

## Finham Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at 7:00pm,  
17<sup>th</sup> January 2019, at Finham Park School, Green Lane Finham

**Present:**

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

Councillor Paul Davies  
Councillor Robert Fryer  
Councillor Angela Fryer  
Councillor Colin Salt  
Councillor Kate Taylor

Coventry City Councillors: Councillor Tim Sawdon

**Residents:** 20

**108. Apologies**

There were no apologies for absence.

*The Chairman Suspended the Standing Orders*

**Police and Crime**

Following requests from parishioners, concerned with recent reported criminal activity in the area, the Parish Council had invited parishioners to attend the Parish Council meeting.

Parishioners raised concerns with the incidents especially involving car thefts and a carjacking. They asked how the Parish Council could assist in crime prevention, increased community involvement, ways to reduce crime and protect their property.

**Tony Swann – Lead Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator**

The Chairman invited Tony Swann, in his role as Lead Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, to listen to their concerns and comment.

Mr Swann updated that the crime figures showed a reduction in crime. He had the crime figures on a rolling 12 month period and they were lower now than for the same period last year.

The Street Patrol Co-ordinator was a lady called, Ruth Khan. This initiative was run separately from the NHW, it was stressed that this was a police backed initiative and not a vigilante organisation. Recently, the group had been instrumental in deterring crime.

**Gating Scheme**

The provision of a gating scheme was raised. It was confirmed that the Parish Council had been looking into this and further work on the viability, cost and potential funding schemes was being undertaken.

**Petition**

The idea of the Parish Council organising a petition from Finham Parish parishioners could be organised, this could be handed to the police and Councillor Cunningham. Volunteers would be sought to help approach fellow parishioners, inform them of the petition and seek signatures.

Parishioners were asked to send their ideas for inclusion in the petition to the Clerk (Clerk.finhampc@outlook.com).

**ACTION:** Petition to be created.

Mr Swann added that two years ago there had been a spike of 70% rise in crimes reported and at that time there were only 2 or 3 NHW groups, this had now risen to 18 NHW groups in the area. A successful CCTV list had been compiled, this had assisted with the prosecutions and conviction of offenders.

#### **Coventry City Councillor Tim Sawdon**

Councillor Sawdon updated that in his role as Ward Councillor he did not have any responsibility for the police, however, he did take the matter seriously.

Councillor Sawdon suggested that the Parish Council writes a letter to the Chief Constable. Councillor Sawdon offered to assist with this.

**ACTION:** Letter to be sent to the Chief Constable. Clerk to liaise with Councillors Sawdon and Davies.

#### **In light of the recent taking of vehicles the following advice:**

- Be aware of suspicious activity in car parks and have your keys ready when you approach your car. Check the environment around you and look inside the vehicle
- Park in a well-lit area or car park or if possible, find a car park displaying the “park mark” sign which shows it has been approved under the safer parking scheme
- Lock your car as soon as you get inside
- Keep your doors locked while driving. If your car has a self-locking facility – make sure it is active
- Try to leave a sufficient gap between your vehicle and the car in front when stopped at traffic lights or in traffic, but not so much another car can get between your vehicle and the one in front. This is so you can manoeuvre safely out of danger. (If you are approached by anyone suspicious on foot, being too close to the vehicle in front will prevent you from manoeuvring out of danger)
- If your car is in collision with another vehicle and you are suspicious of the driver’s intention, if you can, drive to a well-lit and populated area and summon help
- Sounding the vehicles horn is a good way of drawing attention in an emergency
- Do not open a window fully to speak to someone who approaches your vehicle, or unlock and open the door
- Always take your car keys out of the vehicle if you are going into shops or a petrol station, even if someone is left in the car. Similarly, keep windows closed if possible
- In an emergency dial 999

Councillor Fryer added that she (along with Tony Swann) attended the Police Liaison meetings and regularly updated the officers on issues within Finham. The next meeting was scheduled for February and the issues and concerns would be raised. A meeting was also due to take place with Councillor Jim Cunningham, again the issues and concerns would be discussed.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

*The Chairman reinstated the Standing Orders.*

**109. Minutes of the Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018 were discussed.

**RESOLVED THAT** the minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018 were approved.

**110. Matters Arising not listed on the agenda**

There were no matters arising not listed on the agenda.

**111. FLAG**

The Chairman updated that the Clerk for FPC had taken the minutes of the last FLAG meeting held in the Finham Community Library on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

The long-awaited lease had now been agreed between FLAG and CCC subject to a legal check and there was a possibility that FLAG could take over in April for an initial period of six months to be replaced by a longer one at a later date which is the apparent strategy requirement of CCC.

Work was being done also on a Memorandum of Understanding which was naturally subject to a final agreement.

