

Finham Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at 7.00pm,
15th February 2018, at Finham Park School, Green Lane Finham

Present:

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

Councillor Paul Davies (Chairman)
Councillor Colin Salt
Councillor Katherine Taylor

In Attendance:

Jane Chatterton, Clerk & RFO

Coventry City Councillors: Councillors Tim Sawdon and Gary Crookes

Residents: 3**114. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Angela Fryer, Robert Fryer and Anthony Dalton.

115. Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

116. Minutes of previous meetings

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th January 2018.

RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 18th January 2018 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

117. Matters Arising not listed on the agenda**Noticeboard**

Councillor Aitken reported that he had been in contact with WALC for advice on CCC's response to the Parish Council's request to site a noticeboard on Green Lane. Discussion had been on-going for over 18 months including the assistance of Councillor Crookes, but no decision reached.

From a suggestion made at January's meeting the Clerk and Councillor Aitken had met with Mr Machin, Head of the Finham Primary, to discuss the location of the noticeboard. A location had been identified undercover at the community entrance to the building. It was noted that this entrance was open during the day and evenings, all year round not just during the school day. There were no safeguarding risks as this was outside the secure area of the school.

A proposal was made to make a donation of £500 for the school to purchase reading books for the pupils.

It was noted that the installation of a second noticeboard for the Brentwood Avenue area of Finham should continue.

RESOLVED THAT

- (i) the Clerk make arrangements with the Primary School to progress the installation of the noticeboard.
- (ii) A donation of £500 be made to the school for the purchase of books.
- (iii) Continue negotiations with CCC for the installation of a noticeboard in the Brentwood Avenue area of Finham.

118. Finham Library FLAG update

An update was received from the Chairman of FLAG.

FLAG had continued successfully running the library with the five day opening being sustained by the volunteers. They were considering changing the hours on Friday due to lack of use (it was currently open in the mornings and consideration was being made to changing to afternoon sessions).

The Coventry Evening Telegraph delivery paid for by the Parish Council had been well received and the newspaper was being read regularly.

The first stage of the transition fund had been received and some small jobs were going to be started on the library and the solicitor had been paid for the work they had completed on the lease.

FLAG were still awaiting news from the Charity Commission who had confirmed substantial delays in processing.

Two children's sessions, one on Harry Potter run by Sheila Bannister and one for money box painting run by Lesley Charlton had been very well received and they were looking to expand this for Easter.

FLAG were looking to get a newsletter out shortly to publicise their current opening hours and the work they were doing in the library.

RESOLVED that the update on FLAG be noted.

119. Correspondence**119.1 Solihull Area Committee of Parish and Town Councils**

It was reported that The Solihull Area Committee of Parish and Town Councils (SAC) had invited the three Parish Councils within the Coventry Area of WALC, being Allesley PC, Finham PC and Keresley PC to consider joining SAC.

There was no membership fee involved with SAC. Member Councils took it in turns to host the meetings.

The Solihull Area Committee of Parish and Town Councils (SAC) comprised of representatives from the sixteen Parish and Town Councils within the Borough of Solihull. In addition New Frankley Parish Council within Birmingham had become a member. The new Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council had been invited to join and had been sending a representative.

SAC encouraged two representatives from FPC to attend SAC meetings, which were aimed to cover topics that were relevant to Parish and Town Councils. In addition, Clerks were always welcome.

The meetings were an opportunity for members to meet with members from other Councils and share matters of mutual interest and concern.

It was noted the next scheduled meeting on 19th April clashed with FPC's parish council meeting.

RESOLVED THAT the Clerk contact Cllr Brian Brown, Chair of SAC to find out the times of the meetings before a decision could be made.

119.2 A45 Kenilworth Bypass Northbound and Southbound

The Clerk had circulated a letter from Highways England in relation to work to the A46 Kenilworth Bypass North and Southbound. Kier would be undertaking work in relation to drainage schemes on the A46. The scheme would include resurfacing along the north and southbound carriageways, treatment of both carriageways and the cutting and reinstating of the traffic loops with the carriageway.

