

Finham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7:00pm, 15th April 2021, held via Zoom

Present:

Councillor Ann Bush

Councillor Anthony Dalton (Vice Chairman)

Councillor Paul Davies (Chairman)

Councillor Angela Fryer

Councillor James Morshead

Councillor Kate Taylor

Councillor Mansoor Ahmad

Coventry City Councillors: Councillor John Blundell and Councillor Tim Sawdon

Residents: 4**In Attendance:** Jane Chatterton, Clerk & RFO**1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillors; Councillor Stan McCarthy, Councillor Sarah Brennan, Councillor Esther Kanyiri and Coventry City Councillor, Councillor Mattie Heaven.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Chairman's Update – Councillor Davies

Before we start tonight, on behalf of the Finham Parish Council I would like to send our sincerest condolences to the whole of the Royal Family for the very sad loss of Prince Philip the Duke of Edinburgh.

Prince Philip, despite a number of faux pas over the course of his long life, will be best remembered for continuing to help restore the reputation of the Royal Family at a very difficult time in its history when he married the Queen.

He instilled high moral and personal virtues into succeeding generations both inside and outside the Royal Family. It is hoped these qualities will outlive him.

I hope everyone is enjoying the extra newfound freedom of less Covid 19 restrictions and still continuing to be careful. It has not gone away, and it is unlikely to go away completely for a very long time. Be careful and thoughtful.

Coventry City Council has managed to attract some very unwanted and some would say very unnecessary publicity over the last week with the publication in national newspapers and subsequent reports on television and radio of the departure package paid to Mr. Martin Yardley.

He has been paid recently on top of his annual basic salary of £151,991, an early retirement package of £395,110 making him the highest paid town hall official in the country in the past twelve months.

When this City Council is pleading poverty and having just raised Council Tax for residents very substantially, we now see that this is what they had agreed to put into Mr. Yardley's contract. What an utter disgrace. What confidence can we have in this Council with such agreements. How can this

package be considered equitable. What on earth do those working for this Council on the basic minimum wage make of it. How many more contracts are there like this that have been agreed with current officials. I fear it will not be the last.

4. Minutes of previous meetings:

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th March 2021 were received and discussed.

RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18th March 2021 be approved.

5. Matters Arising not listed on the agenda

Nothing to report.

6. To receive updates from Coventry City Councillors

Councillor Blundell updated

VAS Signs - Rachel Goodyer had confirmed that 2 signs would be installed on Green Lane around the 23rd/24th April. Longfellow Road in Coventry were having permanent signs installed which had released the mobile signs for Green Lane.

ANPR Car – it was confirmed that the ANPR car would be visiting the school during the summer term.

Diffusion tubes – an email had been received from Steven Dewar, Environmental Health Officer. He had advised that the air quality officer had confirmed that the monitored NO2 levels were in the low to mid 20's and therefore safe and well below the legal limit of 40. These readings were for St Martins Road / Green Lane.

The data from the tubes needed to be collected and then it needed to be processed (bias adjusted and distance corrected to the nearest receptor).

He had stated that the raw results were all in low to mid 20s with the limit being 40. This would be even lower once the distance correction had been undertaken as all the tubes were close to the road.

Councillor Tim Sawdon

Kings Hill – no further update but the Councillors were still working with Andy Street.

Severn Trent – the grass on the A46 would be re-instated soon.

7. Planning

To Consider Planning Applications received since the last meeting

Weekly list for the period 28 March to 3 April 2021

7.1 **Application Number:** HH/2021/0795
Application Site: 75 Cotswold Drive
Proposal: Erection of a fence

RESOLVED THAT: No comment.

8. Correspondence

8.1 Request from FLAG to re-site the bench

Councillor McCarthy had requested the Parish Council discuss the bench situated outside the library. Councillor McCarthy subsequently sent his apologies, so the matter was discussed in his absence.

It was agreed that the Parish Council felt that the bench was sited in the most suitable position currently. The idea to move the bench to another location was not an option because this would require permission from Coventry City Council and from experience this would not be permitted. The bench situated on The Green took over 2 years to install.

The bench was provided by the Finham Residents Association to provide a suitable and needed resting place for residents. The Parish Council agree that the bench should remain in its current position under the spirit it was donated, and also for the following reasons:

1. The bench provides a suitable resting point for library patrons, especially for disabled members of the community on their arrival at the library, in particular whilst waiting for the library to open.
2. As the library should be an inclusive setting removing the bench could lead to disabled members being discriminated against if this valuable resting point was removed. The Parish Council are very committed to Equality & Diversity and ensuring help is provided where required.
3. It provides a useful outside area for patrons to sit, chat, read newspapers and books. With the continuing pandemic outside seating areas are being used more and more. If anything, perhaps the number of benches should be increased.

It was noted that the bench would benefit from some restoration work and being refixed to the floor. The Parish Council were happy to engage a contractor to carry out the work, covering the costs incurred.

RESOLVED THAT: The Clerk write to FLAG with the offer of engaging a contractor to restore the bench.

9. Finance

9.1 to approve payments: -

2020-21

Date	Ref	Payee	Details	Amount
15.03.21	E72	J Chatterton	Expenses March	£44.08
19.03.21	E73	NEST	Pension Contribution & March Employee and Employer payment	DPA

2021-22

Date	Ref	Payee	Details	Amount
01.04.21	E1	J Chatterton	NetNerd reimbursement	£59.99
01.04.21	E2	WALC	Membership	£975.80
01.04.21	E3	J Chatterton	Netnerd reimbursement	£8.39

RESOLVED THAT the payments be approved.

9.2 Bank Reconciliation up to 31st March 2021

The Bank Reconciliation up to the 31st March 2021 was received and discussed.

