

Finham Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at 7.00pm,
22nd September 2016, at Finham Park School, Green Lane Finham

Present:

Councillor Robert Aitken	Councillor Colin Salt
Councillor Anthony Dalton (Vice Chair)	Councillor Tony Swann
Councillor Angela Fryer	Councillor Katherine Taylor
Councillor Bob Fryer	

In Attendance:

Councillor Gary Crookes Coventry City Council
Jane Chatterton Clerk & RFO

Ms Sorrell Clements, Coventry City Council Library Service

Residents: 0**74. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Burns, Davies and Bush. Also from Coventry City Councillor John Blundell.

In the absence of Councillor Burns, Councillor Dalton chaired the meeting.

75. Declarations of Interest:

Declarations of interest were received from Councillor Taylor in relation to discussions about Finham Library.

76. Minutes of previous meeting:**Minutes of the meeting held on 18th August 2016**

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 18th August 2016 were agreed and signed by the Vice-Chairman.

77. Public Participation

The Vice Chairman suspended the standing orders.

Ms Sorrell Clements attended the meeting from Coventry Library Service and answered questions. Ms Clements confirmed that she would email the Clerk with answers to all questions and provide data requested.

It was noted that the consultation process would take place between 12th September and 12th December 2016. Consultation forms were available at the library and could be accessed online on the Coventry City Council website. A public consultation meeting would take place at Finham Library on 10th October, 1pm to 2pm.

Ms Clements said that there was a good example of a community led library in Warwickshire situated in Dordon. This had diversified and a dance school used half of the building and the other half for a library.

It was agreed that this library along with other community libraries should be approached for information.

It was also noted that the City Council would continue in an advisory capacity with any community led library and this support would be free.

The Vice Chairman reinstated the standing orders.

78. Finham Library

As requested at the previous meeting a report had been received from Peter Barnett, Head of the Library Services, Coventry City Council.

The report contained relevant information including:

Property Specific Information

Located in a purpose-built library building built over 50 years ago and is 137 sq. m

1. Finham Library is freehold owned by Coventry City Council
2. There are no covenants on the building or land
3. The building is available for asset transfer in keeping with Coventry City Councils agreed existing asset transfer procedure
4. Negotiations are possible regarding the length of lease. Coventry City Council believes that the lease for the building the service level agreement for the service should be the same.
5. Running costs for the building are currently £11,969 (2014/15 costs), including:
 - Business rates: £2,543
 - Cleaning: £1,916
 - Repairs/Maintenance (Reactive): £3,292
 - Repairs/Maintenance (Planned): £1,113
 - Grounds maintenance: £119
 - Electricity: £2,145
 - Gas: £0
 - Water: £213
 - Security: £289
 - Waste: £339
6. Staff computers, 4 Public Computers, printer, photocopier, phones, Fax Machine and scanner. Wi-Fi access

Finham Library Service Specific Information

Performance 2015 - 2016

- Visitors 48,357
- Issues 42,289
- Members 1,854
- Computer sessions 1,879
- Computer hours 1,489

Library Stock – 31st March 2016 - 14,958 items including:

- Adult Fiction 4,950
- Adult Non-Fiction 2,187
- Children Fiction 4,054
- Children Non-Fiction 944
- Large Print 758
- Teenage 609
- DVD's 415
- Talking Books 322

Current Opening hours = 43 hours a week

Monday	1.00pm to 7.00pm
Tuesday	9.00am to 7.00pm
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	9.00am to 7.00pm
Friday	9.00am to 7.00pm
Saturday	9.00am to 4.00pm
Sunday	Closed

Library events and activities in Library

Finham Library welcome organisations to hold events in the library throughout the year e.g. a talk by Age UK in 2015/2016 589 events took place in Finham Library.

Regular events:

- Play Reading Group
- Readers Group
- Two additional Readers Group collect books from the Library but meet elsewhere
- Craft Group
- Family History Sessions
- Homework Club
- IT Help Sessions
- Knit and Natter Group
- Rhymetime
- Stay and Play
- Places of Welcome

Library Income 2015 2016 £4,752**Staffing at Finham Library**

August 2016 = 109.25 hours/2.42 FTE

Salaries = £63,000 (2016/17 base budget)

Local population need and deprivation

Rankings for libraries according to priority needs (according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010 Population weighted average score for catchment areas (1 is highest):

1	Hillfields	2	Aldermoor	3	Foleshill	4	Bell Green
5	Willenhall	6	Canley	7	Jubilee Crescent	8	Arena Park
9	Stoke	10	Coundon	11	Caludon	12	Tile Hill
13	Cheylesmore	14	Allesley Park	15	Earlsdon	16	Finham

Note: Central library not included in above deprivation measures.

