

Finham Parish Council

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held at 6:30pm,
20th June 2019, at Finham Park School, Green Lane Finham**

Present:

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Councillor Ann Bush | Councillor Robert Fryer |
| Councillor James Cobbett | Councillor Angela Fryer |
| Councillor Anthony Dalton (Vice Chairman) | Councillor Colin Salt |
| Councillor Paul Davies (Chairman) | Councillor Kate Taylor |

Coventry City Councillors: Councillor Tim Sawdon

Residents: 12

In Attendance:

Jane Chatterton, Clerk & RFO

Chairman's Welcome and Update

Before we start the meeting tonight, I would like to offer the Finham Parish Council's sincerest sympathies to the family and close friends of Gary Crookes, CCC Councillor for Wainbody Ward, who died last week after a short illness. Gary was a regular attender at Finham Parish Council meetings and an active campaigner for Wainbody Ward. He will be sorely missed.

In the first stage of tonight's meeting we welcome Colin Whitehouse, Highway Development Manager for Coventry City Council who has kindly accepted our invitation to come to speak to us about proposed changes to the road infrastructure due to the Kings Hill development.

In preparation, the Parish Council sent a list of some of the important questions being asked by residents of Finham about this huge development and wanting to know what actions CCC were taking to mitigate the impact and what changes to the plans had been made as a result of the many objections that had been made in the past.

These questions and answers are recorded separately.

Colin Whitehouse, Highway Development Manager

Questions had been prepared and sent to Mr Whitehouse in advance of the meeting. Mr Whitehouse confirmed that he would send a written response after the meeting. This would be distributed.

Colin Whitehouse committed to responding in writing to all questions and comments by no later than week ending 28/6/19.

The Chairman thanked Mr Whitehouse for attending the meeting.

7:30pm – Parish Council Meeting

Can I ask everyone to switch off their mobile phones and focus on the meeting in hand as it can be a distraction also for everyone else.

30. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

31. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

32. Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th May 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th May 2019 were discussed.

RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 16th May 2019 were approved.

33. Matters Arising not listed on the agenda

There were no matters arising, not listed on the agenda.

34. FLAG

The Chairman updated on FLAG events. It was reported that the last meeting of FLAG held in the library on 12th June 2019, was a momentous occasion. It was to witness the signing of the Lease after a long and arduous path which had been administered and progressed on behalf of the Trustees by their solicitor John Ruddick.

The period of the first lease would be June 2019 to June 2020 to allow CCC and FLAG to become more accustomed to the new relationship. The meeting had been more normal up to this point with discussions of finance, fund raising and donations. A breakdown was given by John Oakley of where the money had come from over the last year. The Trustees would now be pursuing the Grant Aid Agreement they had with CCC.

A new Trustee, John Wilford was introduced to the meeting.

For the Finham Festival, FLAG would start to set up at around 9.00am in readiness for the event and were very hopeful of exceeding their fundraising achievements last year especially since there would be significantly more stalls this time.

RESOLVED THAT the update be noted.

35. Correspondence

35.1 Scope

Correspondence had been received from Scope looking for suitable locations to extend their network of textile recycling banks and had asked if there were any suitable sites in Finham. Councillors were asked if they could suggest any possible locations.

ACTION:

- (i) Councillors Mrs Fryer and Mrs Bush to speak to the school.
- (ii) Agenda item for July's meeting.

35.2 VE Day

Correspondence had been received inviting the Parish Council to participate in VE Day 75 celebrations. Throughout the country these were being organised to celebrate/commemorate the 75th anniversary of the end of WW2 in Europe.

The 8th May 1945 was the day peace emerged after nearly six years of war, so the 75th anniversary on 8th May 2020 represented an important milestone in our history.

RESOLVED THAT:

- (i) Agenda item for July.
- (ii) Ideas to be discussed.
- (iii) Investigate a possible link with Baginton PC.
- (iv) Consultation with FLAG.

36. Planning

Planning Applications received since the last meeting

Weekly list for the period 12th May to 18th May 2019

- 36.1 Application Number: FUL/2019/1094**
Application Site: 41 Brentwood Avenue
Proposal: Change of use of the ground floor of the property to therapy rooms for use by registered health professionals

RESOLVED THAT: No comment.

- 36.2 Application Number: HH/2019/1024**
Application Site: 9 St Martins Road
Proposal: Erection of single storey rear extension and loft conversion with a rear dormer

RESOLVED THAT: No comment.

