

Finham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7:40pm,
19th 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: Councillor Tim Sawdon, Councillor John Blundell

Residents: 4

In Attendance: Jane Chatterton, Clerk & RFO

150. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Dalton.

151. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

152. Chairman's Update

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, 5th 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.

153. Minutes of previous meetings:

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th April 2022 were received and discussed.

RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 17th April 2022 be approved.

154. Matters Arising not listed on the agenda

No matters arising.

155. To receive updates from Coventry City Councillors

Councillor Sawdon updated:

Brentwood Avenue – Petition should be generated. Joint venture with the Parish Council.

ACTION: Clerk and Councillor Morshead to generate the petition and Councillor Sawdon would submit the petition.

At their May Parish Council Meeting, all members were in full agreement to the request that the safety concerns of the residents are addressed, and measures be put in place.

Finham Parish Council are also willing to exercise their Statutory Power under the Local Government and Rating Act 1997, s.26 in relation to Traffic Calming – the power to contribute financially to traffic calming schemes.

Kings Hill – liaise with Stoneleigh Parish Council to work together for future development.

ACTION: Chairman to contact Stoneleigh Chairman.

§106 had been agreed

ACTION: Councillor Sawdon to send the list to the Clerk.

Councillor Blundell updated:

Local elections in Coventry – took place at the beginning of May. Councillor Mattie Heaven was successfully re-elected.

The Parish Council Congratulated Councillor Heaven.

City of Culture – the City of Culture had now ended; the closing events had taken place last weekend. There was the intention to keep the legacy going.

Big Weekend – this would take place at the end of May.

Godiva Festival – this would take place in September.

Police meeting – a meeting with the police would take place on 25th May. Councillor Mrs Fryer would be attending to represent the Parish Council.

Pollution tubes – no progress. Only have the results up to the end of February. Results are not back from the lab. Relocation to the traffic lights cannot take place, CCC feel this is meaningless to move them to the traffic lights.

Question was asked why they cannot be put on a traffic light. It was noted that they were placed on traffic lights on the Leamington Road.

ACTION: Councillor Blundell will ask the question.

156. Planning

Nothing to note.

157. Correspondence

Nothing further to note.

158. Finance

158.1 to approve payments:

2022-23

Date	Ref	Payee	Details	Amount
13.04.22	E1	WALC	Training KT	£36.00
13.04.22	E2	J Chatterton	April Salary	DPA
13.04.22	E3	HMRC	Tax & NI Clerk	£29.80
13.04.22	E4	SPS	Payroll March 22	£18.00
13.04.22	E5	WALC	Subs 2022-23	£978.80
13.04.22	E6	J Chatterton	Expenses April	£52.93
13.04.22	E7	J Chatterton	Stamps	£22.80
13.04.22	E8	J Chatterton	Net Nerd Website	£59.99
27.04.22	E9	Baginton Store	Newspapers Library (March)	£60.10
27.04.22	E10	Louise Best	Internal Auditor	£120.00
27.04.22	E11	NEST	April pension	DPA

RESOLVED THAT the payments be approved.

159. Audit Process

159.1 Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2021-22 Part 3

It was reported that the 2021-22 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 31st March 2022
- 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 2021-22

159.2 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.

159.3 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.

159.4 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 31st March 2022 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.

160. Platinum Jubilee

Event would take place on Sunday 5th June. 11am to 3pm.

The event was open to the whole of the community with many stalls and activities to enjoy.

The Parish Council had sponsored the event to the sum of £2,000.

RESOLVED THAT:

- (i) The Parish Council had sponsored the event for £2,000.00
- (ii) The Parish Council had approved a donation of £500.00 towards the children's Platinum Jubilee gift.

161. Litter bin

Councillor Morshead updated that he had emailed CCC officers for an update.

The small bin on the railings at the Crossway Road / Green Lane junction, which is often overflowing, and for which we need to find a solution.

