

Finham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7:00pm, 18th July 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 Siddhanth Sharma	

Coventry City Councillors: Councillor Tim Sawdon

Residents: 9

Attendance: Jane Chatterton, Clerk & RFO

474. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Blundell and Councillor Heaven.

475. Councillor Co-option

Applications have been received from qualifying parishioners for consideration for co-option on to the Parish Council.

475.1 Mr Siddhanth Sharma

Proposed: Councillor Mrs Fryer Seconded: Councillor Dalton Carried

RESOLVED THAT:

- (i) Councillor Sharma be co-opted on to the Parish Council.
- (ii) Councillor Sharma signed his Acceptance of Office form.
- (iii) Clerk to complete the necessary forms with Councillor Sharma.

475.2 Mr Sanjay Behal

Proposed: Councillor Ms Taylor Seconded: Councillor Mrs Bush Carried

RESOLVED THAT:

- (i) Councillor Behal be co-opted on to the Parish Council.
- (ii) Approved for Councillor Behal to sign his Acceptance of Office form with the Clerk.
- (iii) Clerk to complete the necessary forms with Councillor Behal.

475.3 Ben Gough

Proposed: Councillor Mrs Bush Seconded: Councillor Mrs Fryer Carried

RESOLVED THAT:

- (i) Councillor Gough be co-opted on to the Parish Council.
- (ii) Approved for Councillor Gough to sign his Acceptance of Office form with the Clerk.
- (iii) Clerk to complete the necessary forms with Councillor Gough.

476. Casual vacancy – following the resignation of Richard Baker

Following the resignation of Richard Baker a notice had been displayed under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 87(2)) informing parishioners that a casual vacancy had occurred. Rule 5(2) of the Local Elections (Parishes and Communities) (England and Wales) Rules, 2006 now applies.

The Parish Council has been informed that 17 parishioners (names and addresses are in the public domain) have notified the Elections Manager at Coventry City Council that they wish to hold an election to fill this one vacancy.

The Election will take place on 29th August 2024. The Parish Council has a duty to ensure that awareness of the poll is raised, and that people engage in this process. FPC are required to either approve CCC produce the poll cards or to make the necessary arrangements. The estimated total costs of running the election is approximately £15,000. This is due to it being a standalone election.

RESOLVED THAT:

- (i) The Parish Council agreed for CCC to provide the poll cards at an anticipated cost of £500.00 plus postage (£2,200 depending on the exact electorate). Cost if the election is not contested will be the set-up costs of £330.00.
- (ii) Clerk to inform the Elections Manager of the above.
- (iii) Election Timetable and how to obtain the forms to be uploaded to the FPC website.

477. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

478. Chairman's Report

Welcome everyone to the July meeting of the Finham Parish Council which is the last one until September as the Clerk and all Councillors will be taking a well-earned rest from the challenges and pressures of addressing the issues that concern the residents of Finham.

Later in the meeting there will be an update of just how much the Finham Parish Council is having to pay in auditor fees due to a challenge by a resident to the way the council conducts its business and on what it decides to spend money.

To date the auditors have given the parish council a complete clean bill of health and therefore all this expenditure has all been for nothing. Money that could have been spent more productively elsewhere.

Following publication of the Notice of a Casual Vacancy 17 residents (details in the public domain) have called for an election to fill the vacancy. This process will incur further high expenditure. A cost which will become clear soon.

479. Minutes of previous meetings

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th June 2024 were received and discussed.

RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th June 2024 be approved.

480. Matters Arising

VAS signage – the Clerk is liaising with David Keaney at CCC in relation to sites.

Land update – report for September’s meeting.

Audit 2022-23

It was reported that the Audit completion statement had been received from the External Auditor which will be going on the website. The invoice has now been received, so as promised at June’s meeting, the total expenditure for the 2022-23 audit challenge is £2,811.00. (The equivalent of the annual precept for 206 households).

481. Planning

Nothing to report.

482. Correspondence

The Clerk updated that the Parish Council had received a Freedom of Information Request and a Subject Access Request.

