

Finham Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at 7.00pm,
19th October 2017, at Finham Park School, Green Lane Finham

Present:

Councillor Robert Aitken
Councillor Peter Burns
Councillor Ann Bush
Councillor James Cobbett
Councillor Anthony Dalton

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: 7**68. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Crookes, CCC.

69. Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

70. Minutes of previous meetings

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21st September 2017.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 21st September 2017 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

71. Matters Arising not listed on the agenda**Benches**

Information had been obtained on different types of benches. One company was Sweepwise Ltd who sold items that were maintenance free and made from recycled materials with the sheen and feel of solid timber. Other considerations would be for wheelchair access, hardstanding installation and to include a plaque.

ACTION: Councillor Angela Fryer to progress including obtaining prices.

Defibrillator

A request for a representative to attend a meeting had been made.

ACTION: Clerk to chase.

Bulb Planting

One area identified as suitable for planting bulbs was the island on the A45 when the works had been completed.

ACTION: Councillor Aitkin to discuss with CCC and obtain the necessary permission.

72. Finham Library FLAG update

An update was received from the Chairman of FLAG.

The Memorandum of Understanding had now been obtained. The Lease was being passed to the solicitor later this week and would be for an initial six months. It was confirmed that any solicitor fee was being met from the transition fund and legal advice was essential to ensure that all clauses were checked and applicable.

The Trustees had now set up a bank account and were working on obtaining charity status.

Several volunteers were now completing their training and this would enable the library to be open on more days per week.

A handover was scheduled to take place in November.

RESOLVED that the update on FLAG be noted.

73. Correspondence

Correspondence was received from:

73.1 Budget Capping or the Extension of Referendum Principles to Parish and Town Councils

It was noted that the government had released the consultation document on the local government finance settlement for 2018-19. It was available at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/645012/2018-19_Local_Government_Finance_Settlement_-_technical_consultation.pdf

Question 10 and page 16 referred to what they were thinking about for parish and town councils. The deadline for response to the consultation was 26th October.

As many councils as possible were urged to respond to the consultation and to positively support parish councils being able to set their own precept.

RESOLVED that a letter be sent stating that the parish council were against budget capping.

74. Planning

The following planning applications were discussed:

Weekly list for the period 18/09/2017 to 22/09/2017**73.1 Application Number: LDCE/2017/2202**

Application Site: 461 Green Lane

Application Type: Certificate of Lawful Development [Existing]

Proposal: Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for existing garage

RESOLVED: No comment.

73.2 Application Number: PA/2017/1930

Application Site: 72 Crossway Road Application Type: Prior Notification of Larger Home Extension

Proposal: Application under Prior Approval for rear extension. The extension will be 3.8 metres away from the original rear wall of the building with a height of 4 metres at the highest point and 2.6 metres to the eaves

RESOLVED: No comment.

Weekly list for the period 02/10/2017 to 06/10/2017

73.3 Application Number: HH/2017/1319

Application Site: 35 Droylsdon Park Road

Proposal: Erection of single storey rear extension

RESOLVED: No comment.

73.4 Application Number: LDCP/2017/2380

Application Site: 5 Droylsdon Park Road

Proposal: Hip to gable loft conversion with dormer to rear and side facing window

RESOLVED: No comment.

74. Finance

74.1 to approve the following payments: -

Cheque Payments (Current Account)				
Date	Reference	Payee	Details	Value
19.10.17	BACS	J Chatterton	Clerks Salary October 2017	
19.10.17	BACS	HMRC	Tax & NI Payment clerk	£58.60
19.10.17	BACS	J Chatterton	Office allowance, mileage and expenses Oct 17	£46.63
19.10.17	BACS	J Chatterton	Reimbursement for PA System	£227.93
19.10.17	BACS	TLC (Southern) Ltd	Cable protector	£33.35
19.10.17	BACS	WALC	Training "How to be a bad councillor" PAID	£45.00
19.10.17	BACS	SLCC	Registration for CILCA qualification	£250.00
19.10.17	BACS	Grant Thornton	External Audit	£120.00
19.10.17	BACS	KOGG	Donation for Judicial Review	£2,500.00

74.2 VAT Receipt

It was reported that a VAT reimbursement had been received from HMRC for the sum of £1,033.38.

RESOLVED that the VAT reimbursement be noted.

