

Finham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7:00pm, 19th September 2024 Finham Primary School

Present:

Councillor Paul Davies (Chairman)
Councillor Ann Bush
Councillor Angela Fryer
Councillor Rambir Khatkar

Councillor Kate Taylor
Councillor Siddhanth Sharma
Councillor Sanjay Behal
Councillor Ben Gough

Coventry City Councillors: Councillor Tim Sawdon

Residents: 4

Attendance: Jane Chatterton, Clerk & RFO

495. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillors Dalton and Morshead and CCC Councillors Blundell and Heaven.

496. Councillor Election

Following the resignation of Richard Baker 17 parishioners (names and addresses are in the public domain) notified the Elections Manager at Coventry City Council that they wished to hold an election to fill this one vacancy.

The Election took place on 29th August 2024. The election was uncontested and Rambir Khatkar was elected.

RESOLVED THAT:

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

It was noted that as the vacancy was filled by an election, (FPC had 7 elected members) the Parish Council would maintain his General Power of Competence.

497. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

498. Chairman's Update

Welcome to the September meeting of the Finham Parish Council. I hope everyone has enjoyed the summer as it very much looks as though autumn is on the way.

Tonight, will see a change in the way in which Public Participation is to be followed.

I have always liked the two-way flow of opinions and comments made during this part of the meetings, but it is not the official format and due to the experiences of the last two meetings, procedures are now to be more formal.

Each parishioner will be allowed a maximum of 5 minutes to make representations and/or answer questions.

Any representation or question requiring an answer from the Parish Council may not receive a response on the night of that meeting but at a time in the future.

Everyone should behave respectfully to one another.

This change to the standard more formal approach is not intended to stifle parishioner participation but to improve the quality of our meetings.

Further in tonight’s meeting shown in the Finance section is an expenditure of £2,052 to cover the cost of external auditors which was made necessary due to a resident challenging some of the expenditures of the FPC for the financial year 2022-23.

The FPC was given a complete clean bill of health with regard to this expenditure. This sum of money could have been spent elsewhere to benefit the residents of Finham.

Additionally, as reported at our last meeting, the FPC has had to meet costs for an Election following the resignation of Richard Baker. FPC were required to hold an election, the request being raised by a number of residents (17), none of whom actually stood to be elected themselves.

499. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18th July 2024 were received and discussed.

RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18th July 2024 be approved.

500. Matters Arising not listed on the agenda

Nothing to report.

501. Planning

The lists have been circulated. Nothing to report.

502. Correspondence

Nothing to report.

503. Finance

503.1 to approve payments

2024-25

DATE	REF	PAYEE	DETAIL	AMOUNT
17.07.24	E32	Green Lane Fish Bar	Defibrillator running costs	£100.00
17.07.24	E33	Topsource	Payroll Inv 001526	£20.72*
17.07.24	E34	Topsource	Payroll Inv 002305	£21.13*
19.07.24	E35	SA Moore Global	External Auditor 2022-23 challenge	£2,052.00*
31.07.24	E36	J Chatterton	Zoom partial	£31.17
31.07.24	E37	NEST	Clerk Pension	DPA
07.08.24	E38	J Chatterton	Clerk Salary August	DPA
07.08.24	E39	HMRC	Tax & NI Clerk	DPA
07.08.24	E40	Topsource	Payroll Inv 003091	£20.72*
07.08.24	E41	J Chatterton	Expenses August	£51.80

				Initialled
15.08.24	E42	J Chatterton	Paperstone inv IA4388	£68.36*
20.08.24	E43	NEST	Clerk Pension	DPA
06.09.24	E44	J Chatterton	Clerk Salary September	DPA
06.09.24	E45	HMRC	Tax & NI Clerk	DPA

*inc VAT

RESOLVED THAT the payments be approved.

503.2 Remembrance Day Wreath

RESOLVED THAT:

- (i) Agreed to the purchase of the wreath.
- (ii) It was agreed that Councillor Davies be the Parish Council representative to lay the wreath. All Councillors were welcome to attend the event.

503.3 Purchasing of Recording equipment

RESOLVED THAT:

- (i) The Clerk to purchase the recording equipment.

503.4 Grant Requests

It was noted that under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 the parish council can give financial assistance (by way of grant). The full details of eligibility and application criteria were available on the FPC Grants & Donations Policy. Rules applied to this form of expenditure which was recorded separately in the accounts and reviewed during the Internal Audit process. Applicants were required to complete a form to enable the Parish Council to discuss their request.

The Clerk had received 2 requests via email and an application form had been sent. Despite chasing emails, a completed form had not been returned.

ACTION: Carry over to October’s meeting.

504. Defibrillator

The holiday period has not helped for the affected parties to meet face to face ie. the electrician James and the owner of Posh Hairstylist Michelle, on Brentwood Avenue.

Michelle wants to be clear about the method of connecting the defibrillator to the mains and ensure the interior of her salon is not adversely affected.

Consequently, James is to carry out a second assessment to make sure it meets with Michelle’s needs and submit a quote to the Finham Parish Council.

505. Brentwood Avenue/Hadleigh Road traffic calming

Councillor Morshead was absent from the meeting but had sent an update which the Chairman read out.

Please accept my apologies - I am unlikely to make it to the meeting tonight due to a first parents' evening at my daughter's new school. If this is over quickly, I may still make it to the meeting but probably not on time.

506. Finham Festival

There was an appetite to hold a Finham Festival in the Summer of 2025. The event held previously had been popular for residents but was stopped following lack of volunteers and Covid.

ACTION:

- (i) Councillor Khatkar to Lead.
- (ii) This would be a community event – everyone welcome to attend.
- (iii) Councillor Mrs Fryer would talk to the Primary School for the venue.
- (iv) Clerk to send Councillor Khatkar CJ Events details.
- (v) Further discussion at October's meeting.

