

Finham Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at 7:00pm,
21st May 2020, held via Zoom

Present:

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

Coventry City Councillors: Councillor John Blundell
 Councillor Tim Sawdon
 Councillor Mattie Heaven

Residents: 2

In Attendance: Jane Chatterton, Clerk & RFO

Chairman's Welcome

Welcome to the May meeting of the Finham Parish Council which will be a lot different this year not just because of its half hour slot on Zoom but also for its changed content.

Firstly, on behalf of the Finham Parish Council, I would like to welcome Mansoor Ahmed who has joined the council and is attending his first meeting tonight. Welcome.

I know a lot has been said about Bob Fryer, including by me but I would just like to record the Finham Parish Council's thanks and appreciation for what he did for the Council and for Finham over many years. He was a wholehearted servant for the area long before the Parish Council formed. He will be sadly missed.

Normally, this meeting would include our Annual Parish Council Meeting where the Chairman and Vice Chairman are up for election. As this is no standard year, all parish councils around the country will not be holding elections and therefore Councillor Anthony Dalton and I will be continuing in our positions as Chairman and Vice Chairman until May 2021.

During this shortened meeting, if a Councillor wishes to make a statement can they hold up their hand and introduce themselves as I doubt I will recognise the voice and for the parishioners, as per usual there will be time for questions and suggestions at the end.

Over the past twelve months, the Council has made a greater contribution to the area than ever before. The moveable library shelving has made a huge difference to FLAG in the way they operate the space and has allowed them to become more ambitious with their initiatives and if it were not for coronavirus, it is sure that the footfall would have continued to rise.

Improved signage is another contribution to the area, something that was very unlikely to have happened had the Finham Parish Council not been formed and we now have a new noticeboard opposite the library which allows residents to read easily what is on display.

As this is a shortened meeting, can everyone try to be brief and to the point.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Colin Salt.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st February 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st February 2020 were discussed.

RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 21st February 2020 were approved.

4. Matters Arising not listed on the agenda

Signage

Councillor Dalton asked if the Clerk had now received the original Finham signage order, as previously requested.

ACTION: Clerk to request the information again.

5. Correspondence

There was correspondence for discussion.

6. Planning

To Consider Planning Applications received since the last meeting

84 St Martins Road

The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council has Objected to the planning application for 84 St Martins Road.

7. Newsletter

It was reported that the June edition of the Newsletter would be distributed in electronic format only, due to Covid-19. Articles for the newsletter should be sent to the Clerk by Friday 25th May for inclusion.

8. Finance

8.1 to approve payments: -

From 2019-20 Accounts

14.02.20	E69	BACS	J Chatterton	Office Allowance	£38.53
22.02.20	E70	BACS	Cov City Council	Noticeboard	£2,246.00
22.02.20	E71	BACS	Zurich	Insurance 2020 21	£351.87
09.03.20	E72	BACS	J Chatterton	Reimbursement printing	£719.04
15.03.20	E73	BACS	J Chatterton	Stationery	£77.36
19.03.20	E74	BACS	J Chatterton	Salary March	£767.54
19.03.20	E75	BACS	HMRC	Tax for Clerk	£49.66
19.03.20	E76	BACS	P Davies	Shooting Stars Grant	£100.00
23.03.20	E77	BACS	J Chatterton	Office Allowance	£54.73
23.03.20	E78	BACS	J Chatterton	Currys USB storage	£88.97

23.03.20	E79		J Chatterton	Laptop battery	£21.99
----------	-----	--	--------------	----------------	--------

Accounts 2020-21

07.04.20	R1	INCOME	HMRC	Refund	£1,483.46
27.04.20	R2	INCOME	CCC	Precept	£24,326.00
08.04.20	E1	BACS	WALC	Membership	£966.80
15.04.20	E2	BACS	J Chatterton	April Salary DPA	
15.04.20	E3	BACS	HMRC	Tax for Clerk	£39.10
01.05.20	E4	BACS	J Chatterton	Webcam PD	£49.99
01.05.20	E5	BACS	J Chatterton	SLCC membership (contribution only)	£100.00
01.05.20	E6	BACS	J Chatterton	Expenses April & May	£60.86
07.05.20	E7	BACS	WALC	Training MA	£24.00
07.05.20	E8	BACS	WALC	Training 0452 KT	£18.00
07.05.20	E9	BACS	WALC	Training 0451 KT	£49.20
07.05.20	E10	BACS	P Davies	Expenses (travel)	£40.68
16.05.20	E11	BACS	J Chatterton	May Salary DPA	
16.05.20	E12	BACS	HMRC	Tax for Clerk	
16.05.20	E13	BACS	SPS Payroll	Payroll Provider	£108.00

RESOLVED THAT the payments be approved.

