

Finham Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at 7:00pm,
17th September 2020, held via Zoom

Present:

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

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

Residents: 0

In Attendance: Jane Chatterton, Clerk & RFO

45. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

46. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

47. Chairman's Update

I trust everyone is bearing up well during these stressful times and that no one has been affected by the Coronavirus/Covid-19. It is strange how the unusual has become the norm and has changed the way in which we conduct our lives.

To those who have managed a holiday away, well done. To those who travelled abroad I hope they were not detained or prevented from returning to the UK at their chosen time.

Tonight I would ask everyone to keep to the point and not to stray off topic as I have a feeling there may be more discussion than usual and it is important that everyone has their say in the time allotted for this meeting which must finish no later than 9.00pm.

Over the holiday period, it is strange how important issues such as Kings Hill are "dealt with" by our politicians when parliament is in recess.

Later in this meeting there is a full update on Kings Hill.

48. Minutes of previous meeting held on 16th July 2020

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th July 2020 were discussed.

RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the parish council meeting held on 16th July 2020 were approved.

49. Matters Arising not listed on the agenda**Pollution Tubes**

Councillor Blundell updated that he had liaised with CCC and requested deploying pollution tubes in Finham in four locations. It had been confirmed that the tubes were being deployed elsewhere at the moment and they had no spare capacity to cover Finham at the current time.

ACTION: Councillor Blundell to progress and report further at October's meeting.

Damage to The Green

Councillor McCarthy reported that large vehicles (lorries) were causing damage to the grassed area on The Green whilst manoeuvring. Two posts had been damaged (outside number 37 Droylesdon Park Road).

ACTION:

- (i) Councillor Morshead to report to the Highways Department (Collin Knight).
- (ii) Request more substantial barriers be installed.
- (iii) Include the Ward Councillors in correspondence.

50. Planning

To Consider Planning Applications received since the last meeting

Weekly list for the period 23 August to 29 August 2020**50.1 Application Number: HH/2020/1782**

Application Site: 102 St Martins Road

Proposal: Erection of two storey side and single storey rear extension

RESOLVED THAT: No comment.

50.2 Application Number: HH/2020/1787

Application Site: 100 St Martins Road

Proposal: Erection of two storey side and single storey rear extensions

RESOLVED THAT: No comment.

Weekly list for the period 30 August to 5 September 2020

Nothing to report

Weekly list for the period 6 September to 12 September 2020**50.3 Application Number: FUL/2020/1941**

Application Site: 2 Erithway Road

Proposal: Erection of 3 bedroom detached house

RESOLVED THAT: Councillors to review the application and the matter be dealt with via Delegated Authority

51. Correspondence

Reference was made to the letters circulated from Andy Street and George Illingsworth. These had been circulated to members.

Further updates were awaited.

52. Finance

52.1 to approve payments: -

DATE	REF	PAYEE	DETAILS	AMOUNT
14.08.20	E24	J Chatterton	August Salary	DPA
14.08.20	E25	HMRC	Tax for Clerk	£54.09
03.09.20	E26	J Chatterton	Grant reimbursement	£203.67
10.09.20	E27	J Chatterton	September Salary	DPA
10.09.20	E28	HMRC	Tax for Clerk	£117.00
11.09.20	E29	WALC	Training JLC INV-20707	£30.00

RESOLVED THAT the payments be approved.

52.2 Remembrance Day Wreath

Different designs, badges and ribbon were discussed.

RESOLVED THAT:

- (i) The Clerk order the Remembrance Day wreath.
- (ii) Contact the Lord Mayor's Office to enquire on the arrangements.

53. Website

It was reported that work had continued on the website but unfortunately the PC website had limited functionality and getting it compliant was difficult.

It was noted that the Parish Council had done all they could to comply.

RESOLVED THAT the update be noted.

54. Cycleway

It was reported that no further progress had been made.

Further updates when known.

ACTION: Agenda item for a future meeting.

55. Governance**55.1 Standing Orders and Financial Regulations**

Due to the Parish Council not holding the Annual Parish Council meeting in May 2020, the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations were not discussed.

The Clerk confirmed that these policies had been reviewed and were current to the requirements of the Parish Council and recommended them for approval.

RESOLVED THAT the Standing Orders September 2020 and the Financial Regulations September 2020 were approved.

55.2 Scheme of Delegation Sept 2020

The Parish Council had not adopted a Scheme of Delegation for the Clerk. The document was based on a WALC model and set in writing the Clerk's scheme of authorised delegation and the roles and procedures that would be carried out on a day to day basis. This was particularly important during the Covid-19 pandemic, as more had to be dealt with by the Clerk.

RESOLVED THAT the Scheme of Delegation September 2020 be approved.

56. Task groups & Working Parties

To receive reports from Task Group and Working Party leads.

