FINNINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes for the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on
Tuesday 8th November 2022
in St. Bartholomew's Church, Finningham, starting at 7:30pm

Present: Cllr A**.** Kilbee, Cllr N. Arthur, Cllr L. Charter, Cllr J. Miller
In attendance: Miss J. Challis (Clerk), 1 member of the public.

22.161 Visiting speakers
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.
Mr Aiken sent his Footpath Warden's report in advance of the meeting, which can be found as an addendum at the end of the minutes.

22.162 Contribution by Members of the Public
The member of the public present asked if the ivy on the footpath by Green Farm could be looked at.
ACTION – Clerk to pass request to Mr Aiken the Footpath Warden.

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

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

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

22.166 To approve minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th October 2022
Cllr Arthur proposed approving the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th October 2022 as a true and correct record; seconded by Cllr Kilbee and approved unanimously with two abstentions (councillors who were not present at the meeting). The Chairman then signed the minute book.

22.167 Matters arising from the Parish Council meeting held on 11th October 2022
The Clerk reported the fly tipped settee on the junction of Eastlands Lane and Wickham Road (minute ref 22.141) and it has now been removed.
The work to the trees on the green has been confirmed, we are just waiting for a start date.

22.168 Chairman's Report
Since our last meeting, my activities have largely been related to the Agenda items for this evening's meeting. Therefore, I shall not elaborate on them until the appropriate times.
You will remember that Emily Durrant attended a previous meeting, offering help with our planning for future improvements on the Green and other areas, with a view to providing additional facilities for the younger members of our village. Since then, she has accepted the role of Chairman of the friends of Finningham and has expressed a wish that we work together for the benefit of the village.
I'm sure you side with me in wishing her well and success in her new role.
Following a report by a villager of nuisance flying of a drone and the discussion we had at last month's meeting, I wrote to Mrs Clark requesting more information; to date, I have received no reply.
Finally, I shall be placing a wreath at the War Memorial on behalf of the Parish Council for this year's Remembrance Day.

22.169 Clerk's Report

- EN020027 East Anglia GREEN EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation – National Grid has asked the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State for its opinion (a Scoping Opinion) as to the information to be provided in an Environmental Statement (ES) relating to the proposed development. This is the first statutory part of the proposal, and a response must be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate by 5th December 2022. The Parish Council agreed that they OBJECT to the East Anglia GREEN proposal at the meeting held on 14th June 2022. Due to the Scoping consultation only just being received, and the deadline falling outside of the next meeting date, it was agreed for the details of the council's response to be approved by email outside of the meeting.
- SCC Rural Mobility Survey – the survey will reveal a wider picture of the connectivity challenges and opportunities in the region, as well as understanding the baseline for transport in rural areas. It runs until 16th December 2022, and was forwarded to councillors prior to the meeting. Councillors to look at the survey and advise Clerk if they wish to submit a response.
- SALC have advised that the National Joint Council (NJC) has agreed the pay scales for 2022/23. The pay increase is back dated to 1st April 2022. They have also agreed an extra day holiday from 1st April 2023.

ACTION – Clerk to prepare draft response to the East Anglia GREEN Scoping Consultation for councillor's email approval.

22.170 Finningham GREEN Footpath CIL bid application

The Clerk has completed a CIL bid application within the October round, and is waiting for Suffolk Highways to submit their required information as it has to be a joint application. Now that the parish council is seeking CIL funding for the footpath, Suffolk Highways have requested a statement and supporting evidence to evidence the actual need of the footpath before they complete their part of the CIL bid application. The Clerk has forwarded a statement, which can be found as an addendum at the end of the minutes, and testimonials/letters of support received from residents and is awaiting further advice form Suffolk Highways.

22.171 To discuss the emergency plan.

The Clerk said that MSDC have confirmed CIL funds can be used for a professional company to draw up the plan. Cllr Trew is pursuing quotations for this and will report further at the next meeting.

22.172 To discuss Annual Newsletter to everyone in the village

Cllr Kilbee reminded everyone again that he urgently needs their biographies for the newsletter. Cllr Kilbee has also found an old newsletter/welcome book, which he passed to Cllr Charter in case it was helpful.

