

## Finham Parish Council

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7:00pm, 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023 Finham Primary School

**Present:**

Councillor Paul Davies (Chairman)	Councillor Angela Fryer
Councillor Anthony Dalton (Vice Chairman)	Councillor Ann Bush
Councillor James Morshead	Councillor Kate Taylor

**Coventry City Councillors:** Councillor John Blundell and Councillor Mattie Heaven

**Residents:** 11

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

**371. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Baker and Coventry City Councillor Sawdon.

**372. Declarations of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

**373. Chairman's Update**

Welcome to the November monthly meeting of the Finham Parish Council which is the last one this tumultuous and depressing year.

Last Sunday I attended the Remembrance Service in the Memorial Park and laid a wreath on behalf of the FPC. As it was very wet and rainy, I did not expect the average size of turnout but to my pleasant surprise the numbers were greater than I have seen for many years.

It just goes to show that remembering the hundreds of thousands of service men, women and civilians who have died over the past 100 years is still important to a lot of people.

Even though this service is a Christian one, it was pleasing to see, as usual, a high turnout of representatives from other faiths.

Tonight, we have a higher than average amount to go through so let's make a start.

**374. Minutes of previous meetings:**

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023 were received and discussed.

**RESOLVED THAT** the minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023 be approved.

**375. Matters Arising not listed on the agenda**

There were no matters arising.

*The Chairman suspended the Standing Orders.*

**376. To receive updates from Coventry City Councillors**

Councillor Blundell updated on issues from the wider Wainbody Ward and City:

Removal of the bus service number 19 (Wainbody Ward not Finham) - Petition has been raised and everyone was encouraged to sign. The route included Cannon Park Shops, Cannon Hill Road, the Station and City Centre. This meant that there was now no bus service on Cannon Hill Road at all. Councillor Blundell was meeting with Transport West Midlands (service provider) and if they cannot reinstate the service they would be asked if they can redirect another service to come down Cannon Hill Road.

Coventry City Council Assets – CCC had purchased various businesses in Coventry including Coombe Abbey Hotel and Tom White Waste. The company was called Coventry Municipal Holdings. Coombe Abbey Hotel had been purchased for £125m but it was now worth £51m. Coombe Abbey Hotel was currently running at a loss of £1.5m a year and was in need of refurbishment.

Tom White Waste had been purchased for £15m but when CCC took ownership, they discovered that the site needed £25m of updating.

Boundary Review – this would be completed in 2026 and would include a change of Boundary for Wainbody Ward. Finham would remain in Wainbody under the scheme. The changes could mean that Wainbody would include the area south of the A45, anything to the North would be in Earlsdon. Westwood Heath would be included into Wainbody and Styvechale Grange would be removed from Wainbody.

Warwick University – the University were planning a large expansion and removal of the old buildings and replacement with up-to-date technology buildings. S106 monies would come from the development. Councillor Blundell reported that anything that the Parish Council would like to be considered for s106 funding could be sent to the Ward Councillors for submission.

*Councillor Morshead joined the meeting*

Councillor Mattie Heaven updated:

Bin strike – it was noted that CCC had gone to tribunal for equal pay. The issue for the bin operators is the “task and finish” part of their job. Unite had balloted their members and if the decision was to strike there would be a 2 week notice.

Parking at the Primary School – it was noted that this is an issue outside schools around the City. Councillor Heaven was working with Warwick University testing air quality outside schools. The research looked at this as a health issue not just a safety issue.

**377. Letter from Coventry City Council**

Councillor Davies read out a letter received from CCC informing some residents on Green Lane to remove their preventative stones from outside their properties.

Some residents have sent a response to Councillor Hetheron, but to date, no reply had been received.

Initialled

Questions were raised, why did this letter go out to so few residents? The letter was not signed by a named officer, there are no contact details for residents to respond to the letter. Residents have been given 10 days to remove any stones.

It was noted that although the responsibility of CCC, the residents of Green Lane look after the verges, they tidy them, mow them. If the stones are removed, they this will allow the parking chaos to move to these verges. Since the stones had been removed this week, the verges have been churned up by vehicles including delivery drivers.

The letter states that there has been a safety inspection, but it is unknown what prompted the safety inspection.

