

Finham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7:00pm,
14th July 2021 at The Four Seasons Function Room,
Kings Hill Nurseries, Kings Hill Lane, Coventry CV3 6PS

Present:

Councillor Mansoor Ahmad
Councillor Ann Bush
Councillor Paul Davies (Chairman)

Councillor Angela Fryer
Councillor Esther Kanyiri
Councillor Stan McCarthy
Councillor James Morshead

Coventry City Councillors: Councillor Tim Sawdon

Residents: 0

In Attendance: Jane Chatterton, Clerk & RFO

32. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillors; Councillor Anthony Dalton and Councillor Kate Taylor. Coventry City Councillors; Councillor Mattie Heaven and Councillor John Blundell.

33. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

34. Chairman's Update

First of all, I would like to say how nice it is to see everyone in the flesh again and hope that everyone came through the Pandemic experience relatively unscathed and continue to do so.

Due to legislation from the UK Government, Finham Parish Council has had to start holding its meetings on a face-to-face basis in as normal circumstances as possible under the current rules which I should add, will change again this coming Monday 19th July 2021.

This legislation affects all councils up and down the country, Parish, District and County Councils in order for them to continue to function.

In our case, our normal face-to-face venue is in the library of the Finham Park School but was not considered a safe place for our immediate future.

Consequently, the Kings Hill Nursery is our short-term meeting venue until the end of the year. Tonight, is a one off with regard to the day in the week. Subsequent meetings will be held on our traditional day of the third Thursday in the month starting at the normal time of 7.00 pm. Also, as per normal practice, there is no meeting in the months of August and December and therefore our next meeting is 16th September 2021.

Having taken advice from WALC, the meetings must be limited to no more than 6 parishioners. Everyone must wear face masks and sit 2 metres apart. No paperwork is to be passed around unless strict precautions are taken. Other than these restrictions, it is hoped we can carry out our normal responsibilities.

Many of you will probably have noticed the speed signs that have been erected on Green Lane between the Finham Primary School and the Alvis Sports ground. This has been done after many months of discussion between the FPC and Coventry City Councillor John Blundell who took up the discussions with Coventry Council.

This stretch of Green Lane is bad for speeding drivers and from what I have observed, it still remains so, despite the signs, albeit the number of instances might have reduced.

The FPC will continue to do everything possible to make our streets safer, especially one that is used by such a lot of pupils from both schools.

35. Minutes of previous meetings

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5th May 2021 were received and discussed.

RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th May 2021 be approved.

36. Matters Arising not listed on the agenda

There were no matters arising.

The Chairman Suspended Standing Orders

37. Updates from Coventry City Councillors

Speeding signs

Councillor Sawdon updated that the speeding signs on Green Lane had been installed and appeared to be having an impact on reducing the speed of the traffic.

Giga factory

A Press statement had been released in relation to the proposed Giga factory. It was also noted that if this goes ahead this will impact by increasing the traffic in Finham and the A45.

The Chairman reinstated the Standing Orders

38. Planning

To Consider Planning Applications received since the last meeting

Weekly list for the period 27 June to 3 July 2021

38.1 Application Number: PA/2021/2101

Application Site: 133 Anchorway Road

Proposal: Application under Prior Approval for rear extension. The extension will be 3.52 metres away from the original rear wall of the building with a height of 3.52 metres at the highest point and 2.56 metres to the eaves

RESOLVED THAT: No comment.

39. Correspondence

Nothing to report.

40. Finance

40.1 to approve payments: -
2021-22

Date	Ref	Payee	Details	Amount
09.05.21	E10	J Chatterton	May Salary	DPA
09.05.21	E11	HMRC	May Tax	DPA
09.05.21	E12	J Chatterton	Office Allowance & Exp	£22.33
09.05.21	E13	Louise Best	Internal Audit	£120.00
14.05.21	E14	SPS Payroll	Payroll April invoice	£18.00
18.05.21	E15	J Chatterton	Zoom part payment	£40.00
24.05.21	E16	NEST	Pension May Payment	DPA
08.06.21	E17	SPS Payroll	Payroll May Invoice	£18.00
08.06.21	E18	J Chatterton	Salary June	DPA
08.06.21	E19	HMRC	June Tax	DPA
08.06.21	E20	WALC	Invoice 24191 training	£30.00
08.06.21	E21	J Chatterton	Office Allowance & Exp June	£30.43
09.06.21	E22	WALC	Invoice 21500 training	£60.00
16.06.21	E23	NEST	Pension June Payment	DPA
05.07.21	E24	SPS	Payroll June Invoice	£18.00
06.07.21	E25	J Chatterton	Paperstone reimbursement	£55.57
06.07.21	E26	P Davies	Expenses	£8.99
06.07.21	E27	J Chatterton	Office Allowance & Exp July	£38.53

RESOLVED THAT the payments be approved.