A further piece of good news was that the footfall at the library had doubled over the last 12 months which really was an outstanding achievement and just reward for a lot of hard work.

The Action Plan for the future of the library was currently on ice, pending the agreement of the lease and Memorandum of Understanding.

The music licence for the library was being investigated as to whether it covered or could cover music outside the library which might then be utilised for the Finham Festival. Two of the trustees had volunteered to be involved with the organisation and running of the Finham Festival being held on the green outside the library like last year.

An Events Schedule for 2019 was being produced which would hopefully increase local interest and footfall.

**112. CORRESPONDENCE**

**112.1 Garden Party**

A nomination was required (one councillor plus a companion) to attend a Royal Garden Party to be held on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

The nominated councillor was required to complete and return the nomination form by noon on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019.

**RESOLVED THAT** Councillor Dalton be nominated to complete the application form to be considered.

**113. PLANNING**

Planning Applications received since the last meeting

**Weekly list for the period 2 January to 4 January 2019****113.1 Application Number: FUL/2018/3549**

Application Site: Finham Park School Green Lane

Proposal: Provision of a replacement sports ground and erection of a club house (including bar; changing facilities; showers; and communal areas)

**RESOLVED THAT** the parish council supported the application, Clerk to write in support of the application.

**113.2 Application Number: HH/2018/3330**

Application Site: 120 Kenpas Highway

Proposal: Erection of a single storey side extension

**RESOLVED THAT:** No comment.

**Weekly list for the period 7 January to 11 January 2019****113.3 Application Number: FUL/2018/3048**

Application Site: 377 Green Lane

Proposal: Retention of the single storey side extension and to be used as a separate hot food takeaway (use class A5) to the existing hot food takeaway at 377 Green Lane

**RESOLVED THAT:** The Parish Council write to the Planning Department objecting to the planning application.

**114. PARISH ENHANCEMENTS****114.1 Status of a mirror to be placed at the junction of Grange Avenue and Howes Lane**

No progress to report.

**ACTION:** Agenda item for a future meeting.

**114.2 Status of the mapping of 'green spaces' in Finham**

Councillor Aitken updated that he wouldn't be pursuing the project.

**114.3 Signage for Finham Community Library and St Martins Church**

No progress to report.

**ACTION:** Agenda item for a future meeting.

**114.4 Bench**

Councillor Mrs Fryer updated that she had chased the CCC officer for an update and date for completion. A response was awaited.

**114.5 Noticeboard**

Clerk had finally been able to discuss the requirements with the suppliers who Coventry City Council had insisted were used. Installation would now be discussed with the officer at CCC.

**ACTION:** Agenda item for February’s meeting.

**114.6 Electricity Supply on The Green**

Councillor Cobbett updated that he had obtained further details for the project including the costings. Permission was required from Coventry City Council. Once this had been obtained, further work would be completed, and the matter discussed further.

**ACTION:** Agenda item for a future meeting.

**115. Finance**

115.1 to approve payments: -

Cheque Payments (Current Account)				
Date	Reference	Payee	Details	Value
17.01.19	BACS	J Chatterton	Clerks Salary December 2018	
17.01.19	BACS	HMRC	Tax & NI Payment clerk (December)	£76.36
17.01.19	BACS	J Chatterton	Office allowance, mileage Jan 19	£46.63
17.01.19	BACS	J Chatterton	Clerks Salary January 2019	
17.01.19	BACS	HMRC	Tax & NI Payment clerk (January)	£76.34
02.12.19	BACS	J Chatterton	Reimbursement for Snap bands (PAID)	£409.80
17.01.19	DD	Microsoft	Office 365 renewal	£59.99
17.12.18	BACS	Baginton Village Store	Newspaper for the Library	£19.00
08.01.19	BACS	Baginton Village Store	Newspapers for Library	£27.25

**RESOLVED THAT** the payments be approved.

**115.2 Bank Reconciliation**

The Bank Reconciliation up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 was discussed. It was reported that:

Balance per bank statements as at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2018:	£	£
	£34,207.46	
		<b>£34,207.46</b>
Net balances as at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2018		

**RESOLVED THAT** the Bank Reconciliation up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 was approved.

**115.3 Quarterly Report**

The quarterly Report up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 was discussed.

**RESOLVED THAT** the Quarterly Report up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 be received.

**116. Budget and Precept Request 2019-20**

The draft budget and Precept request for 2019-20 was discussed.

<b>Precept Request</b>	<b>2019 20</b>
To meet budget	£24,327.40
Less grant from CCC	£2,967.00
Precept 2019/20	<b>£21,360.40</b>
Tax Base	£1,548.40
Band D	£13.80

**RESOLVED THAT**

- (i) The Precept request for 2019-20 be approved at £21,360.40.
- (ii) The Clerk & RFO notify Coventry City Council of the precept request.