483. Finance

483.1 to approve payments

2024-25

DATE	REF	PAYEE	DETAIL	AMOUNT
07.06.24	E19	J Chatterton	Clerk Salary June	DPA
07.06.24	E20	HMRC	Tax & NI Clerk June	DPA
07.06.24	E21	J Chatterton	Paperstone Inv I90238	£60.79*
07.06.24	E22	J Chatterton	Clerk Expenses June	£73.40
10.06.24	E23	Defenda	Leaflet distribution	£285.85
13.06.24	E24	WALC	Training VAT inv999	£42.00*
24.06.24	E25	J Chatterton	Printer	£277.20*
24.06.24	E26	J Chatterton	Net Nerd	£8.39*
24.06.24	E27	NEST	Clerk Pension	DPA
02.07.24	E28	London Hearts	Defibrillator & Cabinet	£1,111.00
03.07.24	E29	J Chatterton	Clerk Expenses July	£107.34*
05.07.24	E30	J Chatterton	Clerk Salary July	DPA
11.07.24	E31	HMRC	Tax & NI Clerk	DPA

*inc VAT

RESOLVED THAT the payments be approved.

483.2 Bank Reconciliation 30th June 2024

The Bank Reconciliation 30th June 2024 was received and discussed.

Balance per bank statements as at 30 th June 2024:	£	£
	£79,921.65	
		£79,921.65
Petty cash float (if applicable)	£0.00	£0.00
Less: any un-presented cheques at 30 th June 2024	£0.00	
	£0.00	
		£0.00
Add: any un-banked cash at 30 th June 2024	£0.00	
		£79,921.65
Net balances as at 30 th June 2024		£79,921.65

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

CASH BOOK

Opening Balance 1 st April 2024 (Prior year Box 8)	£61,171.18
Add Receipts up to 30 th June 2024	£24,501.88
Less: Payments up to 30 th June 2024	(£5,751.41)
	£79,921.65
Closing balance per cash book as at 30 th June 2024	

Parish Council Funds	£66,370.87
Donated RFA Funds	£13,550.78

RESOLVED THAT the Bank Reconciliation 30th June 2024 be approved.

483.3 Quarterly Report 30th June 2024

The Quarterly Report 30th June 2024 was received and discussed.

RESOLVED THAT the Quarterly Report 30th June 2024 be approved.

483.4 Memorial Tree

In 2020 the Parish Council approved the planting of a memorial tree for a fitting living tribute to a much loved and dedicated Finham resident, Mr Bob Fryer. Bob had led the Finham Residents' Association for 40+ years before being instrumental in the creation of Finham Parish Council. Bob served on the Parish Council before sadly passing away in 2020.

The memorial tree is now planted on Finham Green next to the FPC bench and noticeboard. Part of the planting process is that CCC look after the tree for 2 years.

Arrangements were that the family would be notified prior to the plaque being installed, unfortunately this had not occurred. The Parish Council are sorry for the upset caused to the family and the Clerk has contacted the officer at CCC expressing FPC's disappointment.

484. Recording meetings

FPC has never had to consider filming its meetings, feeling that this can stifle debate and actually put residents off attending.

Recently residents attending the PC meetings had started filming and recording the meetings. Consideration was given to whether this means that the FPC needs to purchase recording equipment.

A costing of equipment had been supplied for discussion.

ACTION: further discussion at September's meeting.

485. VAS signage

ACTION: Meeting to be held with David Keaney

486. Defibrillator

The Chairman updated that the current plan is to affix a defibrillator onto the adjoining wall between the Posh Hairstylist and Finham Market shop on Brentwood Avenue. The owners/tenants are happy for this to happen.

The only holdup at the moment is the owner/tenant of Posh is away on holiday and is due back this coming weekend.

When she returns, I hope to begin discussions on just how to connect the defibrillator to a power source.

487. Governance

Councillors were asked to review the following policies:

Updated Vexatious Complainants Policy
Reserves Policy
Dignity at Work Policy

RESOLVED THAT

- (i) the above Policies be approved.
- (ii) the Policies be uploaded to the website.

488. Library shelving

Following comments made by the Chairman of FLAG at June's meeting, discussion took place in relation to the disposal of the library shelving and removal from the Parish Council assets register. It was noted that currently the Parish Council insured the shelving and were liable for repairs.

RESOLVED THAT:

- (i) The Clerk writes to the Chairman of FLAG informing them that the shelving has been gifted to them and is now their full responsibility.
- (ii) Clerk to update the Asset Register and insurance policy.

489. Brentwood Avenue/Hadleigh Road traffic calming

It was reported that a meeting would take place on Monday 22nd July at 2:30pm to discuss the above. In attendance would be Councillor Sawdon, Councillor Davies, Councillor Morshead, Councillor Hetherton, CCC Officers and invited residents.