8.2 Bank Reconciliation up to 31st March 2020

The bank reconciliation up to 31st March 2020 was received and discussed.

Balance per bank statements as at 31 st March 2020:	£	£
	<u>£28,532.48</u>	
		£28,532.48
Petty cash float (if applicable)	£0.00	£0.00
Less: any un-presented cheques at 31 st March 2020		
	<u>£0.00</u>	
	<u>£0.00</u>	
		£0.00
Add: any un-banked cash at 31 st March 2020	£0.00	
Net balances as at 31 st March 2020		<u>£28,532.48</u>

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

CASH BOOK

Opening Balance 1 st April 2019	£30,931.80
Add Receipts up to 31 st March 2020	£24,527.40
Less: Payments up to 31 st March 2020	(£26,926.72)
Closing balance per cash book as at 31 st March 2020	<u>£28,532.48</u>

RESOLVED THAT the Bank Reconciliation up to 31st March 2020 be approved.

8.3 Quarterly Report up to 31st March 2020

The quarterly report up to 31st March 2020 was received and discussed.

RESOLVED THAT the Quarterly Report up to 31st March 2020 be approved.

9. Councillor Recruitment

The Clerk reported that confirmation had been received that no election would be required and the Parish Council could proceed to fill the vacancies by Co-option. The Co-option questionnaire was available from the Clerk. Closing date for applications was Friday 5th June.

RESOLVED THAT the update be noted.

10. Task groups & Working Parties

To receive reports from Task Group and Working Party leads.

- **Highways – Councillor Morshead**

Councillor Morshead updated that there were no major highways issues currently.

Cycle lanes – It was reported that pop-up cycle lanes and pavement widening was taking place in cities all over the world. This enabled social distancing, while road traffic was reduced, but there would be pressure to make these arrangements permanent. Councillor Morshead was looking into ways to achieve an inspiring, ambitious, coherent, long term vision for cycling in Coventry. This could be for a network of cycling routes, right across the city and beyond.

An article on the progress so far would be included in the Newsletter.

RESOLVED THAT the update be noted.

- **Kings Hill – Councillor Davies**

Whilst the Finham Parish Council (FPC) continue to be vigilant about Kings Hill, as you would expect our senior politicians in Westminster have more immediate and urgent issues to address with the coronavirus.

Having said this, the coronavirus has not held up video conference meetings between Warwick District Council and the developers who are steaming ahead regardless. The latest information is the S106 Agreement has not yet been agreed and Kings Hill is not on the agenda for the WDC Planning Committee this Tuesday 26th May which would be needed to rubber stamp any proposed agreement.

In February, the FPC wrote a letter to The Rt. Hon. Robert Jenrick Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (SoS) requesting he exercise his power for a “call in” of the Kings Hill development. To date there has only been an official automated response.

In February, the FPC wrote a letter to Andy Street, Mayor of the West Midlands asking him for his support in fighting the unjust removal of greenbelt land at Kings Hill for the purposes of building houses based on the Office for National Statistics now discredited forecast of a 32% population increase between 2014 – 2031. Andy Street has stated many times he supports necessary developments on brownfield sites but unfortunately for Finham, as Kings Hill is in Warwickshire, he

has stated he is unable to help us, even though we are his constituents and live in the area that will be most affected.

Again, in February our three Wainbody Ward Councillors wrote to the SoS and have received a letter in response which advises their objection is under consideration.

As a result of a meeting between representatives of the FPC in February with Coventry South MP Zarah Sultana, she also wrote to the SoS expressing her concerns about the Kings Hill development and followed up this letter to the SoS with a reminder in April. Zarah has received the same letter in response as our three ward councillors.

Additionally, in April Zarah Sultana wrote to Sir Ian Diamond, National Statistician for the Office for National Statistics expressing her concerns and those of many residents in Finham about the validity of their forecast in 2014 of a population explosion in Coventry and requesting a further investigation into the population forecast for Coventry.

Following a request from the FPC in April to our MP about the need for an update since our meeting with her in February, Zarah Sultana issued an email to all those residents who had contacted her expressing their concerns. This was a very impressive and extensive email with no less than six attachments. At the same time she invited comments to this email and/or attachments to which the FPC has responded with a four page letter seeking clarity over a number of statements made by CCC which appeared to be either confused, misleading or just inaccurate. The most obvious of these inaccuracies being Kings Hill spelt incorrectly as "Kingshill" no less than seven times in the "Briefing note" submitted. Such is the attention to detail and as such, confidence cannot be high with regard to the rest of the detail contained in this "Briefing note".

