

## Finham Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at 7:00pm,  
16<sup>th</sup> January 2020, at Finham Park School, Green Lane Finham

**Present:**

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

Coventry City Councillors: Councillor Tim Sawdon and John Blundell

**Residents:** 6

**In Attendance:** Jane Chatterton, Clerk & RFO

**Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**99. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Bob Fryer.

**100. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**101. Minutes of the Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019 were discussed.

**RESOLVED THAT** the minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019 were approved.

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

97. Welcome to Finham Signs

**ACTION:** Councillor Cobbett to email the Clerk the original order.

**103. Correspondence****103.1 Compensation – When a new road affects the value of your property**

Correspondence had been received requesting that the Parish Council look how compensation could be obtained when a new road affected the value of their property. This was relevant for properties that would be directly impacted in an adverse manner by the new roundabout, bus gates etc.

**ACTION:** An article to be included in the next Finham Newsletter.

**103.2 Royal Garden Party 2020**

NALC had been requested by the Lord Chamberlain's office to inform Member Councils that Her Majesty will be hosting a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2020. Warwickshire & West Midlands Association (WALC) have been allocated 4 places (2 nominated plus guests) and would be grateful to receive Member Council's nominations (one councillor plus a companion) to attend.

Nominations must be received by the WALC office by midday on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

**RESOLVED THAT:** Councillor Mrs Fryer be the nominee for Finham Parish Council.

#### **104. Local Council Award Scheme**

The Clerk updated that Finham Parish Council had achieved the Local Council Award – Foundation.

The Local Council Award Scheme (LCAS) had been designed to celebrate the successes of the very best local councils and to provide a framework to support all local councils to improve and develop to meet their full potential. The scheme offers councils the opportunity to show that they meet the standards set by the sector, assessed by their peers, and to put in place the conditions for continued improvement.

The scheme had been designed to provide the tools and encouragement to those councils at the beginning of their improvement journeys, as well as promoting and recognising councils that are at the cutting edge of the sector. It is only through the sector working together, to share best practice, drive up standards and supporting those who are committed to improving their offer to their communities that individual councils and the sector as a whole will reach its full potential.

This logo would now be used in correspondence.

Thanks, was given to the Clerk for all her hard work. It was noted that this was the first Parish Council in Coventry to obtain the award.

**RESOLVED THAT** the update be noted. Councillor Sawdon request the information be placed on the CCC website.

#### **105. Planning**

To Consider Planning Applications received since the last meeting

##### **Reviewed under Delegated Authority**

##### **Weekly list for the period 1 December to 7 December 2019**

Application Number:	FUL/2019/3008
Application Site:	Finham Park School Green Lane
Proposal:	Construction and addition of another storey to form first floor teaching and learning accommodation to the sixth form block to remove pressures on usable teaching space on the constrained site. Building installed in 2015 under planning application FUL/2015/1862.

**RESOLVED THAT:** Noted

##### **Weekly list for the period 15 December to 21 December 2019**

Nothing to report

##### **Weekly list for the period 28 December to 3 January 2020**

Nothing to report

**Weekly list for 4 January to 11 January 2020**

Nothing to report.

**106. Finance**

106.1 to approve payments: -

<b>Cheque Payments (Current Account)</b>					
<b>Date</b>		<b>Reference</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Value</b>
02.12.19	E51	BACS	Demco Euro	FLAG Shelving	£462.24
02.12.19	E52	BACS	Demco Euro	FLAG shelving	£3,780.00
10.12.19	E53	BACS	J Chatterton	Clerks Salary December 2019	
10.12.19	E54	BACS	HMRC	Tax & NI Payment Clerk (December) DPA	£
10.12.19	E55	BACS	J Chatterton	Printing Reimbursement	£605.30
10.12.19	E56	BACS	Baginton Store	Newspaper Library	£32.50
10.12.19	E57	BACS	Paul Davies	Travel Reimbursement	£16.29
23.12.19	E58	BACS	J Chatterton	Stationery Reimbursement	£29.99
16.01.20	E59	BACS	J Chatterton	Clerk Salary January 2020 DPA	£
16.01.20	E60	BACS	HMRC	Tax & NI Payment Clerk (January) DPA	£49.66
16.01.20	E61	BACS	J Chatterton	Office Allowance Jan 2020	£62.83
16.01.20	E62	BACS	CPRE	Membership	£36.00

**RESOLVED THAT** the payments be approved.

**106.2 Bank Reconciliation up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019**

The Bank Reconciliation up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 was received and discussed.