Residents are concerned, and one lady in particular who regularly litter-picks Green Lane could feel her admirable efforts are largely wasted if litter is allowed to fall from the bins.

Request had been made for a larger bin or to move the one by the bus stop to the opposite side on Green Lane.

ACTION: Await a response and if not, raise a petition.

The Parish Council could rely on the Statutory Power covering Litter. The Power to provide litter bins in streets and public places. Litter Act 1983, subsections 5 and 6 and provide the bin, but FPC would need CCC to add the bin to their emptying schedule.

162. Cycleway

Councillor Morshead had written to Colin Knight, Head of Highways, CCC. Informing him that he had been looking through the cycling maps and current consultations for cycle routes in the city, with a view to understanding how Finham, Wainbody and Kings Hill would link up to these routes.

With 4,000 new homes at Kings Hill and elsewhere, and thousands of new jobs at the Gigafactory, it was expected that CCC could agree it was important that there was a coherent plan to ensure safe active travel is included at construction.

Councillor Morshead had requested a meeting with Colin.

ACTION:

- (i) update at June's meeting.
- (ii) Clerk and Chairman have a meeting with CCC on 30th June, if not progress by June's PC meeting, raise at 30th June meeting.

163. Pollution Tubes

Update received earlier in the meeting from Councillor Blundell.

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

It was reported that on St Martins Road, traffic sensors (rubber strips) had been installed, and residents were concerned this may be the start of a project to widen the road.

Councillor Morshead had contacted Highways and asked for the reasons for this, to be able to reassure residents there are no plans to widen or upgrade St Martin's Road.

A response was awaited.

It had been previously reported about the potentially dangerous faded road markings at the end of the St Martins Road service road, where it joins Erithway Road. Councillor Morshead had suggested reinstating the “Keep Clear” road markings on St Martins Road adjacent to this.

Feedback was awaited.

Erithway / St Martins Road lights sequence was not working for residents for some time. Traffic builds up on Erithway Road and residents have excessive and wildly unpredictable delays leaving Finham at rush hour.

On the BP island, the part time lights had been reported as shutting down while side roads were on green. This could be very dangerous – if the right of way changes in a sudden and uncontrolled way, accidents are likely, and blame would be unclear.

Question had been raised if there was “failsafe shutdown sequence” for part time traffic lights, ensuring they shut off while on the default right of way.

Thanks was given to CCC for the resurfacing works on Daleway Road as this had made a tremendous difference to residents. Also grateful for the replaced Howes Land sign.

- **Kings Hill – Councillor Davies**

As I have explained in the past, we are into a phase of damage limitation where it seems inevitable that the Kings Hill development will proceed despite the projection of a 32% population increase for Coventry by the year 2031 being nowhere near the mark at the moment.

At our meetings with the Office for National Statistics, it flatly refused to reconsider the 32% population projections on the basis that its statistics were consistent with the algorithms they employed to produce the figures.

Yet another example where trust in experts is severely tested.

We are still awaiting the outcome of the Census 2021 which will undoubtedly confirm the extreme doubts held by the Finham Parish Council, the Finham Residents Association and many many other reputable organisations about the validity of such projections from the ONS.

Let us hope the Census statistics are published soon. After all, they were promised by May 2022. One small beam of light in this murky business is the FPC has secured a meeting with Warwick District Council which will give the FPC the opportunity to present the concerns of Finham which is the area most affected by this development.

Hopefully, it will be an opportunity to ask the pertinent questions and maybe receive some acceptable answers which will allow us to answer the many concerns expressed by residents of Finham.

Most of you will have noticed Mr M Gove, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Minister for Intergovernmental Relations on the news last week and amongst the announcements was the statement “we are going to do everything we can in order to ensure that more of the right homes are built in the right way in the right places” which appears to fly in the face of the Conservative Party manifesto of building 300,000 houses a year.

