

## Finham Parish Council

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7:00pm, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024 Finham Primary School

**Present:**

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

**Coventry City Councillors:**        Councillor Tim Sawdon, Councillor John Blundell,  
Councillor Mattie Heaven.

**Residents:**                                10

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

**387. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Morshead and Councillor Baker.

**388. Declarations of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

**389. Chairman's Update**

Happy New Year to everyone and welcome to our first monthly meeting of 2024.

It is my sincere hope that this year will be a good one.

Can I remind everyone that parishioners are only allowed to speak when Standing Orders are suspended but I do try my best to allow everyone to have a say on any issue during the meeting.

Additionally, there is a Public Participation opportunity towards the end of the meeting which is an opportunity for anyone here to make any comments, suggestions or to ask any questions.

**390. Minutes of previous meetings:**

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023 were received and discussed.

**RESOLVED THAT** the minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023 be approved.

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

There were no matters arising.

The Chairman suspended the Standing Orders

**392. To receive updates from Coventry City Councillors  
Councillor Sawdon****377. Letter from CCC re stones on Green Lane**

Councillor Sawdon read out a response from CCC which gave their reasoning for requesting the removal of the stones.

Councillor Sawdon has registered his objection.

It was noted that parishioners had emailed Mark Adams but have not had a reply.

Within hours of CCC officers taking away the stones people were parking on the verges including the double yellow lines.

It was suggested that a petition be raised, sponsored by, and presented by a Ward Councillor. Petition to cease removing stones, allow people to beautify (by continuing to maintain) the grass verges outside their properties. The stones actively prevent vehicles from parking on the verges. Ask CCC to prevent parking on the verge.

**ACTION:**

- (i) Clerk to write to [Mark.adam@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:Mark.adam@coventry.gov.uk)
- (ii) CCC to be requested to install “barriers” to prevent people from parking on the verges.
- (iii) It was agreed to raise a Petition.
- (iv) Clerk and Chairman to word the petition.
- (v) Petition to be raised by FPC.
- (vi) Ward Councillors to sponsor and present the petition.

Ash Tree, Howes Lane

Petition has been presented. Further research shows that the tree does need to be trimmed. The lower branches will be left.

CCC is considering a memorial tree for Gary Crookes, and this could be sited in that area.

378. Highways

Councillor Sawdon read through the issues raised at November’s meeting and updated on progress.

Howes Lane flooding – has been raised with the appropriate department  
Finham Primary School – traffic issues – Councillor Mattie Heaven is progressing  
BP Bollards replacement – 4 bollards have been replaced but one is still to be replaced  
Right filter light on the traffic lights– still intermittent

Traffic light system on BP island – unresolved

**ACTION:** invite the Officer (and/or Colin Knight) to February’s meeting to discuss.

Hadleigh Road/Brentwood Avenue safety measures – Councillor Sawdon has information which will be shared with the Parish Council.

**ACTION:** Clerk to circulate once received.

Cost of Street planters – no response

No U-Turn at the traffic lights – has been raised

**Councillor Blundell**

A Petition has been sponsored by the Ward Council which is against CCC starting to charge for parking at the Memorial Park. The Petition has over 3,000 signatures. This has been a very well received petition. The Petition will be presented to CCC.

The Chairman reinstated the Standing Orders.

**393. Planning**

Nothing to discuss.

**394. Correspondence**

**394.1 FOI Request to CCC**

The Parish Council submitted an FOI Request to CCC requesting the breakdown of the expenditure per Ward for installing Highway safety measures for the last 10 years.

CCC has refused on grounds of cost.

**395. Finance**

395.1 to approve payments

**2023-24**

DATE	REF	PAYEE	DETAIL	AMOUNT
20.11.23	E57	NEST	Clerk Pension	DPA
07.12.23	E58	J Chatterton	Clerk Salary December	DPA
07.12.23	E59	HMRC	Tax & NI Clerk	DPA
07.12.23	E60	J Chatterton	Expenses December	£41.00
07.12.23	E61	Top Source	Invoice 007384	£19.41*
15.12.23	E62	P Davies	Reimbursement meeting	£9.25
15.12.23	E63	NEST	Clerk Pension	DPA
09.01.24	E64	J Chatterton	Clerk Salary Jan	DPA
09.01.24	E65	HMRC	Tax & NI Clerk	DPA
09.01.24	E66	J Chatterton	Expenses January	£59.00
09.01.24	E67	Top Source	Invoice	£19.41*
10.01.24	E68	Coventry CC	Election Fee	£250.00
10.01.24	E69	J Chatterton	Microsoft 365	£59.99*

\*INCLUDING VAT

**RESOLVED THAT** the payments be approved.

**395.2 Bank Reconciliation 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

The Bank Reconciliation 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 was received and discussed.

Balance per bank statements as at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2023:	£	£
	£65,846.14	
		<b>£65,846.14</b>
Petty cash float (if applicable)	£0.00	£0.00
Less: any un-presented cheques at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2023	£0.00	
	£0.00	
		£0.00
Add: any un-banked cash at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2023	£0.00	
		<b>£65,846.14</b>
Net balances as at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2023		<b>£65,846.14</b>

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

**CASH BOOK**

Opening Balance 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023 (Prior year Box 8)	£55,541.64
Add Receipts up to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2023	£24,815.18
Less: Payments up to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2023	(£14,510.68)
	<b>£65,846.14</b>
Closing balance per cash book as at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2023	<b>£65,846.14</b>

**RESOLVED THAT** the Bank Reconciliation 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 be approved.

**395.3 Quarterly Report 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

The Quarterly Report 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 was received and discussed.