The project was summarised as:

Start date 19th February 2018, planned completion date of 13th April 2018, hours of work 20.00 to 06.00 Monday to Friday nights only, with no weekend working.

Concern had been expressed over the noise level of the carriageway. Councillor Sawdon had progressed the matter and reassurance had been received from Highways England that the road would be resurfaced with material that provided a quieter surface.

RESOLVED THAT the update be noted.

120. Benches

Carry over.

ACTION: Agenda item for March's meeting.

121. Defibrillators

Two quotations had been received from Primary Care Trust for an indoor and outdoor package. Requests from other suppliers were still awaited.

ACTION:

- (i) Clerk to obtain further quotations.
- (ii) Ownership of the petrol station to be obtained.
- (iii) Agenda item for March's meeting.

122. Planning

Planning Applications received since the last meeting

Weekly list for period 12/01/18

122.1 Application Number:	HH/2018/0014
Application Site:	78 Daleway Road
Application Type:	Householder
Proposal:	Erection of single storey side and rear extension

RESOLVED: No comment

122.2 Application Number: LDCP/2018/0021
Application Site: 103 Gretna Road
Application Type: Certificate of Lawful Development [Proposed]
Proposal: Lawful Development Certificate for a proposed single storey rear extension

RESOLVED: No comment

Weekly list for period 19/01/18

122.3 Application Number: HH/2018/0110
Application Site: 25 Gretna Road
Proposal: Erection of rear conservatory & Garden shed (Retrospective)

Concern was raised in relation to the work previously carried out. The original planning permission included provision for parking at the rear of the property, but this would now be used under the proposed planning application for siting a summerhouse.

ACTION: Councillor Aitken (Planning Task Group Lead) to email Councillor Crookes the details to investigate issues raised.

Weekly list for period 02/02/18

122.4 Application Number: LDCP/2018/0208
Application Site: 41 Erithway Road
Proposal: Lawful development certificate for proposed installation of footway crossing for vehicular access

RESOLVED: No comment

122.5 393 Green Lane

Councillor Aitken reported that the original planning permission to build a dwelling next to the original semi had been refused by CCC as this was stated as being over development. The applicant had since appealed the decision and the planning application had been granted.

122.6 St Martin's Road

It was reported that a 4 bedroomed property on St Martin's Road had been converted into a 7 bedroomed property, turning living rooms into bedrooms. This had resulted in there being no "social area" other than the kitchen. This would suggest that the house had now become a "House of Multiple Occupancy" (HMO).

Councillor Crookes confirmed that if a house was converted into accommodation of 4 to 6 unrelated people then no permission was required. However, if the property was to accommodate over 6 people then this was classed as a HMO and planning permission was required.

ACTION: Councillors Burns and Aitken to follow up.

123. Finance

to approve payments: -

Cheque Payments (Current Account)

Date	Reference	Payee	Details	Value
15.02.18	BACS	J Chatterton	Clerks Salary February 2018	
15.02.18	BACS	HMRC	Tax & NI Payment clerk (February)	£42.00
15.02.18	DD	Coventry Evening Telegraph	Newspaper for the Library	£14.73
19.01.18	DD	ICO	ICO Membership Renewal (PAID)	£35.00
15.02.18	BACS	J Chatterton	Office allowance, mileage and expenses Feb 18	£46.63
29.01.18	BACS	WALC	GDPR Training (JC & PD)	£30.00
29.01.18	BACS	WALC	WALC Briefing Day (PD, PB & RA)	£110.00
29.01.18	BACS	WALC	Social Media Training (RA)	£46.00

WALC Briefing Day

It was noted that the WALC Annual Briefing Day had been reduced to half a day due to low numbers registering. Subsequently the price had been reduced and WALC would no longer be serving lunch. Councillors who had already registered or had paid would receive revised invoices or receive reimbursements. WALC would also be in touch with registered delegates to confirm which workshop they wished to attend.