We await the outcome of Zarah Sultana's further discussions with CCC and hope that accuracy and clarity will prevail.

Sir Andrew Watson Chair of the CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) has been to see Jeremy Wright to enlist his support. Subsequently, Jeremy Wright, MP for this part of Warwickshire which includes Kings Hill has written a letter of objection to the Kings Hill development to the SoS. He too has received a standard letter in response which advises the objection is under consideration.

More and more eminent people are showing their support for fairness and justice and objecting to the misleading information that has been used to remove Kings Hill from greenbelt and turn it into building land which makes a complete nonsense of what greenbelt was created to do and that was to prevent urban sprawl.

Amongst the many other topics we have challenged CCC to advise us upon is pollution in the Finham area which has been stated by CCC to be within legal limits. As far as we know this statement is pure guesswork as no assessment of pollution levels has been made by CCC or anyone else. We await the much anticipated Coventry Air Quality Action Plan which we believe is due out this year and hope that this time Finham is included which was not the case ten years ago.

The current pandemic will alter the population figures. The school population for primary schools was dropping before the pandemic and therefore logically, it will drop again. The birth rate in Coventry is well below what was forecast and therefore it is our strong belief that no more damage

should be done to greenfield sites in and around Coventry until the revised Local Plan which should be published in 2021.

- **Schools – Councillor Mrs Bush**

The Primary School has remained open for the whole of the current lockdown situation catering for vulnerable children and children of key workers.

Not all children have been in all the time. Attendance has been dependant on parents working shift patterns and staff have been working on a rota basis teaching those children who have been in attendance.

The staff and children at school have been working incredibly well since the crisis began and those children who have not been engaging staff have contacted the parents in question to ask the reason why.

The children have been at all times given the support of teachers in assisting where necessary help with various on-line lessons.

Safety at the school is paramount not only for the children but also for the staff so the school will be following the guidelines set out by the Government regarding the re-opening of schools.

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

It was reported that events leading up to next year's City of Culture had been cancelled or would take place online. It was hoped many activities would be running next year. The organisation was also helping to support cultural organisations in Coventry through a tough time. It was hoped to have a representative from the City of Culture come and talk to us when we can meet face to face.

Further information can be found at <https://coventry2021.co.uk/contact-us/>

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

It was reported that during this difficult time of lock down, there had been a wonderful community spirit with residents helping and supporting each other.

From 7 - 13th June we would be celebrating Neighbourhood Watch Week. The theme this year would be *Celebrate your neighbours*.

PC Daren Betts reminds us of the importance of reporting crimes that we see. The police are very busy at the moment with the added pressures of policing lockdown and they may take longer to respond so please be patient.

Remember that if it's not a 999 call try the website where you can chat on line and get support and advice.

<https://www.west-midlands.police.uk/>

- **NHP - Councillor Davies**

It was reported that work continued, further update at June's meeting.

11. Finham Festival

Discussion took place on the viability of holding a Finham Festival this year. The event had already been moved to September due to the events planned for VE Day which had been due to take place in May.

It was agreed that due to Covid-19 and the restrictions this posed, not to hold a Finham Festival this year.

RESOLVED THAT the next Finham Festival would take place in 2021.

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

Nothing to report.

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

The Chairman suspended the Standing Orders to allow public participation.

Councillor John Blundell

It was reported that Mark Andrews (CCC) would be leaving the City Council in July. He had been the Officer responsible for discussions involving the s106 monies in relation to Kings Hill. Mark Andrews is the Chief Planning Officer who had finally agreed to come to speak to Finham at the end of March about the reasoning behind Kings Hill, but the meeting had to be cancelled due to coronavirus.

A response had been received from Robert Jenrick who had expressed an interest to arrange a meeting to discuss the issue raised.

84 St Martins Road – it was confirmed that no Planning Committee meeting had been arranged yet. Update once known.

Councillor Tim Sawdon

It was noted that Cllr Sawdon would be meeting with Jeremy Wright early next week.

14. Date for the next meeting

It was confirmed that the date for the next meeting was 18th June 2020. The meeting would take place via Zoom.

Meeting closed at 7:45pm

SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN
COUNCILLOR P DAVIES

18th June 2020