Weekly list for the period 19th May to 25th May 2019

- 36.3 Application Number: HH/2019/0703**
Application Site: 2 Erithway Road
Proposal: Erection of a two storey side & rear extension and a single storey rear extension

RESOLVED THAT: No comment.

- 36.4 Application Number: HH/2019/1009**
Application Site: 15 Jacklin Drive
Proposal: Erection of rear extension

RESOLVED THAT: No comment.

36.5 Application Number: HH/2019/1134
Application Site: 120 Kenpas Highway
Proposal: Erection of a single-storey side extension

RESOLVED THAT: No comment.

36.6 Application Number: HH/2019/1187
Application Site: 29 Cotswold Drive
Proposal: Conversion of existing garage to accommodation and a new tiled roof

RESOLVED THAT: No comment.

Weekly list for the period 26th May to 1st June 2019

Nothing to report

Weekly list for the period 2nd June 2019 to 8th June

36.7 Application Number: HH/2019/1234
Application Site: 47 Rees Drive
Proposal: Erection of single storey side and rear extensions

RESOLVED THAT: No comment.

Weekly list for the period 9th June 2019 to 15th June

36.8 Application Number: FUL/2018/0842
Proposal: Proposed installation of two new highways access junctions on land west of Green Lane and the junction of Saint Martins Road / Green Lane / Howes Lane in relation to the site clearance and mixed-use development of land at Kings Hill for the provision of up to 2,500 dwellings (Use Class C3), 4,000 sq.m. of mixed use floor space (Use Classes A1, A3, A4, C2, D1 and D2) in a district centre, a primary school, a secondary school, formal and informal open space and enabling infrastructure including new roads within the site and improvements to the existing road junction at Stoneleigh Road..
Site: Land at St Martins Road,Howes Lane, Kings Hill Lane and Green Lane Coventry

RESOLVED THAT: Parish Council objects to the proposal. Parishioners were urged to also make their own objection.

37. PARISH ENHANCEMENTS

37.1 Noticeboard

The Clerk updated that she had received an email from Dave Lewis, Parks Development Officer. He confirmed that there had been major delays with the noticeboard. The company had merged with another which in itself was not an issue, however they had adopted that company's name and therefore he was currently attempting to get them added onto their Procurement system to enable him to place an order.

The noticeboard would therefore unfortunately not be erected in time for the impending Finham Festival.

Clerk to provide Mr Lewis with contact details to enable the invoice to be raised.

RESOLVED THAT the update be noted.

37.2 Parking restrictions

Parking problems outside the Primary School during drop off and pick up times were raised as a priority in the NHP survey. Ways of restricting parking were discussed.

Clerk updated that Moseley Primary School in Coventry put out large yellow signs with very pointed wording displayed, highlighting that parking inappropriately caused danger to children.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Moseley Primary School for further information of their supplier and what permission they obtained. Further discussion when information received.

37.3 Litter cleaning

Another item raised in the NHP was an issue with litter throughout the parish. A twice yearly litter pick was discussed. Agreed this would be arranged and would involve various groups throughout the parish.

ACTION: Further discussion at a future meeting.

37.4 Installation of dog waste bins

CCC had agreed to supply and install new dog waste bins/general waste bins throughout the parish. Suitable locations needed to be identified.

ACTION: Agenda item for July's meeting.

37.5 Grass verge protection against car parking

Councillor Cobbett updated that he had investigated this issue previously.

ACTION: A list of areas were required, once identified further discussion would take place.

37.6 Installation of electronic speed signs

A request had been made to install electronic speed signs throughout the parish.

Some speed signs required an electricity supply which would then need the permission of the asset owner. The possibility of installing "solar powered" signs could be pursued.

ACTION: Councillor Mrs Fryer to look at the signage installed by CCC on the Leamington Road.

38. Newsletter

The Chairman updated that the newsletter had been produced with submissions from Finham Parish Council who were sponsoring the publication, Finham Residents Association, Finham Library Action Group, Finham Neighbourhood Watch and by no means least our Wainbody CCC Councillors. The next publication would be in approximately three months' time as the plan was to print every quarter year.

The Chairman thanked all for the contributors.

The newsletter would be delivered to all dwellings in Finham and therefore any help that could be offered would be gratefully accepted.

We welcome suggestions on how we can improve the newsletter, but we believe it would be very informative for parishioners.

