

## Finham Parish Council

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7:45pm, 5<sup>th</sup> May 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:** Councillor Tim Sawdon

**Residents:** 4

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

**Chairman's Update**

Good evening everyone and welcome to the Finham Parish Council Meeting which has had to be brought forward out of necessity due to the emergency legislation that was passed by the UK Government to give Parish Councils the power to carry on their business using video conferencing tools. This legislation comes to an end tomorrow, Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May, a day which is also important due to the many elections taking place.

Luke Hall, assistant to Robert Jenrick, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, has stated that to extend virtual meetings past May would involve primary legislation to be passed by Parliament which would have a significant impact on the government's legislative programme, which is already under severe pressure in these unprecedented times.

We have already suffered at the hands of this department with indecision over Kings Hill and therefore this short-sighted view comes as no surprise. Just how Luke Hall MP expects councils such as ours to hold face to face meetings in the near future when it is very difficult to manage and meet now the Covid-19 rules and regulations set out by the very government of which he is a part, beggars belief. Clearly, we are not a priority and if we are not able to hold sufficient face to face meetings during the next 12 months, it will be our fault of course.

Added to this is the apparent double standards shown by this decision. MPs at Westminster are to retain their right to participate remotely until at least 21<sup>st</sup> June but not so for local and parish councils.

This is the first APC Meeting since 2019, such is the impact Covid-19 has had on all of our lives over the last year or so resulting in there being no APCM at all that year. Later in 2020, Zoom Meetings were introduced which at first had their hiccups, but we all began to become used to the new process. That is except Cllr Colin Salt who was unable to join the meetings due to the new format and therefore failed to meet the attendance requirements for a Parish Councillor. Subsequently, with regret, he had to leave the FPC. We thank him again for his contribution to the council since its inception.

With the UK programme of vaccinations being executed so well, we appear to be on our way out of the worst of the pandemic, but we must still remain cautious.

The Finham Parish Council continues to thrive, having a full complement of councillors, supporting local issues, financially or otherwise and with the council being a legally regulated body, it has more influence on decisions made that will or might impact on the lives of the residents of Finham but at the same time, any monies spent have to be fully justified. After all, the council is spending Finham resident's money.

A lot of what the council does is unseen, and we have been criticised over the time for not blowing our own trumpet more often.

The Parish Councillors liaise with Coventry City Council about highways and planning matters. Liaise with the team organising Coventry UK City of Culture 2021, with the schools, review the local crime statistics and monitor the ongoing situation with proposed Kings Hill development. All of which takes up a considerable amount of our time.

#### **17. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Coventry City Councillors; Councillor Mattie Heaven and Councillor John Blundell.

#### **18. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **19. Minutes of previous meetings:**

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021 were received and discussed.

**RESOLVED THAT** the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021 be approved.

#### **20. Matters Arising not listed on the agenda**

##### Bench outside Finham Library

Councillor McCarthy questioned the Parish Council's decision at April's meeting, to retain the bench outside the Library. Councillor McCarthy stated that the bench was used for anti-social behaviour including drug taking.

It was noted that the Parish Council had raised the issue with the Neighbourhood Watch Team and there hadn't been any CCTV footage to capture this.

It was agreed that this issue needed the appropriate police intervention.

#### **ACTION:**

- (i) Clerk to contact the local police team and Neighbourhood Watch to raise the concern again.
- (ii) Trustees of the Library to report any incidents of anti-social behaviour and drug taking immediately, so the police could take appropriate action.

**21. Updates from Coventry City Councillors**

Councillor Sawdon updated:

VAS signs – these should have been installed 23<sup>rd</sup> of April. This had not been carried out and the signs were still in their previous location on the Longfellow Road.

Crime – it was disappointing that the regular police liaison meetings had not been able to take place during the Pandemic, and the police were unable to participate in remote meetings including Zoom. It was hoped that face to face meetings would reconvene soon.

Zoom meetings – It was noted that the Government’s decision not to renew the legislation to allow Parish Councils to meet remotely was very disappointing. Remote meetings had led to more engagement with the community.

