

## Finham Parish Council

### Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held at 7:00pm, 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021, held via Zoom

**Present:**

Councillor Mansoor Ahmad	Councillor Angela Fryer
Councillor Sarah Brennan	Councillor Esther Kanyiri
Councillor Ann Bush	Councillor Stan McCarthy
Councillor Anthony Dalton (Vice Chairman)	Councillor James Morshead
Councillor Paul Davies (Chairman)	Councillor Kate Taylor

Coventry City Councillors: Councillors Blundell, and Heaven

**Residents:** 4

**In Attendance:** Jane Chatterton, Clerk & RFO

**114. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Coventry City Councillor, Councillor Tim Sawdon.

**115. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**116. Chairman's Update**

Welcome everyone to the February monthly Parish Council meeting.

Tonight, we have two new councillors joining us for the first time tonight. Esther Kanyiri and Sarah Brennan. Welcome to the Finham Parish Council. I could tell from our first discussions that you both had plenty of enthusiasm and I hope you also have plenty of patience. Dealing with public bodies can be a very slow process. Welcome.

I have no intention of dwelling on Handforth Parish Council, Cheshire, as most of you will have seen a great deal of them the weekend before last when they were everywhere to be seen on TV, social media and in newspapers. All I will say is that we can learn a lot of lessons from these parish councillors, all of those lessons being on how not to be a parish councillor.

I was reminded a few days ago that the Census 2021 is scheduled for March unless this target has changed in the last few days. March was when the next review of Coventry City Council's Local Plan could and should have taken place. Another reason for CCC delaying this review until December 2022 is probably, they can ignore a source of accurate population information for their deeply flawed Local Plan which should have been changed years ago.

**117. Minutes of previous meetings:**

The minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021 were discussed.

**RESOLVED THAT:** The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021 were approved.

**118. Matters Arising not listed on the agenda**

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

**Speed activation signs**

Councillor Blundell confirmed that the matter was being dealt with by Rachel Goodyear, the responsible officer. There had been different views received over the citing of the signage. Rachel would look at the options and make a decision.

**Howes Lane signage**

Councillor Morshead confirmed that this had been passed to Highways and Traffic management would be advised.

**ANPR camera**

Councillor Blundell confirmed that the ANPR car could now operate outside Finham Primary. This would take place once the school was fully open and operational. Currently the number of children attending the school was low.

**Website**

It was confirmed that the work involved in the transfer was still ongoing.

**119. Councillor Vacancy**

Notification had been received from the Monitoring Officer that no election had been called and that the Parish Council could proceed to fill the vacancies via co-option. The candidates had been interviewed by the Parish Council and two appointments had been made.

**RESOLVED THAT:**

- (i) Sarah Brennan and Esther Kanyiri were co-opted onto the Parish Council.
- (ii) Sarah and Esther signed the Acceptance of Office.
- (iii) The Clerk would work with the new councillors on completion of the necessary paperwork.

**120. Planning**

To Consider Planning Applications received since the last meeting

**Weekly list for the period 24 January to 30 January 2021**

**120.1 Application Number:** HH/2021/0037  
**Application Site:** 92 Green Lane  
**Proposal:** Erection of a single storey detached garage

**RESOLVED THAT:** No comment.

**Weekly list for the period 31 January to 6 February 2021**

**120.2 Application Number:** HH/2020/3166  
**Application Site:** 118 Kenpas Highway  
**Proposal:** Erection of a single storey front and side extension and garage conversion

**RESOLVED THAT:** No comment.

**Weekly list for the period 7 February 2021 to 13 February 2021**

Nothing to discuss.

**121. Correspondence****121.1 NALC update on remote meetings**

It was reported that Finham Parish Council had received notification from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) that the regulations that allowed local authorities to hold meetings remotely expired on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Consequently, all local authorities including Parish councils must return to face-to-face meetings. NALC was working with a number of national bodies to press the Government to extend these regulations beyond this date and would continue to stress the urgency and importance of this issue. However, at this time Government had no plans to extend these regulations.

