

Finham Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at 7:00pm,
15th October 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: 3

In Attendance: Jane Chatterton, Clerk & RFO

60. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

61. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

62. Chairman's Update

The first item I have to mention tonight is about Colin Salt who has had to leave the Finham Parish Council.

Colin has been a councillor since the creation of the FPC and has seen us through some very turbulent times, some of which persist today.

Colin and I had some affinity in that he and I always voted in the same way when a show of hands was required. In future I will have to manage without his undivided support and at the same time make the offer that should he ever feel able to re-join the FPC, should there be a vacancy, his application will be treated very favourably.

Secondly, the Finham Parish Council has not given up on its justified protest over Kings Hill and continues to contest its justification but at the same time is preparing for what is increasingly a more difficult cause, made worse by Robert Jenrick's apparent developers charter.

More about Kings Hill later in the meeting.

63. Minutes of previous meeting:

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th September 2020 were discussed.

RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Parish Council held on 17th September 2020 were approved.

64. Matters Arising not listed on the agenda

There were no matters arising for discussion.

65. Planning

To Consider Planning Applications received since the last meeting

Weekly list for the period 20 September to 26 September 2020

Nothing to report

Weekly list for the period 27 September to 3 October 2020

Nothing to report

Weekly list for the period 4 October to 10 October 2020

TBC

HH/2020/1922 - 140 St Martins Road

It was reported that the letters from the Planning Department notifying neighbours of the Planning Application were dated the 18th September but were not received by the residents until 2nd October, this did not give sufficient time to be notified, review the plans and provide a suitable response. Some neighbours didn't receive the notice.

The Parish Council had OBJECTED to the application, due to over development.

ACTION: The Ward Councillors had been asked to raise the concern about the lack of notification. The concern over the size of the development and the information had been received that the property would be turned into a HMO.

66. Correspondence

There was nothing to report.

67. Finance

67.1 to approve payments: -

DATE	REF	PAYEE	DETAILS	AMOUNT
25.09.20	R	J Chatterton	Refund salary o/p due to pension mistake	£33.28
25.09.20	E30	J Chatterton	Laptop Reimbursement (faulty returned)	£533.94
25.09.20	E31	J Chatterton	Expenses Sept	£50.85
05.10.20	E32	J Chatterton	laptop change (replacement laptop difference)	£65.06
05.10.20	E33	J Chatterton	Poppy wreath	£25.00
06.10.20	E34	J Chatterton	Expenses	£52.03
16.10.20	E35	J Chatterton	Salary October	DPA
16.10.20	E36	HMRC	Tax for clerk	£64.58
22.10.20	E37	NEST	Pension Sept	DPA

RESOLVED THAT the payments be approved.

67.2 Bank Reconciliation up to 30th September 2020

The Bank Reconciliation up to 30th September 2020 was received and discussed.

Balance per bank statements as at 30 th September 2020:	£	£
	<u>£46,569.56</u>	
		£46,569.56
Petty cash float (if applicable)	£0.00	£0.00
Less: any un-presented cheques at 30 th September 2020		
	<u>£0.00</u>	
	<u>£0.00</u>	
		£0.00
Add: any un-banked cash at 30 th September 2020	£0.00	
Net balances as at 30 th September 2020		<u>£46,569.56</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 2020 (Prior year Box 8)	£28,532.48
Add Receipts up to 30 th September 2020	£25,842.74
Less: Payments up to 30 th September 2020	(£7,805.66)
Closing balance per cash book as at 30 th September 2020	<u>£46,569.56</u>

RESOLVED THAT the Bank Reconciliation up to the 30th September 2020 be approved.

67.3 Quarterly Report up to 30th September 2020

The Quarterly Report up to 30th September 2020 was received and discussed.

RESOLVED THAT the quarterly report up to the 30th September be approved.

67.4 Grant Request

A grant request had been received from Finham Primary School to purchase 4 "no parking signs".

RESOLVED THAT

- (i) the Grant Request to purchase 4 signs be approved.
- (ii) Signage be added.

68. Draft Budget 2021-22

The draft budget for 2021-22 was discussed.

