

Finham Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at 7.00pm,
16th November 2017, at Finham Park School, Green Lane Finham

Present:

Councillor Robert Aitken
Councillor Peter Burns
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: Councillors Tim Sawdon, Gary Crookes and John Blundell

Residents: 15

80. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ann Bush.

81. Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

82. Lynnette Kelly – Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner

The Chairman welcomed Lynnette Kelly, Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner to the meeting.

Lynnette addressed the Parish Councillors and residents and talked at length about her role and the difficulties and challenges that the police force faced by the impact of £140m in cuts since 2010. The type of reported crime was changing with more cyber crime and “hidden crime” which included domestic violence and child sex exploitation.

There had recently been a major re-organisation and there was a strong emphasis on neighbourhood policing. It was agreed that there were fewer officers on the beat than there was previously. With the constant risk of security from terrorism this meant that resources were pulled from the neighbourhood teams.

Work was being carried out to prevent young people entering the criminal justice system as this meant their outcomes were low, this affected their employment prospects and then lifestyle choices. More was being done to recruit officers from minority groups and women, this would mean that the police force was more representative of the community.

83. Minutes of previous meetings

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th October 2017.

The following amendments were identified:

Page 37 – paragraph 2 to read “Some manholes on Brentwood Avenue had been repaired”.

Page 37 – paragraph 12 to “Councillor Fryer mentioned that the Finham Residents Association had voted to contribute £1,400 ...”

RESOLVED: With the above amendments the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 19th October 2017 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

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

Councillor Mrs Fryer had been working on establishing what, if any, planning permission would be required. There was the possibility that the benches could be supplied from the City Council.

ACTION: Agenda item January’s meeting.

Defibrillators

Information had been circulated on a national company who supplied a range of defibrillators at a competitive price. Unfortunately, they did not have anyone in the area who could attend personally to talk through the options.

The Clerk was in contact with a local provider and it was hoped they could attend January’s meeting.

Bulbs

To be progressed next year.

85. Finham Library FLAG update

An update was received from the Chairman of FLAG.

The new book scheme had started and donations were going well. It was reported that a number of groups were using the library after hours. A fund raising event was taking place in early December.

The Lease had been returned to the solicitor and the group were awaiting this to be received.

There were enough volunteers to run the library over more days per week and open Monday, Friday and Saturday. A meeting was due to be held shortly with the Library Service and volunteers to progress.

RESOLVED that the update on FLAG be noted.

86. Correspondence

A letter had been received from Savills giving Notification of Consultation and Engagement Events. It stated that Lioncourt Strategic Land was holding two public consultation and engagement events in respect of proposals to develop land at Kings Hill, Warwickshire.

The events would be held at: Stoneleigh Village Hall, Birmingham Road, Stoneleigh from 14.00 – 20.00 on Friday 24th November 2017 and Finham Park School, Green Lane, Coventry from 10.00 – 16.00 on Saturday 25th November 2017.

Local residents, Councillors, businesses and other interested parties were invited to attend these events to view display boards, which would set out the proposals in more detail, and provide feedback. Further information can be found at www.kingshillpark.com prior to the events.

Residents were urged to attend.

87. Planning

The following planning applications were discussed:

Weekly list for the period 09/10/2017 to 13/10/2017

None to report

Weekly list for the period 16/10/2017 to 20/10/2017

87.1 Application Number: HH/2017/2191

Valid date: 19/09/2017

Application Site: 325 Green Lane CV3 6EH

Proposal: Erection of rear extension and front porch roof extension over garage

RESOLVED: No comment.

Weekly list for the period 23/10/2017 to 27/10/2017

Nothing to report

Weekly list for the period 30/10/2017 to 03/11/2017

Nothing to report

Weekly list for the period 06/11/2017 to 10/11/2017

87.2 Application Number: DC/2017/2731

Application Site: 90 Kenpas Highway

Proposal: Submission of details to discharge condition No.4 - to carry out a bat activity survey and submit mitigation plan and condition No. 5 - details of construction method statement imposed on planning permission reference FUL/2017/1777 determined 6 September 2017 for Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of one pair semi-detached houses.

RESOLVED: No Comment.

87.3 Application Number: HH/2017/2536
 Application Site: 31 Crossway Road
 Proposal: Erection of single storey side and rear extension

RESOLVED: No comment.

