

FINCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, duly convened on Wednesday
22nd September 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

No parishioners were in attendance.

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies had been received from Borough Councillor Mike Howland and County Councillor Brian Long.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interests.

None.

3. Public Forum.

No members of the public were present.

4. Minutes of Ordinary Meeting on 28th July 2021.

The Chairman asked councillors to look at the accuracy of the minutes. Following a proposal by Cllr. Ponder, seconded by Cllr. Blackmur, 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. CGM had confirmed they would cut the areas of the verge between the road and footpath on High Street (in front of playing field, Barsham House, and the garage). The first cut had just taken place, but it was thought they had not cut the area in front of the playing field. Members to check and inform the Clerk,

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 August
HMRC	68.60		68.60	D/D	PAYE August
CGM Ltd	341.40	67.44	408.84	D/D	Grounds maintenance
URM (UK) Ltd	12.00	2.40	14.40	D/D	Bottle bank emptying
S Thorpe	274.86		274.86	S/O	Clerk's salary August
Wave	148.71		148.71	D/D	Allotment water supply
A1 Signs & Engraving	40.00	8.00	48.00	BACS	Hedgehog warning signs
Unity Trust Bank	18.00		18.00	D/D	Bank charges
E-on	17.83	0.89	18.72	D/D	Streetlighting electric Sept
HMRC	68.60		68.60	S/O	PAYE Sept
S Thorpe	274.86		274.86	S/O	Clerk's salary Sept
S Thorpe	153.65	17.45	171.10	BACS	Clerk's expenses/training
CGM Ltd	401.80	80.36	482.16	D/D	Grounds maintenance

£ 1,838.14 £ 177.43 £ 2,015.57

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

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

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

7. Planning matters.

Item a. New applications: None.

Decisions from the Borough Council: the following application had been approved:
21/01269/F Retention of summerhouse and shed in garden at 7 California.

Item b. Consultation on Borough Council Local Plan Review. Members were advised that the proposed Local Plan did not allocate any new development for the parish. It was agreed that no response was needed to the consultation.

8. Health & Safety issues.

Item a. Issues requiring attention.

- Talbot Manor – trees had been felled.
- Chapels on Downham Road – in very poor state of repair.
- Marham Road (near junction with High Street) – pot holes.
- Lynn Road (near Playters Hall) – pot holes.
- High Street (opposite junction with Bretts Orchard) – vegetation overhanging footpath.
- Boughton Road – 30mph speed limit sign obscured by overgrown hedge.

Item b. Return of Health & Safety Inspection sheets. Four inspection sheets were returned. The PC notice board still needed attention but was to be discussed later. The footpath notice board was difficult to read as the map was faded and the Perspex obscured. Cllr. Desborough agreed to speak to David Mills, NCC Countryside Access Officer to see if they could help.

9. Correspondence.

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

- County Farms had advised of action needed on any Ash trees which were suffering from Ash die back. Cllr. Ponder agreed to speak to a resident to ask her to check if there were any Ash trees around the allotment land.
- Letter from E-on advising of price increase for street lighting electricity.

10. Parish Affairs.

Item a. Nature Reserve. Cllr. Stringer advised that the Nature Reserve had been looking good over the summer. The path had been cut again at the end of August; it was thought that the eastern half had been cut by Norfolk County Council (NCC). A further 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 £435 including installation for the brown signs. The quote was discussed; it was felt that this was still too expensive and that two A4 signs which could be attached to trees would be sufficient. Further quotes to be obtained. It was agreed by all to go ahead with the signs, up to the cost of £300, proposed by Cllr. Blackmur, seconded by Cllr. Desborough.

Item b. Free tree packs from NCC. The PC had been informed of free tree packs available as part of the 1 million Trees for Norfolk initiative. It was agreed that the Clerk should try to obtain some of the trees and put an item in the next newsletter asking residents if they wished to plant some in their gardens. Cllr. Long would need to approve the application.

Item c. Footpaths and stiles. Cllr. Desborough had been in contact with David Mills, Countryside Access Officer from NCC, to continue the discussion on footpaths and stiles. It had been agreed that gates or kissing gates would be supplied to replace three of the stiles. It was understood that Cllr. Long had agreed to cover the cost of kissing gates from his highways budget. It appeared that NCC preferred kissing gates but the reason for this was not known, if it was a funding issue then the difference in cost was to be obtained with a view to either asking Cllr. Long to increase his offer, or for the PC to consider covering the additional cost. CGM had been asked to cut the footpaths and ensure that the whole area was cut including the part which had been missed last time.

