

Finham Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at 7:00pm,
20th February 2020, at Finham Park School, Green Lane Finham

Present:

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

Coventry City Councillors: Councillor John Blundell

Residents: 5

In Attendance: Jane Chatterton, Clerk & RFO

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

113. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Bob Fryer.

114. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Paul Davies declared an interest in agenda item 9 Grant Application as his grandchildren attended Shooting Stars.

There were no other declarations of interest.

115. Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th January 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th January 2020 were discussed.

RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 16th January 2020 were approved.

116. Matters Arising not listed on the agenda**97. Welcome to Finham Signs**

The Parish Council requested an update on the situation with regards to the Welcome to Finham Signs. James Cobbett had been requested to email the Clerk the original order.

The Clerk updated that work continued gathering the information.

117. Councillor Resignation

It was reported that James Cobbett had resigned as Parish Councillor.

RESOLVED THAT the resignation be confirmed.

118. Correspondence**118.1 Request from Allesley Parish Council**

A letter had been received from the Councillors at Allesley Parish Council requesting the attendance of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk to attend a joint parish council meeting with the 3 CCC Parish Councils to find a way to gain a better response from CCC.

ACTION: Members to attend the meeting.

119. Planning

To Consider Planning Applications received since the last meeting

Weekly list for the period 12 January to 18 January 2020

119.1 Application Number: HH/2019/3115
Application Site: 115 Anchorway Road
Proposal: Erection of a single storey rear extension

RESOLVED THAT: No comment.

Weekly list for the period 19 January to 25 January 2020

119.2 Application Number: HH/2019/3196
Application Site: 42 Howes Lane
Proposal: Erection of two-storey front and rear extension and single storey rear extension

RESOLVED THAT: No comment.

Weekly list for the period 2 February to 8 February 2020

Nothing to report

Weekly list for the period 9 February to 16 February 2020

Nothing to note.

120. Finance

120.1 to approve payments: -

Cheque Payments (Current Account)					
Date		Reference	Payee	Details	Value
16.01.20	E63	BACS	J Chatterton	Shredder reimbursement	£200.40
17.01.20	E64	BACS	ICO	Membership	£35.00
27.01.20	E65	BACS	J Chatterton	Microsoft 365	£59.99
20.02.20	E66	BACS	J Chatterton	February Salary DPA	
20.02.20	E67	BACS	HMRC	Tax for Clerk	£49.66
20.02.20	E68	BACS	J Chatterton	Equipment	£159.99

RESOLVED THAT: the payments be approved.

The Chairman Suspended the Standing Orders and left the meeting and took no part in the discussion.

Councillor Dalton took the Chair.

121. Grant Application

Request from Shooting Stars which is a toddler group that hold sessions at the Church. Their rent had been increased considerably. There was a Grant Application for the sum of £100.00. The application was discussed.

Proposed: Councillor Mrs Bush Seconded: Councillor Mrs Fryer Unanimous

RESOLVED THAT the Grant application be approved.

The Chairman rejoined the meeting and took over the position of Chairman.

122. Insurance Renewal

The Clerk updated that the Parish Council Insurance was due for renewal. A competitive quotation had been received from the current insurance provider, Zurich Insurance. This year's figure was for a Renewal Premium of £351.87, this was the same price as last year.

It should be noted that this figure could increase slightly when the new noticeboard was added to the policy.

RESOLVED THAT the Insurance Renewal be approved.

123. Governance

123.1 Councillors Code of Conduct

Following a meeting with Coventry City Coventry, legislative changes and a requirement by the Parish Council to ensure any Member acted in accordance with the required standards expected by the Parish Council, the Code of Conduct had been updated.

These principles within the Code of Conduct apply to all aspects of public life. The document set them out for the benefit of all who serve the public in any way.

All Councillors signed the updated Councillor Code of Conduct.

RESOLVED THAT the signed documents be sent to the Monitoring Officer at Coventry City Council.