The levelling-up and regeneration bill, published last Wednesday, contained proposals to give local communities more say in planning decisions which alters the process from Mr R Jenrick’s plan (commonly known as the “developers charter”) of consultation with interested parties including local residents and then promptly ignoring all protestations and logic and making no reference to them going forward.

Mr.Gove’s proposals include allowing residents to vote on neighbours’ applications and simplifying the process by which local authorities devise their development plans.

As a result of this significant change in direction by the government, for reasons I am sure you can guess, the FPC is considering sending a second letter to Mr M Gove requesting that Kings Hill is “Called In” since the rules for assessment of a housing development are about to change and will allow a say for locals living near the development and this time, hopefully for their views to be received and considered in a positive manner.

It might also allow the government to study the figures from the Census 2021.

- **Schools – Councillor Mrs Bush**

Children have been sitting their SATS. Friday 27th May the School will be holding their Jubilee Celebration. Year group activities would take place. All children to wear red, white and blue on that day.

Staff and children have worked exceptional hard and coped with the changing circumstances with the impact with Covid. Staff have worked hard to help any children who may have fallen behind.

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

Last weekend was the big finale. Parades had taken place at the weekend and events in the Memorial Park.

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

It has been a difficult year to get current data on crime in the area as the new computer system which gives us crime statistics, took a long time to become operational. It is now working but the latest figures available are for March 2022.

The figures for **February** show
46 crimes were reported here in February 2022

Crime type	Instances
Violence and sexual offences	16
Vehicle crime	9
Burglary	5
All other crime	16

In **March** there are 7 crimes listed for the whole area but none for Finham. We will wait until all of the figures for March are put in and report back to you.

There is a **SAY HELLO TO NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH WEEK, 30th May – 5th June 2022**

This year everyone is invited to 'say hello' to Neighbourhood Watch Week as it kick-starts the Month of Community. It's a chance to come together with neighbours, with friends, with people you haven't met, and to 'say hello' by making new connections. Building these connections in our community is one of the foundations of Neighbourhood Watch.

There is a Conference on the Tuesday of that week, which can be attended online.

We are fortunate in Finham that we already have a flourishing Neighbourhood Watch thanks to the hard work of Tony Swann who co-ordinates the separate groups. He also has a CCTV database that has proved valuable to everyone in identifying crimes and reporting the information to the police.

A police liaison meeting has been arranged for 1.30pm May 25th at Fletchamsted Station giving local groups the opportunity to re-establish meetings with Sgt Betts to discuss areas of concern.

We continue to urge everyone in Finham to report all crimes to the police so that an accurate picture develops of what is happening in our area.

Dial 999 if a crime is in progress or 101 to report a crime that has taken place such as a car being broken into.

- **NHP - Councillor Davies**

Nothing to report.

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

Flooding in Droylesdon Park Road - still continuing.

ACTION: Councillor Morshead to investigate.

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

Update from Fin – walked around the Green Lane route to prepare for the filming.

Filming to take place w/c 6th June (Thursdays or Friday of that week) – it would be beneficial to have Councillor Davies present to act as a guide. Councillor Davies would also provide the voice over.

ACTION:

- (i) Fin will email Councillor Davies to confirm the date
- (ii) Councillor Mrs Bush will liaise with the Head of the Primary School, so they are aware of the filming and get permission.

Mr Bob Bannister

Meetings with WDC and CCC - An update was requested on when FPC would meet with WDC as advised at the previous meeting. The Chairman updated that the meeting had been agreed for 8th June at Riverside House. Nothing arranged with CCC.

Rumble strips/traffic sensors – CCC had replied to Councillor Blundell and had said that the strips were nothing to do with them. Highways had no record and were trying to find out who had put them there.

167. Date for the next meeting

It was confirmed that the date for the next meeting was **Thursday 16th June 2022 at 7:00pm** Kings Hill Nurseries.

Meeting closed at 9:00pm

SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN

16th June 2022