

Finham Parish Council

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

Present:

Councillor Mansoor Ahmad	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: 0

Residents: 5

In Attendance: Jane Chatterton, Clerk & RFO

94. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

95. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

96. Kings Hill Development

It was noted that Kings Hill was eventually planned to contain 4,500 homes equating to over 8,000 extra cars on the local roads and was being based on the Office for National Statistics projections of a population increase of 32% by the year 2031. To date the growth was just 6% meaning that's **IF** the ONS was correct, the population of Coventry would grow by 26% in the next 10 years. This would make Coventry the fastest growing city in Europe.

Clearly no one believed this statistic and the ONS was not prepared to correct its errors and Coventry City Council refused to consider any other assessment.

CCC's response to the Parish Council's request for a rethink of their Local Plan had been to push back the review of their plan, which was due in March 2021 to December 2022. The motive for this decision was questionable.

Councillors had seen the CPRE letter and the local organisations and MPs who had signed up to this letter as well as Andy Street Mayor of the West Midlands.

In order to support the group of people and organisations opposing Coventry City Council's Local Plan which was based on a 32% population increase up to 2031, which patently would not happen, this group needed donations to pay for legal advice, legal support and the launch of a Judicial Review designed to impose an injunction on Coventry City Council at least until a review of its Local Plan had taken place.

The CCC Local Plan was the sole reason for Kings Hill being targeted for 4,500 houses.

The Parish Council were asked to consider if they would join the group and if a financial contribution would be made.

All Councillors were provided with the opportunity to express their own views.

FRA

A question was raised in relation to the financial support that could be provided by the FRA. It was noted that the FRA was their own legal entity and not under the control of the FPC. As reported at November's meeting the FRA would be placed in abeyance in early 2021 once their end of year accounts had been prepared and signed off. The Parish Council currently had no authority to dictate how their funds were used. Although it was indicated that they would be supporting the group.

Further funding

Further funding could be required and ways to raise this would be investigated by the group, one option would be for "crowd funding". The Parish Council would take an active part in this.

The Chairman suspended the Standing Orders to allow members of the public to express their views.

Mr Bannister agreed with the Parish Council that they should join the group and offer financial support to the legal process. Mr Bannister requested that the Parish Council consider a substantial sum (£10,000).

The Chairman reinstated the Standing Orders.

A proposal was received for the sum of £2,500 to be donated to the legal process.

Proposed: Councillor Davies Seconded: Councillor Mrs Bush Unanimous

RESOLVED THAT:

- (i) The Parish Council agreed to make a financial contribution of £2,500.
- (ii) The sum was from Parish Council reserves and shows the Parish Council's support to the group involved.
- (iii) The FRA would discuss and decide if they were to make their own financial contribution.

97. Date for the next meeting

The date for the next meeting was confirmed as 21st January 2021.

Meeting closed at 8:00pm

SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN
Councillor Paul Davies

21st January 2021