

## Finham Parish Council

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7:00pm, 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024 Finham Primary School

**Present:**

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

**Coventry City Councillors:** Councillor Tim Sawdon

**Residents:** 9

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

**403. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillor, Councillor Mrs Bush, and Ward Councillors Councillor Blundell and Heaven.

**404. Declarations of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

**405. Chairman's Update**

Good evening, everyone and welcome to the Finham Parish Council monthly meeting for February.

Tonight, we have moved the Coventry City Councillors update to later in the meeting closer to Public Participation to encourage more parishioner participation and involvement which the FPC wants to encourage.

I would like to remind everyone that the FPC is independent of all political parties but that does not mean none of us have political views. Far from it, we just do not discuss such views at council meetings.

**406. Minutes of previous meetings:**

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024 were received and discussed.

**RESOLVED THAT** the minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024 be approved.

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

There were no matters arising.

**408. Planning**

To Consider Planning Applications received since the last meeting.

**409. Correspondence**

Nothing to discuss.

**410. Finance**

410.1 to approve payments.

**2023-24**

DATE	REF	PAYEE	DETAIL	AMOUNT
19.01.24	E70	ICO	Membership	£35.00
15.01.24	E71	J Chatterton	PA system	£130.00*
25.01.24	E72	J Chatterton	PA System case	£26.98*
25.01.24	E73	NEST	Clerk Pension	DPA

\*INCLUDING VAT

**RESOLVED THAT** the payments be approved.

**411. Petition – grass verges**

The Parish Council submitted a Petition to CCC which was to be sponsored by Councillor Sawdon.

A letter has been received from CCC stating the following:

*Dear Clerk of Finham Parish Council*

*Thank you for your recent petition application titled: “Residents to be allowed to continue to tender and look after council grass verges outside their homes”.*

*We can confirm that we are more than happy for residents to continue to maintain the verges in front of their houses, which would of course be at the individuals own risk. We encourage a community approach to maintaining the area in which they live.*

*Unfortunately, however, your letter also makes reference to members of the public then protecting the verges, and implies the use of stones, which we cannot permit.*

*We understand your desire to protect the verges, but under Section 149 of the Highways Act, the placing of objects on the highway verge is not permitted as such items may become a nuisance or a hazard to others.*

*We have received several complaints regarding such stones / rocks from various areas within the city. Our interest is in protecting the wellbeing of our citizens, and as such we apply the Act in order to do so. Stones / rocks can be a trip hazard and often placed at the side of a verge, by the carriageway, which increases the severity if someone was to trip.*

*We hope that you can appreciate that we must put the wellbeing of individuals first, but are also looking at other ways in which verges may be protected as an alternative, such as verge protection orders where appropriate.*

*Regards*

*Petitions Team*

**ACTIONS:**

- (i) Clerk to submit a FOI to CCC to ask where the complaints have come from, how many have been from Green Lane and how many have come from Finham.
- (ii) Councillor Sawdon will continue to submit the Petition regardless.

**412. Defibrillator**

The Chairman had met with the tenants of the Green Lane Fish Bar and after consulting with the landlord it has been agreed that the defibrillator would be sited on the side wall.

A debrillator has been obtained through a grant scheme run by London Heart. This has produced a substantial saving.

**ACTION:** Clerk and Chairman to work with an electrician to fit the defibrillator.

#### **413. Brentwood Avenue/Hadleigh Road traffic calming**

It was reported that no further progress on the installation of any traffic calming measures had taken place. These actions had been agreed at a site meeting with residents, Ward Councillor and Parish Councillors in the Spring of 2023. At the Parish Council meeting in July, Rachel Goodyer had also made promises to carry out some work, but to date this had not happened.

##### **413.1 Street Planters**

At July's meeting costings were requested from Rachel Goodyer for street planters. This information has finally been received.

The planters are £145.00 per planter. This includes being planted twice a year with Summer and Winter Bedding.

