

Finham Parish Council

Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH Meeting held at 7:00pm, 17th May 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 Robert Fryer
Councillor Angela Fryer
Councillor Colin Salt

In Attendance:

Jane Chatterton, Clerk & RFO

Coventry City Councillors: Councillor Gary Crookes

Residents: 12

1. Chairman's Welcome – Cllr Paul Davies

Welcome to the Finham Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting, a parish council that has now been in existence for two years and during that time most of us have been finding our feet with this relatively new organisation, especially those who have never served on a public body before now.

Our congratulations go to City Councillor John Blundell who has been inaugurated today as Lord Mayor of Coventry and also our congratulations and thanks go to City Councillor Gary Crookes on his recent re-election. Also for his contribution, along with City Councillor Tim Sawdon who jointly achieved a delay of 13 weeks to the date for comments from people in the Finham area to plans for two new road junctions.

During the evening there will be contributions from the relevant Parish Councillors about the progress they have made on a whole range of issues affecting the area.

The Finham Schools updates are now received from Councillor Ann Bush who until recently, made this contribution jointly with Councillor Angela Fryer. Both are also Governors of Finham Primary School.

The council will be updating you all on Kings Hill. This group being led by Councillor Bob Fryer, who will update us on the huge amount of time spent on the issues involved and the numerous numbers of meetings that have been attended.

Police & Crime is very much on the minds of us all and at each monthly meeting, which is held on the third Thursday in the month (except for August and December), an update is received from Cllr. Angela Fryer with the able assistance of Tony Swann, who is heavily involved with the Neighbourhood Watch groups in the area and who the council assist whenever feasible.

Planning, highways, paths and verges is headed up by Cllr. Robert Aitken who is kept very busy with the number of issues raised under these titles.

This year has seen Coventry nominated as the City of Culture 2021 but as you would agree a great deal of planning and hard work goes into such an event. Cllr. Peter Burns has volunteered to be our liaison with Coventry City of Culture Trust, an independent charity that has been set up to manage it.

The Neighbourhood Plan is in its infancy and chaired by Councillor Paul Davies. The group is working hard to create both electronic and paper surveys to establish what the people of the Finham area would like to see added, improved or removed. The feasibility of change is the key to what can be achieved but we won't know what they are until we have asked the questions.

Finham Events Working Party, is an initiative set up by Councillor James Cobbett who will tell us all about the Finham Festival scheduled to take place on Saturday 7th July amongst other items.

My thanks go to the leaders of these groups and all the very able help they receive from those in these groups who make such projects possible. Efforts that are sometimes not seen by a lot of Finham residents.

If there is anyone here tonight who would like to become involved with any of these groups, please speak with the appropriate Cllr. and establish the kind of contribution you could make.

Later on during the meeting there will be an opportunity for the Public to ask questions and make suggestions about any issues that concern them which they feel the FPC could help to explain or resolve.

2. Reports from Coventry City Councillors

It was reported that Councillor Crookes had attended the inauguration of the new Lord Mayor, Councillor John Blundell today.

Kings Hill – the original application had been invalidated as it was being decided in isolation and not part of the Kings Hill application. The application was now with the CCC's legal team.

Traffic Island – the new revamped traffic island was still under review in relation to the traffic light sequences.

3. Reports from Task Group Leads

• Schools

Councillor Ann Bush updated that part of the NHP would be talking to the Primary School children. Due to the pressure of STATs and events leading up to the summer break this would now take place in September. It was acknowledged that it was important to seek the views of the local children in how to shape the NHP.

• Kings Hill

Councillor Bob Fryer

Thanks to our Ward Councillors, the planning application to CCC for two access points onto Green Lane has been put on hold.

CCC considers that this is a major Planning Application and needs to be considered by the whole Council.

After discussions with WDC and the Developers, the plan will be re-validated.

Residents will then have the opportunity to put in any further submissions if they wish.

On May 2nd WDC informed us of a planning application for the Kings Hill site. The closing date for submissions is May 24th and we have sent details to all residents on the email list.

We have contacted Lucy Hammond the Officer in charge of the application at WDC and she confirms that this is an outline planning application.

She has stated that the main consideration will be based on - to quote 'is it capable of accommodating the level of development and infrastructure that they are proposing'.

The Parish Council will make a response but it is most important that residents put in their own comments to WDC by the deadline May 24th.

- **Police & Crime**

Councillor Angela Fryer

We now have the crime figures from March for the Finham and Green Lane area are as follows:-

All crime (16)
Crime types
Anti-social behaviour (0)
Bicycle theft (0)
Burglary (3)
Criminal damage and arson (1)
Drugs (0)
Other crime (0)
Other theft (2)
Possession of weapons (0)
Public order (1)
Robbery (0)
Shoplifting (2)
Theft from the person (0)
Vehicle crime (5)
Violence and sexual offences (2)

These include crimes at the BP garage. I am still trying to arrange for Amy Wright the Police Sergeant for our area to attend a Parish Meeting but this is proving difficult as her schedules do not fit with our meeting dates.

