

Finham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7:10pm, 17th May 2023 Finham Primary School

Present:

Councillor Anthony Dalton (Vice Chairman)

Councillor Angela Fryer

Councillor Paul Davies (Chairman)

Councillor Kate Taylor

Coventry City Councillors: Councillor Sawdon, Councillor Blundell**Residents:** 5**In Attendance:** Jane Chatterton, Clerk & RFO**279. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs Bush, Baker and Morshead.

279.1 Councillor Vacancies

Following the Elections on 4th May 2023, there are 3 Councillor vacancies.

ACTION: Clerk to start the co-option process to fill the vacancies.

280. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

281. Chairman's Update

Welcome to the Finham Parish Council's May Meeting.

First of all, I would like to offer my congratulations to Cllr Tim Sawdon on his re-election to Coventry City Council in May's Local Elections.

Tonight, the Finham Parish Council is one councillor less due to Stan McCarthy not submitting his nomination forms by the due deadline. All other councillors have been duly elected as there were insufficient nominees to require an election which has saved the FPC and the residents of Finham a few thousand pounds in election fees.

A lot of the work carried out by this 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.

The FPC needs a publicity officer who will rectify this situation and advise residents on a regular basis.

At the same time the FPC is reviewing its website to hopefully make it more user friendly and therefore encourage more to view it.

The beginning of the discussion about our website and what we should do with it is on tonight's agenda and therefore I ask councillors and the public to think of ways we can improve it and in this way the council will be able to publicise its achievements better and what it intends to achieve in the future.

Initialled

As mentioned already, the council has three vacancies and has seen regular changes over the few years of its existence. It comprises of volunteers who manage to fit in these responsibilities with their own busy lives and therefore change is inevitable.

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 certain, you have a better chance of succeeding with any initiative if you are 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. Liaising with the two schools. Regularly reviewing the local crime statistics and monitoring the ongoing situation with the proposed Kings Hill development.

It continues to support local events where requested and if possible to do so.

A recent success was gaining the agreement of Coventry City Council to begin the introduction of road calming measures along Brentwood Avenue and Hadleigh Road.

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.

282. Minutes of previous meetings

The minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on 16th March 2023 were received and discussed.

RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 16th March 2023 were approved.

283. Matters Arising not listed on the agenda

There were no matters arising.

The Chairman suspended the Standing Orders.

284. CCC Update

Kings Hill - Councillor Sawdon updated that he had contacted one of the Developers of the Kings Hill development. He confirmed that they had previously stated that they were happy to meet with the Parish Council in late Spring/early Summer. However, the Archological survey hadn't been completed. The meeting would now be rescheduled for late Autumn/September.

Councillor Mrs Fryer asked which Developer from the consortium he had met with. Councillor Sawdon said he was not able to confirm.

Leamington Road, road markings – these should be completed next week.

Bollards on St Martins Road – request made to CCC to replace the broken bollards had not been actioned.

Ash Tree – an Ash tree situated on the green space on Howes Lane was going to be felled by CCC. Residents wanted the tree to remain. Councillor Sawdon was meeting with Tim Wetherall the CCC Tree Expert and the residents.

Initialed

Brentwood Avenue/Hadleigh Road – traffic calming - No update from the previous report at March’s meeting.

The Parishioner added that CCC had not paid attention to the suggestions made by the affected residents and CCC had their own suggestions. It was felt that the CCC proposals may not have the desired effect of solving the problem nor making the road safer. Those that lived close to the blind bend would still be unable to get off their drives safely.

The 20mph speed limit isn’t making the road any safer because drivers are not taking any notice.

ACTION: Councillor Sawdon to check where we are in the process.

The Chairman reinstated the Standing Orders.

285. Planning

Nothing to discuss.

286. Correspondence

Nothing further to discuss.