ACTION: Time to be allocated at the November meeting to drive resident participation, Mr and Mrs Bannister to be invited.

79. Planning:

79.1 HH/2016/2114 - 9 Stonehaven Drive Coventry CV3 6EX Single Storey Rear Extension

Resolved No comment

79.2 HH/2016/2296 - 2 Leigh Avenue Coventry CV3 6PL Erection of double storey side and rear extension.

Concern was expressed on the impact the extension would have on the street scene.

Resolved: Comment to be sent to Planning Department.

80. Training

80.1 CILCA

The Clerk had completed her ILCA training and sought approval to continue with the CILCA qualification. It was noted that if a Parish Council had a CILCA qualified Clerk and two thirds of the Councillors were elected this gave the Council General Powers of Competence (GPC).

The cost of the course was as follows:

- Registration with WALC for CILCA course £100.00 for members (cash back of £60 refunded when candidate registered for the qualification with SLCC.)
- Registration with SLCC for CILCA qualification £250

Resolved: That the Council supported the Clerk in becoming CILCA qualified. Clerk to book a place on the training course.

80.2 Planning Briefing

This course would cover all key things to do with the planning process that Parish Councils need to know about.

- legislation and policy
- core strategies (including the 5 year housing land supply)
- responses to planning applications
- neighbourhood plans and the Community Infrastructure Levy.

The cost of the course was £45 per delegate but there was an offer of send 2 and one was free. Two dates were offered Saturday 5th November 2016 and Friday 2nd December 2016.

Resolved: Clerk to book places from Councillors Angela and Bob Fryer, Davies, Aitken, Salt, Burns and the Clerk.

81. Books

The purchase of a book was discussed. This was by Arnold-Baker and entitled Local Council Administration. It was a long established guide to the specialist field of local government law.

Resolved: Approved the purchase of the reference book at a cost of £73.60 (plus £3 delivery) reduced SLCC member.

82. Finance

To approve payments: -

Cheque Payments (Current Account)				
Date	Reference	Payee	Details	Value
22.09.16	000039	J Chatterton	Clerks Salary	
22.09.16	000040	HMRC	Tax Payment clerk	
22.09.16	000041	J Chatterton	Office allowance, mileage and expenses	£75.43
22.09.16	000042	J Chatterton	Expenses printing and Parish Meeting	£158.28
22.09.16	000043	CPRE	Membership	£36.00
				£649.68

83. Councillor's reports and items for future Agenda:

Councillors are requested to use this opportunity to report minor matters of information (this is for matters which come up after the agenda is published) or action, not included elsewhere on the Agenda, and to raise items for future Agendas. Councillors are respectfully reminded that this is not an opportunity for debate or decision making.

83.1 Schools

Councillor Angela Fryer updated that pupils from Finham Primary school would be planting daffodil bulbs in locations throughout Finham on the morning of 1st October. The pupils were excited about the event and took pride in making their area look well maintained. The Parish Council asked Councillor Fryer to feedback gratitude to the school for their work and effort.

83.2 Police and Crime

Councillor Dalton informed the PC that there had been an incident recently whereby a group of youths had been causing a public nuisance in the St Martins Road/Daleway Road area. This had been reported to the police and they had been in attendance. Councillors were asked to report any further incidents to the police.

It was noted that there was a meeting of the Safer Neighbourhood Group (SNG) on 30th September at 2pm.

83.3 Litter

Councillor Fryer informed of the issue of waste bins not being emptied regularly and waste was left overflowing especially on Brentwood Avenue. He was informed by a resident that the dog waste bin in the field at the rear of Brentwood Gardens had also not been emptied.

Councillor Crookes informed the Councillors that if they felt there were not enough waste bins in the Parish then a request could be made to the City Council for more to be provided. Councillors to monitor the situation.

It was also noted that if residents placed household waste in the street bins this could lead to prosecution.

83.4 Kings Hill

Councillor Fryer updated on the continued work of the Kings Hill task group. The public inquiry would start on Tuesday September 27th 2016 and run for 9 weeks. The discussion on the Kings Hill site would take place on the 7th November 2016. Public reaction would be required and comments needed to be put forward. Further support was requested.

Councillor Crookes informed that the three Ward Councillors had registered but the Inspector had only allowed Councillor Blundell to speak.

83.5 Boundary Commission for England

Councillor Crookes reported that on 13th September the independent Boundary Commission for England (BCE) had published its initial proposals for new Parliamentary constituencies. The publication marked the start of 12 weeks of consultation.