The Clerk had written to Zara Sultana MP, asking that she lobbied Government to extend the legislation beyond the current expiry date of 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021. The immediate future with regards to the Covid-19 Pandemic was still uncertain. The Government was still advising the public to work from home where possible, yet if the legislation is not changed, Councillors would be expected to ignore the government advice.

Many Parish Council meetings take place in venues that are not owned by the Parish Council eg Village Halls, Church rooms etc, these are small, and many do not meet the requirements to enable social distancing or possess the requirement to allow for adequate ventilation.

**RESOLVED THAT:**

- (i) The Parish Council prepare and cover as much parish council business as they can prior to the 7<sup>th</sup> May.
- (ii) May's Parish Council meeting be brought forward to Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7:30pm.

**121.2 FLAG**

The Chairman reported that Lesley Charlton and Denise Bird were raising money in aid of Finham Library Action Group (FLAG) on Gofundme.com - Finham Community Library Carpet Replacement Appeal.

FLAG was currently trying to update the Library, having already installed a public disabled toilet and baby change area, along with a small kitchen area and hatch.

The carpet in the library dated back to 1960's and was in poor condition. The Trustees would like to replace it but have not had the opportunity over the last year to fund raise.

The cost would be in the region of £5,000 to replace. If anyone had any ideas or money, contact Lesley.

**121.3 St Martins Road**

Mr Peter Burns had written to the Parish Council and supplied photographic evidence in relation to an issue which had been raised previously. CCC had not carried out the work requested. The matter was becoming worse. Vehicles, including an ambulance had become stuck at the end of

the service road. Vehicles entered the service road believing that this was a through road, they were then becoming stuck in the spinny at the end.

CCC had been requested to install a turning head.

**ACTION:** Councillor Morshead was in contact with CCC and would progress. The recent photographs of the damage caused this week to residential property had been shared with CCC officers (Richard Smith).

## 122. Finance

122.1 to approve payments: -

DATE	REF	PAYEE	DETAILS	AMOUNT
26.01.21	E56	J Chatterton	Office 365 Clerk laptop	£59.99
26.01.21	E57	J Chatterton	Postage stamps and supplies	£69.02
29.01.21	E58	WALC	Invoice 0488 Arnold Baker Book	£120.00
29.01.21	E59	ICO	Membership	£35.00
29.02.21	E60	NEST	Clerk Pension Employer & Employee contribution	DPA
09.02.21	E61	WALC 0524	Training	£16.80
09.02.21	E62	WALC 0523	Training	£16.80
11.02.21	E63	J Chatterton	Clerk Salary February	DPA
11.02.21	E64	HMRC	Tax for Clerk	£64.58
11.02.21	E65	J Chatterton	Expenses Feb	£22.33

## Income

09.02.21	R	RFA	Funds from Finham Residents Association	£13,550.78
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**RESOLVED THAT** the payments be approved and the income noted.

## 123. Conclusion of Audit 2020-21

The Clerk updated that notification had been received from the External Auditor that the Audit process for 2020-21 had concluded. There were no actions to note.

**RESOLVED THAT** the update be noted.

## 124. Finham Residents Association

A meeting had been held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 between FRA and the FPC.

At the meeting the following had been proposed:

- (1) The FRA accounts be closed. (FRA to be held in abeyance).
- (2) The current signatories (that are available) attend the respective banks to sign the necessary forms.
- (3) The funds be deposited into the Parish Council Bank Account.
- (4) Clerk to label the funds in two parts.
- (5) Part 1 - the sum of £4,000 to be used if the FRA was to be resurrected in the future.
- (6) The remaining £9,551.57 to be used to support community projects including the Kings Hill.