- **Highways – Councillor Morshead**

Councillor Morshead updated on the previously reported pot holes. The ones situated in Daleway had been inspected by CCC who confirmed they didn't require fixing, however they had been repaired today.

Pavements in The Greylands – it was noted that the pavements in The Greylands were only laid last year but they were already breaking up.

ACTION: Matter to be reported to CCC.

- **Kings Hill – Councillor Davies**

As everyone knows by now, the Rt. Hon. Robert Jenrick, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (SoS) has refused to 'call in' the planning permissions produced by both Warwick District Council (WDC) and Coventry City Council (CCC) for Kings Hill as it is considered important and necessary that local decisions should be taken at local level which puts us all in the hands of WDC and CCC.

Nowhere in the whole of the Midlands is there a population projection increase anywhere near 32% so it is perplexing to residents, Resident Associations and Parish Councils, why those in our local councils stubbornly refuse to listen and understand the protestations of so many of the local people and organisations most affected by the developments all around Coventry, including Kings Hill.

Out of interest, since 2014 when this projection was made, the population of Coventry has grown by just over 6% and therefore we face the prospect of a further increase of 26% in the next 10 years! This of course assumes that the Office for National Statistics (ONS) is correct with its projections for Coventry.

On Saturday 22nd August, there was an article in The Times about Kings Hill. CCC is shown in a bad light and so is the ONS. In this article - "A spokes woman for the ONS said that ministers had given no sign of doubting the projections. 'All of our methods have been explained to be fully transparent and helpful' she said".

These are the experts we pay to carry out a thorough job especially when standards of living are threatened.

I think it fair to say that The Times is still considered to be the fairest and most even handed of all our national newspapers. As they say – There are none so blind as those who will not see. Which loosely translated means the most deluded people are those who choose to ignore what they know already.

We live in an age where “experts” are distrusted. In this case it is the ONS. This is yet another example where “experts” are not to be trusted.

Most of us have heard of the Governments new proposed rules for building for the future which are designed to reduce the time it takes for building projects to proceed. It is very doubtful that these new rules will suit those most affected by new housing estates.

A cursory glance suggests a developers’ charter to ensure the government’s target of 300,000 houses a year is achieved.

For the rules to appear fair for all parties and not just developers and local councils who cannot interpret accurately ONS projections and not taking into account local conditions, there must be organisations representing the local residents who are the ones most affected. It is revealing to know that the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), a national organisation, applied to be party to discussions on the formation of rules but were denied. So, who under these new enlightened rules is there to protect the ordinary person in the street.

One of the comments in the draft for the new policy is *“Valued green spaces and Green Belt will continue to be protected for future generations, with the reforms allowing for more building on brownfield land”*. Such statements really do not convince in their sincerity after what has happened to Kings Hill. There are still brownfield and greenfield sites within Coventry boundaries which are not being touched.

The SoS had a perfect opportunity to show he was sincere when he was able to scrutinise the reports and comments made about Kings Hill. Who on earth believes the population projections of a 32% increase for Coventry made by the ONS. Apparently, the SoS does not see this discrepancy worth intervening for on behalf of Coventry citizens.

What is needed is a process which allows those affected by huge housing developments to have some influence on decisions and for ‘experts’ to listen and act in accordance with the majority of opinion expressed.

On Tuesday 8th September 2020 Gary Ridley, Leader of the Conservatives on CCC who oppose the Kings Hill development, gave a speech to an assembled crowd outside the Council House before he presented two petitions totally 6,500 signatures to the CCC, expressing concern about the removal of greenbelt land all around Coventry based on the now infamous 32% population projections produced by the ONS.

He was not hopeful of any success resulting from the petitions but they highlighted how wrong the CCC were in this matter and that it is the current council that is wholly responsible, as well as for Kings Hill.

Gary stated that the best hope now lay with the review of the CCC Local Plan muted to be in March 2021 but he did not sound confident that such a review would happen.

Consequently, it is up to us all to keep up the pressure on the CCC and hold this very much needed review before too much needless destruction has taken place.

Road markings

It was reported that road markings had appeared on Green Lane but their origin could not be established.

ACTION: Letter to be sent to Liam D’Onofrio requesting clarification.

- **Schools – Councillor Mrs Bush**

Councillor Mrs Bush reported that the children had returned to school at the start of the term. All possible precautions were in place to ensure the children, teachers and staff safety.

The school had written to parents raising the concern that parents were not social distancing during drop off and pick up time.

Concern was expressed that some classes were not “in a bubble”, one class had been taught by 4 different teaches in the same week. It was also thought that the same PE teacher taught the whole school.

ACTION: Councillor Mrs Bush would raise the concern and seek confirmation at the next Governors’ meeting.