RESOLVED THAT refunds would be received for 2 delegates.

123.1 VAT Reclaim

Clerk reported that she had submitted a VAT claim for the period April 2017 to January 2018.

124. Parish Insurance Renewal

The renewal quotation for the Parish Council Insurance was discussed the premium had increased slightly from £264.79 in 2017-18 to £269.61 in 2018-19.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the renewal quotation of £269.61 be approved.
- (ii) the Clerk pay the premium by the renewal date.

125. Printer

It was noted that the Parish Council's printer had broken and a replacement had been requested. The "like for like" model was currently on offer at a price of £79.99 (including VAT).

RESOLVED THAT it was approved for the Clerk to purchase the new printer.

126. Identifying Areas of Land

Councillor Aitken reported that he had started pursuing ownership of three areas of land within the Parish. Further feedback would be received at March's meeting.

ACTION: Agenda item for March meeting.

127. Quotation for work on Anchorway Road & Green Lane

Two quotations had been received as reported at January's meeting. The third quotation had still not been received despite being chased.

The Clerk had sent a letter to the new owner/occupier of 337 and included a copy of the letter sent in July 2017.

The two quotations were discussed in detail and the quotation for £395.00 was approved.

RESOLVED THAT it was approved to proceed with the work as detailed in the quotation for £395.00.

128. Policies**128.1 Training Policy**

The Training Policy was discussed.

RESOLVED THAT the Training Policy be approved.

129. 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.

Lights on Erithway Road

It was reported that the lights on Erithway Road were working well. The other traffic lights on St Martin's island used an intelligent system and only worked when required. The lights would take a couple of weeks of use to determine the sequence and work effectively.

ACTION:

- (i) Discuss further at March's meeting.
- (ii) Invite Ian Lewis to a future meeting.

Potholes – Daleway and Erithway

These had been reported.

Road Signs – both ends of Green Lane

Councillor Cobbett reported that he had been working on getting the missing street signs replaced without success.

ACTION: Councillor Cobbett to forward details to Councillor Sawdon to progress.

Street Lights

Councillor Cobbett reported that many of the lights were on day burning. Councillor Cobbett was dealing with this.

St Martin's Road

During the replacement of the gas main the workmen had driven over the grassed area on St Martin's Road causing damage. Work would be required to repair.

ACTION: Councillor Sawdon to progress.

130. Task groups & Working Parties

To receive reports from Task Group and Working Party leads

• Kings Hill – Councillor Fryer

The Chairman read out Councillor Fryer's report:

- The Developers were expected to submit their first plans for Kings Hill within the next two weeks.
- The Kings Hill Group met on 26th January to discuss how to respond to each planning application as a group and how to support residents in making their views known.
- The task group wanted to produce key areas that they considered to be of utmost importance and produce alternative solutions.
- Proposals and suggestions had been made to the developers at the consultation events that had been held over the last few months.

The areas covered were:-

1. NO BUS GATES onto Green LaneIssues

- Too close to schools and were a pollution and health and safety issue
- There would be inadequate turning room out of the Kings Hill Park onto Green Lane
- A bus gate could quickly be altered to become a main access for all traffic

Suggestions

- Access to the site should be at the south end of Green Lane / off Kings Hill Lane
- The proposals already showed a road going into the site at this point. Map 12
- A second access point was from the Stoneleigh Road
- Emergency vehicles could then come from Warwickshire or Coventry using the A45/A46 and have direct access into the site using the roads shown on Map 12

2. PLAY AREA and COMMUNITY CENTREIssues

- There was no play area for children in Finham
- The proposals showed a recreation / play area on the left-hand side of Kings Hill Lane from Green Lane. This would be inaccessible to many people in Finham
- A smaller site was indicated next to the Primary school but would be small and part of a proposed drop off point