40.2 Bank Reconciliation 30th June 2021

The Bank Reconciliation 30th June 2021 was received and discussed.

Balance per bank statements as at 30 th June 2021:	£	£
	£65,969.39	
		£65,969.39
Petty cash float (if applicable)	£0.00	£0.00
Less: any un-presented cheques at 30 th June 2021		
	£0.00	
	£0.00	
		£0.00
Add: any un-banked cash at 30 th June 2021	£0.00	
Net balances as at 30 th June 2021		£65,969.39

The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book (receipts and payments account) for the year, as follows:

CASH BOOK

Opening Balance 1 st April 2021 (Prior year Box 8)	£46,077.01
Add Receipts up to 30 th June 2021	£24,376.00
Less: Payments up to 30 th June 2021	(£4,483.62)
Closing balance per cash book as at 30 th June 2021	£65,969.39

RESOLVED THAT the Bank Reconciliation 30th June 2021 be approved.

40.3 Quarterly Report 30th June 2021

The Quarterly Report 30th June 2021 was received and discussed.

RESOLVED THAT the Quarterly Report 30th June 2021 be approved.

41. Request to release Kings Hill Funds

The Chairman had requested that the item be placed on the agenda. With the change of pace in responding to the proposed development on Kings Hill and the next meeting not taking place until September, it was proposed to approve an amount of expenditure that could be used if required.

It was noted that the development in Eastern Green was going for a Judicial Review tomorrow. The development proposed for Kings Hill was not going to Judicial Review at this moment in time. The two were separate as Eastern Green was under Coventry City Council and Kings Hill would be under Warwick District Council. It was noted that the costs of a Judicial Review were circa £50,000.

It was also suggested that the money set aside in the "Kings Hill Fund" (included in the FPC accounts) should be spent paying for legal advice whilst dealing with any planning applications on the Kings Hill site when required.

A website had been set up called "Save our Greenbelt", this is for the purposes of crowdfunding to raise the required funds for the judicial review.

Councillors Mrs Bush and Mrs Fryer attend the KOGG meetings. Many points were clarified at the meetings at the request of FPC Councillors, the question was raised as to who would be liable should they lose the judicial review. This was confirmed that as it was CPRE who were making the legal challenge then they would carry the liability. The Barrister for the case had stated that the Judicial Review for Kings Hill would have a very good case.

Marketing to gather funds from far and wide to call on people from further afield other than Coventry, who have an interest in safeguarding all greenbelt in and around Coventry, had started.

It was stressed that the current Judicial Review for Eastern Green would set a legal precedent.

It was proposed to set aside £2,000.

Proposed *Councillor McCarthy* *Seconded* *Councillor Morshead* *Unanimous*

RESOLVED THAT:

- (i) Solicitors letter to be sent and the cost to be met by the Parish Council (£300.00).
- (ii) Approved to release £2,000 under delegated authority by the Chairman in conjunction with the RFO. Funds up to the agreed maximum of £2,000.
- (iii) Any further funds would need to be discussed at a full Parish Council meeting.

42. Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2020-21

The Audit documentation had been sent off to the External Auditor before the deadline. This has been acknowledged and we await further correspondence from them.

The end of the Notice of Public Rights is the end of this week, no one has requested to review the accounts.

RESOLVED THAT the update be noted.

43. Finham Festival

Discussion took place on the merits of holding the Finham Festival this summer. It was noted that at the current time not enough was known on how the virus would impact on a community event.

RESOLVED THAT: it was agreed to postpone the Finham Festival for another year due to the Covid 19 restrictions.

44. Meeting with CCC

The Clerk updated that she had attended a meeting on 5th July with officers from Coventry City Council, Rosie Weaver and John Crossling from WALC.

Rob Back should have been at the meeting, but gave his apologies.

The meetings are held quarterly and are a very useful way of communicating issues and progressing outstanding matters.