*Proposed Councillor Mrs Bush Seconded Councillor Mrs Fryer Unanimous*

**117. Proposal as to multi-agency approach to reducing traffic issues from the Finham MAT**

It was noted that the police would need to be involved with the process. The cost implication of the project would also need to be established.

**ACTION:** Councillor Aitken to write a letter to obtain the costs.

**118. Parish Council Newsletter**

Councillors were reminded to send information for inclusion in the newsletter to Councillor Cobbett.

**ACTION:** Agenda item for February's meeting, draft newsletter to be reviewed.

**119. Promoting Road Safety**

Councillors Mrs Fryer and Mrs Bush updated that the children had eagerly received the snap bands in December.

Councillor Cobbett added that the bands had come in under the agreed budget.

**120. The Children's play area**

Councillor Mrs Bush reported that further to the update given at the last parish council meeting, advising that Mr Gregory Hood had responded to the letter sent to him from Councillors Mrs Fryer and Mrs Bush in which he advised that he would send a copy of the letter to his Land Agent, a letter had been received from Savills, agents for the developers. They asked if they would like to meet with them to obtain a clearer understanding of the piece of land in question.

Councillor Mrs Bush emphasised that Councillors Mrs Bush and Mrs Fryer were not representing the Parish Council, albeit they had, as a matter of courtesy, advised the Chairman and Vice Chairman that the meeting had been scheduled. They were acting under the auspices of being Community Governors at the Primary School. They had, in fact, first written to Mr Gregory Hood in 2004.

Communication from Savills following their proposal was awaited.

**121. Signal blocking pouches – keyless car fobs**

Work continued at looking at suitable products.

**ACTION:** Agenda item for a future meeting.

**122. Governance**

The following policies were discussed.

**122.1 Financial Regulations**

The Financial Regulations had been reviewed.

**RESOLVED THAT** the updated Financial Regulations be approved.

**122.2 Financial Control Document**

The Financial Control Document had been reviewed.

**RESOLVED THAT** the updated Financial Control be approved.

**122.3 Risk Assessment**

The Parish Council's Risk Assessment had been reviewed.

**RESOLVED THAT** the updated Risk Assessment document be approved.

**122.4 Health & Safety Policy**

It was noted that additions to the Health & Safety Policy should be considered.

**ACTION:** Agenda item for February's meeting.

**122.5 Grants & Donations Policy**

The Grants & Donations Policy had been reviewed.

**RESOLVED THAT** the Grants & Donations Policy be approved.

**123. Task groups & Working Parties**

Reports from Task Groups and Working Party leads

- **Highways – Councillor Aitken**

Nothing major to note.

- **Kings Hill – Councillor Fryer**

It was reported that the Task Group had been notified that Savills had put in an addendum to their original plans for Kings Hill.

The group were looking at the finer detail to see what, if anything, had altered but this takes a great deal of time. The number of houses remained the same in the long term and they still intended to build these along Green Lane and at the top of the site in the first phase. They continued to apply for two access points onto Green Lane.

The deadline for objections to the revised plan was 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019. Parishioners were urged to make their comments as soon as possible.

Comments could be made by going to the WDC website and searching for W/18/0643.

<https://planning.documents.warwickdc.gov.uk/online-applications/simpleSearchResults.do?action=firstPage>

The four key areas for objection were:-

**The access points** – it was known that existing traffic was already causing problems and directing the additional volume of traffic from the proposed development onto the local roads would add to the existing problem. From a safety point of view, placing a roundabout in close proximity to a bridge would cause problems.

**Air Pollution** – the group had read the daily impact of air pollution on health and particularly the children. The volume of traffic would worsen the air quality and was a major reason for opposing the plans. The Bus Gate next to a primary school needed to be highlighted. The CCC had not tested the air quality levels in the area so they had no base line on which to build their projections.

**Sewerage** – there would be a marked increase in the amount of sewerage and industrial materials going to the Finham Sewerage Works as a result of the huge building programme across Coventry and Warwickshire. There was already a known risk of contaminates being discharged into Finham Brook when storage capacity was reached.

**Greenbelt** – the loss of Green Belt would create an urban sprawl joining Coventry to Kenilworth the proposed loss of trees and hedges would impact on the wildlife in the area.

- **Schools – Councillor Mrs Bush**

Councillor Mrs Bush updated that at a Governors' meeting last week it was announced that 10 Coventry Children from local primary schools, had been chosen to go to Japan in November 2019, prior to the 2020 Olympic Games.

Funding had been secured for the children who would be ambassadors to go and there were 2 children from Year 5 at Finham Primary School who were fortunate to have been chosen.