**22. Planning**

Nothing to discuss.

**23. Correspondence**

Nothing to discuss.

**24. Finance****24.1 to approve payments: -  
2021-22**

Date	Ref	Payee	Details	Amount
09.04.21	E4	J Chatterton	Stamps	£55.66
19.04.21	E5	J Chatterton	Clerk - April Salary	DPA
19.04.21	E6	HMRC	Clerk - April Tax	£29.22
19.04.21	E7	J Chatterton	Office Allowance & Exp	£42.13
24.04.21	E8	J Chatterton	J Chatterton SLCC Membership part payment	£100.00
24.04.21	E9	NEST	Pension Payment April	DPA

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

**25. Audit Process****25.1 Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020-21 Part 3**

It was reported that the 2020-21 accounts had now been internally audited by Louise Best a competent and independent auditor. Her report had been noted.

The Parish Council were required to complete the AGAR Part 3. Part 3 was to be completed by all smaller authorities where either the higher of gross income or gross expenditure exceeded £25,000 but did not exceed £6.5 million; and any other smaller authorities that either were unable to certify themselves as exempt; or had requested a limited assurance review.

The AGAR was made up of three parts, pages 3 to 6:

- The annual internal audit report was completed by the authority’s internal auditor.
- Sections 1 and 2 were to be completed and approved by the authority.
- Section 3 was completed by the external auditor and would be returned to the authority.

Documentation that must be sent to the external auditor:

- the Annual Governance and Accountability Return Sections 1, 2 and 3
- a bank reconciliation as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021
- an explanation of any significant year on year variances in the accounting statements
- notification of the commencement date of the period for the exercise of public rights
- Annual Internal Audit Report 2020-21

**25.2 Section 1 Annual Governance Statement**

The Parish Council completed Section 1 of the AGAR, and Section 1 was signed by the Chairman and Clerk as required.

**RESOLVED THAT** Section 1 Annual Governance Statement be completed and approved.

**25.3 Section 2 Accounting Statements**

The Parish Council completed Section 2 of the AGAR, and Section 2 was signed by the Chairman and Responsible Financial Officer as required.

**RESOLVED THAT** Section 2 Accounting Statements be completed and approved.

**25.4 Notice of Public Rights**

The Notice of Public Rights and Publication of Unaudited Annual Governance and Accountability Return of the Accounts for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 was a requirement under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 Section 26 and 27, The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (S1 2015/234).

**RESOLVED THAT** the Clerk & RFO prepare the notice to be displayed on the PC website and Noticeboard.

**26. Cycleway**

Nothing to report.

**27. Pollution Tubes**

Nothing to report.

**28. Task groups & Working Parties**

To receive reports from Task Group and Working Party leads

- **Highways – Councillor Morshead**

Speeding on Ancor Way Road/Erithway Road – parishioners had requested the installation of speed humps to reduce speeding. It was noted that a decision to carry out work was data driven and at the current time unlikely.

**ACTION:** Councillor Morshead to request a Speedwatch session.

St Martins Road – turning head – a scheme of works had been proposed by Tim Wetherhill which was acceptable to the CCC. Now all that needed to happen was for the work to be authorised, scheduled into the work programme and finally installed.

High kerbs, Finham Green – work to be scheduled.

Bollard tops – CCC had confirmed that there were 39 bollard tops either missing or damaged. Costings for replacement or alternatives was being sort.

Potholes – all had been reported, it was hoped resurfacing work would be scheduled soon.

- **Kings Hill – Councillor Davies**

There had been little change in the situation for Kings Hill since we last met on 15<sup>th</sup> April.

The S106 is still to be agreed and the Warwick District Council website remains not updated with “Agreed Expiry Date Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021” and “Determination Date Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021 still showing as targets.

This lack of updating has happened before, and it will be something the Kings Hill Task Group will address at our Zoom meeting with WDC set for 2.00pm next Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May.

We will also seek clarity of just what the expressions - Agreed Expiry Date and Determination Date mean exactly.

