

FINCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, duly convened on Wednesday
28th July 2021 at Fincham Memorial Hall. Commenced at 7.30pm with
Cllr. John Delderfield in the Chair.

Attending:

Cllr. Shaun Blackmur
Cllr. John Delderfield
Cllr. Abigail Desborough
Cllr. Andy Hudson-Smith
Cllr. Sonja Hudson-Smith
Cllr. Cathy O'Brien
Cllr. Barbara Ponder
Cllr. Dave Stringer

Clerk – Sarah Thorpe

Six parishioners were in attendance.

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies had been received from Borough Councillor Mike Howland.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interests.

Cllr. O'Brien declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 10f.

3. Public Forum.

An issue was raised by a resident in relation to overhanging hedges which were restricting visibility to his access to the A1122. The resident had already contacted the landowner and NCC Highways Dept. about this issue, but the problem had not been resolved. Cllr. Delderfield advised that he had looked at the situation and agreed that visibility was severely restricted. Other Councillors also confirmed that this was a problem. It was agreed to contact Highways to ask for a meeting between them, Cllr. Delderfield and the Clerk.

4. Minutes of Annual Meeting on 26th May 2021.

The Chairman asked councillors to look at the accuracy of the minutes. Following a proposal by Cllr. Stringer, seconded by Cllr. O'Brien, it was agreed by all to accept the minutes as a true record, and they were signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising.

The Clerk advised that all matters had been actioned.

The bottle bank contractor had advised that the operative would be asked to ensure broken glass was not left around the bank after emptying. They also advised that it was best to ask for the bank to be emptied when it was $\frac{3}{4}$ full by emailing bottlebanks@urmgroup.co.uk

6. Finance Matters.

Item a. Approval of Monthly Expenditure.

Payee	Goods/ Services	VAT	TOTAL	chq no	Supplier/Service
E-on	17.83	0.89	18.72	D/D	Streetlighting electric June
HMRC	68.60		68.60	D/D	PAYE June
CGM Ltd	125.00	25.00	150.00	D/D	Grounds maint - Nature Reserve
CGM Ltd	289.80	57.96	347.76	D/D	Grounds maintenance
S Thorpe	274.86		274.86	S/O	Clerk's salary June
Wave	52.42		52.42	D/D	Allotment water supply
URM (UK) Ltd	10.50	2.10	12.60	D/D	Bottle bank emptying
Unity Trust Bank	18.00		18.00	D/D	Bank charges
E-on	17.25	0.86	18.11	D/D	Streetlighting electric July
HMRC	68.60		68.60	S/O	PAYE July
S Thorpe	274.86		274.86	S/O	Clerk's salary July
S Thorpe	35.20		35.20	BACS	Clerk's expenses June/July
Limetree Printing	20.80		20.80	BACS	Newsletter printing

£ 1,273.72 £ 86.81 £ 1,360.53

Signed as a true record of the meeting:.....Date:.....

The Clerk ran through the above payments for authorisation. Following a proposal by Cllr. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. Stringer, the payments were approved, BACS payments to be authorised by two Councillors following the meeting.

Item b. Reconciled cashbook. The Clerk presented the completed cashbook to the end of June 2021. The Chairman viewed the cashbook and agreed the bank statements to the reconciled figures.

Item c. Quarter 1 finance review. The Clerk had emailed copies of the documents prior to the start of the meeting. The Chairman called for questions and the figures were discussed, following a proposal by Cllr. Ponder, seconded by Cllr. Stringer, the review was accepted by all.

7. Planning matters.

Item a. New applications:

21/00849/F Conversion of barns complex to form three dwellings at Church Farm Barns, High Street. The PC had been reconsulted as additional information had been submitted for the application. The information had been discussed. It had been agreed to SUPPORT the application if conditions were placed on any approval which required another bat survey to be completed, if the previously submitted one was now out of date. The PC also expressed concern about other wildlife within the barns as doves had been spotted; birds, their nests and eggs are protected by law. The BC were asked to ensure the applicant was made aware of the law and that appropriate measures were taken.

21/00916/LB Removal of 20th Century fireplace alterations from a former inglenook fireplace to re-establish a larger opening for a cooking stove at Playter Hall, Lynn Road. The application had been discussed. It had been agreed to SUPPORT the application. No further comments were made.

21/01269/F Retention of summerhouse and shed in garden at 7 California. The application had been discussed. It had been agreed to SUPPORT the application. No further comments were made.

Item b. Decisions from the Borough Council: the following application had been approved:

21/00672/F Variation of Condition 2 of Planning Permission: 18/01756/F: Proposed single and two storey extensions, internal alterations, and new driveway surfacing with layout alterations at Long Acre, Downham Road.

8. Health & Safety issues.

Item a. Issues requiring attention. None.

Item b. Return of Health & Safety Inspection sheets. Three inspection sheets were returned. No immediate action was required but it was noted that the seat at the Nature Reserve would need replacing soon.

9. Correspondence.

All correspondence of note had been forwarded to members prior to the meeting.