ACTION: update at September's meeting.

No U Turn on the traffic lights (St Martins Road) –

ACTION: Councillor Morshead to ask when this will be completed.

490. Task groups & Working Parties

- **Highways – Councillor Morshead**

Flooding Green Lane –

ACTION: Will add to the list for David Keane

- **Schools – Councillor Mrs Bush**

I am delighted to report that following an ungraded (Section 8) Inspection by Ofsted the Inspector reported back to the school that there has been no change to the school's overall judgement of Good.

However, the evidence gathered suggested to the Inspector that the inspection grade might be Outstanding if a graded (Section 5) inspection had been carried out.

The schools next inspection will be a graded inspection.

The inspector reported that pupils flourish at this highly inclusive school. There is teamwork, respect, integrity, enjoyment and discipline applied to the pupils in their daily learning and relationships.

- **Kings Hill – Councillor Davies**

As reported last month, everything is very quiet and consequently I have been corresponding with Warwick District Council Cllr Pam Redford who has advised that the rumours of Lioncourt, the developer, selling up are not true as far as she knows and goes on to suggest that Lioncourt may well be selling off plots of Kings Hill to other builders which is normal practice apparently for such a huge development.

Another reason for such a quiet period could well be that developers and builders all over the country were waiting to find out who the new government would be and what would be its approach to new house building.

Well, after yesterday's King's Speech we have some idea of the new approach which will be to centralise decisions if local government do not speed up building approvals.

Having said this, local communities will still have a say in how the developments shape up but then this procedure was already in place. Whether anyone listens is yet to be seen.

All councils will be expected to have a plan, up to now known as a Local Plan.

Coventry is in the throes of producing its second plan in recent times as was WDC until WDC decided to join forces with Stratford to work on a common plan now known as the South Warwickshire Local Plan.

Identified as one of the top priority areas by the new government for new housing, Stratford is likely to have more stringent targets to meet over the coming years which will now include WDC and therefore Kings Hill.

Kings Hill has outline planning permission at present. It is vital Finham makes its needs very clear at the first sign of the first tranche of land being presented for full planning permission which is yet to happen. At that stage, the developer/builder has to present concrete plans of its intentions. All there is at present are outline promises which have been changed by some developments in the past, including within the boundaries of Coventry.

With the new government stating its house building requirements, I wonder if the time plan announced repeatedly by WDC and Stratford District Council will be changed and perhaps building might start before 2027.

There was no reference made to Kings Hill on Tuesday's 16th July 2024 WDC Planning Committee Agenda and there is no agenda published yet for its next meeting on 18th August 2024.

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

The Crime Figures for Green Lane/Finham for May 2024:

Burglary	1
ASB	1
Criminal Damage	1
Other Theft	1
Vehicle Crime	3
Violence	2
Other Crime	2
TOTAL	11

I attended a Police Meeting yesterday, 17th July and again it was reported that crime remains low in our area.

We raised the issue of parking around schools, but this is down to appealing to parents. The number of officers available on any shift remains very low and they are called to other areas of the City if there is an incident.

491. Councillors' reports and items for future Agenda:

Seven Trent –

Severn Trent started work on St Martins Road this week. A resident came home from work to find that they had dug up her driveway, despite permission being denied.

ACTION: Councillor Dalton to raise the issue with the Ward Councillors

The Chairman suspended the Standing Orders

492. Coventry City Councillors**Councillor Sawdon**Kerb stone –

Had a letter from CCC to say that they had looked at the petition and rejected it.

Councillor Sawdon had asked for this to go to the Cabinet Member. In 44yrs there hasn't been a single case taken out against the CCC for damage. Instead of moving them all they would be better placed to come up with an alternative policy. So that when the stones are removed, they have something else in place.

No U turn –

Still waiting on David Keaney coming up with fixing the bollards and coming up with a more permanent solution that cannot be damaged so easily.

493. Public participation: To adjourn to allow public participation.Organise a Festival –

Request received to organise a festival.

Venues to be investigated.

Housing numbers of Kings Hill -

ONS figures were proven to be circa 14% out but were not admitted. The census 2021 is taken as a more serious indication of where the population figures are now. The Labour Government is pushing more emphasis on building development.

494. Date for the next meeting

The date for the next meeting was confirmed as **Thursday 19th September 2024** at Finham Park School in The Venue.

Meeting closed at 8:00pm

SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN
Councillor Paul Davies

19th September 2024