The distribution of the snap bands just before Christmas had been very well received by the children. They were delighted with them.

- **Police & Crime – Councillor Mrs Fryer**

Councillor Mrs Fryer updated on the most recent available crime figures (November) and were as follows:



Reported at November's meeting		Latest figures available	
All crime	(26)	All crime	(22)
<b>Crime types</b>		<b>Crime types</b>	
Anti-social behaviour	3	Anti-social behaviour	2
Bicycle theft	0	Bicycle theft	0
Burglary	5	Burglary	3
Criminal damage and arson	1	Criminal damage and arson	4
Drugs	0	Drugs	0
Other crime	0	Other crime	0
Other theft	4	Other theft	1
Possession of weapons	0	Possession of weapons	0
Public Order	1	Public Order	0
Robbery	0	Robbery	0
Shoplifting	8	Shoplifting	1
Theft from the person	0	Theft from the person	0
Vehicle crime	1	Vehicle crime	1
Violence and sexual offences	3	Violence and sexual offences	2

The majority of the crimes were for the BP garage which were 1 x anti-social behaviour, 3 x Criminal Damage, 1 x other theft, 1 x shoplifting and 1 x vehicle crime

Councillor Mrs Fryer attended a Police Liaison Meeting at Canley Police Station on 13<sup>th</sup> December which was led by Sgt Amy Wright. Sgt Wright explained the difficulties of providing support across such a wide area with reduced numbers of police.

She pointed out that compared to other areas such as Tile Hill and Canley, Finham had a low crime rate.

Those present pointed out that local residents wanted to see more police presence and to feel that when they reported a crime it was followed up.

Through the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme residents were always advised to report all crimes to 101. CCTV evidence had been handed to the police, but the victims needed more follow up as to what was happening.

Councillor Mrs Fryer had emailed Sgt Amy Wright to inform her of the Parish Council meeting tonight and had requested any information that she would like sharing at the meeting.

Sgt Wright had replied that due to shift patterns there was no one available to attend. She had reported that the carjacking was an ongoing situation and she would provide an update when possible.

There would be another Police Liaison Meeting for the Wainbody area on 6<sup>th</sup> February.

Ruth Khan reported that Street Watch was going well with plenty of patrols in Finham.

Finally, Councillor Mrs Fryer congratulated Tony Swann for getting an award for the work that he had carried out into making the Finham Neighbourhood Watch Scheme so successful. He had attended the award evening with Ruth Khan who had also put in a lot of hard work into establishing the street patrols in the area.

- **NHP - Councillor Davies**

Councillor Davies updated that the NHP meeting scheduled for 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019 had to be postponed until 29<sup>th</sup> January 2019 due to him attending his brother's funeral.

The survey was still planned for Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

He would present to the council at the next meeting an outline of what was planned for the survey.

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

Councillor Burns updated that he had been unsuccessful in obtaining an update from the organisers of the Coventry City of Culture. Others had experienced the same problem.

**ACTION:** Councillor Burns would contact Nicole Malatesta, Fundraising Officer, Coventry City of Culture Trust requesting attendance at a future parish council meeting.

#### **124. Councillor's reports and items for future Agenda:**

**Installation of CCTV** – February's Agenda (Councillor Cobbett)

**FEWP** – February's Agenda (Councillor Cobbett)

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

*The Chairman Suspended the Standing Orders*

#### **377 Green Lane**

Parishioner raised their concerns in relation to the ongoing issues with planning applications, compliance and issues in relation to 377 Green Lane.

The long list of concerns and objections were highlighted.

**ACTION:** The Parishioner was requested to forward these comments to the Clerk. Councillor Aitken and Planning Lead to liaise with the Clerk to write and send an objection letter (as approved under minute 113.3 above).

**European City of Sport 2019** – organisers had requested they be involved in the Finham Festival.

**ACTION:** Councillor Cobbett to liaise with the organisers.

#### **Traffic Lights A45**

Various comments had been received both raising concerns and also others reported that they found the lights useful. Opinion was divided.

Councillor Sawdon updated that the engineers carrying out the works to MOVA had reported that it was now working as it should be. They were on site recently validating and monitoring the traffic flow. They reported that in the morning peak the A45 in both directions was very busy and MOVA had been setup to give most of the green time to these approaches while trying to keep the circulatory carriageway as clear as possible. The engineers reported that members of the public were commenting about the signals causing delays for their journeys and these were from people exiting St Martins Road (give way exit) where they were being held up by the signals on Erithway Road. The signals at Erithway Rd were installed at the request of the residents from this area who previously struggled with traffic at this location.

Further monitoring would take place.

**126. Date of the Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> February 2019.

Meeting closed at 9:00pm

SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN  
COUNCILLOR PAUL DAVIES

21<sup>st</sup> February 2019