ACTION – Councillors to send their newsletter biographies to Cllr Charter asap. Cllr Charter to progress Annual Newsletter.

22.173 To discuss purchase of a generator

Cllr Arthur presented pricing details of silent and non-silent generators for councillor's consideration. After discussing the options, it was agreed for Cllr Arthur to confirm the delivery costs for the preferred generator, and double check the engine make, before proceeding further.

ACTION – Cllr Arthur as above

22.174 To discuss and approve cemetery costs

Councillors discussed whether the current costs should be increased as they have not been increased since 10th July 2018. Cllr Kilbee has obtained quotations for plot markers that can be mown over, which were also discussed. After careful consideration, it was agreed to purchase the plot makers, and implement a small increase as below, with immediate effect:

	Current cost	**New cost**
First interment in a single/double depth grave	£145.00	**£160.00**
Re-open for Second interment	£55.00	**£60.00**
Memorial fee (subject to consent of the Council)	£25.00	**£30.00**
Further inscription fee	£12.00	**£15.00**
First interment of ashes	£45.00	**£55.00**
Re-open for Second interment of ashes	£28.00	**£35.00**
Reserved burial plots (50 years)/Grant of Right	£60.00	**£75.00**
Persons living in adjoining parishes – charge extra 50%		
Persons from outside the Parish other than above – double charge		

The cemetery fees will be reviewed annually, and the council will use its discretion in situations such as a resident moving into residential care outside of the parish.

Purchase of the plot markers, and new cemetery costs proposed by Cllr Arthur, seconded by Cllr Charter and approved unanimously.

Councillors also discussed purchasing a new noticeboard for the cemetery to display the fees, and any other relevant information. This will be a future agenda item, The new fees will be published on the website and circulated to local Funeral Directors.
ACTION – Clerk to publish new cemetery fees as above, and order cemetery markers

22.175 To discuss a Working Party to carry out winter maintenance to the cemetery
After discussing, Cllr Kilbee and Cllr Arthur agreed to arrange a time to meet at the cemetery to investigate exactly what work needs to be conducted.
ACTION – Cllr Kilbee/Cllr Arthur as above

22.176 To discuss churchyard fending quotations
Cllr Kilbee explained that it is still not clear whether the fencing is the responsibility of the council, or the PCC. The Clerk has confirmed with NALC that once a churchyard is closed, responsibility for maintenance falls on the PCC for the parish in which the churchyard lies (s.215(1) Local Government Act 1972). A PCC may serve a written request on the council to take over maintenance of the churchyard. The council can either take over the maintenance three months after service of the request, or pass responsibility onto the District Council within the three month period. Cllr Kilbee and the Clerk cannot find evidence of any such request and, and have asked the PCC to check their records. Meanwhile Cllr Kilbee has obtained an initial quotation for replacing the fencing, and the neighbouring property owner has said they will contribute 25% towards the cost based on this quotation.
ACTION – Cllr Kilbee/Clerk to continue investigating responsibility for maintenance of the churchyard. Cllr Kilbee to seek additional fencing quotations.

22.177 Walsham Le Willows Neighbourhood Plan pre submission consultation
The draft Walsham le Willows Neighbourhood Plan is out for pre-submission consultation from 17th October to 2nd December 2022 and has been sent to all neighbouring parishes. After discussing, councillors agreed they have no comments against the consultation.

22.178 Headway Suffolk Donation Request
Headway Suffolk is a local charity with a hub in Ipswich, providing support and care to people suffering neurological conditions. A request for a financial donation has been received. After discussing, councillors felt any financial support should be primarily for causes with a direct link to the parish, and therefore agreed unanimously not to provide a donation at this time.
ACTION – Clerk to advise Headway Suffolk as above

22.179 Correspondence received
A resident has been in contact regarding a BT Open Reach telegraph pole that has been installed, without prior notice, at the front of their property. They are concerned that the pole will cause issues with a tree in their garden, and aggrieved that they were not informed the pole was being installed. MSDC have confirmed that a planning application was raised but not sent out for consultation due to being utilities related. Councillors agreed they emphasise with the resident, but unfortunately the pole is sited on highways land so there is very little the council can do.
ACTION – Clerk to contact resident aa above