287. Finance

287.1 to approve payments

2022-23

DATE	REF	PAYEE	DETAIL	AMOUNT
14.03.23	E118	J Chatterton	Norton 360	£35.99
14.03.23	E119	J Chatterton	Stationery Paperstone	£60.96
27.03.23	E120	J Chatterton	Netnerd Reimbursement	£59.99
27.03.23	E121	NEST	Clerk's Pension	DPA

2023-24

DATE	REF	PAYEE	DETAIL	AMOUNT
13.04.23	E1	WALC	Membership	£1,019.80*
13.04.23	E2	J Chatterton	Clerk Salary April	DPA
13.04.23	E3	HMRC	Tax & NI Clerk	£27.70
14.04.23	E4	J Chatterton	SLCC Partial	£100.00
14.04.23	E5	J Chatterton	Expenses April	£42.93
14.04.23	E6	SPS	Payroll Inv 10607	£19.41*
21.04.23	E7	Louise Best	Internal Audit	£120.00

*INCLUDING VAT

Income

2023-24

DATE	REF	PAYEE	DETAIL	AMOUNT
25.04.23	R	CCC	Precept	£21,324.00
25.04.23	R	CCC	Grant	£3,114.00
21.04.23	R	HMRC	VAT 2021 22	£377.18

RESOLVED THAT the payments be approved and the income noted.

287.2 Bank Reconciliation 31st March 2023

The Bank Reconciliation 31st March 2023 was received and discussed.

Balance per bank statements as at 31 st March 2023:	£	£
	<u>£55,541.64</u>	
		£55,541.64
Petty cash float (if applicable)	£0.00	£0.00
Less: any un-presented cheques at 31 st March 2023		
	<u>£0.00</u>	
	<u>£0.00</u>	
		£0.00
Add: any un-banked cash at 31 st March 2023	£0.00	
Net balances as at 31 st March 2023		<u>£55,541.64</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 2022 (Prior year Box 8)	£53,093.58
Add Receipts up to 31 st March 2023	£26,147.00
Less: Payments up to 31 st March 2023	(£23,698.94)
Closing balance per cash book as at 31 st March 2023	<u>£55,541.64</u>

RESOLVED THAT the Bank Reconciliation 31st March 2023 be approved.

287.3 Quarterly Report 31st March 2023

The Quarterly Report 31st March 2023 was received and discussed.

RESOLVED THAT the Quarterly Report 31st March 2023 be approved.

288. Audit Process

288.1 Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2022-23 Part 3

It was reported that the 2022-23 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 2023
- 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 2022-23

288.2 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.

288.3 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.

288.4 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 2023 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.

289. Brentwood Avenue/Hadleigh Road traffic calming

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

290. Drone footage

The Kings Hill Task group had met with a Licenced Drone Pilot with a view to commissioning arial footage of Kings Hill in its Green Belt status before the building works began. The footage would capture the places of interest including the many ponds and wildlife areas, trees and hedgerows.

It was reported that the Drone Pilot was qualified and would obtain all the necessary permissions to fly and film. Multiple take off sites would be used.

A proposal and plan would be received shortly.

ACTION: Update at June's meeting.

291. Hoardings

A proposal had been put forward to look at the possibility of putting large hoardings on Green Lane, showing residents what the houses will look like when the development starts.

ACTION: Carry over to June's meeting.

292. Website

Following comments about the parish council website the Parish Council has looked at the current website and were looking at ways to make updates to be more informative and user-friendly.

It was confirmed that the current website was DDA compliant and displayed all the necessary legal documentation including agendas, minutes, policies and financial information.

ACTION: further update at June's meeting.

293. Defibrillators

Carry over.

294. Cycleway

Carry over.

295. Task groups & Working Parties

- **Highways – Councillor Morshead**

Nothing to report.

- **Kings Hill – Councillor Davies**

Before the Local Elections earlier this month the Finham Parish Council had a meeting arranged for the end of May with the Leader of Warwick District Council Andrew Day and its Chief Executive Chris Elliott to discuss the many concerns there are for Kings Hill.