**ACTION:** Ward Councillors were requested to find out:

- (i) why this letter had been sent to a few residents and not the whole street.
- (ii) Is this request going to be sent to the whole of Green Lane?
- (iii) Is the letter going to be sent to the rest of the City?

**ACTION:**

- (i) Clerk to contact David Kearne and request a response.

Ash tree – has been inspected and CCC Tree Officer has said the tree needs to be felled. A meeting will take place with Councillor Hetherton who will have the final decision.

Bollards – the bollards outside the BP Garage now have 4 of the bollards broken. Motorists are coming out of the garage turning right through the gap where the bollards are down, motorists are also turning right into the BP garage across the road through the bollards.

**ACTION:**

- (i) Councillor Blundell requested to address the situation and get the bollards repaired and replaced.
- (ii) Ask Highways why this work has not been completed after 6 months of the issue being raised.

*The Chairman reinstated the Standing Orders.*

### **378. Highways**

Councillors John Blundell and Mattie Heaven were unable to update on outstanding issues from the last meeting, some of the issues had been agreed previously ie. Brentwood Avenue and Hadleigh Road.

Outstanding issues:

- Howes Lane flooding and drainage
- Finham Primary School – traffic issues
- BP bollards replacement
- Right filter light not working (St Martins/Erithway Road) – no enforcement motorists ignoring it
- Traffic light system on the BP island needs addressing. Part time working is confusing
- Hadleigh Road/Brentwood Avenue safety measures
- Cost of purchasing VAS signage

- Cost of purchasing street planters

**ACTION:**

- (i) Councillor Morshead to send the list of outstanding issues including the timescales to the Ward Councillors.
- (ii) Councillor Morshead to also send a list of what was committed by Rachel Goodyer and Councillor Hetherton but not actioned.
- (iii) Ward Councillors to raise all the outstanding issues with Highways.
- (iv) Update at January’s meeting.
- (v) Invite David Kearne to January’s meeting.

Green filter on the traffic lights – at peak times the light does not come on. Can only cross over St Martins Road into Erithway by turning on red as the green light does not come on.

**ACTION:** Councillor Morshead to raise with Highways.

**379. Planning**

Nothing to discuss.

**380. Correspondence**

Nothing to report.

**381. Finance**

381.1 to approve payments

**2023-24**

DATE	REF	PAYEE	DETAIL	AMOUNT
16.10.23	E52	NEST	Clerk Pension	DPA
07.11.23	E53	J Chatterton	Clerk Salary November	DPA
07.11.23	E54	HMRC	Tax & NI Clerk	DPA
07.11.23	E55	J Chatterton	Expenses November	£50.00
07.11.23	E56	Top Source	Invoice 006674	£19.41

\*INCLUDING VAT

**RESOLVED THAT** the payments be approved.

**382. Budget and Precept Request 2024-25**

The Budget and Precept Request for 2024-25 was discussed.

**2024-25**

Budget	£24,088.00
Grant figure	£2,768.00
Precept 2023/25	£21,320.00
Tax base	1564.8
Band D	£13.62

This gave a small reduction on the 2023-24 figure (£13.76).

**RESOLVED THAT** the Precept be approved as £21,317.00.

**381. Brentwood Avenue/Hadleigh Road traffic calming**

Despite several emails from the Parish Council and residents no updates had been received.

**ACTION:** chase a response.

**382. Drone footage**

The Chairman reported that he had contacted the Drone Pilot who had created the previous footage. It was confirmed that precision mapping could be obtained with the specialist drone. To record the whole area was a large and expensive task.

In discussion it was agreed that it was important to look at what is below the ground in the relevant area to show the Saxon remains and pipework. A concentrated area would be determined.

**ACTION:** Councillor Davies to discuss further with the Drone Pilot.

**383. Task groups & Working Parties**

To receive reports from Task Group and Working Party leads

- **Highways – Councillor Morshead**

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

- **Schools – Councillor Mrs Bush**

The children were excellent at the Remembrance football match held last week and showed an excellent display of school values!

The whole school observed a two-minute silence, as always, and had the privilege to be joined by Mrs Farrell who played The Last Post.

It had been great to see everyone dressed up to celebrate Diwali. The children have enjoyed taking part in activities.

The school held their annual Remembrance Day football when they were remembering those who have fallen for our country while also highlighting the values which were shown during the World War 1 Christmas truce.

