

## Finham Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at 7.00pm,  
21<sup>st</sup> September 2017, at Finham Park School, Green Lane Finham

**Present:**

Councillor Robert Aitken  
Councillor James Cobbett  
Councillor Paul Davies (Chairman)  
Councillor Angela Fryer

Councillor Bob Fryer  
Councillor Colin Salt  
Councillor Katherine Taylor

**In Attendance:**

Jane Chatterton, Clerk & RFO

Coventry City Councillors Tim Sawdon

**Residents:** 14

**55. Apologies**

Apologies for absence and reasons why were received from Councillors Burns, Bush and Dalton.

**56. Declarations of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

**Councillor Bill Lowe**

Councillor Bill Lowe the Chairman of WALC attended the meeting to introduce himself to the Parish Council and to talk about the work of WALC and listen to issues that the parish council may face.

Councillors were reminded that as a member of WALC the Parish Council had access to advice and various training sessions they offered.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Lowe for attending.

The Chairman asked that all Councillors should in future show more respect for each other, whether it be by word of mouth or in writing as there is always room for an alternate point of view.

**57. Minutes of previous meetings**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

**RESOLVED:** The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> July 2017 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

**58. Finham Library FLAG update**

Update received from the Chairman of FLAG.

It was noted that it had been an interesting few months. The Trustees had spent a great deal of time working through all the relevant paperwork to obtain the necessary permissions. At the beginning of August the Trustees had met and discovered that the Service Level Agreement wouldn't be ready for the agreed time.

A trustees' meeting had been arranged and Peter Barnett had attended, he apologised for the issues that the group had encountered and assisted with putting plans in place.

The group had now been guaranteed one year's costs with the possibility of this increasing to two years.

A temporary lease had been received and the library would be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Councillor Davies thanked Councillor Aitken and the Trustees of FLAG for all their hard work and perseverance in achieving a successful handover.

**RESOLVED** that the update on FLAG be noted.

## **59. Correspondence**

Correspondence was received from:

### **59.1 Coventry City Council (Tracey Miller 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2017)**

It was agreed that the response was as expected – no further action.

### **59.2 Letter from Allesley Parish Council**

Letter in relation to Coventry City Council Local Plan; population projections and the objectively assessed need (OAN) for future housing. – no further action.

## **60. Planning**

The following planning applications were discussed:

### **60.1 Application Number LDCP/2017/1971 (14/08/17)**

Application Site: 35 Wychwood Avenue CV3 6EF  
Application Type: Certificate of Lawful Development [Proposed]  
Proposal: Lawful development certificate for proposed hip to gable with rear box dormer

**RESOLVED:** No comment.

### **60.2 Application Number HH/2017/1924**

Application Site: 88 St Martins Road CV3 6EU  
Proposal: Erection of single storey side extension

**RESOLVED:** No comment.

### **60.3 Application Number: HH/2017/2078**

Application Site: 26 Wychwood Avenue CV3 6FJ  
Proposal: Erection of extension, loft conversion and new garage

**RESOLVED:** No comment.

**60.4 Application Number: AD/2017/1800**

Application Site: 1 Erithway Road CV3 6JU  
 Proposal: Non material amendment (insertion of window in side gable) to application reference HH/2016/1843, granted on 8th September 2016 for roof alterations with hip to gable and rear dormer extension

**RESOLVED:** No comment.

**61. Finance**

61.1 to approve the following payments: -

Cheque Payments (Current Account)				
Date	Reference	Payee	Details	Value
21.09.17	BACS	J Chatterton	Clerks Salary August 2017	
21.09.17	BACS	HMRC	Tax & NI Payment clerk	£100.40
21.09.17	BACS	J Chatterton	Office allowance, mileage and expenses Aug & Sept 17	£68.96
21.09.17	BACS	J Chatterton	Clerks Salary September 2017	
21.09.17	BACS	HMRC	Tax & NI Payment clerk	£100.60
21.09.17	Cheque	Cllr A Fryer	Reimbursement Public Meeting	£29.64
21.09.17	BACS	Nuneaton Signs Ltd	Purchase of NHW Signs	£145.80
21.09.17	BACS	Oak Embroiderers	High Visibility Jackets	£165.00
21.09.17	BACS	CPRE	Membership	£36.00

**62. Judicial Review - Keep our Greenbelt Green Group**

Councillor Davies provided an update on the work of the Green Belt Group and their efforts to stop the planned building of a new town on Kings Hill. The barrister they had enlisted, Gavin Collett, practices in planning issues.