74.3 Low Carbon Britain - Meeting the Emissions Reduction

A request had been made for reimbursement of travel costs for two councillors who were attending the Low Carbon Britain meeting in London.

RESOLVED that reimbursement of travel expenses be paid.

74.4 Quarterly Accounts

The quarterly accounts up to 30th September 2017 were received.

It was noted that the balance on the bank account was:

30th June 2017	30th September 2017
£30,253.19	£28,470.68

RESOLVED that the quarterly accounts up to 30th September 2017 be approved.

74.5 Notice of Conclusion of Audit

It was reported that the conclusion of the Audit 2016-17 had been received from the external auditors. A lot of extra work had been conducted with the auditors requiring additional information as this had been the Parish Council's first annual return completed.

RESOLVED that the conclusion of audit be noted.

75. Judicial Review - Green Belt Group

The Chairman updated on the Judicial Review and developments of the Green Belt Group.

It was reported that since the last council meeting there had been a number of meetings to progress the cause against the planned building on Green Belt land, from the point of view of Kings Hill. Some of these meetings had lasted over four hours but significant progress had taken place over the time.

The Private Limited Company - **Keep Our Greenbelt Green (CW) Ltd** had now been registered under the Companies Act 2006. It was planned that the company would ask the High Court for a Judicial Review of aspects of the Warwick District Council (WDC) Local Plan.

The Directors of the Limited Liability Company were:- Merle Gering, Walter Bush, Jan Lucas, Archie Taylor, Alan Marshall and Paul Davies. Councillor Davies was also a Director but in his personal capacity which was nothing to do with Finham Parish Council.

Payments of donations would be through the CPRE {Campaign to Protect Rural England} which was a registered charity with an established process for collecting monies.

The claim must be submitted by no later than 2nd November 2017 and therefore to avoid mishaps the group's target date was Friday 27th October 2017.

They were making their claim against WDC for:-

- a) The use of housing number calculations known to be in error and to misapply the distribution.
- b) The use of protected Green Belt land without demonstrating exceptional circumstances.

To this end the group was compiling two Witness Statements, one for Green Belt and the other for the population figures along with a Statement of Claim with the help of Nigel Henry a planning lawyer.

Should the judge accept there was a case and gives permission to proceed, the maximum cost at this stage would be no more than £12,000. The Finham Parish Council would not be asked to contribute any further funds.

The group had sufficient funds already for the first stage of the process which was for a judge, skilled in the planning processes, to assess the claim and make a decision on whether or not the group had a case that should go forward to the High Court. A decision on this claim could be expected some time in December due to the backlog that exists.

The group was supported by CPRE Warwickshire, Burton Green PC, Burton Green Resident's Association, Stoneleigh & Ashow Joint PC, Baginton PC, Bubbenhall PC, Finham PC, Finham Resident's Association, Allesley PC, Kersley PC and individuals from Coventry, Kenilworth and the WDC area.

All these areas would begin their funding drives at a time deemed suitable by each individual area. In Finham's case, a decision would be made immediately after the judge had decided whether or not they had permission to proceed.

Coventry City Council's (CCC) decision on their Local Plan had been delayed until early December which was expected to be approved by the full council. It was their plan that has had potentially such an enormous impact on WDC Local Plan as WDC had a duty to co-operate with CCC and take CCC's estimated overspill.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

76. 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.

76.1 Agenda items November's meeting

- Local Council Award Scheme (NALC)
- Land identified within Finham – Councillor Aitken to produce a plan

Highways

Councillor Aitken updated on the Highways task group.

It was noted that light trimming had taken place on Anchorway Road and Green Lane but this hadn't addressed all of the issues. The possibility of obtaining quotes to carry out the work to the large overgrown trees was discussed.

Alfriston Road – berries were dropping onto the grass verge and pavements. Councillor Aitken had visited the resident's properties in the area. Some were owner occupied and some were Orbit Housing. Residents paid an annual charge to Orbit for them to clear the area.

Subsequently a resident had cut down overgrown bushes and resolved the issue for the foreseeable future. Councillor Aitken recommended that the parish council no longer pursues this matter.

Councillor Cobbett reported that there were 2 street lights not working which had been reported along with a blocked drain.

Some potholes on Brentwood Avenue had been repaired. Another pothole on Daleway Road was also being monitored.

Kings Hill – Councillor Fryer

Councillor Fryer updated on the Kings Hill Task Group.