39. Finance

to approve payments: -

| Cheque Payments (Current Account) | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----------|--------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Date | | Reference | Payee | Details | Value |
| 20.06.19 | E17 | BACS | CCC | Signage | £1,701.90 |
| 20.06.19 | E18 | BACS | J Chatterton | Clerks Salary June 2019 DPA | |
| 20.06.19 | E19 | BACS | HMRC | Tax & NI Payment clerk (June) | £124.83 |
| 20.06.19 | E20 | BACS | J Chatterton | Office allowance, mileage June 19 | £73.97 |
| 20.06.19 | E21 | BACS | Chatterbox | Advertising Finham Festival | £70.00 |
| 20.06.19 | E22 | BACS | J Chatterton | Reimbursement Newsletter printing | £456.30 |
| 20.06.19 | E23 | BACS | WALC | Training James C | £46.00 |

RESOLVED THAT the payments be approved.

40. Task groups & Working Parties

To receive reports from Task Group and Working Party leads

- **Highways – Councillor Cobbett**

Councillor Cobbett updated on the new signage which had been installed throughout the parish. These had received a mixed response.

It was noted that the signs should have said "Welcome to Finham PARISH" rather than "Finham", and also wording agreed at May's meeting was to include

"Welcomes careful drivers".

ACTION: Councillor Cobbett to review.

- **Kings Hill – Councillor Fryer**

The following updates were:

- Two amended plans had now been submitted for Kings Hill. One to CCC with a deadline of 29th of June and another to WDC with a deadline of July
- The Developers produced an Addendum which the Kings Hill Group had looked at but could find no alterations to the initial proposals.
- The Kings Hill group had checked with the planning departments of both WDC and CCC and both stated that there were no major changes to the original plans.
- WDC informed everyone that had previously responded to the Plans that a new application was being made.
- CCC however posted a copy of the Application letter on a lamppost at the end of Green Lane and a notice in the Coventry Telegraph. We asked why no one else including the Parish Council had been informed and they responded that this was not necessary. We have suggested that the Council adopts the WDC method of notifying all previous responders.
- The plan centres on the access points onto Green Lane.
 - First is a roundabout at the end of St Martins Road where it joins Green Lane, Howes Lane and King Hill Lane.
 - Second is a bus gate along the side of Finham Primary School.
- The group had produced a set of points that covered their objections to any access onto Green Lane and these had been made available for residents by email and on the Parish Council and Finham Residents Association web sites.
- They had also produced a leaflet which explained the proposals which would go to every household in Finham. We hope that this would inform those residents who apparently were unaware of the plans for building 4,500 houses on Kings Hill.

- **Schools – Councillor Mrs Bush**

Councillor Mrs Bush updated that along with Councillor Mrs Fryer they had attended a Governor's meeting at the school. The main news to report was that the Head Teacher, Mr Richard Machin would be leaving at the end of the school term. In the interim the Assistant Head, Sarah Braken would be stepping in during the recruitment for a new Head Teacher.

- **Coventry City of Culture – Councillor Ms Taylor**

Councillor Ms Taylor updated that would be working with the group and feeding back information once received.

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

It was reported that the most recent crime figures available were for April and were as follows:-

- For the whole of Finham there were 16 crimes.
- 5 of these relate to the BP garage which means a total of 11 crimes for Finham.

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

- On the Neighbourhood Watch website, Tony Swann pointed out that the merger with Whoberley makes no difference to our physical crime numbers - however, it does make a 34% increase in the number of crimes reported in our policing sector.
- Councillor Mrs Fryer was unable to attend the Police Liaison meeting on 12th June, but Cllr Taylor went to represent the Parish Council. She reported that
 - Sgt Amy Wright stated the Policing team had been prioritising anti-social behaviour in Canley. Other parts of the city (Willenhall was an example) had far worse crime rates.
 - There had been a recent change in the teams, meaning the present team was covering a larger area with the same number of officers.
 - There was a discussion on whether student properties were particular targets for burglary. Due to multiple occupants, meaning multiple goods and young people who may not be used to keeping homes secure. This did attract certain criminals but more specialised in other types of theft: stealing car keys, for example, which was a very common type of burglary.
 - Problems with parking around the school were mentioned and ways of dealing with them. Having school staff in high vis jackets at leaving time was suggested and involving the children in encouraging safer behaviour.
 - Contacting the Police by live chat in non-emergency situations may be quicker than 101.
- On June 17th during a Parliamentary debate on crime in London, our MP Jim Cunningham raised the issue of police numbers in his constituency stating - 'The West Midlands were just as important as London, and over the last 10 years we had lost about 3,000 policemen. Logically, we cannot expect the same level of service; crime would go up. Over the last weeks in Coventry specifically, there had been stabbings—one fatal and one very serious. The police in Coventry are firefighting, and I have raised this issue many times. It was no good the Minister going through a list of all sorts of initiatives. The Government had to reassure the people out there because that was their duty, and the only way they were going to reassure people was with adequate policing. It was fundamental for the Government to protect their people, but they were not doing that at the moment.'

