

Finham Parish Council

Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held at 6:30pm,
16th May 2024 Finham Primary School

Present:

Councillor Anthony Dalton

Councillor Angela Fryer

Councillor Paul Davies (Chairman)

Councillor Kate Taylor

Councillor James Morshead

Councillor Ann Bush

Coventry City Councillors: Councillor Sawdon**Residents:** 4**In Attendance:** Jane Chatterton, Clerk & RFO**1. Chairman's Welcome – Cllr Paul Davies**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Chairman's report on the past year and future plans including Financial Report

Welcome to the Finham Parish Annual Parish Council Meeting 2024.

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

Also, I would like to add our congratulations to Cllr Tim Sawdon on his achieving 50 years as a Coventry City Councillor and being the longest serving councillor, which includes time as Lord Mayor in 2012/13. I can only marvel at his dedication and staying power.

A lot of the work carried out by this FPC which 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 inform residents on a regular basis.

Does anyone think he or she could help in this regard?

To counter some of the negative comments made by some residents over the last 12 months, the list I am about to read out is but a few of the achievements by the FPC since its creation in 2016:-

- In 2016 the library was threatened with closure by Coventry City Council due to lack of funds which inevitably was blamed on the lack of central government allocations. The FPC saved the library from closure creating a board of trustees to ensure the continuity of the library.
- The FPC purchased mobile shelving for the library at a cost of approximately £4,000.
- The FPC installed a bench on Finham Green opposite the library.
- It erected road signage for the library.
- It erected road signage for St. Martins church.
- Erected road signage for the Finham area.

- Bought road safety signs for the Finham Primary School.
- Petitioned for Daleway Road to be resurfaced which was achieved in 2022.
- The FPC was instrumental in the creation of the Erithway Rd traffic lights.
- It achieved the first installation of a publicly accessible defibrillator in Finham this year on Green Lane at a reduced cost by obtaining grant funding.
- The FPC persuaded CCC to install electronic road speed limit signage on Green Lane.

Additionally, parish councillors have attended police meetings, lobbying for an increase in police presence and have monitored crime levels.

Councillors have attended numerous 'Examination' and other meetings held by Warwick District Council and Coventry City Council over their proposals and safeguards concerning Kings Hill and reported updates at every monthly parish council meeting.

It has to be noted that Finham Parish Councillors are paid absolutely nothing for all the time and hard work spent on trying to improve or keep up standards in Finham.

Councillors do not attend sponsored 'cocktail parties' or accept invitations to lavish events at the bequest of interested parties. Most of the meetings attended are a must, otherwise the assumption is there is no interest in the outcome in the Finham area.

If anyone wants to know how and on what FPC money is spent, attend one of our meetings or look at our website before jumping to the wrong conclusions.

If you are critical of what is or is not happening in Finham ask yourself, what have you done for Finham in recent years?

The council currently has three vacancies. It comprises of volunteers who manage to fit in these responsibilities with their own busy lives. Some are retired, some have full time jobs but one thing we all have in common, is busy lives and still manage to fit in time to work for positively results in Finham.

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 Finham 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.

The FPC is non-political, not aligned to any political party and therefore totally focused on the best outcome for Finham.

It continues to look after the interests of the residents of Finham. If we are failing to do so, let us know but please do your research before criticising.

I want to thank my fellow councillors who carry out their duties selflessly and seek no reward or recognition.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting May 2023

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in May 2023 were received and discussed.

RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the meeting from May 2023 were approved.

4. Reports from Coventry City Councillors

Councillor Sawdon

Thank you for kind words about my length of service.

Echo your remarks as it is pertinent. All Councillors work hard and do so for no financial reward but for the benefit of the community.

We have been under a long stretch of purdah due to the recent May elections.

Removing the stones on the grass verges – the Petition has been submitted and is with the Council at the moment. It was agreed that this exercise is a waste of time and money, when the money should be spent fixing potholes that they can't fill and sending out workers to clear the stones.

Look forward to working with the Parish Council over the next few years.

5. Open Forum discussion on: -

- Projects, suggestions and ideas for FPC for 2024-25

Recent Social Media criticism

Resident offered support in relation to the recent Social Media posts which have clearly caused upset. It was agreed that it is easy to take these comments personally. The suggestion was made for FPC to advertise the meetings more so people could see what was going to be discussed at meetings.

Green space beyond Anchor Way Road.

Request was made for this unloved piece of land to be updated.

ACTION: resident was asked to send the Clerk (Clerk.finhampc@outlook.com) a proposal of what you would like to see.

Meeting closed at 7:00pm