The Warwick District Local Plan had been adopted by the Council and a decision on the Coventry City Council Local Plan had been delayed by the Inspector.

Councillors Davies and Fryer had continued to attend meetings at Burton Green and Bubbenhall to discuss with other Parish Councils and Community Groups what to do next. Councillors Ann Bush, Colin Salt, Anthony Dalton and Angela Fryer had also attended some meetings.

The Kings Hill Group had met and discussed how to update all residents about the Local Plans and explained the options we had to protect Kings Hill. A joint Greenbelt bulletin would be produced by the local community groups and each area would then add details that were more relevant to their own area.

When the leaflet was ready help would be required to deliver a copy to each household. Councillors were asked to provide their support.

The Kings Hill Group met with Severn Trent at the Finham Works on Monday 16th October. This was to look at the plans they had for upgrading the works and increasing capacity at the site.

Discussion had taken place in relation to local concerns and had an understanding that no tankers should travel through Finham. The drivers were instructed to come off at the Stoneleigh junction of the A46. If residents see any tankers using St Martins Road they should report this to Councillor Fryer who would contact the site manager.

Problems with smells from the site were an issue and in future the manager would contact Councillor Fryer if any work was taking place that may cause a problem. Information would then be passed to residents by email update and be posted on the websites.

Councillor Burns asked if the Kings Hill Group had a budget to enable them to carry out the work they were undertaking. It was confirmed that the FRA had met any costs up until now. It was noted that the FRA had made a major contribution in the Kings Hill battle.

Councillor Fryer mentioned that the Finham Residents Association had voted to contribute £14,000 to the judicial review as this money had been raised for Kings Hill in the past.

Schools

Councillors Bush and Fryer had attended a staff meeting to look at the curriculum and progress at the Primary School. This gave them the opportunity to meet with all of the staff and share any community concerns.

There was still some building work happening at the school but this did not interfere with the normal running of the school.

There was a continuing problem with parking at the school. A small number of parents and carers park across Residents' drives, park on double yellow lines and even across the school entrance. They were reminded of the dangers but to no avail.

At a recent meeting with the police who cover the Wainbody area, they were told that a school in Warwickshire puts no parking cones outside their school at drop off and collection times for pupils.

Councillors Fryer and Bush were in discussion to see if this was permissible in Coventry and how the school would acquire the cones.

NHP

Councillor Davies confirmed that another announcement requesting volunteers to assist with the NHP had been made. Three residents had now registered their interest, this took the group to 5 members. Plans would now be taken forward to progress.

Police and Crime

Nothing to report.

It was noted that Lynnette Kelly from the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner office would be attending November's meeting. Items for discussion were needed.

78. 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.

The Chairman suspended the Standing Orders.

Update from Ward Councillors

Roundabout bulb planting – it was suggested that the ideas used on the Whitley roundabout be used as these provided an eye-catching display.

Library – Councillor Sawdon would raise the issue of new books with Councillor Maton. Councillor Aitken to liaise with Councillor Sawdon.

Alfriston Road – Councillor Sawdon had been dealing with this and the service road being used as a rat run. The issue had been raised with Sergeant Bent, but was told that this was not a priority.

ACTION: A meeting would take place for Sergeant Bent, the Parish Council and CCC Councillors to discuss.

Councillor Sawdon also kindly offered to assist with the leaflet drop for Kings Hill.

Mr Bannister

Mr Bannister also offered assistance with leaflet distribution.

He raised the issue with the trees at the top of St Martins Road and Cotswold Drive and the mess caused by shedding. This had been reported to CCC.

He formally thanked the Trustees of FLAG for all their hard work so far in maintaining the library. The issue with no new books being provided would mean that the life of library was limited.

Tony Swann

Mr Swann updated that repairs had taken place to some of the road that had been identified in August. Two others had been “cut out” in readiness but were still awaiting repair.

Police – Mr Swann had been in contact with the new police officer, Sergeant Bent asking for crime figures but these had not been received as yet. It was noted that there had been a spike in car crime recently. Six burglaries and 6 “car crimes” had been reported.

Bike marking – Mr Swann had been speaking with “Operation Magpie” in Birmingham who reported that many bikes that were recovered were not marked making return to their owners difficult. He asked if Finham Primary School could be used as a base to have the children’s’ bikes marked. This could then lead on to the senior school.

79. Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would take place on Thursday 16th November 2017.

Meeting closed at 8:40pm

SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN

16th November 2017