Balance per bank statements as at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2019:	£	£
	£35,236.74	
	_____	<b>£35,236.74</b>
Petty cash float (if applicable)	£0.00	£0.00
Less: any unpresented cheques at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2019		
	£0.00	
	_____	
		£0.00
Add: any un-banked cash at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2019	£0.00	
		_____
Net balances as at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2019		<b>£35,236.74</b>

***The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book (receipts and payments account) for the year, as follows:***

**CASH BOOK**

Opening Balance 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2019 (Prior year Box 8)	£30,931.80
Add Receipts up to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2019	£24,527.40
Less: Payments up to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2019	(£20,222.46)
Closing balance per cash book as at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2019	<u>£35,236.74</u>

**RESOLVED THAT** the Bank Reconciliation up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 be approved.

### 106.3 Quarterly Report up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019

The Quarterly Report up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 was received and discussed.

**RESOLVED THAT** the Quarterly Report up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 be approved.

### 106.4 Confirmation of CCC Grant and Tax Base for 2020-21

The Clerk updated on the CCC Grant and Tax Base figures for 2020-21 which had not been confirmed by CCC in readiness for November's meeting.

The Band D figure for Finham is £13.75 per year.

Precept Request	2020 21
To meet budget	£24,326.00
Less grant	£2,983.00
Precept 2020/21	£21,343.00
Tax Base	1,552.20
Band D	£13.75

### Previous Years for Comparison

Precept Request	2018 19
To meet budget	£24,266.00
Less grant	£3,336.00
Precept 2018/19	£20,930.00
Tax Base	£1,520.90
Band D	£13.76

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

**RESOLVED THAT** the update be noted.

### 106.5 Request to purchase a heavy-duty shredder

A request had been received for the Parish Council to purchase a heavy-duty shredder. The one identified was discussed.

**RESOLVED THAT** it was agreed that the Clerk purchase the shredder.

**107. Governance**

The following Policies were received for approval:

- 9.1 Code of Conduct 2020 (new) - approved
- 9.2 Gift and Hospitality Policy 2020 (new) - approved
- 9.3 Financial Control Document 2020 - approved
- 9.4 Risk Assessment 2020 - approved
- 9.5 Health & Safety Policy 2020 - approved
- 9.6 Grants & Donations Policy 2020 - approved

**RESOLVED THAT**

- (i) the above policies be approved.
- (ii) Councillors to sign the new Code of Conduct at February's meeting.
- (iii) Clerk to update the policies on the website.

**107.7 Asset Register 2019-20**

The Asset Register for 2019-20 had been updated. Further update required, to add the shelving purchased which is used in the Finham Library.

**RESOLVED THAT** the Asset Register 2019-20 be approved.

**108. VE Day (Cllr Davies)**

At the last meeting of the steering group held at the Royal British Legion Baginton, a number of actions were agreed and would be reviewed for progress at the next scheduled meeting being held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January.

This next meeting was intended to begin the structure of events to be held on the Millennium Field Baginton over the weekend of 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> May which was the early May Bank Holiday in order to commemorate the end of World War 2 in Europe.

The group were now looking for possible veterans or more likely close relatives of veterans to take part in the weekends activities and affect the way in which the event would unfold.

If anyone would like to put their name forward or who knows of someone who might be interested in getting involved, or could have some suggestions and ideas, they were asked to contact the Chairman.

**RESOLVED THAT** the update be noted.

**109. Task groups & Working Parties**

To receive reports from Task Group and Working Party leads

- **Highways – Councillor Dalton**

Councillor Dalton updated that the flooding at the top of St Martins Road had been reported.

There was nothing else to report.

- **Kings Hill – Councillor Davies**

Since our last meeting in November Warwick District Council and Coventry City Council had been busy including Kings Hill onto their Planning Committee agendas in the run up to Christmas, which

I am sure had nothing to do with people being away on their holidays or having family gatherings on their minds.

Along with CCC Councillor Tim Sawdon, I addressed the WDC Planning Committee Meeting on behalf of the FPC and FRA which was held in Leamington Town Hall on the evening of 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019.

Everyone had three minutes which is a very short space of time to put your points across which I just about managed to do. I felt at the time I was wasting my breath which proved to be the case. This was highlighted by the statement made by one of the WDC councillors who stated that they could not afford to vote against the application otherwise it would go to appeal and WDC would lose! Such is fairness and democracy. The vote went against Finham.

It is Finham that will feel the full brunt of this new estate which is being built on discredited population figures for Coventry forecasting an increase of 32% between 2017 and 2031. Well we are now over 15% into this period with absolutely no sign of such a significant population growth which should attract over 100,000 extra residents. Finham faces years and years of disruption and will see no benefits whatsoever.