RESOLVED THAT

- (i) the budget for 2021-22 be set at £24,376.00.
- (ii) the final precept figure would be confirmed at November's meeting once the Grant figure and Tax Base Figure had been provided by Coventry City Council.

69. Remembrance Day

The Clerk confirmed that she had contacted CCC requesting details for the Remembrance Day service. An update would be provided once these were known. The impact of Covid-19 restrictions were currently not known.

The wreath purchased by the Parish Council had been received.

Councillor Dalton volunteered to lay the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.

RESOLVED THAT the update be noted.

70. Cycleway

Councillor Morshead updated that he contacted Richard Smith at CCC. CCC were due to obtain a large sum from CIL/s106 but were vague on how they intended to spend the funds or on what projects. More information would be shared once known.

It was reported that Colin Whitehouse would be leaving CCC tomorrow, it was unknown who he would be replaced by.

The Chairman suspended the Standing Orders and invited Councillor Blundell to provide an update.

71. Pollution Tubes

Councillor Blundell updated that he had been chasing the responsible Officer at CCC.

It was reported that CCC had confirmed that they were unable to monitor by a bus stop, there needed to be 'relevant exposure' i.e. where someone lives or a school for example.

CCC needed to see if they could free up other tubes first, scout the new locations and install the holders needed for the tubes which all takes organising. They had stated that they haven't had time to do this before the next time they changed the tubes (at the start of November) due to annual leave so it was unlikely to be before the changeover in the first week of December at the earliest.

ACTION: 3 locations to be provided to Councillor Blundell. (Councillors Mrs Fryer and Councillor Davies to discuss).

The Chairman reinstated the Standing Orders.

72. Task groups & Working Parties

To receive reports from Task Group and Working Party leads

- **Highways – Councillor Morshead**

Damage to The Green

Councillor Morshead updated that he had requested CCC replace the bollards with more robust structures.

Road signage to be considered stating the roads were not suitable for HGVs.

- **Kings Hill – Councillor Davies**

Over the past few weeks, the Finham Parish Council has asked the Coventry City Council to keep the residents of Finham updated about what is happening with Kings Hill.

To date the FPC has received ill-informed apparent knee jerk responses with reference to the many viz jacketed personnel visiting Green Lane. Their presence may be perfectly innocent but it is clear that CCC knows nothing about why they are here and what they are doing.

Is their presence to do with Kings Hill or something else? Trust needs to be re-established by CCC with the Finham community which it is struggling to achieve, if indeed it is their aim at all.

Since our last meeting in September, the FPC has contacted the Warwick District Council, Coventry City Council, Zara Sultana Coventry South MP, the BBC, the Daily Mail and the Guardian about the Kings Hill situation.

The FPC has asked WDC to list the benefits Finham might see as a result of their discussions with the developers over the S106 commercial talks which are ongoing at the moment. To date, the FPC have received no information about any advantages at all or any confirmation that the list of wishes expressed by many Finham residents during the 'consultations' have been taken into account.

It is normal practice around the UK that when a housing development, especially the size of Kings Hill, is discussed by a local council with developers, that the residents immediately affected by such a development should see some benefits from that development, such as a community centre which the CCC destroyed in Finham some years ago, such as a 30 metre green barrier for any development away from the protected hedgerows all along Green Lane, such as a provision for a children's play area which does not exist in Finham which has a population of 4,500 people.

Interesting to note that Baginton does have such a play area, population significantly less than Finham's.

There are numerous other wishes expressed which have been logged with WDC, which is the controlling council due to Kings Hill being situated in Warwickshire.

Contact has been made with Zara Sultana, Coventry South MP asking for her continued support with the Kings Hill issue which she has supported ever since her election. Everyone knows the reason Kings Hill faces 'development' is due to the ONS projections of a 32% population explosion in Coventry, a projection which is believed by only CCC, the ONS and the Secretary of State Robert Jenrick. One wonders why apparently sane and reasonable organisations and individuals could possibly believe such projections. I will leave the verdict to you.

Contact has been made with the Guardian and Daily Mail newspapers highlighting the gross injustice of the push to remove greenbelt Kings Hill into a housing estate. We hope that at least one of these national dailies will take on the cause and champion it to Parliament. Clearly, we cannot rely on the SoS Robert Jenrick.