Should anything happen with Application W/18/0643, I am registered with the WDC email service for notification of any significant changes at the time they happen.

- **Schools – Mr Chris Bishop, Finham Park, Head Teacher**

Thank you for inviting me to attend your meeting and for the opportunity to give you a brief update on the school’s progress and position currently.

The school has gone through significant change over my first 4 years in post as Headteacher, especially in the past 18 months due to COVID restrictions. The school is working settling students back into face-to-face learning. They have risen to the challenges lockdown presented us all with. Indeed, many of the skills they have learned in lockdown, particularly relating to the use of technology to support and accelerate learning, we are looking to embed in our classroom practice. We are consulting with all partners, parents, students and staff as to how we could roll out an extension to our BYOD policy to the lower school, provide a long-term purchase scheme for tablets and of course providing free devices for students who cannot afford to buy them. During lockdown all students had laptops to support their remote learning. The school purchased significant numbers of devices as well as being given some as well by the DfE.

The school’s standards remain high, and we look forward to being inspected by Ofsted in the future. We continue to take part in external ‘healthcheck’ activities from HM inspectors and Ofsted inspectors to ensure we stay sharp and remain focussed on ‘keeping the main thing the main thing’. We are the lead school in the Finham Park Multi Academy Trust which now comprises 7 local schools (Finham Park School, Finham Park 2, Lyng Hall School, Whitley Academy, Finham Primary, Pearl Hyde Primary and Lillington Primary). This gives us great opportunity to share expertise and learn from other schools who operate in different contexts.

We are going to start a 5-year period of growth starting in Sept 2021 as our Planned Admission Number (PAN) increases to 270 students per year group from 240. Our school will ultimately cater for 1700 students (currently 1550). The new block is an exciting innovative design that will house teaching rooms, exam venue, dining hall and kitchen, drama studio, dance studio, music teaching

rooms, music recording studios, office space and an outdoor covered eating / performance space on the roof of the ground floor. It will be a very flexibly used building and will be constructed at the edge of the site by the tennis courts and will not be seen from local resident’s home. This will minimise any disruption to our normal operation during next year.

• **Schools – Councillor Mrs Bush (Finham Primary)**

The children have continued to work hard and show their best in all areas of their learning which has been wonderful to see. Conversations with children have shown how grown up and mature they all are, discussing how much they are enjoying being back at school.

Coventry Schools Olympic Torch Relay - Flame of Friendship

The Olympic Torch arrived at Finham Primary School as part of the Flame of Friendship relay.

It began its journey at Southfields Primary School on 21<sup>st</sup> April and will visit many primary and secondary schools throughout Coventry until it reaches its final destination at Charter Primary School on 14<sup>th</sup> July.

This was a very exciting opportunity for Finham children to take part in a city-wide event and share the value of friendship.

The school welcomed the torch’s arrival yesterday and today they celebrated as a school before running with it to Howes Primary.

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

Events were running to plan. Nothing further to report.

• **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 in 2021 as opposed to 7 in 2020 but the level of crime remains low.

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	BP Shoplifting	Crime Index
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 new to report.

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

- Finham Festival – discussion at July's meeting.

**30. Public participation**

The Chairman Suspended the Standing Orders to allow public participation.

Schools – Councillor Sawdon acknowledged how grateful he was for the top-rated schools in the area and congratulated the staff and children on how well they had coped during the Pandemic.

Judicial Review – Mr Bannister requested clarification in relation to the Judicial Review. Who were they? How do meetings take place? The Chairman reported that he along with fellow councillors attended KOGG meetings (Keep Our Greenbelt Green). The Chairman of KOGG was the first point of contact with all legal representatives.

The Barrister engaged in the Judicial Review was engaged via KOGG.

**31. Date for the next meeting**

Confirm the date for the next meeting as **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 7:00pm** venue to be confirmed.

Meeting closed at 8:45pm

SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN  
COUNCILLOR PAUL DAVIES

14<sup>th</sup> July 2021