- Cllr Davies and Mrs Fryer were due to join Tony Swann and the police for a Speed Watch in Erithway road last week. Unfortunately, it was cancelled due to the rain. It was hoped to find another date. Sgt Wright had said that if we had a speed watch, we would need a responsible police officer to send letters to speeding motorists.
- Councillor Fryer still not had confirmation that any police officers would attend the Finham Festival Saturday June 29th.
- Also, not date had been given for officers to visit the Primary School to discuss the new Park Safe Scheme. When Sgt Wright arranged a date, Councillor Fryer would attend so that she could understand the new scheme.
- There was a growing frustration that communication between the police and local organisations such as the Parish Council and Neighbourhood Watch was very poor.

- **NHP - Councillor Davies**

The NHP Group held their last meeting in the library on 23rd May 2019 to discuss the survey results, and what their next course of action should be and to determine what could be done short term.

Included in tonight's agenda were some of the items raised; Dog Waste Bins, Litter Cleaning, Grass Verge Protection and Electronic Speed Signs all of which were in the top ten.

The group agreed that the comments made by many of the respondents must not be lost and an analysis would be made of them as they wanted a complete picture of what were the needs of Finham.

The next meeting of the group is to be held on 27th June. It had been said before, there was every possibility we may not be able to carry out everything that had been stated on these questionnaires, not everything was within our power to achieve without assistance from outside bodies but we would try to complete as many as we can.

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

Councillor Cobbett updated that there was just over a week to go until the Finham Festival and was busy making the final preparations. A Safety Officer and Stewards had been recruited and the necessary paperwork had been submitted.

There were 62 stall holders registered to attend, which was a significant increase on last year.

Performances would take place from various groups including; theatre, dance and music groups.

Andy Street, West Midlands Combined Authority Mayor would open the event at 11am.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Cobbett for his huge effort in arranging the event, it was obvious the amount of work that had been undertaken to complete all the necessary requirements.

41. Councillor's reports and items for future Agenda:

New Planning Regulations

Councillor Salt raised the new planning regulations and requested these were discussed at a future meeting.

42. Public participation: To adjourn to allow public participation.

Councillor Tim Sawdon

Councillor Sawdon thanked the Chairman for his kind words and said what a huge shock it was that Councillor Gary Crookes had sadly died. He and Councillor Blundell would be busy picking up and carrying out Gary's projects that he had been working on.

Parking

Councillor Sawdon had requested a meeting with the Chief Constable to raise the parking issues outside the Schools. CCC had purchased their own ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) vehicle. This would operate through the City, including visits to Finham. Letters would then be sent to people parking inappropriately/dangerously.

City of Culture

Councillor Sawdon had forwarded an email from City of Culture, who were keen to come and talk to the Parish Council.

ACTION: Clerk to forward email to Councillor Taylor.

Finham Festival

Councillor Blundell would be attending Finham Festival in place of Councillor Crookes.

Kings Hill

Councillor Blundell would be presenting a petition opposing the application to the Planning Committee.

Councillor Vacancies

Councillor Sawdon updated that he had been approached requesting information on how the Parish Council were proposing to fill the 2 vacancies on the Parish Council.

The Clerk updated that information had been shared following the May 2019 elections, but no applications had been received. The process would be completed again shortly.

Planning Application – FUL/2019/1087 - Chip Shop

A parishioner raised the issue with the latest planning application for the development at the Chip Shop.

After discussion the Parish Council voted unanimously to object to the planning application.

It was suggested that a member of Planning comes to next meeting of Finham Parish Council to explain this application.

RESOLVED THAT: Clerk to send objection to CCC Planning Department.

43. Date for the next meeting

The date for the next meeting was confirmed as 18th July 2019.

Meeting closed at 8:45pm