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

<u>Balances as of 28/10/2022</u>
Community Bank Account
Balance as of 28 October 2022: £30,004.71
(Balance as of 29 Sept 2022: £26,292.02)
Receipts (since 29 Sept 2022): £6,211.02
Payments (since 29 Sept 2022): £2,498.33
Deposit Account
Balance as of 28 October 2022: £3,331.46

General funds: £13,193.15
Reserves (1/2 of precept & election costs): £4,256.85
Restricted funds (CIL & grants not spent): £15,886.17

b. Requests for payment

Admin J. Challis (including back dated pay increase) - £364.95
HMRC J. Challis - £91.20
N. Hill (back dated pay increase) - £28.75
Clerk expenses (J. Challis mileage) - £20.61
SALC – cemetery training recording - £16.80
Paul Trew – expenses (glue for VAS) - £4.95

TOTAL payments - £527.26

Cllr Kilbee proposed authorisation of the above payments; seconded by Cllr Arthur and approved unanimously.
ACTION - Cllr Kilbee and Cllr Winter to pay the remaining above approved payments by bank transfer (dual authorisation). Cllr Black to confirm when he has access to online banking.

22.181 Planning
a. To consider applications - None
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.**
- 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 – **NO OBJECTION.**
- 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 – **AWAITING DECISION.**

22.182 To discuss date of the next meeting
Cllr Kilbee proposed the next meeting be held a week earlier than usual on 6th December 2022. Approval proposed by Cllr Arthur, seconded by Cllr Miller, and approved unanimously.

22.183 Questions to Chairman
None.

22.184 Items to be discussed at the next meeting and included in the November agenda.
Budget 2023/24 and Precept request 2023/24.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:00pm

FOOTPATH WARDEN'S REPORT

I am pleased to say that the public rights of way in our parish have kept in good condition, and other than the usual trimming back etc. I have not had to report any broken signs or damage etc.

With James Black's help, and also the grateful receipt of the new dog bins provided by the parish council, we have managed to install the extra bins in their positions; 1, near Rob Hall corner, 2, just north of the old chapel, 3, 'Jenny's lane' Gislingham rd. and 4, near the concrete pad adjacent to Eastlands Lane. So we now have 13 bins in our parish, including the two larger Glasdon 'Retriever' bins sited at Saracens Hill, Westhorpe rd. and at Mill Lane Station rd.

This should help a great deal for any dog walkers using our public rights of way, to act responsibly and bin their dog waste!

Doug Aiken

District Councillor Report: Andrew Mellen, Bacton ward

Bacton, Cotton, Finningham, Westhorpe and Wyverstone

November 2022

Council Tax Reduction Scheme	Last month Cabinet agreed to consult on a scheme to increase the council tax reduction for eligible household from 95% to 100%. Currently households who receive benefits have reduced council tax bills depending on the amount of benefit they receive.
Electric Bus Project	A Task and Finish Group of six MSDC Councillors has commenced work on planning how best to serve our residents with the two electric minibuses which are to be acquired by MSDC as a result of a Green and Liberal Democrat proposed budget amendment.
Exemplar Housing scheme proposal for Elmswell	Plans for a development of up to 50 environmentally friendly low carbon homes on a plot of Council owned land adjacent to School Road in Elmswell are to be discussed by Cabinet in November. If the cabinet agrees to go forward with the £15M scheme the next stage would involve some public engagement prior to the submission of a planning application.
CIFCO	The Councils' CIFCO investments continue to provide revenue for both councils – amounting to about £1.7M for MSDC in 2021/22. The financial report and 2023 business plan were discussed by MSDC on 27th October. It was cited that the diversity within the portfolio helped weather the impact of COVID.
Winter Warmth Funding	A Winter Warmth Support Grant fund was launched on 21st October for organisations to apply for grants of £250 - £5000 to help with the increased energy, rent and food costs to enable community activities and warm spaces to remain open and available during the winter without having increase fees for residents. The grant application window is due to close on 31st October, and depending on demand they may repeat the scheme at a later date.
New waste tankers	Babergh and Mid Suffolk are investing £2M for 22 new HVO-fuelled waste tankers. This is the biggest upgrade to the Waste fleet in about 10 years. A competition has been launched for members of the public to submit names for the new tankers on the website http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/binlorrycompetition and the competition closes on 13th November.
Tree for Life	A reminder for any family living in the district who has welcomed a new baby (either by birth or adoption) this year to apply for a tree to be planted this winter. The scheme is also open to families who have lost a child during the same period. Details of the scheme is available on the website https://www.babergh.gov.uk/environment/planting-schemes/tree-for-life/ .
Innovation Awards 2022	The winners of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Innovation Awards were announced at a ceremony held at Wherstead Park on 20th October. Details of the 22 finalists can be found on the website https://www.babergh.gov.uk/news/winners-announced-for-the-babergh-and-mid-suffolk-innovation-awards-2022/
Councillor Remuneration 2023.	Following recommendations by an Independent Remuneration Panel, Mid Suffolk Councillors agreed the remuneration to be made to the incoming councillors next May. The basic allowance is to go up to just over £6k and there are several special responsibility allowances as well.
Locality Funding	I still have some funds available and would welcome applications from any local club or organisation in need of funding towards the cost of a local project.