Suggestions

- Site a larger Community Centre / Play area next to the Primary school in Green Lane
- Looking at Plan 12 move the proposed Community area to BG (A)
- This facility would be accessible by pedestrians from Green Lane or by vehicles using the road into the site from Kings Hill Lane

3. GREEN SPACE – divide Kenilworth from Finham

Issues

- The proposals showed houses around the Primary school in Green Lane
- The land down to the Primary school on Kings Hill was sloped which means that houses so close to the school would be looking directly into the classrooms
- Also, the school playing field was on the boundary and houses would be too close to the pupils. This was a safety issue

Suggestions

- The areas surrounding the school land should remain as green open land
- This would provide a 'green divide' between Kenilworth and Finham
- There should be no vehicular access onto Green Lane – Access should be at two areas in Kings Hill Lane which should remain open in both directions

4. WATER ISSUES

Issues

- The 23 ponds on Kings Hill were not shown on the Developers Plans
- The indicative plans showed a water meadow running through the site of the first phase
- If this was essential for drainage, then the amount of housing proposed was too intensive for a site that already had inherent flood problems

Suggestions

- Create a water meadow in the area at the back of the school and the length of Green Lane
- This would allow the surface water created from development to soak away at the bottom of what is a hill
- This would help to alleviate the flood risk to the houses in Green Lane

5. SEWERAGE

Issues

- The Severn Trent Finham site was at capacity in 2009 and upgrade work only started at the end of 2017
- When capacity was reached then untreated water was released back into Finham Brook. Professor Wellington's Research showed harmful bacteria in the water

Suggestions

- No planning application should be passed until the Severn Trent Finham site can demonstrate that sufficient capacity was available to meet the proposed increase which would be required by the new homes not just in Finham but across Warwickshire and Coventry
- Councillor Fryer had written to Severn Trent for clarification on their time scales but had not received a replay.
- He had also written to WDC for information on meetings that had taken place with the Councils and Developers prior to a Planning application being submitted but again no response.
- The meeting between Jim Cunningham, Paul Davies, Clive Birch and the new Housing Minister, Dominic Raab, had still not been re-scheduled.

- Jim Cunningham raised the issue in Parliament again and was waiting for a response from the Minister
- The task group were monitoring the situation and would let residents know quickly so that they could write to WDC to express their wishes about the developer’s proposals

• **Schools – Councillor Mrs Bush**

Councillor Ann Bush updated that the Primary School had joined the “Free Reading Scheme”. Pupils were given a choice on what books they would like to read, which they enjoyed and were very excited about. The school had created a new “library areas” with imaginative decorations and seating.

• **Police & Crime**

A Finham Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator’s meeting was held in the Library on 8th February. This was attended by the new Police Sergeant Amy Wright. She gave the meeting an update on her role and how the police and PCSOs were distributed. There were 8 PCSOs for the whole area – Westwood, Woodlands and Wainbody. The group were able to raise issues of concern directly affecting Finham and she responded positively.

Discussion took place in relation to a particular case that had raised alarm and because of good communication and exchange of information she was able to alert all police on duty and the offender was apprehended very quickly.

Concern was voiced that the Police Sergeants seemed to be moved within a short period of time which doesn’t allow them to get to know the needs of the area. Sgt Wright agreed and hoped to be able to remain for a longer period.

The crime figures for this month were for the whole of Wainbody Ward and are shown in the table below. Councillor Fryer had extended an invitation to Sgt Wright to come to a Parish Meeting at a time convenient to us all so that she can meet with the parish council.

TOTAL REPORTS	65
Crime	59
Non-crime	6
BURGLARY	
Residential	11
Business	1
THEFT	
Dwelling	7
Shop	12
Person	1
Criminal damage	5
Assault	5
VEHICLE CRIME	
Theft OF	1
Theft FROM	2
Drug offences	0

- **NHP - Councillor Davies**

Councillor Davies updated on the NHP.