Agenda items at the 5th July meeting included:

1. Any outstanding issues from the previous meeting
2. Communications and working arrangements
 - a) Development of a Charter update
 - b) Planning Communications update
 - c) Development of a Coventry Area Committee for WALC
3. Updates from Parish Councils, including
 - a) Vacancies and appointments
4. Updates from the City Council, including
 - a) Training & Development for Elected Members
5. Post-Election update
6. Any Other Business

The next meeting would take place on Tuesday 5th October 2021 1:00-2:00pm via Teams.

RESOLVED THAT the update be received.

45. Meeting with Rob Back, CCC

It was suggested that a meeting be set up with Rob Back and Colin Knight, CCC Officers for a follow up and update. The meeting would be held via zoom.

RESOLVED THAT the Clerk contact Rob Back and Colin Knight.

46. Cycleway

Nothing new to report.

47. Pollution Tubes

ACTION: Councillor Sawdon to liaise with Councillor Blundell. Update to be chased and shared with the Parish Council

48. Task groups & Working Parties

To receive reports from Task Group and Working Party leads

- **Highways – Councillor Morshead**

Howes Lane - signage has been replaced

Cannon Hill - signage has been replaced

Potholes – some potholes have been repaired but some remain outstanding. Daleway currently has 9 potholes.

Mile Lane is being closed tomorrow which isn't too bad. Droylsdon Park Road has worsening potholes especially at the end of the road. New kerbing is required. Drain on the corner continually blocks and floods the road.

- **Kings Hill – Councillor Davies**

The most important piece of information to report is the Section 106 Agreement. This is the agreement that has to be made between the developers and Warwick District Council before full planning permission can be given to allow the bulldozers to move in. To date, it is yet to be agreed after nearly two years of deliberations.

As reported in my last Kings Hill update, the Finham Parish Council held its Zoom meeting with Chris Elliott, Philip Clarke and Gary Fisher of WDC to discuss the general situation with Kings Hill.

It was difficult for them to bring any reasoning to the meeting as they are guided and commanded by their political bosses, essentially the WDC Planning Committee who make the decisions in chamber at their regular monthly meetings. Having said that, recently it held no less than three meetings in one week presumably to make up some backlog they were unable to manage by Team's meetings (the system it uses instead of Zoom).

We were advised by them that we are wasting our time protesting about Kings Hill but then some wise old heads, ex-planners themselves have advised me – they would say that wouldn't they.

On the 24th July 2021, I attended a WDC Planning Committee meeting which was held to discuss modifications to the S106 Agreement. I made my speech, for which I was allowed just 3 minutes and protested that WDC should not be discussing the S106 Agreement in the light of the many protests that have been made over recent times by residents, expert organisations and local politicians.

The fact is no one believes the Office for National Statistics fantastic projections of a 32% population increase for Coventry by 2031 except of course Coventry City Council and WDC.

The fact that all four MPs for Coventry and Jeremy Wright, MP for Kenilworth and Southam which includes Kings Hill have all protested about this development.

The fact that Andy Street the Mayor for the West Midlands has protested and also the Campaign to Protect Rural England have protested as well.

The message has not been received by the WDC Councillors as they passed the motion without any discussion at all, suggesting it had all been agreed beforehand.

Curiously, it was after the vote had been taken and not before that Rob Young (WDC Planning) partially read out a CPRE letter sent to him on Wednesday by Mark Sullivan which had been endorsed by both WDC Cllrs Pam Redford and Trevor Wright.

I did hear Rob Young make the comment at the end of the statement that such an initiative was "very unusual".

The main points of this letter are:-

- a) it was addressed to Jonathan Athow, Deputy National Statistician and Director General, Economic Statistics and Sir Ian Diamond National Statistician both at the ONS.
- b) the letter requested an early release of the Coventry population figures from the 2021 Census
- c) it highlighted again to the ONS that the Office for Statistics Regulation has labelled the projections potentially unreliable and that they were inconsistent with local evidence.
- d) the OSR has previously asked the ONS "to investigate the root and scale of the issue associated with cities with large student populations and communicate its findings publicly" and not to wait for the scheduled census release in February 2022 when it might be too late.

