FINNINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes for the EXTRAORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Tuesday 13th August 2024 in St. Bartholomew's Church, Finningham, starting at 7:30pm

Present: Cllr Kilbee, Cllr Winter, Cllr Charter, Cllr Davies
In attendance: Miss J. Challis (Clerk), Cllr Mellen, 3 members of the public

24.109 Chair's welcome and to consider and approve apologies for absence
Cllr Kilbee welcomed everyone to the meeting, and approval of apologies received from Cllr Trew, Cllr Black and Cllr Saunders was proposed by Cllr Winter, seconded by Cllr Davies, and approved unanimously.

24.110 Visiting speakers
Cllr Mellen's August reports can be found as an addendum at the end of the minutes. Cllr Mellen reported that the District Council is seeing post-election changes, with the annual new housing figure increasing by 200, although this does not impact Finningham directly.
In addition to his reports, Cllr Mellen provided an update regarding the trees on the byway by the river Dove. Cllr Mellen has had sight of a map dated 1904 which appears to show the byway belonging to Frazer House and is following this up.
Cllr Mellen said in relation to the planning applications due to be discussed under agenda item 17, that the District Council is obligated to provide a certain amount of self-builds each year. There was a discussion on the criteria for a self-build, with Cllr Davies also raising the subject of whether future infill development is classed as a material consideration.

24.111 Contribution by Members of the Public
The members of the public were present for agenda items 12 and 17.

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

24.113 To consider requests for dispensations on agenda items
None.

24.114 To approve minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th July 2024
Deferred to September meeting.

24.115 Matters arising from the Parish Council meeting held on 9th July 2024
All covered elsewhere on the agenda.

24.116 Chairman's Report
First, an apology for asking you to attend a meeting in August when we normally have a summer break. The items on the Agenda require urgent attention, hence our meeting tonight.
For my own part, I have visited our mower supplier and collected the mulching attachment for our Honda. While I was there, I received the sad news that the branch was closing down at the end of the month, so will not be able to service our equipment in the future. Their remaining branch is in Bedford and will not cover this area. This means that we shall have to find another Honda Dealer for future servicing. On that subject, we have a bit of a problem with the ignition key switch. I thought that I had fixed it once but that proved to be a non-lasting fix. I shall try again but it may require a replacement switch at a cost of £50.
A snippet of information that you might find of interest, I have recently had two guests who have been involved in the preparations of the ground works for the proposed pipeline. They have both been engaged to test the ground on which the pylons will be installed. My question is, why is NG investing in employing these companies if they are not confident that the scheme will go ahead? To my mind, it makes a mockery of all the activities of the various resistance groups and the submissions of organizations and individuals to National Grid.

I really think that we must agree on a better way of reimbursing volunteers who have purchased fuel for the mowers. To expect them to wait until the next meeting to receive their outlay is unacceptable, in my view. As we were not originally going to have this meeting and one of the volunteers would have to wait until September before being paid, I paid him out of my own pocket to avoid embarrassment.

24.117 Clerk's Report

- The Parish Meeting to discuss National Grid's Norwich to Tilbury consultation was held on 11th July. Cllr Kilbee hosted the meeting with guest speakers Cllr Richard Rout, Cllr Andrew Stringer, Cllr Rowland Warboys, and two representatives from the Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk Pylon Group in attendance. There were approximately 25 members of the public. The Council's final response to the consultation was submitted prior to the deadline, and can be found as an addendum to the minutes.
- The most up to date definitive footpath map from January 2023 has been sent to the Footpath Warden.
- The replacement dog bin has been ordered but the lead time is 3-4 weeks.

24.118 Graffiti and antisocial behaviour in the village

Cllr Winter reported that an incident occurred at the end of July in Haughley, involving an unauthorised encampment of travellers on the Playing Field. A legal Order had to be obtained to ask them to leave, following which the playing field had to be closed for specialist decontamination work. Cllr Winter raised concern that Finningham Green is a vulnerable location and the council needs to be aware of the steps that have to be taken, should a similar situation occur.
After discussing, it was agreed for the Clerk to speak to Haughley Parish Council for their advice, and for a risk assessment to be subsequently carried out.
Cllr Trew reported prior to the meeting that there have been more incidents of graffiti coinciding with the start of the school holidays. Mill Road railway bridge, and also some hay bales (now removed) have been targeted. The Clerk will speak to PC Adam Ferguson to see if he is aware, and seek his advice.
ACTION – Clerk as above.

24.119 To consider relocating the VAS device on Station Road

Cllr Trew suggested prior to the meeting that the VAS device on Station Road, should be moved to one of the other approved locations, as it is obstructed by the neighbouring hedge which is not being maintained by the owner.