Balance per bank statements as at 31 st March 2021:	£	£
	<u>£46,077.01</u>	
		£46,077.01
Petty cash float (if applicable)	£0.00	£0.00
Less: any un-presented cheques at 31 st March 2021		
	<u>£0.00</u>	
	<u>£0.00</u>	
		£0.00
Add: any un-banked cash at 31 st March 2021	£0.00	
Net balances as at 31 st March 2021		<u>£46,077.01</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 31 st March 2021	£39,393.52
Less: Payments up to 31 st March 2021	(£21,848.99)
Closing balance per cash book as at 31 st March 2021	<u>£46,077.01</u>

RESOLVED THAT the Bank Reconciliation up to the 31st March 2021 be approved.

9.3 Quarterly Report

The Quarterly report up to 31st March 2021 was received and discussed.

RESOLVED THAT the Quarterly Report 31st March 2021 be approved.

10. NHP

Councillor Davies updated that following on from the statements at earlier meetings of the Parish Council, tonight the endorsement was sought from members for the parish council to engage Avon Planning Services, who are Planning & Development Consultants based in Evesham and who are a well-known and reputable organisation in the Midlands area.

As stated before, the Finham Parish Council was eligible for a grant of up to £10,000 which must be committed within a financial year. This grant would be based on quotes for work to be done and therefore if the administrative processes work well, we should not have to delve into our own reserves and depend on reimbursement.

APS are well versed in Neighbourhood Development Plans and will be able to direct the team in the right directions and avoid any needless effort being expended.

They will also be able to advise in the construction and development of the plan and actively aid its creation.

RESOLVED THAT it was agreed to engage Avon Planning Services.

11. Cycleway

Nothing to report.

12. Pollution Tubes

Discussed under matters arising.

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

Potholes – it was noted that these were getting worse.

St Martins Road turning circle – the tree officer would be visiting the site to check that the proposed works wouldn't cause damage to the tree roots.

• Kings Hill – Councillor Davies

The big news this month is that the Kings Hill Task Group has secured a Zoom Meeting with Warwick District Council, Chris Elliott, Chief Executive, Philip Clarke Planning Policy Manager and Gary Fisher on 12th May. The meeting is strictly between these two small groups otherwise it might become unwieldy and any late additions on our part might appear as if we are trying to ambush them.

If anyone has any questions relating to any aspect of Kings Hill that they would like us to ask, please let us know but we cannot guarantee that all questions will be asked or answered in the limited time we have which we assume to be about an hour but who knows, we might be granted more time or a further meeting in the near future. It all depends on the quality and clarity of the answers.

The S106 Agreement between the WDC and the developers is still unresolved, and I am continuing to monitor the situation on their website and have registered with them my wish to be informed by email of any changes in circumstances relating to W/18/0643 Kings Hill.

Additionally, WDC are yet to respond to the solicitor's letter sent to them by the Campaign to Protect Rural England back in early January.

• Schools – Councillor Mrs Bush

The children continued to settle in well after returning from the lockdown period. They were currently enjoying their Easter break.

• Coventry City of Culture – Councillor Ms Taylor

It was noted that the opening ceremony had moved to June.

There were plans to use the Ikea building for an art gallery. 5,000 volunteers would be recruited to take part in various roles.

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

The latest published figures are for January and February 2021.

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
January 2021	0	0	3	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	9		17
February 2021	5	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	8		19

Comparing the figures to last year, there shows an increase in some categories e.g. 17 reported violence crimes in 2021 as opposed to 7 in 2020, but the level of crime remains low.

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2020	1	0	1	1	0	2	4	0	2	0	0	0	1	7		19		5
2021	5	0	3	3	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	4	17		36		10
% Increase/Decrease	400	-	200	200	-	-50	-100	-	0	-	-	-	300	143	-	89	-	

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

One important issue is the amount of vehicle crime that is occurring across our area at the moment.

There have been TEN instances in the Finham area split between Vehicle Interference (where someone has either simply tried car doors or gained access but not stolen anything) or Theft from Vehicles, where access has been gained and contents stolen (and a further FIVE just on the edge of our area) this year - and it looks like numbers are continuing to rise.

Can we remind everyone of the importance of checking that any valuables are removed, and their car doors are locked when their vehicles are left.

Tony Swann has contacted Sgt Betts on what measures the Police can take about this, but he has had no response yet.

He has also emailed the new StreetWatch coordinator to set up a dialogue. I will update everyone when I have details.

Vehicles continue to speed in the 20mph zones and also in St Martins Road and Brentwood Avenue. This is a continuing issue which we are aware of and will explore ways of tackling the issue.

• **NHP - Councillor Davies**

Nothing further to report

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

The Chairman suspended the Standing Orders

Schools – Mr Burns suggested that reports and updates from the Senior School be shared at meetings.

ACTION: Contact the Head for updates.

Gospel Oak – Councillor Mrs Fryer had contacted Street Scene, who had asked for photographs and the exact location. These had been sent, copying in Tim Wetherell. No response had been received.

Mr Morrison updated that he had spoken to a CCC officer who had been measuring the area for fencing and had discussed the style of fencing. He had provided information on what he thought would be the most suitable.

Diffusion tubes – this was discussed in further detail.

ACTION: Councillor Blundell to invite CCC Officers to a future PC Meeting to explain the methodology.

CCTV network – Mr Swann updated that the CCTV network continued to grow. There had been a surge in vehicle crime in Finham and locally. He had emailed the police for their input. StreetWatch patrols had started again.

The crime reporting systems were being updated.

16. Date for the next meeting

The date for the next meeting was confirmed as **Wednesday 5th May 2021 at 7:30pm** and would also include the Annual Parish Council Meeting

Meeting closed at 8:15pm

SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN
COUNCILLOR PAUL DAVIES

5th May 2021