The Finham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group had now held their second meeting on 1st February 2018 again at the Finham Library. Thanks go to Cllr. Robert Aitken for letting us in and locking up afterwards.

After the basic questions Finham residents and also those working/learning in Finham were asked what they would like to see to provide a much clearer and we believe accurate picture of just what it was that everyone wanted to see changed.

As you would expect there were a number of repeats and overlaps and therefore without trying to remove any ideas and suggestions, the responses were categorised and worded in an inclusive way.

- Under Environment were issues such as flowers in public places, public benches, a public right of way to Kings Hill and Wainbody, a green buffer zone between Kings Hill Park and Green Lane, protection for grass verges, create 'Welcome to Finham Parish' road signs.
- For Community Facilities there was a children's play area, a biking area, BMX track, a Community Centre, a large dog walking area.
- Community Events – organise a Finham Festival.
- Traffic – parking restrictions outside schools, traffic calming on roads, electronic speed signs, speedwatch areas.
- Tidy Finham – dog poo clearance/prevention methods by CCC, more dog waste bins, community litter clearance twice a year, rubbish collections for difficult items
- Library – extend current building
- Medical Centre – a second one or increase the size of the current one, a drop-in centre

The plan was to reproduce these desires into a questionnaire which would be on line as well as in strategic places around Finham. On line would mean Pride of Finham, FPC website and FRA website.

The timing of and responsibilities for the above were yet to be determined.

Next to the statements/suggestions would be tick boxes denoting how important each subject was to the responder so that we could see at the end of the survey which were the most important subjects for everyone.

Some of the responses could be addressed by the FPC now and could well be in place by the time of completion of the NHP.

This week Councillor Davies had met with Maureen Metcalfe who was instrumental in helping to complete the Willenhall Neighbourhood Plan which was scheduled to go for referendum this coming May. The advantages for Councillor Davies were not only that Willenhall was a suburb of Coventry as was Finham but also they were very much a built up area which contrasted with most of the places in England that were producing or had produced NHPs. Having said this, it was obvious that they had issues very different from Finham but nonetheless it was a useful meeting which would be reported on at next Steering Group scheduled for 8th March 2018 again at the Finham Library.

Any member of the public was welcome to join the group. Councillor Davies reported that it would be nice to have some new faces who might bring something new to the party.

- **Coventry City of Culture 2021 – Councillor Burns**

Councillor Burns reported that he had been liaising with the bid team who were currently in the process of recruiting. The group was in the process of meeting groups within Coventry, talking and speaking with them.

ACTION: Councillor Burns to invite the bid team to a future parish council meeting.

- **Finham Events Working Party (FEWP) – Councillor Cobbett**

Councillor Cobbett reported on the developments with FEWP. A good start had been made with lots of input from interested parties. Their first meeting was scheduled for 19th February at Finham Library, 7pm.

131. Church Liaison Task Group

It was agreed not to have this as a separate task group as members were already part of FEWP.

132. Public participation

The Chairman suspended the Standing Orders.

A46

Mr Bannister provided a detailed history of the installation of the A46 dating back to 1970, detailing the concrete design and then 18 months later the building of the fence. He had received a letter 2 weeks ago informing him of the resurfacing work. Mr Bannister had been liaising with CCC councillors and as previously reported, notification had been received that the new surface would be quieter.

Kings Hill

Councillor Sawdon reported that he had attended a meeting with WDC Councillors. Further discussions to take place especially in relation to social housing.

Traffic Lights

Councillor Crooks updated further on the traffic lights. There had been several issues with the new traffic lights in the first week of installation. The process would take two weeks for the system to monitor the traffic flow and generate a sequence. It was noted that there was the facility for manual intervention. During the first week there were issues on the M6 and traffic re-routed via the A45 so therefore gave a false traffic flow. The first two weeks had now been disregarded and the 2 week sequence analysis commenced again.

133. Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would take place on Thursday 15th March 2018.

Meeting closed at 8:55pm