124. Petition

Following January's meeting the Clerk had generated a Petition which stated:

Introduce necessary Traffic Regulation Order & Signage outside Finham Primary School

We, the undersigned, call upon Coventry City Council to introduce the necessary Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) and signage outside Finham Primary School to enable the ANPR car to carry out parking enforcement

See more at:

<https://myaccount.coventry.gov.uk/appshost/firmstep/self/apps/petitions/sign?id=889#sthash.VTqoAS2h.dpuf>

Councillor Blundell had agreed to sponsor the petition and raise at the next Full Council Meeting and then the matter would be raised with the relevant Cabinet Member or Committee

The Parish Council would be contacted in due course. In the meantime, the petition would remain open for signatures until the expiry date.

RESOLVED THAT the update be noted.

125. VE Day

The Chairman updated that Baginton and Finham were having a joint enterprise on Friday 8th and Saturday 9th May.

The event would commemorate the End of the War in Europe. All services including the Army, Navy, Airforce and support personal would be remembered on this day. The event team was being supported by Baginton British Legion, Baginton Parish Council and Finham Parish Council.

A leaflet would be included in the next Finham Newsletter and was a joint effort of what needs to go on there. The event would take place on Baginton's millennium field.

Other parish council's had expressed an opinion to be included but have so far not attended the meetings.

RESOLVED THAT the update be noted.

126. Task groups & Working Parties

- **Highways – Councillor Dalton**

Reported the flooding at the top of St Martins going down to the A46.

- **Kings Hill – Councillor Paul Davies**

On Tuesday 11th February, Cllrs. Ann Bush and I met with two of our Wainbody Ward Coventry City Council Cllrs. John Blundell and Mattie Heaven. The subject was Kings Hill development again and what should be done about it now since the Coventry City Conservative Party had all voted against this development happening. The outcome of the meeting was they have sent a letter to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, The Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP on behalf of the Wainbody Cllrs expressing their concerns about this huge development. It is hoped that our Cllrs can also persuade the rest of their Cllr colleagues in the Conservative Party to do the same.

On Monday 17th February, Cllrs. Angela Fryer, Ann Bush and I attended a meeting with our new MP for Coventry South, Zarah Sultana.

The prime reason for the meeting was to introduce ourselves and make her aware of the existence of the Finham Parish Council as well as that of the Finham Residents Association and the history of the association which goes back roughly 80 years.

We took the opportunity of raising the issues surrounding the development on Kings Hill and how the whole project was being encouraged by Coventry City Council in its belief the population of Coventry would grow by 32% between the years 2014 and 2031. Contrast this forecast by the Office for National Statistics with the rest of the Midlands. Sandwell 17%, Rugby 16% and gradually falling

down to Redditch at 2%. This being a subject many Finham residents have emailed concerns about to her in recent times. Why is Coventry so much higher than the rest of the Midlands and why is the Kings Hill development needed.

The large discrepancy has never been explained to the residents of Finham nor apparently challenged by Coventry City Council on our behalf.

We spent most of the time bringing her up to speed with the situation we are facing with no help or information from Coventry City Council Planning Dept. a situation that has persisted over many years.

Zarah agreed to write an appropriate letter to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, The Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, expressing the wish for a 'call in' of the outline planning permission to be invoked. This added to the numerous letters and emails the Secretary of State has received already from around the Coventry area.

ACTION: Write to the Environment Minister

Meeting

It was noted that a meeting would take place on Friday 27th March at the Primary School at 7pm. In attendance would be officers from WDC and CCC.

Questions to be emailed to Cllr Davies prior to the meeting to enable the questions to be co-ordinated and allow as many of the questions to be covered.

- **Schools – Councillor Mrs Bush**

Pleased to announce that Mrs Sarah Bracken, Acting Head was now appointed as the new Head following the recruitment process.

Last November children from Coventry including some from Finham Primary School had visited Japan. Following this a Japanese Peace Garden and been installed at the War Memorial Park, paid for by CCC circa £30,000.

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

Nothing new to report.

ACTION: Invite Ellen Booth to a future meeting. Councillor Taylor to invite and Ellen to say when is appropriate.

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

Councillor Mrs Fryer updated on the latest crime figures and these were for December 2019.

All Crimes (18)

Crime Types

Anti-social behaviour	(1)
Bicycle theft	(0)
Burglary	(2)
Criminal damage and arson	(0)
Drugs	(1)

Other crime	(0)
Other theft	(0)
Possession of weapons	(0)
Public order	(1)
Robbery	(2)
Shoplifting	(1)
Theft from the person	(0)
Vehicle crime	(3)
Violence and sexual offences	(7)

The BP garage had 1 violent and 1 shoplifting to come off the above numbers.