**RESOLVED THAT** the above be approved.

**125. Parish Council 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.

**RESOLVED THAT** the Insurance Renewal be approved. Clerk to renew the policy.

**126. Internal Auditor**

The 2020-21 Parish Council Accounts required Internal Audit. This must be completed by an independent and competent Auditor. Previously the Parish Council had used Mrs Louise Best who was very thorough and provided good value.

**RESOLVED THAT** Mrs Louise Best be engaged to complete the 2020-21 Internal Audit.

**127. Governance**

Part of the Audit process for 2020-21 required the Parish Council to review and updated relevant policies. The policies listed below had been reviewed and amendments made as identified.

1. Asset Register 2020-21 (*UPDATED*)
2. Internal Financial Control Feb 2021 (*NO CHANGES*)
3. Donations and Grants Policy Feb 2021 (*NO CHANGES*)
4. FPC Risk Assessment Feb 2021 (*NO CHANGES*)
5. Gifts and Hospitality Policy Feb 2021 (*NO CHANGES*)
6. Health and Safety Policy Feb 2021 (*NO CHANGES*)

**RESOLVED THAT** the above policies be approved.

**128. Cycleway**

Councillor Morshead updated that he had been liaising with Richard Thomas at CCC about the overall layout. He would continue to monitor the proposals.

**129. Pollution Tubes**

Councillor Blundell updated that the data was not supporting the belief that the levels of pollution were high enough for CCC to action.

The next set of figures would be available at the end of February.

It was noted that currently due to the national lockdown, traffic on Coventry roads were not anywhere near the usual levels. A request for timely monthly data and reports was requested again.

Again, the Parish Council disputed the location of the pollution tubes and it was believed the current locations would not provide an accurate record of levels.

**ACTION:**

- (i) Councillor Blundell to find out the timeframe for the pollution tubes being in situ.
- (ii) Request that the time be extended to gather data during normal conditions (not during a national lockdown).
- (iii) Councillor Blundell formally request that the Officer in charge forward the monthly figures to the Parish Council.

**130. Task groups & Working Parties****• Highways – Councillor Morshead**

It was reported that Councillor Morshead had been working with Dave Smith (CCC Highways) in relation to the open space in Droylesdone Park Road. It was confirmed that Highways would be raising the kerb height after April 2021.

Open space vehicle damage – the work would be completed after the weather conditions had improved.

Standing water – a list of affected properties was required.

**• Kings Hill – Councillor Davies**

It was reported that Elise Baseley of the Office for Statistics Regulation/UK Statistics Authority – is holding a meeting with Merle Gering again tomorrow as well as with Professor Gregg and members of KOGG to discuss prepared questions from the OSR and to hold presentations. Let's hope for a commonsense outcome.

Merle Gering has compiled and presented a list of sites within the Coventry boundary of brownfield sites that have not been developed and have little or no plans to do so. Perhaps they are too expensive to develop for the developers to show any interest. It has been suggested that this list of sites be further represented in the form of a map of the Coventry area and then the scale can be seen instantly.

The many changes at Warwick District Council coupled with some illnesses not to mention leave of absences have all contrived to result in response times or should I say non-response times have been on a par with what we have come to expect and experience from Coventry City Council.

After communications from both our Clerk, Jane Chatterton and I, we received an email of apology (something we do not receive from CCC) from Chris Elliott Chief Executive stating their problems and that they would be in touch with professional and complete answers in the very near future. Let's hope so.

Buxtons, our solicitors are currently awaiting the S106 Agreement for them to read and digest before mounting a challenge for which there is a short window of opportunity. I have been checking the WDC website every day for signs of life but so far none. My concern is this site has been stalling for a very long time now – Agreed Expiry Date 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and Determination Date 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021. The only comfort is this site was stalling 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020 until this date passed into history so maybe the current date will go the same way. I hope so and I also hope WDC finally respond to us as promised in a fair, accurate and professional manner.

New data about migration of students, first published in August 2017 by the Home Office and the ONS, was adopted by ONS into their own work programme in January 2019.

