

## Finham Parish Council

Minutes of the **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** held at 6:40pm  
19<sup>th</sup> May 2022 The Four Seasons Function Room,  
Kings Hill Nurseries, Kings Hill Lane, Coventry CV3 6PS

**Present:**

Councillor Ann Bush	Councillor Stan McCarthy
Councillor Richard Baker	Councillor James Morshead
Councillor Paul Davies (Chairman)	Councillor Kate Taylor
Councillor Angela Fryer	

Coventry City Councillors: Councillors Tim Sawdon

**Residents:** 7

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

**1. Chairman's Welcome – Cllr Paul Davies**

Welcome to the Finham Parish Council Annual Parish Council Meeting which is the first 'live' meeting to be held for three years. Consequently, the minutes that are being reviewed tonight are those from our meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

This situation has all been caused of course by the Covid-19 Pandemic which will be with us in one form or another for some years to come and possibly be treated in the future in the same way flu has been treated for decades.

Our congratulations go to Councillor Mattie Heaven on her recent re-election to Coventry City Council and we look forward to her continued support.

Throughout this period the FPC has continued to meet regularly, with the help of Zoom. Whilst Zoom is not perfect it is certainly better than no meetings at all.

A lot of the work carried out by the council goes unseen and we have been criticised over the time for not making this work more public which has created a perception in Finham that we don't do a great deal and at the same time, we witness others taking all credit for initiatives for which the council should have received some recognition.

The council will continue to make efforts to publicise better its achievements and what it intends to achieve in the future.

The most recent achievement has been the resurfacing of Daleway Road which had produced potholes every year for some considerable time. After a very lengthy period of persistence by Cllr James Morshead, with assistance from Mattie Heaven and soon after this year's potholes had been filled in, the road was resurfaced.

Apparently, this is the first time Daleway Road has been resurfaced in well over 40 years.

As usual there will be a Kings Hill update during tonight's meetings.

Typical of all public bodies comprised of volunteers, the change in personnel is regular and at the moment the council has just two vacancies which I anticipate will not take too long to fill.

So, if you are interested in championing an initiative which is beneficial to the local community, think about applying to join the council. We all come from different walks of life and have different interests, but one thing is for sure, you have a better chance of succeeding with any initiative if you are a part of the council, especially with official bodies such as Coventry City Council.

The Parish Council continues to liaise with Coventry City Council about highways and planning matters. It has liaised with Coventry UK City of Culture 2021 throughout. Liaising with the two schools. Regularly reviewing the local crime statistics and monitoring the ongoing situation with the proposed Kings Hill development. Supporting local events such as the Queens Jubilee Celebration Summer Fayre to be held at the Finham Primary School on Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> June.

All of these activities take up a considerable amount of councillors' time, which they do for the benefit of the Finham community and for which they are paid nothing.

## **2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting May 2019**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of May 2019 were received and discussed.

**RESOLVED THAT** the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of May 2019 were approved.

## **3. Reports from Coventry City Councillors**

Councillor Sawdon updated the meeting to include:

Thank you to the Parish Council for the work carried out since the last Annual Parish Meeting.

Key issue for Finham included the Kings Hill development and in the last year the Ward Councillors had been working with Andy Street, West Midlands Mayor to challenge the ONS figures, unfortunately without success. It was felt that this was particularly difficult to comprehend.

Given the change in Minister, the Ward Councillors had written to Michael Gove to see if they could do better this time. However, the response had not been positive. It was noted that it would be interesting to see how things changed with the Government's Legislation that was outlined in the Queen's Speech in relation to Levelling Up.

The 3 Ward Councillors had also meet with Andrew Day the Leader of WDC and Izzy Seccombe, the Leader of WCC.

These meetings would be continuing in due course. A further update on progress would be provided.

Daleway Road – this had been an interesting project. The potholes had got so large that CCC had agreed to resurface the whole road and not to carry out spot repairs.

Library – the monthly meetings in the Library were going well. These were working better than the Saturday Surgeries. Councillors were also meeting in the Revive Café in the Church, again an opportunity to meet people in Finham.

VAS Sign on Green Lane – the sign remains in situ and seems to have an impact on the traffic and encouraging people to slow down.

Pollution Tubes – these have not worked very well. Could they be in the wrong place, but so far have not delivered the results as expected.