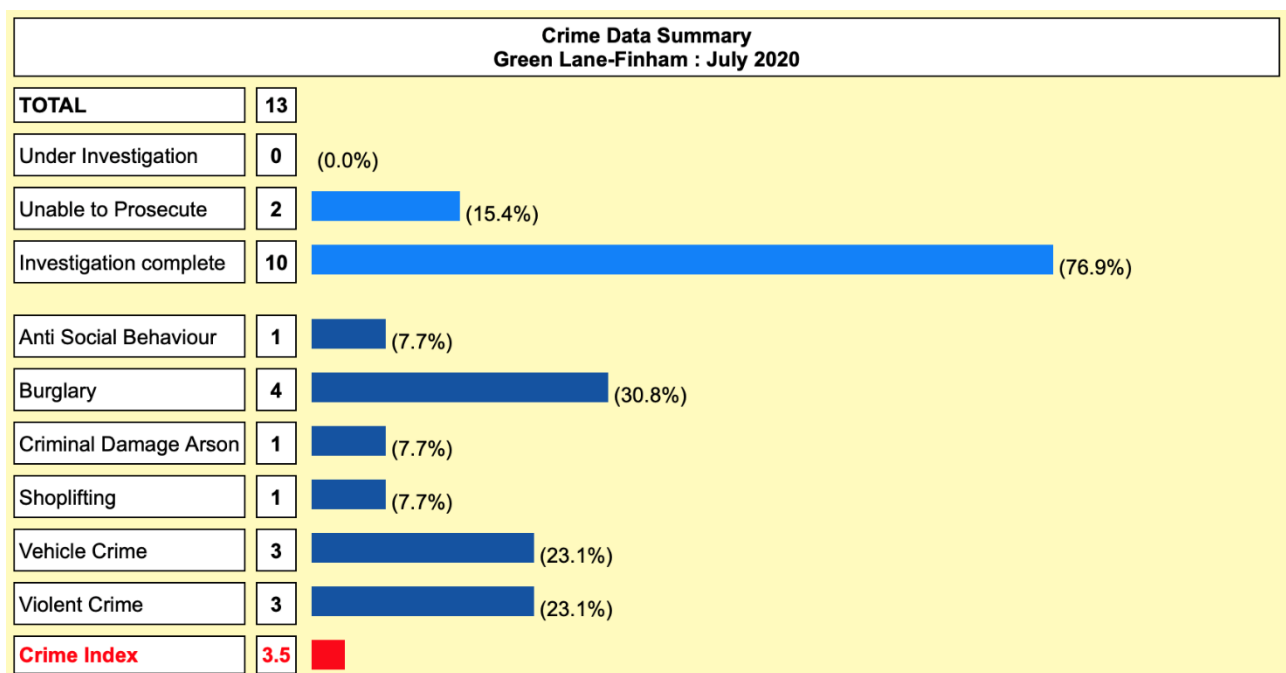
- **Coventry City of Culture – Councillor Ms Taylor**

Nothing new to report.

ACTION: Councillor Taylor to request an article for the next FPC Newsletter (December issue).

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

The latest crime figures for July 2020 are as follows



There had been cars stolen from the drive in the Stivichall area and we would urge residents to make sure that cars are secure and nothing left in the vehicles overnight.

The Neighbourhood Watch in our area continues to be very successful and the rapid sharing of information and CCTV footage plays an important role. If you have a CCTV and have not registered it on the database, we would encourage you to do so. If you email cctv@finhamnw.org.uk you will be given all of the information that you need.

Thanks as always to Tony Swann who works tirelessly for our community.

In Finham we have a well established Street Watch which was set up by Ruth Khan. Unfortunately Ruth is unable to continue her role at present but has asked me to pass on this message:-

Due to a sudden period of ill health mixed with what's been a tough time as a health care worker, I have made the decision to step down as SW coordinator for the Wainbody ward. The decision was not easy and one I battled over for a couple of months however it is the right decision in order for me to get my health back to where it needs to be physically. I appreciate the support from all who supported SW and I know the local PCSO will be arranging for a new coordinator asap. I also know there remain open positions as a volunteer too. If anyone is interested in joining, the email to do so is:

a.parkerjones@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

I think all Residents will join with me in thanking Ruth for the untiring support she has given us and we wish her a speedy recovery.

During this difficult time of the COVID pandemic it is good to see the Community spirit in Finham and to know that people look out for each other.

ACTION: Letter of thanks to be sent to Ruth Khan. (Councillors Mrs Fryer to liaise with the Clerk).

- **NHP - Councillor Davies**

Nothing new to report.

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

Ward Councillor Meetings with Andy Street

Councillor Mrs Fryer requested that when the Ward Councillors met with Andy Street in the future that they would extend the invitation to the FPC Chairman. It was agreed that the depth of knowledge the Chairman held on Kings Hill would be beneficial.

Good Citizen Award

This had not progressed due to Covid-19. Future agenda item and relaunch.

58. Public participation

There were no members of the public present.

59. Date for the next meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 15th October 2020, meeting to be held via Zoom.

Meeting closed at 9:00pm

SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN
Councillor Paul Davies

15th October 2020