**RESOLVED THAT** the Quarterly Report 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 be approved.

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

It was noted that the Officer previously in charge, Rachel Goodyer was no longer covering that area. At July's meeting Ms Goodyer had promised to install some safety measures on Brentwood Avenue/Hadleigh Road prior to September's PC meeting. No work had been completed.

Actions were recorded at a meeting with residents, Ward Councillors, Parish Councillors and Councillor Heatherton (Portfolio Holder) early 2023. No progress had been made.

Mr David Keaney has now taken over the area.

**ACTION:**

- (i) Clerk to email Mr Keaney.
- (ii) Councillor Morshead to provide a list of agreed installation from the 2023 site meeting.

**397. Traffic issues in the Parish**

Carry over to February.

**398. Drone footage**

Suggested previously that the Saxon remains be recorded via a drone. The Chairman is currently liaising with the Drone Pilot. Further update once known.

**399. Task groups & Working Parties**

- **Highways – Councillor Morshead**

Carry over.

- **Schools – Councillor Mrs Bush**

Nothing new to report.

- **Kings Hill – Councillor Davies**

As I reported in my last Kings Hill update in November, the FPC had written to Chris Styles, Head of Planning Policy at Coventry City Council requesting answers or updates on a number of issues.

Well, he did respond for which I must thank him.

To the question of whether CCC is challenging the 35% increase in the numbers of houses over and above whatever is the local requirement estimate, he has advised – it is the “intention of CCC to challenge the 35% ‘urban uplift’ ”.

The FPC will monitor the situation in the hope an ‘intention’ becomes a fact.

The question of final numbers is still under discussion and therefore not resolved and further complicated by what Warwick District Council determine for its needs.

How CCC intends to meet whatever number is settled on will be decided after the final figure is agreed.

To the question of whether residents of Finham (as well as the rest of the city’s residents) will be consulted about the numbers and what is to happen to us all, Chris Styles has stated – “a further round of consultation is anticipated to take place this year with members of the public”.

With regard to timing, CCC will let us know when it becomes clear.

As far as any benefits which might be derived by Finham from this development it is far from clear. I quote again – “the authority (CCC) has a strong focus on sustainable placemaking to meet the needs of the city and working to shape development to best respond to neighbouring communities”.

The response goes on to state – “we are currently reviewing our policy areas to examine where further opportunities may be available to further this objective and indeed reviewing consultation findings across these areas”.

I think at this stage, this answer is as good as we can realistically hope for but nevertheless a number of issues and concerns remain unanswered.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> December last year, I attended a meeting at Leamington Town Hall for affected Parish Councils to discuss with WDC its Master Planning Framework for Northeast Kenilworth which encompasses Kings Hill.

One of the questions I asked during this meeting was whether any consultation was taking place with CCC over what is intended for Kings Hill and the benefits that might be gained by Finham as a result of this huge housing estate on its doorstep.

I was informed by Adam James of WDC, that there was a Members Steering Group in place which included all affected parties. The member for CCC is Cllr George Duggins and as most of you will know, he is the Leader of CCC.

The FPC will be in contact with Cllr Duggins to find out what it is he is trying to achieve for Finham and why he has not consulted with Finham about its concerns.

There is planned in either February or March 2024, a Formal Public Consultation between WDC and CCC. The FPC is trying to find out some details of when and where this meeting is to take place.

Another series of Examination Meetings for this whole area, including Kings Hill, are planned between August 2024 and February 2027 with the intention of adoption in December 2027.

An Options Public Consultation is planned for October 2024

With regard to Kings Hill and Finham the presentation states:-

“A new community centre and schools are proposed as part of the Kings Hill development in the north of the study area and had been secured through Section 106 funds from the developer.”

The presentation confirmed plans to build a Primary School, Secondary School and Special Education facilities.

Interestingly, the Kings Hill Community Centre was shown with an identified start-up cost of £1,200,000 and therefore it must be a building of some sort rather than just an open field area.

It is intended that the meetings with WDC will be held quarterly so that all Parish Councils can discuss their concerns with WDC of which there were many. FPC is not on its own.

The next meeting of the WDC PLANNING Committee meeting was held at 6.00pm 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024. There was nothing on the agenda referring to Kings Hill.

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

The figures for November are...

Burglary	-	1
Other Theft	-	1
Public Order	-	1
Shoplifting	-	4
Vehicle Crime	-	7
Other Crime	-	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>15</b>

PLEASE NOTE - Six of the seven **vehicle crimes** and all four of the **shoplifting** incidents were committed at the petrol station.

I attended a Police liaison meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

Again the crime figures for Wainbody are low in comparison to the rest of the City.

John Archer from the Stivichall Grange Residents Association informed us that the Council intend to move the Stivichall Grange area from Wainbody Ward to Earlsdon Ward. Residents have objected to the move as they feel they get support from the Ward Councillors and feel connected to Finham as well. However the changes may happen regardless of their views.

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

WALC circulars – potential to sign the commitment about Civility and Respect

The Chairman suspended the Standing Orders

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

Boundary Commission – proposals have come back from the Boundary Commission. Resolution was passed on Tuesday is that Styvechale stays in Wainbody Ward. Final decision is 7<sup>th</sup> May. Hopeful that this will change the Boundary Commission's mind.

Verges – lack of response from CCC Officers. Many emails have been sent without reply.

**ACTION:** Councillor Davies to put his Kings Hill report on to PIF.

**402. Date for the next meeting**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at Finham Primary School.

Meeting closed at 8:15pm

SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN  
Councillor Paul Davies

15<sup>th</sup> February 2024