

## Finham Parish Council

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

**Present:**

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
Councillor Angela Fryer	

Coventry City Councillors: Councillor Mattie Heaven

**Residents:** 4

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

**134. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ahmad and Coventry City Councillors, Councillor Tim Sawdon and Councillor John Blundell.

**135. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor McCarthy declared an interest in agenda item 8.2 – Grant Request.

**136. Chairman's Update**

Good evening everyone and welcome to the March meeting of the Finham Parish Council.

This week sees the Wainbody area participating in the Coventry City of Culture - Winter Wonderland - Window Dressing which started on 13<sup>th</sup> March and finishes this Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March. Having toured the area there are many houses with very impressive displays upstairs as well as down and I would not be surprised if they are kept up for a few weeks longer.

We are now well into the season of road potholes and Daleway Road seems to be picked on as far as I have seen. Please bear in mind that CCC has a duty to repair these potholes once they have been notified. Make sure their locations are clear and copy in the FPC if it is needed. Addressing the problem early can prevent these holes becoming really dangerous and not just a hazard to motorists.

Finally, litter still remains a concern and if it weren't for the small band of volunteers who regularly collect it up off our streets the situation would be much worse. I want to thank this small band for their contribution.

**137. Minutes of previous meetings:**

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021 were discussed.

**RESOLVED THAT:** The minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021 were approved.

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

Howes Lane Signage – no update.

St Martins Road – Turning Circle - A solution had been proposed and engineered, although not installed, which had met with the approval of the resident who raised the issue.

Speed Activation Sign - Disappointing this had still not been deployed. Councillor Blundell had requested an update from the officer concerned (Rachel Goodyer).

ANPR Car – Councillor Blundell had asked if this vehicle was now being deployed as schools had been fully open since 8<sup>th</sup> March.

Pollution Tubes - The new information Councillor Blundell had received was that January's results were consistent with the previous months (December and November last year).

**139. Planning**

To Consider Planning Applications received since the last meeting

**139.1 Application Number: LDCP/2021/0287**

Application Site: 43 Finham Green Road  
Proposal: Proposed loft conversion

**RESOLVED THAT:** No comment.

**140. Correspondence**

Nothing to discuss.

At this point I would like to invite our Ward Cllrs to update the Council on all issues that are outstanding since our last meeting in February, to advise on any new initiatives they are undertaking that might benefit or interest Finham and give them an opportunity to make any statements they might want to make to the meeting.

At our next monthly meeting which is scheduled for 15th April 2021, an additional section will be added at the beginning of the agenda and to subsequent future agendas for this express purpose, which I think will speed up the process and of course give everyone attending the meetings the opportunity to ask questions or make statements at the appropriate time during these meetings.

**141. Updates from Coventry City Council Councillors**

Councillor Heaven updated:

Fly tipping – the issue with fly tipping was being discussed. This had increased during lockdown and the process for booking visits to the tip was being reviewed. Feedback from those using the service was welcome.

Councillor Kate Taylor joined the meeting

**142. Finance**

142.1 to approve payments: -

DATE	REF	PAYEE	DETAILS	AMOUNT
24.02.21	E66	J Chatterton	Stationery	£86.70
18.02.21	E67	NEST	Clerk Pension – Employer and Employee contribution	DPA
06.03.21	E68	Zurich	Parish Insurance	£351.87
11.03.21	E69	J Chatterton	Clerk Salary March	DPA
11.03.21	E70	HMRC	Tax for Clerk	£64.78
11.03.21	E71	WALC	Training MA Inv0531	£16.80

**RESOLVED THAT:** The payments be approved.*Councillor Stan McCarthy left the room and took no part in the discussion for the following item.***142.2 Grant request**

A grant request had been received from FLAG to the value of £2,500 to fund the purchase of a new carpet for the Library.

Following discussion it was agreed that further information was required including; a copy of their business plan, information with regards to the length of lease currently on the building and the terms for the renewal in June 2021, assurance from CCC that the library would be in place for a long period.

**RESOLVED THAT:**

- (i) The grant application be refused at the current time.
- (ii) The Clerk request further information as detailed above.

Councillor McCarthy re-joined the meeting.

**143. Community Involvement – Coventry City Council**

Councillor Taylor updated on information on the Coventry City Council website in relation to Community Involvement with regards to Planning Permission Policy.

**ACTION:** Councillor Taylor to provide a summary of the points and circulate to Councillors for comment.

**144. NHP**

Councillor Davies updated that to move the NHP to the next stage the engagement of a consultant was required. Grants were available to cover the costs involved up to the value of £10,000.

**ACTION:** agenda item for April's meeting.

**145. Newsletter**

The deadline for items to be included in the April newsletter was Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

**ACTION:** Councillors Brennan and Kanyiri to include a brief introduction.

**146. Cycleway**

Councillor Morshead updated on the “Don’t lose your way” scheme, a mapping of footpaths around the City. Further updates when known.

**147. Pollution Tubes**

Discussed under matters arising.

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

Howes Lane – response outstanding.

The Green, Droylesdon Park Road – the grass required re-instating and work would be carried out in the Spring.

Damage from skip – the skip had been removed, the damaged grass should grow back.

Bollards, Green Lane – the top balls were either missing or damaged. This had been reported to CCC.

**• Kings Hill – Councillor Davies**

Not a great deal has changed since my last report, Warwick District Council continue to ignore the Finham Parish Councils letters/emails sent in January with the promise by Chris Elliott the Chief Executive to be in contact very soon. We are still waiting.