A46 Link Road – it was clear what was happening with the link road. Stoneleigh Road will not cope if the Link Road was not built.

No through road sign – the no through road sign had been installed on St Martins Road.

Looking to the future – the Parish Council had a lot of powers and duties to enable them to carry out projects and get things done.

#### **4. PTA Update including Jubilee Celebrations**

Members of the Finham Primary PTA attended the meeting to provide an update on their fund raising activities and the event planned for the Jubilee weekend.

Updates included:

Jubilee Event would be on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June – 11am and 3pm

Lots of craft stalls - small local businesses

BBQ

Charity Stands – Clothing Coventry attending

MS Society

Look Good, Feel Better

Coventry Ferret Society

Rock Choir

Local fire brigade

Children's games

And lots more

Event is open to all of the Community; PTA want everyone to spread the word.

It is hoped that the event will raise a lot of money for the School.

Year 5 and Year 6 children will have a stall. Beat the goalie, stocks, coconut shy, there are some free activities.

Councillors Mrs Fryer and Mrs Bush had been very helpful in their support as School Governors.

Jubilee gift for the children – younger years would receive a flag, year 2 and above would receive a pin badge.

Finham Parish Council is sponsoring the event up to £2,000.00.

## 6. Neighbourhood Watch

Mr Tony Swann provided an update on the Neighbourhood Watch.

West Midlands Police still had a problem with their crime figures. Those available were only up to February. Very behind. Difficult to give a comparison of figures to previous months or years as they are not available. They should be uploaded to the Home Office Portal shortly.

Vehicle Crime is on the increase.

There are currently 280 members in the CCTV group. This is going really well and are achieving success.

Recently a bike thief had been charged due to Finham's CCTV footage.

Crime index figure – are on the Neighbourhood Watch website for viewing.

## 7. FLAG

Councillor Stan McCarthy read out a report prepared by the Trustees (D Bird, Chair, S Vickery, S McCarthy and A Gibbons)

The library has been fully functioning post lockdown since August 2021.

As well as book lending, the library hosts a variety of activities for pre-schoolers, school age children during holidays and for adults, all of which prove to be popular. We regularly replenish book stock via receipt of donations of recent titles, so the visitors have a good experience and better choices than many of those who visit council run libraries.

The new café facilities provide a space for people to come and enjoy a cuppa and a cake and have proved to be very popular. The provision of a public toilet with a baby-changing area allows us to rent out the space at a very reasonable cost to various groups including a soft play venture for young children and many others ranging from sewing/craft/ art groups to ward councillors and police holding regular surgeries for the public to attend. The café area has been arranged so that the moveable shelves can be easily repositioned giving a very flexible space for groups to use.

We will be celebrating HM Queen Elizabeth II's 70<sup>th</sup> Jubilee by decorating the library appropriately and displaying pieces of bunting made by members of the community. We have had a large number of submissions already and many more are promised as contributions to this community art project. As always, we aim to celebrate important festivals, for example Christmas, Easter and Diwali with relevant events.

It was with much regret that we could not organise a Finham Festival to coincide with the Jubilee celebrations but although we put out a plea to all of our volunteers there are simply no key holders available to open and staff the library during the long bank holiday weekend. It was a lovely idea to try and put the Jubilee concert via a big screen on the Green but as pointed out, our wi-fi signal is unreliable and often weak and could not support this activity.

The many volunteers work very hard to make the library a success and this has been reflected in the extremely supportive comments that we have received from Coventry City Council staff who are very

keen to extend our lease and moves are currently underway to achieve this goal in the very near future.

## 8. Open Forum discussion

Brentwood Avenue – a resident updated on issues with traffic on Brentwood Avenue and Hadleigh Road. Question was asked about what traffic calming measures could be installed in.

The same issues were raised for Erithway Road and Daleway Road.

### **ACTION:**

- (i) Councillor Morshead and Clerk work on creating a petition.
- (ii) Petition calling for measures to combat irresponsible driving. Calling for measures to improve road safety in the area.
- (iii) Councillor Sawdon would present the Petition
- (iv) Ask the Cabinet Member to consider implicating road safety updates.

Parking outside the Primary School – cars continue to block the path. People are parking on the raised parts of the crossing. Wheelchair users cannot use the path.

**ACTION:** continue to monitor.

Meeting closed at 7:30pm