We have received information from Peter Sturgeon who is in charge of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes across the city asking for volunteers for Street Watch. This is a new initiative that involves local volunteers walking the area and reporting back concerns or crime.

We are fortunate in Finham to have a scheme in operation. Ruth Khan is the co-ordinator and informs me that Streetwatch is in the process of recruiting more volunteers and currently this is in the police vetting stages. She has recently met with the local policing team to discuss ways that they could work together so that volunteers were supported and so that the police are supported too.

They have had very positive feedback from residents and businesses in and around Finham.

Our thanks to Ruth and her team for making Finham a safer place for us all.

- **Highways, verges**

Councillor Robert Aitken

It was reported that Councillor Aitken had been working in partnership with Councillor Cobbett over the last year. Significant changes had taken place, including St Martins Island, which was still being updated. The works to Erithway Road had not been part of the original plan but CCC had been able to fund the project. This work had proved positive.

Entry on Green Lane and Anchor Way – following complaints of nuisance and antisocial behaviour in the entry CCC had been approached to carry out work in the area. The area was dark due to overhanging trees. CCC policy only covered cutting overhanging trees to a certain height which didn't alleviate the problem.

The PC had arranged for the work to be carried out and this had been completed in April. During the lengthy process of obtaining quotations and work commencing the ownership of one of the properties had changed and they were very helpful, allowing the contractor access to their garden to cut the trees from their garden.

Further projects were being reviewed where the PC would work with CCC to use the precept to improve the area for all.

- **Planning**

Planning applications were received weekly from CCC and reviewed by the PC to monitor any planning applications that could have an adverse effect on residents.

- **Coventry City of Culture**

Councillor Peter Burns

The team were busy recruiting new members. There would be nothing to report on progress until the autumn when the Team were hoping to attend a parish council meeting to provide an update.

The schools in Finham were also interested in getting involved. More to follow once known.

- **Neighbourhood Plan**

Councillor Paul Davies

As I stated earlier tonight, the Neighbourhood Plan process is in its infancy and is a project to determine what the residents, business owners, land owners, those attending schools and churches in the area would like to see in Finham, improved in Finham and also what they no longer want to see in Finham.

A survey of Finham is planned to take place between Monday 24th September and Sunday 21st October. This is the period when we believe we are likely to gain the best responses which we want to see from adults as well as school children in the area. Details of just how we intend to carry out the survey have yet to be finalised

Great care will be taken in just how we gain this information, gathered by both paper and electronic means which it is hoped will give a better picture of the future for Finham but it must be said that the wants have to be realistic.

Inputs are not just for those who live here but also those who come to work here, or who spend a large amount of their time here indeed anyone who has any interest in Finham at all.

Space and money are restricted here and we may well have to prioritise hopefully in line with the wishes of the majority.

Opportunities such as the Kings Hill development may offer possibilities of what might be achieved only time will tell but unless we can construct a Neighbourhood Plan which represents the wishes of Finham, it is less likely we will achieve the goals.

Our next meeting will be held in the Finham Library starting at 7.00pm on Tuesday 29th May. Anyone who wants to get involved is most welcome.

- **FEWP**

Councillor James Cobbett

Following last year's highly successful 'Pop-up Cafe' event, Finham Parish Council has opted to continue building on this annual event, to this end the FPC has created the 'Finham Events Working Party' (FEWP) to advise and plan the operation of parish events, including this one. The working party consists of local councillors, council staff, key residents and representatives of the main local centres, such as schools, committees and churches. It's team has experts in the planning and operation of public events with years of industry safety experience.

The Finham Festival is a proposed community event, based on the lines of a traditional Parish Fete. The aims are to promote community integration and benefit the diverse range of local groups, services and societies with a brilliant opportunity to publicise, raise funds and benefit from their presence in the community. This will be achieved by showcasing just some of the estimated forty groups and charities in the parish and offering them a completely free-of-charge stall.

**4. Open Forum discussion on: -
Grass Cutting**

A resident raised the issue with the grass especially in Green Lane. The last cut looks awful and is still very long and untidy.

Councillor Aitken updated that due to funding the cutting schedule across the city had been altered the first cut now took place in May. Park areas were cut once every 2 weeks and roads (verges) were cut once every 4 weeks. There had been many complaints in the first 2 months. CCC's cutting policy would not change but the PC could look into addressing the issue in the future.

Bathway Road Crossing

A resident raised concern with the wild flowers which were tall and obscuring the crossing on Bathway Road. This was an issue last year.

ACTION: Councillor Aitken to contact Parks & Highways.

Councillor Crookes – had emailed Highways and Street Pride requesting a safety audit.

Meeting closed at 8:00pm