**ACTION:**

- (i) Clerk to contact CCC to agree sites.
- (ii) Agenda item for March/April's meeting.

##### **413.2 Mobile speed activated signs**

At July's Parish Council meeting costings were requested from Rachel Goodyer for the purchase of mobile VAS signs. CCC has a supply of VAS signs but these are moved around the City and this therefore limits the times when they would be available for Finham roads.

The Parish Council were to look at purchasing VAS signs which would belong to the Parish Council and therefore only be used in Finham. The VAS sign maintenance would be the responsibility of the Parish Council and CCC would be responsible for moving the device around the Parish.

The information received from David Keaney CCC includes, the sign supplier is SWARCO. They offer a moveable VAS in various options. CCC suggest that the MVAS is the most suitable sign for the following reasons:

- It has the best battery life because it is only triggered by vehicles that are exceeding the speed limit.
- The display is clear and uses the speed roundel, rather than a smile or frown.
- It does not display the speed of vehicles that exceed the speed limit.
- It is better value overall.
- The speed limit can be changed from when it's deployed on a road with a different speed limit (30mph to 20mph etc) and comes with a 5-year warranty as standard.

#### **Costs**

MVAS unit cost: £3,302.50

Spare battery: £235.00

Total: £3,537.50 excluding VAT, delivery and initial installation.

These prices are valid until 31/03/2024.

Initialled

What this doesn't include is the cost to rotate them around sites which is an ongoing revenue cost. CCC would also need to work with the Parish Council to discuss and agree how often they are moved and onto which columns, as there may be mounting requirements and limitations which restrict where signs can be mounted.

**ACTION:** Clerk to contact CCC and establish permitted sites.

#### **414. Traffic issues in the Parish**

Information and research notes from Councillor Baker had been circulated including examples of successful schemes elsewhere in the Country.

The schemes revert the residential streets back to what they were designed for which is to allow residents to access their own properties and stops "rat runs".

**ACTION:**

- (i) Councillors to read the information that has been circulated.
- (ii) Meeting with Councillors to look at the viability of progressing before circulating to parishioners and then liaising with CCC.

School traffic issues – one proposal would be to stop all traffic between 8am and 9am and 3pm and 4pm. Alternatives for parents could be a "walking train" from certain locations eg St Martins in the Field or Miller & Carter car park.

**ACTION:** review further.

#### **415. Drone footage**

The Chairman updated that he has had a response from Kerry Blakeman. The type of information required from a drone was specialist and therefore very expensive.

#### **416. Civility and Respect Pledge**

The Jo Cox Civility Commission was set up following the murder of British MP Jo Cox. Their aim is to find practical recommendations to address the problem of violence, abuse and intimidation of elected representatives. They recently put out a call for evidence and included local councils. The aim is to develop support, guidance, resources, best practice etc. The Commission has already engaged with over one hundred stakeholders and is very aware that local councils are also affected.

A Local Government Association (LGA) survey of local councillors in 2022 found that 88% of them had experienced abuse and intimidation in fulfilling their roles. Their aim is to draft a set of recommendations which they plan to publish in January 2024.

1414 local councils have now signed the Civility and Resect Pledge. Towns and villages are demonstrably and immeasurably improved by what local council councillors, clerks and other employees do in their communities day in and day out. The pledge is a public declaration that in what they do, town, parish and community councils are committed to civility and respect. It outlines what they do/will do as part of that commitment. Research has found that taking a voluntary pledge of this nature can impact (for the better) on behaviour and co-operation.

**RESOLVED THAT** Finham Parish Council agreed to sign up to the Civility and Respect Project.

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

It was reported that Councillor Morshead had written to David Keaney, who is Rachel Goodyer's replacement for the roads in the Parish. No reply had been received.

**ACTION:**

- (i) Councillor Morshead to chase a response from David Keaney.
- (ii) The list of open items to be resent, requesting updates.