Cllr Andrew Mellen Andrew.mellen@midsuffolk.gov.uk 07790 992619

Parish Report – November 2022
Councillor: Andy Mellen

Division: Thedwastre North
Councillor contact details
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For information on local support during the Cost-of-Living Crisis, visit: www.suffolk.gov.uk/CostOfLiving

Latest SCC COVID 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 or ukrainesupport@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk

Cost of Living Budget Survey – SCC Open up for your thoughts

The County Council has released a survey to local residents, asking for their thoughts on the upcoming 2023/24 budget. A summary of responses will be considered when deciding how to spend your money. With inflationary pressures, our Group expects government to seek spending cuts – meaning public services could be cut and council reserves may have to be used.

Despite the difficult situation, can I recommend you complete the survey and share your thoughts on how the Council should spend their money, as well as highlight vulnerabilities you see in your communities that need further addressing.

For a link to the online survey, click here: https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/7BQY0J/

Cost-of-Living Leaflet: Updated to Show Support

Over 85,000 leaflets, highlighting information and guidance during the crisis, were distributed amongst Suffolk communities. The leaflet shows all the help Suffolk offers with finances and household expenses, as well as how to stay warm this winter. Our Group strongly suggest anyone vulnerable to take a look at how Suffolk can help.

For a link to the leaflet, click here: https://suffolk.pagetiger.com/cost-of-living-support/scc1

SCC's Launch of 'Winter Matters' Campaign

SCC have launched their Winter Matters campaign, which aims to help ease the pressures of winter for Suffolk residents. This is a signposting campaign that centres around five key themes: Finances, Safety, Environment, Health and Wellbeing, and Highways.

For more information and advice on how SCC can support you during winter, visit: www.suffolk.gov.uk/wintermatters

Full Council – 20th October – GLI Motion

We submitted a motion calling for Suffolk County Council to reject the idea of an "Anti-Growth Coalition". The term, coined by former PM Liz Truss, suggests anyone who criticised the government's economic policy was part of a coordinated group against growing our economy. Of course, since then things have quickly moved on and we now have a new Prime Minister with new priorities.

Our Group wanted to debate the issues – including the view that growth should consider social responsibilities, community voices, sound financial policy, and environmental limits, something we believed this government was not adhering to. A useful debate was had.

SCC Cabinet Meeting – 11th October

The Cabinet met for the first time since the summer political recess. The Cabinet agreed to spend £2m on new care provision for Children and Young People in Felixstowe. In addition, SEND services received £10m to provide more specialist units in Suffolk. The opposition supported this spending, as we want to remove the pattern of families travelling cross-county to access educational support.

The Suffolk Local Access Forum submitted their annual report, which included their concerns about Sizewell C and its effect on green networks and Rights of Way. We continue to voice concerns over the effects of nuclear power on our coastal landscape and biodiversity.

In addition, the Cabinet endorsed Transport East's new 2050 strategy, which focusses more on green travel and linking rural communities to local economies. Our Group recognises the importance of connecting isolated residents for both profession and pleasure, and we will ensure SCC adopts all priorities into its own policy. This includes local bus provision which is a really difficult issue for residents affected by recent timetable reductions.

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