10. Parish Affairs.

Item a. Nature Reserve. Cllr. Stringer had provided a report which had been forwarded to all before the meeting; it advised that the grass from the path which led into the Reserve from Wereham and through the Reserve from the pond to the eastern boundary, had recently been cut, possibly by NCC. A quotation had been received for two additional boards advising of the Nature Reserve, to be placed at the eastern and Wereham entrance to the Reserve. The quote was £615 including installation for additional signs to be the same as the other sign but half the size. The quote was discussed, and it was agreed that two basic directional signs would probably be sufficient; Clerk to obtain quotation for these. Cllr. Stringer queried the exact boundary of the Reserve; Clerk to provide a copy of the Land Registry map. Councillors, and a former Councillor, who completed the circular walk, to still consider suitable locations and number of new directional signs which were needed after consultation with David Mills, NCC Countryside Access Officer.

Item b. Footpaths and stiles. Cllr. Desborough had met with David Mills, Countryside Access Officer from NCC, to discuss footpaths and stiles. Stiles were the responsibility of landowners, but NCC now recommended the installation of gates or kissing gates instead of styles. Information and advice had been supplied and Cllr. Desborough to continue work on this.

Item c. Allotment matters. The only vacant plots were now the three plots usually maintained by the Community Payback Team, who had still not returned. Cllr. Ponder to contact team again to ask if they had any plans to return.

Item d. Update on Speed activated messaging sign (SAM2). Cllr. O'Brien had produced a report which had been sent to all. Cllr. O'Brien advised that there had been a problem with the sign which meant that the data could not be assigned to the correct dates and times, however 92,655 vehicles had been recorded, the median speed was 40mph and the average speed was about 41mph. The maximum speed recorded was 100mph on three occasions.

- Item e. Update on Community Speed Watch Scheme (CSW).** Cllr. Ponder had produced a report which advised that the team had been out 8 times since the last PC meeting, however rain had cut short the sessions on three occasions; in total 46 offenders had been logged. As previously the majority had been opposite the Church and on Marham Road. One member of the team had resigned leaving them with the bare minimum of six required to provide the service.
- Item f. Cost of grounds maintenance for churchyard for 2020.** The Clerk advised that the cost of maintenance of the churchyard for 2020 had been £1090.51. Following a proposal by Cllr. Desborough, seconded by Cllr. Blackmur, it was agreed by all (Cllr. O'Brien abstained from voting) to ask the church to contribute 50% of the cost, as with the previous year.
- Item g. Quotation for cutting of verges between the road and footpath on High Street** (in front of playing field, Barsham House, and the garage). A quotation had been received of £7.50 for each area per occasion. Following a proposal by Cllr. S Hudson-Smith, seconded by Cllr. Stringer, it was agreed to ask the contractor to cut these areas every four weeks.
- Item h. Repairs to Notice Board.** A quotation had been received for refurbishment of the metal frame and catch on the PC notice board. The quote was for £580 including VAT with an additional £120 including VAT if the hinge needed replacing. It was agreed to seek alternative options including the cost of replacement. Item to be carried forward to the next meeting.
- Item i. Update on funding for Trod (informal footpath) for western edge of A1122 to improve access to the Nature Reserve.** The Clerk advised that details of the NCC Parish Partnership Scheme for 2022/23 had been released, it was possible that a successful application could cover 50% of the cost of the project. The Clerk would continue to investigate other funding options, as the project could not go ahead unless full funding could be obtained.
- Item j. Free Recycling Programmes.** The clothing bank would be installed over the next few weeks. The container for recycling printer ink cartridges would need to be inside the Hall. Cllr. Delderfield agreed to speak to the Chair of the Hall Committee to explain the situation and see if the Hall Committee would reconsider having this inside the Hall.
- Item k. Additional tree on The Green.** A quotation had been received but this was not suitable as the variety of the tree was part of the Cherry family which meant it would be susceptible to the disease on the current trees. Other quotes to be obtained, Cllr. Stinger provided details of prices for other varieties. Item to be carried forward to the next meeting.
- Item l. Anchoring of the litter bin at the Memorial Hall.** Quotations to be obtained to anchor the bin to the ground. Cllr. Delderfield and the Clerk to authorise under delegated powers if quotes were acceptable.
- Item m. Condition of white "Fincham Please Drive Slowly" signs on Marham Road & Lynn Road.** The condition of the signs was discussed. NCC had previously accepted that they owned the signs but were not willing to spend money on maintaining them. It was agreed that the Clerk should obtain a quotation.
- Item n. Commemorations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.** Details had been provided of a proposal for nationwide commemorations. It was agreed that it would be good to do something in the village, but it would need to be in conjunction with the Hall Committee as the PC did not own any land where it would be suitable to hold an event. Item to be carried forward to the next meeting to discuss again when the Hall Committee had considered it.

- 11. Items for the next agenda.**
Items to remain on the agenda as already agreed including refurbishment of the wooden post for the village sign.
- 12. Date of next meeting.**
The next meeting would be an Ordinary Meeting on Wednesday 22nd September at 7.30pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.00pm