Additionally, the group had received help and advice of two solicitors, Stephen McNaught and Ian Cox. Everyone involved had a vested interest in performing well and honestly and had a proven track records. The main thrust of the objections were the erroneous population figures produced by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) and employed by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Figures produced by the ONS were usually considered to be sacrosanct and unimpeachable and were therefore slavishly accepted as fact. At no time during the objections had this department, the Coventry City Council (CCC) or the Warwick District Council (WDC) ever justified the ONS projected assessments of population increase in Coventry. A population increase projected to increase by 32% up to the year 2031.

Greenbelt was created in the mid-1950s by HM Government to prevent 'urban sprawl'. Should the development on Kings Hill be approved there would be no greenbelt left between Coventry and Kenilworth. The two districts would be facing each other across the Stoneleigh Road.

It was noted that the development plans of WDC included substantially modifying the junction on the A46 Warwick By-Pass with the Stoneleigh Road by building a roundabout over it. Constructing a relief road to Solihull from this junction. Widening the Stoneleigh Road from this junction for a short distance north but not as far as Warwick University. Making provisions for the arrival of HS2 through this same area and at the very same time, constructing a new town on Kings Hill. It was not difficult to see just how much of a 'no go' area this would be for at least 20 years, made even worse by the proposed Kings Hill development which was unnecessary.

Attending the Green Belt Group meeting were:- Allesley, Allesley Green, Bubbenhall, Burton Green, CPRE, Cromwell Lane, Finham, Keresley, Leek Wootton, Stoneleigh & Ashow, Westwood Heath.

### **Judicial Review**

A 20 page letter had been circulated days prior to their meeting and therefore had been considered previously by all who attended. It was agreed at their meeting that the letter should be signed by the solicitor Ian Cox on behalf of 'Keep Our Greenbelt Green' which was now a Limited Liability Company with no shareholders and just a handful of members whose personal liability was limited to £1.00.

The 20 page letter, warned the WDC of a Judicial Review if the adoption of the Local Plan was approved at their next full council meeting on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at Leamington Town Hall, was subsequently delivered by hand to the Chief Executive of WDC the following day. Anyone who donated funds would not be liable for anymore. The group had substantial pledges for further monies should such monies be needed. This would depend on the outcome of the WDC meeting to consider the Inspectors recommendation to adopt the Local Plan as it stands now.

Councillor Aitken had written to the Chairman and the other Parish Councillors before the meeting expressing his concerns over the lack of evidence presented in favour of a judicial review and the risk of liability to the Parish Council. The Chairman invited him to speak to express his concerns.

Councillor Archie Taylor, Chairman of Burton Green Parish Council, who was in attendance, expressed his opinion that Councillor Aitken was unaware of all the facts and should not be questioning the actions of the Green Belt Group.

Councillor Aitken in response set out his concerns and noted that no further evidence in favour of the decision was submitted.

Councillor Aitken pointed out to the Chairman and Councillor Bob Fryer that since they had been involved and promised to seek funds for the Green Belt Group that they should exclude themselves from the vote on the matter. The Chairman refuted this and confirmed that he had made no promise but had said they would take the matter back to the Parish Council to decide.

It was noted that Councillor Burns, Vice Chairman had contacted the Chairman and asked the Parish Council to consider delaying the discussion and voting on the matter until October's meeting when more councillors would be present.

This was discussed, Councillors voted and a motion was carried not to wait until October's meeting (2 votes in favour, 4 votes against waiting with one abstention).

Councillors voted and a motion was carried to donate funds of £2,500 to the “Keep our Greenbelt Green” group (4 votes in favour and 2 against with one abstention).

**RESOLVED THAT** the Parish Council agreed to donate £2,500 to the Judicial Review process.

### **63. Training**

A request had been received from Councillor Cobbett to attend a WALC training session on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2018, “How to be a Bad Councillor”. The course was offered on a “buy one get one free”. Councillor Taylor expressed an interesting in also attending.

**RESOLVED THAT** the Clerk book for Councillors Cobbett and Taylor on “How to be a Bad Councillor”.

### **64. Proposals for Enhancements to Finham Parish**

Discussion took place on ideas to provide enhancements for Finham.

- **Benches**

Residents had previously enquired whether benches could be sited around The Green by the library.

**ACTION:** Costings to be identified.

- **Defibrillator**

The purchase of a defibrillator was discussed. Councillor Aitken confirmed that the library group had discussed installing one in the library.