8:10pm Cllr Black arrived.

After discussing, it was agreed to contact the owner of the hedge first, to request it is cut back by a set date, after which the council will arrange for it to be cut.
ACTION – Clerk as above.

8:18pm Cllr Mellen left the meeting.

24.120 To consider request for 'monthly pop-up pub' on the Green

Cllr Kilbee gave permission for the member of the public present for this item to speak. The member of the public said the request was not for a pop-up pub, just permission for themselves and a small group of friends to gather on the green on Friday evenings, between approximately 6-9pm. This would be an informal arrangement up until October, and is being requested because the White Horse public house has recently closed. They will bring their own drinks and food, and if the weather is inclement, possibly a gazebo. There will be no music.
After discussing, councillors agreed unanimously that they have no objection to this request.
The member of the public thanked the council.

8:28pm two members of the public left the meeting.

24.121 To consider purchase of a new St George's lag

The St George's flag is also in poor condition and the Clerk has obtained quotations for a replacement which were shared with councillors. Cllr Kilbee proposed ordering a replacement St George's flag from Harrison flags at a cost of £98.49 plus VAT and delivery. This will also negate the need for two delivery charges, as the order for the Union flag approved at the 9th July meeting has not been processed yet. Seconded by Cllr Davies and approved unanimously.
ACTION – Clerk to arrange purchase as above.

24.122 To consider ACV (Asset of Community Value) nomination for the White Horse Public House

Due to the White Horse Public House no longer being open, and being the only public house in Finningham, there was a discussion on whether to submit an ACV nomination to MSDC.
The Localism Act 2011 introduced the 'Community Right to Bid', placing a duty upon local authorities to "maintain a list of land in its area that is land of community value", as nominated by the local community. Local communities can nominate an asset in their local area which promotes the 'social wellbeing' or 'social interests' of the community. If the nominated asset meets the statutory definition of an asset of community value, the Council must place it on the List of Assets of Community Value and notify the relevant parties. If any listed asset comes up for sale, the owner of the asset must notify the Council, who in turn will update the List to reflect this and notify the local community. This will enforce an interim moratorium period, which will give the local community an initial six-week period to say if they are interested in bidding to buy the asset.
After discussing, Cllr Kilbee proposed the council does not proceed with an ACV nomination against the White Horse Public House. Seconded by Cllr Charter.
Vote: 3 votes in support of Cllr Kilbee's proposal, and 2 abstentions. Therefore, motion carried; an ACV nomination will not be submitted by the Parish Council. This does not prevent another community organisation from submitting one.

24.123 Correspondence

None.

8:58pm a member of the public left the meeting.

24.124 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 August	£412.71
Clerk expenses – mileage (July PC meeting & July Parish meeting)	£21.42
HMRC Aug 2024 PAYE/NIC	£104.43
T. Kilbee expenses – mower fuel	£13.93
MKM Agriculture – mulcher	£72.49
Harrison Flagpoles – Union & St George's flags	£272.34

Cllr Charter proposed authorisation of the above payments, seconded by Cllr Davies and approved unanimously with one abstention against T. Kilbee's expenses (Cllr Kilbee).
ACTION – Cllr Kilbee and either Cllr Winter or Cllr Trew to pay approved payments above, online, (dual authorisation).

24.125 Planning

- **To consider applications**
- 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.
  Cllrs discussed the application, taking in to account all material considerations. Cllr Black proposed the council submit a neutral stance against the application. Seconded by Cllr Winter, and approved unanimously.
- DC/24/02588 - 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.
  Cllrs discussed the application, again applying all relevant material considerations. Cllr Charter proposed the council submit a neutral stance against the application. Seconded by Cllr Davies, and approved unanimously.
- DC/24/03305 - Application for works to a tree in a Conservation Area - Reduce 1No Walnut tree by 1/3 as shades whole garden and is overshadowing the house.
  Location: Hollis House, Wickham Road, Finningham, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4HT
  Cllrs agreed unanimously that they have no comment against this application.

ACTION – Clerk to add comments to MSDC planning portal as above.

- **Decisions & to consider planning matters coming forth**
- 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 – **REFUSED.**
- DC/24/02757 – Application for works to a tree in a Conservation Area – Reduce 1No twin stemmed beech tree by up to 2m, mainly on the sides of the tree, up to 3-4m on the longer overextended branches overhanging the roof of the adjacent building. Amberley. Church Lane, Finningham, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 4JB – **GRANTED.**

24.126 **To discuss date of the next meeting**
The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 10th September 2024, at 7:30pm in St. Bartholomew's Church, Finningham.

24.127 **Questions to Chairman**
None.

24.128 **Items to be discussed at the next meeting and included in the September agenda.**
No new items.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9:09pm.