WDC have also not responded yet to the solicitors letter sent on behalf of the Campaign to Protect Rural England in early January. So, no change again.

The S106 Agreement between the WDC and the developers is still unresolved which must make it one of the longest outstanding planning permissions without S106 Agreement that the WDC has had to deal with in their history.

I have been monitoring the Planning Committee website for W/18/0643 Kings Hill for any changes and have signed up to their email warning system which should advise me if there have been any changes at the time they take place. For many months the Determination Date and Expiry Date have shown Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021. On Sunday night, 7<sup>th</sup> March this date was changed to read Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April. Just what Determination Date and Expiry Date mean in the context of the Kings Hill Planning Application, well we are still awaiting the opportunity to speak with either Chief Executive Chris Elliott or one of his nominees to discuss this and many other issues that need explaining and make no sense to us.

At the request of the FPC to raise the matter of green belt land being sacrificed to developers based on the completely erroneous statistics from the Office for National Statistics, a statement that is supported by all Coventry MPs, Andy Street the Mayor of the West Midlands and the CPRE, Zarah Sultana has asked this question of the Rt.Hon.Robert Jenrick Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government – “what steps the Government is taking to ensure that greenbelt land surrounding Coventry South constituency is protected from development”.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 she received the following reply – “This Government will continue to support the protection and enhancement of the Green Belt and other valued greenfield land, and to strongly

encourage re-use of suitable brownfield land for development, in line with manifesto commitments and our National Planning Policy Framework. The Framework states that most new building is inappropriate in Green Belt and should be refused planning permission unless there are very special circumstances, and that only in exceptional circumstances may a Green Belt boundary be altered. We have been clear in our reform proposals, set out in the White Paper *Planning for the Future*, that existing policy for protecting the Green Belt would remain”.

We can only hope that these are not hollow words and that the proposed new building regulations will be modified to take in the above points made on behalf of the S of S and additionally, ‘exceptional circumstances’ does not include the ridiculous populations statistics produced by the ONS which project an explosion of 32% by the year 2031. Seriously, 32% by the year 2031!

Over the period being covered, 2014 up to 2031, the population of Coventry has risen by just 6%. So, since the ONS insist their algorithms used are correct, we can all look forward to a further 26% increase in the next ten years.

- Schools – Councillor Mrs Bush**

It was reported that the children had adjusted very well to returning to school full time. The children had created a walking trail as part of the City of Culture windows.

- Coventry City of Culture – Councillor Ms Taylor**

There was nothing new to report. They were looking for volunteers, details were available on their website.

- Police & Crime – Councillor Mrs Fryer**

The latest crime figures available were for December 2020 with the yearly total for whole of 2020/2019.

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 the Parish Council informed of the latest crime figures.

- **NHP - Councillor Davies**

I mentioned at our last meeting that I was finding the workload involved with producing the NHP a bit too much and therefore would be seeking professional help which can be paid for from a Government grant up to a maximum of £10,000 to be spent during one financial year which in our case would be April 2021 to March 2022.

Initial monies can be obtained based on quotes received from a bona fide organisation yet to be approved by the FPC.

At the moment I am looking at the final two candidates and hope to be able to formulate a proposal for the FPC to consider at our next meeting.

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

**Gospel Oak**

Councillor Mrs Fryer updated on the Gospel Oak. Tim Wetherell had confirmed that tests had been carried out on the Oak including scans and they had confirmed that there was no further deterioration, which is good news.

He had raised concerns about the lack of protective fencing around the trees and how this enables cars to park on the verge.

Councillors Mrs Fryer had contacted "Street Scene" and had sent photographs of the damage.

Further updates when known.

The Chairman suspended the Standing Orders to allow public participation.

**150. Public participation**

Mr Morrison thanked councillors for looking into the damaged railings and Gospel Oak.

Pollution tubes – Mr Morrison had tried to work through the data received in relation to the pollution tubes and attempted to benchmark the data. This required answers to basic questions as it was unclear what pollutants the tubes were measuring. What levels or legislation were they using?

**ACTION:** Mr Morrison to send information to Councillor Heaven to progress. The Parish Council to be copied into any information obtained.

**Precept**

Mr Bannister requested clarification on the Council Tax increase.

The Clerk confirmed the following:

2020-21 precept was £21,343.00 and the

2021-22 Precept was £21,084.00.

The Band D figure for 2020-21 was £13.75 and 2021-22 was £13.93.

At the time of setting the Precept the Grant figure and tax base figure were unknown. The band D figure was obtained by dividing the precept request by the tax base.

Precept Request	2020 21		Precept Request	2021 22
To meet budget	£24,326.00		To meet budget	£24,376.00
Less grant	£2,983.00		Less grant	£3,292.00
Precept 2020/21	£21,343.00		Precept 2021/22	£21,084.00
Tax Base	1,552.20		Tax Base	1,513.90
Band D	£13.75		Band D	£13.93

In comparison the precept figures for the other Coventry City Council Parish Councils were:

Allesley Parish Council	£41.51
Keresley Parish Council	£38.46
Finham Parish Council	£13.93

**ACTION:** Clerk to CCC to ask why the Council Tax Demands show an increase when the Precept has been reduced for 2021-22.

#### 151. Date for the next meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

Meeting closed at 8:40pm