88. Finance

the following payments were approved: -

| Cheque Payments (Current Account) | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|--------------|---|---------|
| Date | Reference | Payee | Details | Value |
| 16.11.17 | BACS | J Chatterton | Clerks Salary November 2017 | |
| 16.11.17 | BACS | HMRC | Tax & NI Payment clerk | £58.60 |
| 16.11.17 | BACS | J Chatterton | Office allowance, mileage and expenses Nov 17 | £54.73 |
| 16.11.17 | BACS | J Cobbett | Reimbursement for train travel | £118.00 |

Councillor Cobbett declared a pecuniary interest in minute 75 and took no part in the discussion,

89. Grant Application

An application to the Grants and Donations fund had been received from the Finham WI.

It was noted that they were a new group (which only existed through member subscription and fund raising), they were trying to get their name known within the community by attending local events

The group were asking for a donation to purchase banners to use at events.

The group had attached a copy of their first Financial Statement.

RESOLVED THAT the grant application for £200.00 be approved.

90. Judicial Review - Green Belt Group

Councillor Davies provided an update on the judicial review process.

It was reported that the deadline set to launch a Judicial Review against Warwick District Council was Friday 27th October 2017 with an absolute deadline for submission to the WDC of Thursday 2nd November 2017.

As a result of advice from the barrister, the group had to find an expert demographer to support the case about the generally accepted erroneous population figures produced by the Office for National Statistics, rather than Merle Gering, one of our group who had compiled the statistics and won approval and agreement from some expert demographers, including Professor Coleman of Oxford University.

Unfortunately, none of these experts were prepared to support the case and therefore the deadline came and went without a request for a Judicial Review. Consequently, the development, now called Kings Hill Park, was proceeding at a pace as shown by the notices all along Green Lane.

The £2,500 donated by the Finham Parish Council had been used to pay for the legal advice received through this process and had provided the group with some comfort that they did as much as they could to support the overwhelming opinion held in Finham that this development was not wanted and just as importantly, not justified.

The rule changes made in 2015 by central government had made it increasingly difficult for people affected by these developments to either affect them or stop them no matter what the justification. They would watch and see just how the population of Coventry would expand by 32% over the next 14 years with some interest.

The Finham Parish Council now had the task of trying to affect what was built on Kings Hill and make the changes as palatable as possible. We now had to work with the developers/builders in a positive and constructive fashion.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

Councillor Burns highlighted that fighting with the developers would not return the best result for Finham and its residents and the Parish Council and residents should now work with them to mitigate the impact and help create the best end result.

Councillor Aitken declared that he was not happy as he felt that the Parish Council had wasted £2,500 on donating to a cause which wasn't likely to succeed and he felt he had not received the details of the legal advice that the group had taken.

It was noted that it was important that there were difficult times ahead and all those involved needed to work together to improve the situation.

91. Identifying Areas of Land

Carry over to January's meeting.

92. Meeting Dates

The meeting dates for 2018 were approved:

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| January | 18 th |
| February | 15 th |
| March | 15 th |
| April | 19 th |
| May & APM & APCM | 17 th |
| June | 21 st |
| July | 19 th |
| August | No meeting |
| September | 20 th |
| October | 18 th |
| November | 15 th |
| December | No meeting |

93. 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 updated on the Highways task group.

Work had been undertaken on obtaining quotes for the work required on the entry between Anchorway Road and Green Lane. Two quotes had been received and a third was awaited.

ACTION: Agenda item for January's meeting.

St Martins Road

Councillor Burns highlighted the problem with a stretch of road on St Martins Road which required repair and resurfacing. The question was raised as to whether this work could be carried out whilst the road works were being undertaken at Erithway Road.

ACTION: Councillor Burns to email Councillor Sawdon to progress.

Green Lane Road Sign

Councillor Davies reported that the road sign at the top of Green Lane had been replaced but the sign situated at the bottom of Green had not.

ACTION: Councillor Aitken to follow up.

Kings Hill – Councillor Fryer

Councillor Fryer updated on the Kings Hill Task Group.

Four members of the Kings Hill Group attended a Planning Forum meeting at Leamington Town Hall on Tuesday 14th November. The purpose of the meeting, chaired by Gary Fisher from WDC Planning Department, was for Developers to inform those attending of their proposals for Kings Hill.

The proposed development was to be called Kings Hill Park.

Andy Fraiser from Lioncourt explained that a consortium of developers, land procurement agents and builders had been working with the Council in preparation for the passing of the Local Plan. They had conducted ground surveys and feasibility studies.