We are in a period of mitigation where we can only try to control the adverse affects of the Kings Hill development and hopefully see some attributes for us all. If we do not continue to try, then the consequences could be on a par with what has been witnessed at Bannerbrook where CCC does not

appear to have been on the side of the residents and a planned Primary School has been sacrificed for extra housing!

Last night the Kings Hill Task Group held a Zoom Meeting with the new CCC Head of Planning, David Butler.

He started the meeting with a brief presentation of the new regulations being proposed by central government.

It soon became clear that these regulations favour the developer more than the people most affected by new developments.

The idea of the meeting was his and it went well. He is the first senior official from CCC to seek a meeting and during the meeting he made it clear he was not there to defend decisions made in the past but to carry them out to the best of his abilities. His job is to carry through whatever is needed from the planning and environment point of view to make Kings Hill a success, a success in the eyes of his bosses if Finham is slow to state what is needed to make it more palatable.

The group asked if he would be prepared to address the residents of Finham at a future date to which he agreed and was prepared to answer all questions.

It was surprising and refreshing, bearing in mind what Finham has had to endure for over a decade from CCC, to have someone in a senior position wanting to come to speak with us without us having to chase and complain.

When pressed, he confirmed the CCC Local Plan might be up for review in March 2021, but some key factors have to be met for this to happen.

At the end of the meeting, I would be interested to know what actions are being taken by the Conservative group of Councillors on CCC to ensure that this review will take place.

- **Schools – Councillor Mrs Bush**

The children are happy and enjoying their time in school.

Staff are working hard to adapt what they do to make sure they can offer as broad an experience as they can.

The children have been taking food into school for Harvest Donations which this year is being collected for the Coventry Food Bank.

Traffic outside the school on Green Lane, The Police have again visited the school and unfortunately, they have had to take their signs to another school.

This being the case the school have been in contact with the Parish Council to enquire whether they would look to purchase the appropriate signage for outside the school.

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

Nothing new to report.

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

Nothing to report.

- **NHP - Councillor Davies**

Nothing to report.

The Chairman suspended the Standing Order to allow public participation.

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

Proposed Planning Changes

Councillor Sawdon updated that the Conservative Group had raised objections to the new proposed planning changes.

ONS Figures

Councillor Sawdon raised a letter from Andy Street re the ONS figures and the likelihood that housing demand was below and at odds with the Secretary of State's White Paper.

The Ward Councillors had written to the Housing Minister.

The ONS had agreed that their figures were wrong. A review of Coventry City Council's Local Plan was required.

Councillor Blundell added that they were pushing to be part of the review.

Land at Kings Hill

Mr Bannister said that at a meeting Lion Court had stated that 50 houses would be built during this financial year. Request was made to when the building work would commence.

Droylsdon Park Road

The condition of the road was raised. A stretch of 50-60m was getting worse with deep potholes. The road required resurfacing.

ACTION: Councillor Morshead to raise with Highways.

Online Petition

Councillor Mattie Heaven reminded everyone of the online petition. Requesting that CCC does not sell the portion of land on Kings Hill that they own. Everyone was urged to sign the petition and show that people care.

ACTION: Councillor Heaven to send the map and location to the Clerk for circulation.

Tree markings

Mr Morrison requested an update on the different tree markings on Green Lane. Request had been sent to CCC to provide the answers.

Councillor Mrs Fryer had contacted the Tree Officer in relation to the Gospel Oak. CCC said they were assessing the tree for possible damage. The tree had been x-rayed two years ago; the report stated that there was fungus at the base.

Crime Figures

Mr Tony Swann updated on the crime figures, which remained on a downward trend overall. The Community Watch and CCTV network was increasing in numbers. It was proving a very useful resource.

Updated that there was a female who was going door to door begging. Through CCTV images the person had been identified. It was noted that begging was a criminal issue and therefore should be reported to the police.

The Chairman thanked Mr Swann for his efforts and the valued work he carries out.

75. Date for the next meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 19th November 2020.

Meeting closed at 8:35pm

SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN
Councillor Paul Davies

19th November 2020