We need to know now:-

- When will there be a full road infrastructure assessment?
- When will there be a risk assessment for building one of these Green Lane bus gate roads next to our primary school in terms of accidents and pollution increase which we consider are significant?
- Why this insistence for a roundabout at Kings Hill Lane and Howes Lane in such a tight space adding to the pollution there already.
- How is the Grade 2 listed medieval village to be saved from damage and when will the archaeological evaluation be carried out?
- Why can no assurances be given for a green belt along Green Lane
- How will the ancient hedgerows all along Green Lane be protected
- How will the protected trees be saved from damage or destruction.
- We want to have assurances that new buildings will not be allowed to overlook our primary school
- How will flooding off Kings Hill to be managed. Where is the flood risk assessment?
- We want to know why there have been no adequate pollution figures produced. No diffusion tubes have been seen on Green Lane by any residents anywhere.
- Why haven't residents been kept up to date with the discussions that have been held and continue to be held between WDC, CCC and the developers. Our futures are being shaped without our knowledge or consent

I also attended and spoke on behalf of the FPC and FRA at the CCC Planning Committee on Thursday afternoon 19<sup>th</sup> December 2019 in Room 3 at the Council House. The room was packed and on one occasion the beleaguered chairman threatened to have the public removed if they persisted in expressing their concerns! You couldn't make it up.

Speaking on behalf of Finham and against granting planning permission were CCC Cllrs. John Blundell, Mattie Heaven and Tim Sawdon and also residents Bob Bannister and Martin Hammond. Martin who risks having to accommodate the persistent desire of the CCC Planning Dept to have a

roundabout at the bottom of Green Lane which will almost certainly mean the removal of hedgerows which currently screen off the high volumes of traffic and noise along St.Martins Road. Hopefully CCC Planning Department, in the very near future, will agree to come and face the residents of Finham as to exactly why there needs to be a roundabout to compound the misery of a massive housing estate on our doorstep as well.

Many times the Parish Council and the Residents Association have asked for representatives from Coventry City Council to come and explain to us what is happening to Kings Hill and more importantly why it is happening at all in an interactive manner so that Finham residents can ask questions and hopefully hear coherent and logical answers.

It was interesting to note that the speakers against granting planning permission were allowed three minutes to speak whereas the developers were allowed five minutes. Contrast this process with WDC where everyone was allowed just the three minutes. CCC showing favouritism to the developers which suggests the side they are on which adds insult to injury as it is the residents and businesses of Finham who are paying the wages of these people who wish to blight our lives. The vote went 5 to 3 against the interests of the majority of Finham.

I would like to thank all the speakers who spoke in the interests of Finham, our three CCC Wainbody Ward Councillors, the two residents and also to the three CCC Councillors on the Planning Committee who all spoke knowledgeably and knew what a Section 106 Agreement was before they voted.

I took this opportunity to invite again the CCC Planning Dept. to come to speak to residents of Finham and to offer the chance of an interactive discussion. I make this offer to them again tonight having heard nothing at all from them since 19<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

This is something Finham has asked for since 2009. When you think the Planning Dept. are happy to visit Keresley, this refusal is just insulting and should be illegal.

It is hoped on this occasion they show some responsibility and courage for their actions and agree to come. After all, this is by far the biggest new housing estate that they are involved with, so their actions so far have been an absolute disgrace.

- **Schools – Councillor Mrs Bush**

Councillors Mrs Bush and Mrs Fryer attended the Governors meeting last week. Children were working hard. Mrs Bracken is the Acting Head currently, the advert for a new Head had now been advertised nationally, the process would be put in place once they receive applications.

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

Nothing new to report. Plans ongoing for the City wide events and would return to speak to the FPC again when there was more to update us on.

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

The Crime figures for December had not been released. The latest available were for November. These figures have been taken from the Police Crime Website. The police website showed 18 crimes in total for the Finham / Green Lane area.

- 4 of these are at the BP garage.
- 14 were as follows
  - 3 vehicle crimes
  - 1 anti-social
  - 1 drugs related
  - 2 burglary
  - 2 violence and sexual offences
  - 1 possession of weapons
  - 1 public order
  - 1 criminal damage

Sgt Amy Wright informed us that she was leaving our local unit and moving to a new role within the city. Our new Sergeant based at Canley will be Sergeant Darren Betts. He officially took over on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January. He has 11 years of service all of which is in Coventry and has worked in different areas of the city. 4 of those years was as a detective on a specialist domestic abuse team. He has stated that he will continue the liaison meetings.