On Wednesday 19th February there was a meeting with Sergeant Darren Betts at Canley who will be Sergeant. The meeting was attended by: Tony Swann – Finham Neighbourhood Watch, Ruth Khan – Finham and Stivichall Street Watch, Cllr John Blundell and Cllr Mattie Heaven – CCC Wainbody Ward, Cllr Mrs Fryer as Parish Councillor.

Sgt Betts now had a list of dates of the Parish Council meetings and would try to attend when police commitments allow.

The Neighbourhood Watch continued to be very successful and the rapid sharing of information and CCTV footage plays an important role. However, there was a problem about the response time when giving information. The West Midlands Police were promoting the use of Live Operatives available. Phoning 101 had not proved successful so it was hoped that Live Chat would prove more successful.

Sgt Betts was going to look at the problem experienced by Tony Swann. The crime figures for the Wainbody area were mainly on Warwickshire University campus or student housing off campus. Students leave windows and doors open with IT equipment left on tables or accessible to thieves who target these areas.

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

The successful work of Ruth Khan and her Street Watch team was acknowledged at an Award Ceremony by West Midland Police. Ruth had supported the setting up of 12 rounds in the Coventry area. She had a team of 8 volunteers but would welcome more. Her area is the Finham area and Stivichall Grange which was a large area to cover.

She reported that residents were beginning to recognise the team and welcome their presence. There was a problem with groups of youngsters smoking cannabis in the subways which made people reluctant or felt unsafe using the underpass. Ruth and her team talk to the individuals and try to explain the dangers, but it was a growing problem.

She had asked Sgt Betts if he or one of his team could accompany a Street Watch patrol so that it enforced the idea that they were working together with Street Watch and it would give an insight into their work. He agreed to look at possibilities for this to happen. Tony reported that there would be a Crime Prevention morning at the Library on Saturday March 14th, 9am to 12pm. Residents would be able to meet with specialists in home security and talk to Tony about concerns in the area.

- **FEWP**

Nothing to report.

- **NHP - Councillor Davies**

Nothing new to report.

127. Councillor's reports and items for future Agenda

Nothing to note.

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

Councillor Blundell

Letter to The Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP

A letter had been sent to The Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP by the Ward Councillors - Awaiting a reply.

Kings Hill

The Head of Student Services from the University had informed the Board that the number of student "beds" had increased from 2,500 to 20,000. They wanted to get the students into purpose-built blocks/accommodation. This would mean that the current houses in the area currently used as HMOs would then be turned back into family homes.

A review was needed of the retention rates of students coming to Coventry University and not staying after graduation, this impacted on the ONS figures. It needed to be established exactly how many come in and how many remained after graduation, this would go a long way to support the fact that the figures are not correct.

The Coventry University felt that Brexit could mean a drop in students coming into the Country to study.

Petition

Councillor Blundell reported that he would present the Petition at the Council Meeting next Tuesday. This was the meeting when the Council Tax would be set. He would present the Petition, and this would go to the appropriate Cabinet Member. The Clerk would be invited to attend a Cabinet Meeting (Clerk to attend as the Author) then can see what the Officer reports. Process takes around 3-4 months.

VE DAY

ACTION: Clerk to email Councillor John Blundell with the information. And he will ask the question whether CCC had set aside a grant like WDC had.

John Wilford – Trustee from Finham Library

ACTION: Clerk to provide John with the details of the FPC Noticeboard key holder.

Tony Swann

Crime Prevention Session would take place on 14th March.

Last 12 months had seen an overall drop in the crime figures. Drop of 15%. Wainbody Ward had seen a drop of 2%.

Working on a Crime Index which was based on population. Common Index Figure and compare one area with another. Number of crimes per 1,000 population.

The CCTV register was now larger and proved very useful. Properties were registered on a secure database.

There had been several incidents of thefts of charity bags in the area. Bags were to raise money for the Air Ambulance.

129. Date for the next meeting

The date for the next meeting was confirmed as 19th March 2020.

Meeting closed at 8:15pm

SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN
CLLR PAUL DAVIES