**ACTION:** Future meeting agenda item, Clerk to investigate a presentation by a provider.

- **Marquee**

Idea to purchase a marquee to be used at all outdoor events including future Pop up Café events.

**ACTION:** Councillor Mrs Fryer to discuss with the Head at the Primary School

- **Daffodils and Tulip Bulbs**

Another idea was received to plant daffodil and tulip bulbs, in the past these had provided a display along Green Lane and St Martins Road.

### **65. 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.

### **Highways**

Councillor Aitken had attended a presentation on the new Jaguar site road bridge which would span the A45. Councillors Aitken and Cobbett would revisit the site and check on progress.

**St Martins island off Erithway Road**

The contractor was starting to move into Erithway Road in addition to the main works on the roundabout. CCC were looking to install the ducting for the signals and new lighting in advance of the main works.

Any issues or items that needed to be raised during the course of the works could be sent to the Clerk or Councillor Aitken to pass on the Ian Lewis.

**Police & Crime**

Councillor Salt updated that the Safer Neighbourhood Group had met on 31<sup>st</sup> August.

Neighbourhood Watch – the police were covering the Finham area carrying out an exercise to try and boost neighbourhood watch members. It was hoped more people would join.

**Kings Hill**

Councillor Robert Fryer updated on the work of the Kings Hill task group.

The Inspector Ian Kemp recommended adoption of the Local Plan for WDC on 3<sup>rd</sup> August.

Councillors Davies and Fryer had attended meetings at Burton Green and Bubbenhall to discuss with other parish councils and community groups what to do next. The group had been joined by other councillors from the Kings Hill Group on occasions.

The group had acquired the support of Mr Phil Cookson whose parents live in Green Lane and would be directly affected by the proposed development.

A decision had been made by the group to send a formal letter to the WDC Chief Executive outlining the concerns over areas of the Local Plan.

The main area concerned the Office of National Statistics figures which were now being questioned by Government.

The letter was presented directly to the WDC on 13<sup>th</sup> September by Councillor Archie Taylor, Chairman of Burton Green PC.

On 20<sup>th</sup> September Councillors and residents from FPC attended the WDC Committee meeting in Leamington Town Hall. There were no papers provided detailing the details of the meeting but it was announced that 5 members of the public were permitted to speak for 4 minutes.

Speakers included: Peter Langley – CPRE, Robin Fryer, Councillor Paul Davies FPC, Councillor Archie Taylor BGPC, a developer who had put forward land at Gibbet Hill which would have accommodated the housing number proposed for Kings Hill.

The Local Plan was passed by WDC with 3 abstentions and 0 objections.

CCC will put its Local Plan to Council Members on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

It was confirmed that the Kings Hill Task Group would continue to work with groups to achieve the best outcome for Finham.

**Schools**

Councillor Angela Fryer updated on the events at the school.

As they had only just returned after the summer break, there was little to note. Councillor Fryer had met with Richard Machin, Head on 7<sup>th</sup> September to check if there was anything to be included in September's update.

During the summer residents would have seen a lot of activity on the Primary school site. As part of the Academy Trust the school was included in a substantial grant to invest in new roofing and a new heating system.

There was some outstanding building work to be finished so the timetable had been adapted to ensure that the children could return to school whilst the work was completed.

**66. Public participation:** To adjourn to allow public participation.

Members of the public may not take part in the Parish Council meeting and the Parish Council cannot pass a resolution on matters raised during public participation that are not on the agenda. Residents are invited to give their views and raise questions to the Parish Council. Please keep to two minutes or less to make your point. If you wish items to be on the agenda you may raise them with a Councillor or the Clerk at least a week before each meeting, or for the next agenda during Public Participation.

**PA System**

It was noted that even in the small room of the library residents had difficulty in hearing what was being discussed.

**ACTION:** Councillor Cobbett to research the cost of the Parish Council purchasing a PA system.

**Parish Council Expenditure**

A resident requested a report on expenditure of the PC for the past 18 months.

**ACTION:** Clerk to provide the report.

**St Martins Road**

Resident raised concerns about the increased level of traffic on St Martins Road. Drivers were also using the slip road as a short cut, ignoring the "no turn signs" and travelling at speed to try and beat the traffic.

**ACTION:** Councillor Aitken to progress.

**Councillor Sawdon**

Councillor Sawdon thanked Councillor Aitken for all his hard work as Chairman of FLAG and to pass on thanks to all the trustees.

**67. Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting would take place on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017.