He explained that letters had been sent to all residents living on Green Lane to notify them of 2 consultation days. Stoneleigh Village Hall, Friday 24th November 2pm to 8pm and Finham Park School, Saturday 25th November 10am to 4pm.

He handed over to Michael Davies from Savills who showed the indicative plan for the site. The suggestion was that 1,800 houses would be built in the first planned period. The remaining houses were proposed to be built on land owned by Coventry City Council and a landowner who does not wish their land to be used.

The plan shows the houses starting at the boundary hedge of Green Lane and going up to the centre of Kings Hill with some houses at the Stoneleigh Road area of the site.

The Plan showed two Primary Schools and a Secondary School but these would not be built until the numbers of children justify them. In the beginning they stated that the parents could chose to send their children to the nearest school which were Finham Primary and Finham Park.

Kings Hill Lane would be closed giving access only to local houses. There would be a new road coming down to a roundabout near the bridge at the end of St Martins Road. The roundabout had three spurs to Green Lane, Howes Land and St Martins Road.

There were suggestions for two bus gates onto Green Lane. The meeting was opened up for questions.

Councillor Davies requested that a Public Meeting should be held and Michael Davies agreed to this. However, after the meeting had closed Mr Davies told us that he would only meet with chosen representatives of the FRA and Parish Council. He said that he was not prepared to speak to a potentially hostile Public Meeting.

Councillor Robert Fryer asked about the problems with water drainage and sewerage that would result. A WDC councillor agreed that this was a serious problem and there would be more discussion about these matters.

Councillor Angela Fryer questioned the new roundabout and pointed out that the roads were already gridlocked. She also asked if that a green divide should be established between Finham and the start of any building to prevent urban sprawl. Mr Davies said that this was not acceptable.

Councillors Sawdon and Crookes also raised questions in support of local residents.

On Wednesday 15th November Jim Cunningham, the local MP had a debate in Westminster Hall where he challenged the unacceptable loss of Green belt caused by the CCC Local Plan and the disputed housing numbers.

The FRA transcript would be available on the Parish Council and FRA website.

Schools

Councillor Mrs Fryer updated on schools.

The building work happening at the school was nearing completion. The usual firework evening held at the school was cancelled this year due to health and safety reasons. The school did not feel that it was safe to have fireworks on the premises whilst building was continuing.

Parking remained a continuing problem at the school. This term there had been two collisions and in both instances the driver had driven off. Fortunately, there were no pedestrians involved but this would happen if parents/carers continued to show no regard for others.

The police had said that safety cones could be placed in the lay-by if it was needed for a school coach to park. However, the school was reluctant to proceed until we got written confirmation.

The problem was that the cones were not enforceable by law and any driver could remove them if they wished. School staff did not want the responsibility for policing the situation.

NHP

Councillor Davies updated that meetings were planned to take place at Finham Library and would be paid for from the NHP grant.

Volunteers had been identified to form the group but anyone else wishing to join would be welcome.

Police and Crime

Councillor Salt reported.

- The crime figures for the Wainbody area from September had been sent to us from the Police and were as follows.
 - 19 Burglaries from residential properties
 - 12 – thefts from Motor vehicles
 - 8 – thefts from shops and stores
 - 8 - other thefts include 5 handbags stolen from trollies. With the University being the main area.
 - 6 – bilking (taking petrol without paying)
 - 4 – domestic violence
 - 4 thefts of a vehicle
- The highest crime type between September and now is House Burglaries. As many residents now had CCTV cameras installed they combined footage to produce details of one of the criminals.
- This footage was shared with the Police resulting in the man being arrested and he was now in custody.
- Theft from Motor vehicles was the second highest type of crime. Out of the 12 vehicles entered, 9 were unlocked.
- Theft from shop stores were mainly from the BP garage and police were working with staff in an attempt to reduce offences

The continuing message was to lock car doors and to lock all doors to your house including the porch door.

94. 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.

Kings Hill

A question was raised in relation to how best to put ideas forward to developers. One suggestion was to include a "Country Park" and Stephen Trinder asked if the parish council would help support this. It was noted that the Inspector's report did set out scope for green buffers.

Discussion took place on how best to co-ordinate ideas and suggestions.

Councillor Crooks suggested that one option could be to wait until after the two consultation events and then the Parish Council could call a public meeting. Their validity would only be tested once people had had a chance to review the development presentation.

ACTION: The Kings Hill task group would meet and discuss how to co-ordinate working with the developers and the plan for the parish council to hold a public meeting.

95. Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would take place on Thursday 18th January 2018.

Meeting closed at 9:00pm