This letter was signed by Sir Andrew Watson Chairman of CPRE Warwickshire, Andy Street, Mayor of the West Midlands, the Rt Hon Jeremy Wright QC MP Kenilworth and Southam (Kings Hill lies within his constituency) and Zarah Sultana, MP Coventry South which includes Finham.

Let us hope that the CPRE together with these two WDC Cllrs. can have more of an impact with WDC.

There is the grave danger that bad decisions will be made on the basis of bad data – contrary to the stated central mission statement of the ONS, i.e., 'Better Data, Better Decisions'.

One cannot escape the irony of these words. Hopefully, the ONS will make amends and apply common sense before publishing its findings in future instead of blindly accepting anything that comes out from its algorithms.

It is worth noting at this point that WDC have yet to respond to an earlier CPRE letter so we should not hold our breath for a response this time.

On Friday 2nd July, Zarah Sultana met with CCC Cllr David Welsh to discuss the whole situation surrounding the erroneous population figures and the potentially devastating effect on a number

of areas in her constituency should CCC continue to pursue its objectives of meeting the ONS figures on the grounds of the ONS are the "experts" and what choice do we have but to follow these figures.

To date, there has been no feedback and after reading some of the remarks made by this councillor in the recent past, it is unlikely Zarah Sultana will have heard anything positive.

Perhaps, if CCC had questioned the figures in the first place we would not be in this position at all. Relying on a small number of Coventry residents to highlight to CCC the absurdity of the ONS figures really is not what we pay our rates for to CCC.

- **Schools – Councillor Mrs Bush**

The staff at Finham Primary School have worked tirelessly this academic year.

Children and families have adapted to the situation well, dealing with the changes and uncertainty surrounding COVID, Staff and children have worked really hard this year and school has not been able to formally celebrate these achievements.

The children will be ending their final year in primary school in a very different way to how they had imagined, but school will still celebrate their achievements with a sleepover, leavers tea party, assembly and the traditional water fight.

The children will be leaving school with a fantastic legacy of a new courtyard garden and many, many memories.

Children have managed to accomplish a number of things during the year, more children than ever before and have made huge progress with their swimming, the young ambassadors have designed and built a Japanese Peace Garden in the Memorial Park and Year 2 have brought their medieval day into school rather than going on a trip to Warwick Castle to name but a few.

Staff have worked together to ensure children at Finham have had the best possible experience they could during these unprecedented times.

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

Councillor Taylor was absent from the meeting. Updates are circulated to the Parish Council when received from the organisers.

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

No crime figures have been made available after March 2021 because the West Midlands Force are updating their IT systems, enabling crime to be logged onto one single system, rather than multiple systems as previously. Those figures will be made available in due course, and I will be able to give you a clearer picture.

There has been a significant rise in vehicle crime during April and May. This is where cars have been entered and items stolen. Please remember to lock vehicles when left and always check the fob has done it's job. Never leave anything of value inside your vehicle (especially the credit card in the glovebox for "emergencies") and be sure to remove any bags from the boot.

My thanks to Tony Swann for keeping me informed of the latest crime figures and as I said in my last report, we both look forward to restarting the regular meetings with Sgt Betts at Canley where we can discuss police matters that affect Finham.

As COVID restrictions are lifted please be mindful that infection rates continue to rise in Coventry. We may have differing views on how we proceed in the future with wearing masks etc, but I hope we will respect the decisions that individuals make and continue to be supportive of those who continue to need help.

- **NHP - Councillor Davies**

Nothing to report.

49. Councillor's reports and items for future Agenda:

Agenda items for September's meeting:

1. Traffic and parking outside Finham Primary
2. Invite Rob Back and Colin Knight to September's meeting

50. Public participation

The Chairman Suspended the Standing Orders

Councillor Tim Sawdon

Finham Festival - It was suggested that Finham Festival could take place at the end of the celebrations for City of Culture next year – funds are available.

Kings Hill – it was noted that the 3 CCC Councillors were in regular contact with WDC Councillors; Councillor Pam Redford and Councillor Trevor Wright.

s106 Agreement – it was noted that CCC had constantly reported that CCC has no influence with s106 Agreements for the Kings Hill site. It was reported that if the development were to proceed then Stoneleigh Parish Council would gain several million pounds in s106 monies.

The Chairman reinstated the Standing Orders.

51. Date for the next meeting

The date for the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 16th September at 7:00pm and will be held at the Kings Hill Nursery.

Meeting closed at 8:45pm