The ONS provided, in 2017, conclusive evidence that far more people leave Coventry each year and go abroad, than are stipulated in their Sub-National Population Projections in 2014.

The ONS has never corrected their misleading numbers - even though it is obvious to any lay person that an extraordinary and completely inexplicable result is forecast for Coventry. To state that

Coventry is going to grow 2, 3, or 4 times as fast as its more prosperous neighbours, when it has been growing at a completely average rate up to 2011 is absurd.

The group KOGG, to which the FPC belong has told the ONS how important it is, how damaging it would be if these numbers were relied upon and since, the ONS has remained silent. Shameful does not express our reaction.

They have never acknowledged in writing there is a problem. They have watched a catastrophe unfold and done nothing to avert it, despite broadcasting its mission to be "better data, better decisions". It has been just empty rhetoric. Let us hope OSR/UK Statistics Authority bring reality to the ONS.

• **Schools – Councillor Mrs Bush**

It was reported that children continued to work hard. Teachers and staff were providing the children with excellent support. Those children who were not in school continued to receive lessons via zoom.

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

It was noted that the City of Culture would be going ahead from May 2021. There continued to be a lot of discussion with for ideas of an art gallery being installed inside the empty Ikea building.

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

The latest crime figures available are for December 2020 with the yearly total for whole of 2020.

The figures for Finham 2020 show a slight 5% drop when compared with the previous year.

Wainbody Ward saw a 9% drop whereas Westwood witnessed a 14% increase.

Finham Area																
	ASB	Bicycle Theft	Burglary	Criminal Damage	Drugs	Other Crime	Other Theft	Weapons	Public Order	Robbery inc CJ's	Shoplifting	Theft/ Person	Vehicle Crime	Violence	Stop & Search	Total Reported
December 2020	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	7		11
2019	8	2	19	5	4	1	3	2	6	6	1	0	19	39		115
2020	11	0	14	5	0	6	7	0	12	0	6	0	16	32		109

Scam telephone calls continue, and residents are advised to be aware. One example is in relation to a recent national insurance scam that's running in the area.

There are an increasing number of scam calls in regards to national insurance numbers. Scammers are posing to be from law enforcement or government officials stating that your national insurance number has been compromised.

If the caller claims to be from the police, ask for their name and extension number. You can then call 101 and enter the extension number provided to verify that they are legitimate.

As usual the advice is that you never disclose details of bank accounts etc over the phone to anyone.

My thanks to Tony Swann for keeping me informed of the latest crime figures.

- **NHP - Councillor Davies**

Work continued with engaging with a consultancy company to progress the NHP to the next stage. A tender was being prepared and receipt awaited.

**ACTION:** Agenda item for March meeting.

The Chairman suspended the Standing Orders.

**131. Councillor's reports and items for future Agenda:**

Nothing to note.

**132. Public participation:** To adjourn to allow public participation.

Vandalism – It was reported that the wooden fencing near the school had been damaged. The fence had been previously hit by delivery trucks and the fencing was laying in the hedge. This was enabling parents to park inappropriately.

Crossway Road railings – it was reported that the top of the wrought iron railings had no tops on them. They required repair.

**ACTION:** Councillor Morshead to progress.

Fence around the Gospel Oak – the fence was broken and required replacing. It was suggested that a different type of fence would be more suitable than what had been installed previously. One that didn't allow children to climb on it.

Councillor Mrs Fryer added that the Officers had confirmed that the fence was due to be re-instated. The Tree Officer had confirmed that the Oak required adequate protection.

**ACTION:** Councillor Mrs Fryer to chase progress.

Wainbody Councillors Weekly update – Councillor Blundell asked for clarification that their weekly update was being received and circulated. The Clerk confirmed that this was the case.

**133. Date for the next meeting**

The date for the next meeting was confirmed as 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

Meeting closed at 8:30pm

SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN  
Councillor Paul Davies

18<sup>th</sup> March 2021