A school assembly was held first to explain the personal connections people have with the past, the prominence of music within the ceremony and the integral role that sport plays in providing opportunities to focus on what brings us together rather than our differences.

School will again this year be supporting Children in Need – Run Pudsey. Last year the school raised over £7,000.

- **Kings Hill – Councillor Davies**

They say that no news is good news and in the case of Kings Hill this axiom has proved to be true, but no news is nonetheless unnerving as there is also an idiom that states the calm comes before the storm.

At our last monthly meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> October, a concern was raised about the possibility of the housing numbers for Coventry rising to 60,000 by 2041 which had been reported in the Coventry Telegraph online news.

As a result of the past confusion about housing numbers and the Office for National Statistics making a complete mess of their projections for a number of areas of the country including Coventry, the Finham Parish Council has written to Chris Styles Head of Planning Policy at Coventry City Council seeking some clarification which he was not able to give when representatives of the FPC attended the September meeting of Allesley Parish Council who had asked Chris Styles to attend and to give answers to a number of concerns from both parish councils.

Unfortunately, he was unable to answer any of our questions save to confirm that Kings Hill was in Warwickshire, suggesting by this answer which came in the form of an email a couple of days later, that it was therefore nothing to do with Coventry!

The gist of the letter can be summed up by the questions we have left with him:-

- (a) what is CCC doing to challenge the added on 35% central government mandate
- (b) what will be the final new housing figure for Coventry
- (c) how does CCC intend to achieve whatever is the final figure for Coventry
- (d) will the most affected residents of Coventry be consulted about the changes
- (e) what is the likely timing
- (f) what benefits will be derived for the most affected residential areas

Hopefully Chris Styles will have had enough time to understand his brief now and that we might see some clarity, although I doubt any of the answers will be to our liking judging by the past performances of CCC.

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

The Crime Figures for Green Lane/Finham for **September 2023**

ASB	1
Burglary	2
Shoplifting	2
Vehicle crime	1
Violence	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>

The issue of parking outside the schools continues to be a problem. I raised this at the last Governors meeting, but the response remains that it is the same parents / carers who park where they wish.

**384. Councillor’s reports and items for future Agenda:**

- Invite David Kearne to January’s meeting
- Purchase a sound system

*The Chairman suspended the Standing Orders.*

**385. Public participation:** To adjourn to allow public participation.

Defibrillator – resident raised that there had been the offer of locating the defibrillator at the library for some time. In 2019 the decision not to proceed with installing a defibrillator at the library was made due to:

- The position could not be agreed. (advice to FPC from the defib provider was that any device should be positioned on the front of a building so make locating it in an emergency fast and easy).
- The Parish Council would need to enter into a Licence Agreement with CCC. Clause 4.4 of the Licence stated that the Parish Council (or appointed contractor), prior to commencement of work would need to liaise with the Council's Senior Asbestos Officer to agree the details of the asbestos survey required.
- Additional costs to the Parish Council would include an asbestos survey, installation by an asbestos specialist and installation of an electrical supply.
- FLAG's preferred position (on the site of the building) would require groundwork (leveling of earth and laying of slabs) which again needed permission from CCC and additional cost as CCC approved contractors would need to be used.
- FLAG were not in receipt of a long lease which could limit the life of the installation and not provide value for money.

After consideration of the issues listed above the Parish Council decided to seek an alternative location.

Speeding on Green Lane – resident raised the issue with speeding on Green Lane.

Broken Road sign – resident reported that the broken road sign had now been replaced.

Hadleigh Road/Brentwood Avenue – resident had written to the Chief Exec and Lord Mayor, no response from either. He had also sent a letter to Zara Sultana MP who had written to the Highways Department and a response had been received.

**ACTION:** Request a date to carry out the commitments already made.

HS2 lorries – it was reported that lorries in large quantities were travelling on St Martin Road. The question was asked if this is a designated and permitted route.

**ACTION:** Clerk to check with HS2.

Children's Play area – a parishioner had requested that a children's play area be added to the agenda. Unfortunately, they had not attended the meeting. Councillors Mrs Bush and Mrs Fryer had prepared information to share at the meeting.

**ACTION:** information to be included on Pride in Finham.

**386. Date for the next meeting**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at Finham Primary School.

Meeting closed at 8:40pm

SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN  
Councillor Paul Davies

18<sup>th</sup> January 2024