Before the elections the Conservative Party was the largest party on the council albeit without an overall majority. Today the largest party is the Green Party, again without an overall majority. The Conservative Party is now the smallest political party.

The results were Green Party 14, Labour 11, Liberal Democrats 10, Conservative 6 and Whitnash Residents Association 3. Total number of seats – 44.

I detail these results because what happens next might well affect the future of Kings Hill, if or when it will be developed and who we need to liaise with now.

Andrew Day (Conservative) was the Leader of WDC but clearly no longer holds this position. The leader of the Green Party prior to the elections was Cllr Ian Davison and therefore it is likely that he will become the new leader of WDC. I understand that the Green Party is in discussions with the Labour Party to form a coalition which will give them an overall majority.

In earlier reports I have mentioned the South Warwickshire Local Plan which is a joint exercise between WDC and Stratford on Avon District Council. Before the elections the Conservative Party controlled Stratford DC, now it is the Liberal Democrats. In future it will be the Lib Dems of Stratford speaking with the coalition of WDC.

It is uncertain how these changes might affect Kings Hill if at all. We wait to see.

As soon as we know who is the new leader of WDC, FPC will make every effort to arrange a meeting with him or her but I know there are a number of groups in and around Warwick District who want to do the same and therefore it may take some time to achieve.

The Kings Hill Task Group have been in discussions with a qualified drone pilot with the intention of producing an aerial film of the Kings Hill area in its Green Belt state as a record of what we are losing. I hope to report progress in the next two months or so.

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

The latest available figures for Green Lane/Finham are for March 2023.

Burglary	1
Criminal Damage	1
Other theft	1
Shoplifting	5
Vehicle Crime	3
Violent Crime	4
TOTAL	15

April 2022 to March 2023 figures are:

ASB	6
Burglary	19
Criminal Damage	7
Drugs	3
Other Crime	7
Other theft	13
Weapons	2
Public Order	24
Robbery	3
Shoplifting	13
Vehicle Crime	40
Violence	81
TOTAL	218

This compares to 194 during April 2021 to March 2022 – an increase of 12.4%.

I attended a Police Liaison Meeting on Tuesday 28th March organised by Sgt Darren Betts. The issues remain about lack of available Officers for our area. If there is a problem in the City Centre or another area of the City then all available Officers are called.

The next meeting is on 30th May and if there are any issues that you wish to be raised, please email the Parish Clerk.

3rd to 9th June is National Neighbourhood Watch Week – we are fortunate in Finham/Green Lane to have a strong Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinated by Tony Swann who also keeps a secure database of CCTV cameras in the area so that reported crimes can be backed up by camera footage.

The importance of the Neighbourhood Watch was highlighted recently when an incident took place mid-morning, involving an elderly person attacked and robbed when they answered the door. Due to the excellent response of the neighbours the matter was dealt with, the Police were on the scene rapidly and CCTV evidence was given.

If you are not already members of the local scheme, please consider joining.

- **NHP - Councillor Davies**

Nothing to report.

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

- Website
- Hoardings
- Drone footage

The Chairman suspended the Standing Orders

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

Newsletter and Leaflet – would like a letterbox drop including Parish Council membership information.

ACTION: Prepare a newsletter for distribution.

Improve being able to hear at meetings

ACTION: take PA system to the Repair Shop. (Second Saturday of the month).

Facebook page

ACTION: revisit the Facebook page.

Overgrown hedges – Howes Lane between Jacklin Drive and the Road that goes into Baginton making the walk to the allotments difficult.

ACTION: report to CCC/WDC.

298. Date for the next meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as **Thursday 15th June 2023** at Finham Primary School

Cllr Sawdon gave his apologies for June's meeting.

Meeting closed at 8:20pm

SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN
COUNCILLOR PAUL DAVIES

15th June 2023