse Barn, Walsham Road, Finningham, Stowmarket, IP14 4JN – AWAITING DECISION

22.158 **Training**
The Clerk asked for approval to purchase cemetery training from SALC. Their next cemetery training is not due to be held until 2023, but they have offered a recording of previous training for a reduced amount of £14.00 plus VAT. Approval proposed by Cllr Arthur; seconded by Cllr Trew and approved unanimously.
ACTION – Clerk to order cemetery training from SALC as above

22.159 **Questions to Chairman**
None.

22.160 **Items to be discussed at the next meeting and included in the November agenda.**
None.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:13pm

FOOTPATH WARDEN'S REPORT

With reference to an issue brought up recently regarding passage along 'Jenny's Lane' Bridleway 7, as well as the trimming back that I had carried out by hand, I believe the Land owner has since used machinery to open up further the northern end entrance to the bridleway where it travels between two hedgerows. This is a big improvement at that point, especially for those on horseback, and I would not think that any further complaints would be justified at this time.

The dog bin on Mill Lane off Station road at the junction of byway 17 and footpath 16, which was vandalised and burnt out, has now been replaced by one of the larger new 'Glasdon Retriever' bins as purchased by our parish council.

I have noticed that the dog bin at the entrance to footpath 24 at 'Moon Lane' has come away from it's post, so I hope to address that issue shortly. Along with James Black (parish council) we hope also to be placing the further four bins at their new sites as agreed previously by the parish council.

I have noticed recently that more people are straying away from the designated public rights of way areas, and walking across fields, some which have been freshly seeded. I will seek to obtain, or ask if we can have more signage placed to advise the public of the general countryside code of practice, from Ken Larcombe of SCC.

Doug Aiken

District Councillor Report: Oct '22, Andrew Mellen, Bacton ward

(Bacton, Cotton, Finningham, Westhorpe and Wyverstone)

The death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II	MSDC were involved in many of the required duties during the period of mourning, including the Proclamation of the Accession of King Charles III to residents in Eye, Needham Market and Stowmarket. Books of condolence were available in the Town Council offices as well as an online book of condolence. The Council meeting which was scheduled for Thurs 22nd September had to be cancelled due to the mourning period and items from that agenda will now be discussed at the next Council meeting on 27th October. The development control meeting on 14th September was also cancelled by the Chair of the committee and was rescheduled for Thurs 29th September.
Tree Canopy Survey Update	Full details on the tree canopy survey, including maps showing details by ward, can be found via this link: Tree planting strategy » Babergh Mid Suffolk. This information is the first step in developing a tree planting strategy for the district, which will allow us to best focus new planting in locations that deliver the greatest environmental benefits. The Council is looking at opportunities for new tree planting on council land, and also providing free trees and hedging for public land outside our ownership via the following scheme: https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/planting-schemes/trees-hedgerows-and-wildflowers-scheme/. Despite the initial deadline of 31st August MSDC are happy to continue receiving applications and will endeavour to provide trees where suitable for this planting season.
Joint Local Plan & Housing Land Supply Statement	The examiners have issued a letter indicating that they are still expecting more information from the council, once submitted this will lead on to a 6-week consultation starting in November. It may just be possible to get Part 1 of the plan agreed before the pre-election purdah period, but the schedule is tight. There will be a technical consultation on the draft Babergh and Mid Suffolk Housing Land Supply Statements in the next few days. Indicatively, the draft housing land supply figures are 7 years for Babergh and 10.5 years for Mid Suffolk.
Parking Strategy	Babergh and Mid Suffolk have agreed a parking strategy for the next 20 years, hoping to support the needs of local trade and residents, opposition councillors have called for an increase in public EV charging points in the district (currently only 5).
CIL funding	Over £420,000 in developer contributions is to be ploughed back into communities. This amount includes recycled funding for a feasibility study into improvements at Thurston railway station.
Locality grants	I still have some funds available which can be applied for by organisations in the village – please contact me for details.

Councillor Andrew Mellen
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Parish Report – October 2022

Councillor: Andy Mellen

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For information on local support during the Cost-of-Living Crisis, visit: https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/suffolk-advice-and-support-service/

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

Death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

The news of Queen Elizabeth II's passing meant the Council, like other public bodies went into a period of mourning. Some meetings, including Cabinet were postponed, however council services have continued. I attended the proclamation of King Charles III in Ipswich on Sunday 11th September and also attended three memorial services during the period of mourning.

Suffolk in talks to become Investment Zone

Suffolk County Council has let it be known that it has started discussions with Government to become an **investment zone** as part of the new PM's growth and investment strategy. At present it is not known how these zones will operate, or how they fit with the existing Freeport designation which covers Felixstowe and Harwich docks, and includes other sites such as Gateway 14 near Stowmarket. Our political group has gone on record in the media that we are opposed to the idea since the Government says it wants to remove environmental regulations and some planning controls within these zones.

Open Letter sent by GLI Leader to Conservative Councillors

Cllr Andrew Stringer who leads the opposition group on SCC has sent an open letter to all Conservative Councillors on the council. The letter asks the Council to disassociate itself from the policies outlined by PM Liz Truss and Chancellor Kwasi Kwarteng. A number of campaigning organisations, including the RSPB, National Trust and the Wildlife Trusts, (including Suffolk Wildlife Trust) have described the plans, announced in the mini budget, as "an attack on nature".

Cllr Stringer states that the government's approach - scrapping planning rules, downgrading environmental protections, and promoting fracking - will cause irreversible damage to nature and to the government's previously stated intention to reach carbon Net Zero by 2050.

Cllr Stringer asks the Leader of the Conservatives to make a public statement, and encourages the Council to instead support investment for nature recovery, renewable energy, and insulating homes.

Warm Homes Suffolk Fund – Access free funding and advice

Suffolk's councils have joined together to establish Warm Homes Suffolk. The service offers expert advice on reducing energy bills and usage, as well as benefits you may be entitled to during this crisis. The fund is open to homeowners, renters, and landlords and will target homes that need insulating and more efficient heating.

For more information, visit: www.warmhomessuffolk.org, or call 03456 037 686.

Cancelled Taxi Contracts for home to school transportation

One of the big stories in the local news has been a number of taxi companies cancelling SCC contracts to provide school transport. Young people and children, including those with SEND needs, have once again had their education and development disrupted.

Reports from EADT and BBC News state that the rise in fuel prices and cost of living has forced many companies to cancel contracts. There were also reports suggesting that the district council policy that newly registered taxi vehicles can be no more than eight years old, has forced taxi companies to cancel contracts. Whilst our Group is supportive of promoting cleaner transport, taxi companies need to be properly supported to transition to cleaner forms of transport. For more details on our response, visit our group website (link at the bottom of the report)

SCC Unveils First of their EV Fleet

The first delivery of 16 Renault Zoe electric vehicles (EVs) will be arriving in November, as the council begins its program to upgrade all existing pool cars. This is part of the council's work to deliver on its climate emergency declaration and protect Suffolk's environment.
Ten more EVs will arrive in April 2023. The aim is to completely electrify the fleet by 2024.

EV Charging – Expression of Interests

SCC have been successful in a bid for funding towards new EV charging infrastructure. The £2.75m funding will focus on community-owned carparks, where charging can be accessed 24/7. Local examples are the chargepoints at the Blackbourne centre and the Wesley Café in Elmswell.

If you wish to express an interest, please contact Peter Frost, Environment Strategy Officer - peter.frost2@suffolk.gov.uk

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