I emailed Sergeant Betts to introduce myself and invited him to the meeting to meet us all but did not get a response.

The Neighbourhood Watch continues to be very successful and rapid sharing of information and CCTV footage resulted in a person being arrested very speedily.

Thanks, as always to Tony Swann and Ruth Khan who work tirelessly for our community.

- **FEWP – Councillor Cobbett**

Approval had been given by FPC to the reform FEWP. Beforehand a few key topics needed to be looked at.

The question was raised, should this be combined with the VE Day. The merits of combining the two was discussed and dismissed.

**ACTION:**

- (i) FEWP meeting to be held at 6:30pm prior to February's meeting.
- (ii) List of CCC events eg Godiva Festival (?21<sup>st</sup> July) be obtained so a date can be decided.

- **NHP - Councillor Davies**

Nothing to report.

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

**Grant Application - Shouting Stars toddler group**

**ACTION:** Grant Application to be sent to applicant. Agenda item for February's meeting.

**Noticeboard**

Clerk updated that she had contacted Dave Lewis prior to the meeting for an update. No response had been received.



**ACTION:** Clerk to forward information to Councillor Blundell who would progress.

**111. Public participation:**

The Chairman suspended the Standing Orders to allow for public participation

**Library**

Mrs Sheila Bannister updated that an event had taken place on December 18<sup>th</sup> in the Library, a choir from the primary school had performed. Attendees included 38 adults and 28 children, due to the new shelving being moved aside this had allowed so many to attend. The new shelving was already proving beneficial.

A planned event for an Author to come to the area was being pursued. They would only attend if a minimum of 60 people came to the event. The event would take place on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Councillor Sawdon**

Councillor Sawdon said he would check on the issues with flooding in St Martin's Road. Any other issues FPC to copy the three Ward Councillors into the emails

**Councillor Blundell**

Congratulations was given to the School Governors – the school was rated in the top 10%. Finham Primary compared very favourably with all the other schools in Coventry. Acting Head (Sarah Bracken) seemed to be doing a good job. It was noted that Mr Richard Machine had left an excellent legacy.

**ANPR car** – investigation had taken place into the availability. It was reported that there was a need for a Traffic Regulation Order to allow the car to be used. Councillor Blundell had liaised with Rachel Goodyer (who looks after Traffic Management in Coventry). In order to reinforce no parking, there was the requirement to change the line markings outside the school.

**ACTION:**

- (i) Raise a petition. Minimum of 6 required and then the petition could be submitted and presented to the correct Cabinet Member. ANPR requires zig zag road markings.
- (ii) Cllr Blundell to send the appropriate wording.

**Motorhome**

Concern was expressed in relation to a motorhome parked in the area which was completely covered up. Parked on the road and on the pavement, not on yellow lines, but mounting the kerb.

**ACTION:** Photo of the vehicle to be sent to Councillor Sawdon who would take to the next Police Liaison meeting.

**Grit Bin**

Parishioner raised the issue in relation to a grit bin on Hadleigh Road. Since moving to Hadleigh Road in 2003, there had always been a grit bin at the bottom of the road, where it joins Alfriston Road. The bin had been necessary because the lower end of Hadleigh Road slopes down to a T-junction.

During icy conditions, motorists had great difficulty progressing up the slope and more importantly driving down the slope, where on several occasions, vehicles have collided with the wall in Alfriston Road at the T-junction. Two years ago, the grit bin had been removed.

After several phone calls and correspondence to Coventry City Council Highways Department, the parishioner had eventually received a letter stating that grit bins cannot be placed in respect of personal preference, even though it had explained the situation and only asked that the bin be put back in situ.

**ACTION:** Write to CCC Highways and request the grit bin be put back in original location (cc Ward Councillors).

#### **Litter pick**

Suggestion received that dog walkers could be requested to pick up litter as they walked their dogs. The library would be the point of contact.

#### **ACTION:**

- (i) Library to add information to the Newsletter submission.
- (ii) Library to distribute the litter pick equipment and bags.
- (ii) FPC to purchase the litter picking equipment, FPC logo to go on the litter pickers.

#### **s106 agreement**

Councillor Sawdon reported that s106 agreement says money had been set aside for libraries. Mark Andrews CCC had sent an email today which stated this.

**ACTION:** Parish Council to write to WDC putting in the request on behalf of the Finham Library and making that suggestion. (In total £56,000 had been requested by WDC to support the library).

#### **112. Date for the next meeting**

The date for the next meeting was confirmed as 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

Meeting closed at 8:45pm

SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN

20<sup>th</sup> February 2020