507. Governance

Councillors were asked to review two new policies.

507.1 Public Participation Policy

507.2 Venue Lock Down Policy

RESOLVED THAT the policies be approved.

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

Councillor Morshead had provided an update report:

At the lights on St Martin's Road, at the junction with Erithway Rd, the requested no U-turn sign and operational filter light on green are now present. Many thanks to David Kearney at CCC for delivering this. The missing bollards however remain so, and I have reminded David of this. I have also suggested a clearer sign on the exit of the BP forecourt, such as "Use other exit for A45 & City".

I have enquired again about the part time signals on the A45 BP island switching on & off without a safe sequence. The issue is, if a car is approaching the island at speed, on green, when the signals switch off, they will instantaneously lose priority and could be involved in a high-speed collision. I have tried to find design guidance on this but to no avail, so have raised a query with the Department of Transport, who "aim to respond to all our queries within 20 working days".

I have also asked for updates on the Finham Green path and Howes Lane drainage.

• Schools – Councillor Mrs Bush

Children have only recently returned after the summer break. Feedback at the Governor's meeting recently was very positive. Children have performed amazingly well in the recent tests.

• Kings Hill – Councillor Davies

According to the timetable of the South Warwickshire Local Plan which includes Stratford and Warwick District Council we are coming up to Stage 3 of this plan which is Preferred Options – Public Consultations – November 24 to January 25.

Anyone wishing to speak at these consultations has normally to apply beforehand but to date there has been complete silence.

Initialled

The same cannot be said of our new national government who have been making very public their commitment to 1.5 million new homes over the next 5 years and the need to amend the planning rules and regulations but at the same time assuring us that local communities will be consulted. We can but hope that the local communities most affected are not just consulted but also that they are listened to as well.

The government proposes reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and other changes to the planning system.

The NPPF is the guide to all councils responsible for granting planning permission.

Any green belt land released will be subject to “golden rules” to ensure the development delivers 50% affordable homes with a focus on social rent and has access to green spaces and infrastructure such as schools and GP surgeries and roads.

As Kings Hill is yet to be built on but was green belt, it is not clear whether these rules apply for affordable home target will increase from the current target of 40% to 50%, with access to green spaces and infrastructure.

These ‘golden rules’ are intended to ensure that major development on land released from the green belt benefits both communities and nature.

Introducing improvements to local or national infrastructure, including the delivery of new schools, GP surgeries, transport links, care homes and nursery places and recognising that local leaders are best placed to identify the infrastructure that their communities need.

Making provisions for new, or improvements to existing, local green spaces that are accessible to the public – where residential development is involved, new residents should be able to access good quality green spaces within a short walk of their homes, whether through onsite provision or through access to offsite facilities.

We can but hope the composers of these new rules mean what they state.

With only a third of councils currently having a plan that is under five years old, WDC Local Plan is now 7 years old, ministers will be ready to intervene to ensure they all have one in place by a specified point next year, taking over a local plan if insufficient progress has been made.

The government also intends to drop the requirement for new homes to be “beautiful” which was introduced by the last government, arguing it is subjective, difficult to define and leads to inconsistent decision-making on applications.

The new draft NPPF went out to consultation for eight weeks from Tuesday 6th August 2024 concluding on 1st October 2024.

There was no reference made to Kings Hill on Wednesday’s 11th September 2024 WDC Planning Committee Agenda and there is no agenda published yet for its next meetings on 7th and 9th October 2024.

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

Crime figures for July 24

Violence	2
Public Order	1
Total	3

Across the whole of the police sector there were 38 vehicle crimes and 24 burglaries but specific to our area just 3.

ACTION: Councillor Mrs Fryer to liaise with Officer Darren Betts so see if he can attend a future meeting.

509. Councillor's reports and items for future Agenda:

Pavement in Brentwood Avenue is uneven. Affects wheelchair users.

Overgrown hedge on Howes Lane

ACTION: Clerk to report to CCC.

The Chairman suspended the Standing Orders

510. Coventry City Councillors

Clr Sawdon updated

Howes Lane – issue was highlighted on the portion of road that is set back. A car arrives frequently at 11:30pm with 3 occupants. They then sit in the car causing a noise nuisance and sometimes get out and play football. Clr Sawdon is working on resolving this.

Brentwood Avenue road safety – it was noted that the resident raised the petition in March 2023. Still little progress to date. The road requires safety measures installing especially as the road is used as a rat run. Frustratingly the Officer responsible for investigating the issues has recommended to the Cabinet Member that nothing should be done. This is in contrary to previous promises made when the previous Officer was in charge.

The Cabinet Member visited the area and made promises to act. Sadly, the Officer dealing with matter prior to July 2024 had passed away.

There will be VAR signs and 20mph road markings would be installed. The resident is still trying to get more measures put in place. This is not as much as the Cabinet Member previously promised but it is a start. Installation should be in October.

Stones in verges – petition will be heard at the meeting in October. Residents are encouraged to attend the meeting to show their support of the petition.

Bollards – being frequently flattened. Some have been replaced but currently there are repairs/replacements required again. Suggestion to install "Armadillos" to supplement the bollards.

511. Public participation: To adjourn to allow public participation.

Brentwood Avenue/Hadleigh Road – a lot of traffic parked on Hadleigh Road opposite Brentwood Avenue. Was hoping for yellow lines to stop parking on the bend, making it dangerous.

Footpath on Hadleigh Road – surrounding paths have been resurfaced but not Brentwood Avenue or Hadleigh Road.

512. Date for the next meeting

It was confirmed that the date for the next meeting is **Thursday 17th October 2024** Finham Park School.

Meeting closed at 8:15pm

SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN
Councillor Paul Davies

17th October 2024