

**Minutes of Sevington with Finberry Parish Council
Meeting held at the Chamber of Commerce on Monday, 4th March 2024**

Present	Cllr Martin (Chair) Cllr Bartram Cllr Lemon	Cllr Bartlett Cllr Coppins Cllr Townsend
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In attendance: one member of the public and Tracey Block (Clerk)

To be actioned by:

<p>To receive and approve apologies for absence. Apologies had been received from Cllrs Lemon and Whybrow.</p>	
<p>To receive declarations of Interest (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests). The nature as well as the existence of any such interest must be declared. Cllrs Bartlett and Coppins declared an interest in the IBF and Waterbrook due to the proximity of their homes to the site. Cllr Bartlett declared an interest in the Farriers Arms as he is a shareholder.</p>	
<p>To approve the minutes Sevington with Finberry Parish Council meeting held on 5th February 2024. The minutes of the meeting on 5th February 2024 were signed as a true copy.</p>	
<p>To discuss matters arising from previous minutes that are not covered by the agenda. There were no matters arising for discussion.</p>	
<p>Public session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item. The member of public spoke to the Council about a number of issues: Waterbrook Phase 1: The Stodmarsh issue means that the wetlands are provided but it would appear that there are a lack of trees currently in existence being shown on the plans. At present this swathe of trees provides one of three nightingale territories that exist on the site. Nightingales are red listed birds as they are dwindling in numbers and it was suggested that the developer might consider avoiding the removal of trees. The member of public will speak at the Planning Committee about this issue. Nightingales are proven to be site faithful and require water, scrub and invertebrates. The PC will send in an objection to the removal of the swathe of trees and Cllr Bartlett will speak at the Planning Committee as Ward member. This swathe of trees also includes telephone lines so would be better avoided. Action: Clerk to submit objection once all Councillors have commented.</p> <p>Footpath connectivity: the member of public would like to amend the definitive path, this was not considered feasible at this time but it was agreed that the Clerk would report the unmarked footpaths to the County Council and ask the KCC Member to take an interest in this issue as it would improve connectivity for walking and cycling for approximately 2,000 people. Action: Clerk to contact Kent PROW warden and Clair Bell</p> <p>Flooding on the play area on Finberry was noted.</p> <p>Ecological Management: the area provided for ecology is outstanding but without some management this will soon deteriorate. The area needs cutting/grazing. Action: Clerk to contact Roland Mills</p>	

<p>Action: Clerk to contact Phil Cook to request TPO be placed on trees on edge of site.</p>											
<p>Borough Councillors Report No report had been received from Cllr Nilsson. Paul Bartlett’s Borough Councillor Report had been circulated and was taken as read. The report is available to read at: http://www.sevingtonwithfinberrypc.org.uk/community/sevington-with-finberry-parish-council-13425/abc-councillor-report/</p> <p>Cllr Bartlett commented on the following: The footpath AE667 is to be narrower than standard footpaths so a variation order has been submitted. Once this is through, Aldi can start work on the Waterbrook site. Developer interest has been invited for the development of the “village centre.” A convenience store is still due to be brought to Finberry.</p>											
<p>Financial matters: a) To note/authorise the following: i. To note the Parish Council’s financial position. The Parish Council has £23,159.16 in the bank. ii. To authorise any payments. Payments were authorised as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="288 947 1027 1133"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>£</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>HMRC</td> <td>82.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clerk</td> <td>462.62</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gallagher Insurance</td> <td>£414.44</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce</td> <td>£142.80</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		£	HMRC	82.00	Clerk	462.62	Gallagher Insurance	£414.44	Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce	£142.80	
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<p>Planning matters: to authorise a response to any application(s) and to note any recent planning decisions by Ashford Borough Council or any correspondence on planning matters. The following applications required a response: There are currently 2 applications requiring comment. Councillors to look into these.</p>											
<p>Update regarding the possible separation of the Parish Council The newsletter is almost finalised. Once complete and printed, a survey monkey subscription will be opened for 2 months. The Council authorise this expenditure.</p>											
<p>To consider the leadership of the Councils from may 2024-April 2025 It was agreed that the Chairmanship role will be shared among different Councillors. Cllr Whybrow will be asked if he will take forward the Chairmanship for 2024-25. Other Councillors to consider this too.</p>											
<p>To discuss a connecting people with nature project See Public session of these minutes.</p>											
<p>To discuss the footpath connectivity to Mersham See Public session of these minutes.</p>											
<p>To agree meeting regularity and dates for 2024 into 2025 It was agreed that the Council should meet 6 times a year to ensure it remains relevant and to ease administration.</p>											
<p>To receive an update on any matters pertaining to Sevington Highfield</p>											

<p>The next sub-committee meeting is on 19th March 2024 at 7pm. There was little to report although a Highways Improvement Plan meeting had been undertaken and response is awaited from Kent Highways.</p> <p>Cllr Nilsson has not provided an update to Cllr Whybrow and there is no news on the parking survey.</p>	
<p>To receive an update on any matters pertaining to Finberry. There is nothing to report.</p>	
<p>To receive an update on any matters pertaining to Sevington South. The Neighbourhood Watch area has been registered and signs purchased.</p>	
<p>To receive any update on IBF or Waterbrook Paul Bartlett is to ask about Truck Stop and IBF signage at the Joint Transportation Board meeting.</p>	
<p>To receive any update on Highways (to include the Bellamy Gurner Scheme) The traffic lights are out of sync. It is believed that the Bellamy Gurner set and the Finberry set operate independently. RESOLVED: The Councillors will monitor this and if still an issue at the next meeting, the Clerk will contact National Highways to enquire because the waiting at traffic lights is a problem for particulates and congestion.</p>	
<p>To consider any changes to the Risk Assessment. There were no changes to the Risk Assessment.</p>	
<p>Any Other Business (for information purposes only) There was no other business to discuss.</p>	
<p>Determining the time and place of ordinary meetings of the Council up to and including the next annual meeting of the Council.</p> <p>Monday 13 May 2024 APM and Annual Meeting, Roland Mills to be invited to update on planning issues in the ward.</p>	