**• Schools – Councillor Mrs Bush**

Nothing to report.

**• Kings Hill – Councillor Davies**

At our last meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> January I reported that Adam James of Warwick District Council had informed me of the existence of the Members Steering Group which included a representative from Coventry City Council, that member being stated as Cllr. George Duggins who as we know is Leader of CCC.

Having contacted Cllr. George Duggins he has stated quite firmly that not only is he not the CCC member for this group but in fact he had never heard of the Members Steering Group in relation to Kings Hill.

The Finham Parish Council is seeking clarification on this matter from Adam James. To date we have heard no clarification or explanation.

Also, in my last report I stated it is the intention of WDC to hold a Formal Public Consultation in either February or March 2024 between WDC and CCC.

Nothing has been heard to date and therefore this is another issue the FPC will follow up.

It was also puzzling to witness on Tuesday this week, survey work being carried out on Kings Hill for gas and water when WDC has stated Examination meetings are to be held between August 2024 and February 2027 with the intention of adoption in December 2027.

It is obvious the developers are keen to start transforming what was Green Belt land into bricks and mortar as soon as possible.

Their latest sudden burst of energy might be because the prime minister is due to announce a consultation into a package of measures aimed at making it easier for developers to get permission to build on derelict sites in England's 20 biggest towns and cities.

Rishi Sunak has stated "We pledged to build the right homes in the right places – protecting our precious countryside and building more in urban areas where demand is highest. Today's package is us delivering on that."

Under the proposals, councils will have to approve new development on brownfield land – land which was previously developed but has fallen into disuse – unless they can offer a good reason why they cannot use brownfield land.

Initialled

Last December, Michael Gove announced that councils would no longer have to abide by strict housing targets set according to predicted population growth and could allocate less land to development to avoid changing the character of a local area.

If targets are only advisory, that must remove the 'duty to cooperate' and take over the alleged excess demand in neighbouring authorities ie. in the case of Finham this would mean Kings Hill, Warwickshire.

Alas, I think this level of enlightenment has come all too late for Kings Hill and the developers seem to think so as well.

The last meeting of the WDC Planning Committee meeting at Shire Hall Warwick, held at 6.00pm 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024 showed nothing on the agenda referring to Kings Hill.

The next published meeting is scheduled for 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024 and at present, no documents are available for this meeting.

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

The figures for December 2023 are:

Burglary	-	2
Public Order	-	1
Robbery	-	1
Violence	-	7
Possession of weapons-		1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>12</b>

The Chairman suspended the Standing Orders

**418. Coventry City Councillors**

**Councillor Tim Sawdon**

Petition -

**ACTION:**

- (i) Councillor Sawdon will raise the Petition.
- (ii) Petition will be in paper form.

Brentwood Avenue -

**ACTION:** Councillor Sawdon will speak with David Keaney.

Drone –

**ACTION:** Chairman to contact Tony Robinson, Time Team.

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

Link to meetings –

Parishioner would like links for the agenda and minutes putting on Pride in Finham.

Low Traffic Neighbourhood – parishioner confirmed that the local one in Birmingham is in Kings Heath.

Dangerous pothole - Corner of St Martins Road and Droylsdon Park Road.

**ACTION:** Councillor Morshead to progress.

Low Traffic Neighbourhood – parishioner requested information and the numbers of complainants.

**ACTION:** Need a large map of Finham with the roads laid out.

School traffic monitoring – monitoring traffic movement at the beginning and end of the school day.

**ACTION:** information to the Clerk for distribution.

Drop kerb Droylsdon Park Road on the blind corner

**ACTION:** Councillor Morshead to investigate.

David Keaney –

**ACTION:** Invite David to March's meeting and copy in the 3 Ward Councillors.

**420. Date for the next meeting**

The next meeting was confirmed as **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024** at Finham Primary School

Meeting closed at 8:15pm

SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN  
COUNCILLOR PAUL DAVIES

21<sup>st</sup> March 2024