Item d. Allotment matters. The only vacant plots were now two plots usually maintained by the Community Payback Team, who had still not returned.

Item e. Update on Speed activated messaging sign (SAM2). Cllr. O'Brien had produced a report which had been given to all. The report advised that 82,543 vehicles had been recorded from 2nd to 29th July when the sign was in the church layby. 13 vehicles were recorded at speeds above 85mph during the period. Cllr. O'Brien agreed to see if she could provide a comparison of speeds recorded over the last 5 years.

Item f. Update on Community Speed Watch Scheme (CSW). Cllr. Ponder advised that the team had been out 8 times since the last PC meeting; in total 19 offenders had been logged. Generally, the trend was that the number of offenders was reducing.

- Item g. Repairs/replacement of Notice Board.** A further quotation had been received for refurbishment of the metal frame and catch on the PC notice board. The quote was for £150. Quotations had also been received for replacement boards, but these were all more expensive and the new boards were not as robust as the existing board. Following a proposal by Cllr. Blackmur, seconded by Cllr. S. Hudson-Smith, it was agreed by all to approve the quote for repairs at £150. Repositioning and securing of the litter bin at the Memorial Hall to be carried out for £25, which was agreed under delegated powers.
- Item h. Repairs/replacement of post holding the village sign.** A quotation had been received of £250 to remove the existing post and replace with a solid oak post and reinstall the sign. Following a proposal by Cllr. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. Stringer, it was agreed by all to approve the quote.
- Item i. Update on funding for Trod (informal footpath) for western edge of A1122 to improve access to the Nature Reserve.** At this stage no other funding options had been found. Clerk to continue to investigate. Item to be considered further at the next meeting.
- Item j. Free Recycling Programmes.** The clothing bank had not yet been installed. The Clerk had been informed that there was a shortage of supply of banks, and this was what was causing the delay. The Hall Committee were now in support of a bin for recycling printer ink cartridges to be placed inside the Hall. The Clerk had been in touch with the Borough Council about this but had not yet received a response. To be chased up.
- Item k. First time registration of Chalk Pit.** Members and the Clerk had carried out an inspection of the area surrounding the Chalk Pit. The situation was discussed including the mast at the side of the site. Following a proposal by Cllr. Desborough, seconded by Cllr. Stringer, it was agreed by all to appoint Fraser Dawbarns to carry out the work required to have the PC added to Land Registry as the landowner at a cost of up to £600 plus vat along with Land Registry fees of no more than £50.
- Item l. Additional tree on The Green.** An amended quotation had been received of £380 plus VAT for a Malus Sylvestris (crab apple) tree. It was agreed that this was not the most appropriate tree to plant at the site. Cllr. Stinger had provided details of the cost of a Rowan tree. Clerk to investigate if there was an appropriate tree available as part of the 1 million Trees for Norfolk initiative and place an item in the next newsletter asking for the views of residents.
- Item m. Condition of white "Fincham Please Drive Slowly" signs on Marham Road & Lynn Road.** A quotation had been received of £180 per sign to refurbish the signs. Following a proposal by Cllr. S. Hudson-Smith, seconded by Cllr. Stringer, it was agreed by all to accept the quote.
- Item n. Commemorations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.** The Hall Committee were considering options on how to commemorate the jubilee. Current options being considered were mentioned. Item to be carried forward to the next meeting to discuss again.
- Item o. Defibrillator for the village.** Cllr. Stringer had asked for the item to be added to the agenda as he thought that the PC should consider installing a defibrillator in the village and that this could be part of the parish commemorations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The matter was discussed including a suitable location being the Memorial Hall, if permission could be obtained from the Hall Committee, and the likely cost of the project. Item to be carried forward to next meeting.
- Item p. Nominations to attend the RAF Marham Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch 2021.** At this stage it was not known if the event would be going ahead this year, but it was agreed that if it did Cllr. Delderfield would draw up a list of nominees as usual.
- Item q. Items for the Autumn Newsletter.** Items to be included as already agreed along with details of the Fincham Chorus Christmas concert and details for application to the Fincham Charities Trust.

11. **Items for the next agenda.**
Items to remain on the agenda as already.

12. **Date of next meeting.**
The next meeting would be an Ordinary Meeting on Wednesday 24th November at 7.30pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.25pm