Following a decision by Parliament to reduce the number of constituencies in the UK to 600 from 650, and to ensure that the number of electors in each constituency was more equal, the BCE had been asked to make independent recommendations about where the boundaries of English constituencies should be. The BCE must report to Parliament in 2018 and, if agreed by Parliament, the new constituencies would be in use at the next scheduled General Election in 2020.

Highways

Councillor Aitken reported on the situation with ongoing highway issues.

Live cases

1. Fossey Road – issues over bollard and right of way raised by both Mr Underwood and Mr Singh. After examination of issues decided that issue was best resolved by Highways department of city council which has recent involvement with both parties. Wrote disengagement letters to both and clarified to Mr Underwood the reasons why we could not proceed when he emailed us. No further contact from either party.
2. Hadleigh Road – contact by a Mr Patel who raised issues over the state of the pavement on that road. After explaining the procedure Mr Patel decided to pursue the matter himself. He has recently come back to me to explain he has heard nothing from the council. Waiting to receive incident number so I can follow up his complaint and raise my own concerns.
3. St Martins Road – contacted by a Mr Pickering about a bit of untrimmed hedge between the crossing on St Martin and the entrance to Cotswold Drive. Although untrimmed the hedge does not appear to contravene council policy (not a danger to passers-by or overgrowing path or highway) but I will see what the procedure is as the rest was trimmed.
4. Green Lane – contacted by Councillor Swann about a tree that was removed along Green Lane (verge between 297 and 299 Green Lane). Suspect it may be part of the usual maintenance schedule of trees along that road but will follow up.
5. Green Lane – Contacted by a Mrs Bowell about two issues.
 - (a) The verge in the centre of the A45 and her concerns about the visibility down the road due to overgrowth of wildflowers after a recent serious accident at the junction of the A45 and Bathway Road. Had already contact the council when she raised this issue and am still awaiting reply despite the resident having a reply, will keep chasing and raise it as future issue with city councillors to prevent reoccurrence.

- (b) The pathway outside 116 Green Lane. Mrs Bowell has explained that she has been pushing the council to re-establish this path for 20 years and in the last few months it has been dug out but not resurfaced. She has contacted me to find out what the future plans are. I am currently awaiting a reply on what contacts she has had with the council as not clear who would be responsible for the work.
6. After Councillor Swann raised the issue of the potholes at the bottom of Green Lane most have now been patched and it is just waiting the rest of the resurfacing that has happened on the remainder of Green Lane. Will chase up soon for a timetable for works.
 7. Have written to the council about some damage to the trees on the library green and the future plans for maintenance of said trees. The broken branches have been trimmed but no contact made with me on either matter. Will chase up.
 8. Spoke to a Mr Willesden of Droylsdon Park Road about the issues caused to his property by the use of lorries in that small road. He has had multiple cases of property damage and even had a broken down lorry stuck in the area for three days. Suspect this is mainly due to the movement of the give way road markings in the other direction. We do have the ability to place road signs and a no HGV sign might be a good idea. Since he has already spoken to Councillor Innes who is part of the city service team I will follow up to see if a joint solution is possible.

Future Plans

1. Speeding and traffic – In theory Finham has a 20 mph zone but due to road maintenance a lot of the road markings have been covered. To re-establish these would be expensive but have suggested that we look at the results of Councillor Swann's speed check plans and see if we can make the case for a 20mph speed limit. The difference is that it is legally enforceable which a zone isn't and is much cheaper for us to implement, however, it must be endorsed by residents as could lead to speeding fines for the less careful.
2. Parking by Green Lane shops – There have been complaints about less than considerate parking in the area in front of these shops. The area is owned by the shop owners and so suggest we engage them in coming up with a solution which won't damage their businesses.
3. Cycling in Finham – At present the only public cycle rack is by the library. Suggest we involve residents and local businesses in providing one in front of the Green Lane and Brentwood Avenue shops.
4. Verge on St Martins – potential to establish a flower verge on the same lines of Warwick Road along the area approaching the A45 island. Possibility to engage Leasowes nursery on the work involved or on a commercial basis for advertising other nearby garden centres.
5. Verge cutting – council policy now holds that the current trimming cycle in public areas is 20 days, a number of residents have complained about this. Will follow up to investigate costs of subsidising service to return it to previous schedule.

84. Noticeboards

The Clerk reported on the work so far on identifying sites and suppliers for the two noticeboards. A meeting had taken place with the Senior Highways Officer who had confirmed where permission would be granted. Quotes had been obtained which were discussed.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the landowner of the grassed area outside the sheltered housing on Brentwood Avenue. Further discussion to take place.

85. Parish Meeting

Notes of the meeting were now displayed on the website.

Lists had been compiled from the questionnaires and people requesting a Home Safety Check.

86. Confidential items

There were no confidential items.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed BY THE CHAIRMAN

20th October 2016