

## Finham Parish Council

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7:00pm, 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024 Finham Park School

**Present:**

Councillor Paul Davies (Chairman)  
Councillor Mrs Bush  
Councillor Rambir Khatkar

Councillor Kate Taylor  
Councillor Sanjay Behal  
Councillor James Morshead

**Coventry City Councillors:** Councillor John Blundell

**Residents:** 1

**Attendance:** Jane Chatterton, Proper Officer

**531. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillor Mrs Fryer, Councillor Dalton, Councillor Sharma, Councillor Morshead and Councillor Gough and CCC Councillors Sawdon and Heaven.

**532. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**533. Chairman's Update**

Welcome to the November monthly meeting of the Finham Parish Council which is the last one this year.

On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November I attended the Remembrance Service in Memorial Park and laid a wreath on behalf of the FPC. The number of people attending this Remembrance Day event seems to grow larger every year.

It just goes to show that remembering the hundreds of thousands of service men, women and civilians who have died over the past 100 years is still important to a lot of people.

I must remind everyone that this meeting is being recorded due to events earlier this year, which most of you are aware.

Additionally, a more usual and formal meeting process will be followed, mirroring most other Parish Councils in the country. Again, this is due to recent events which the Council would like to avoid in the future.

I reiterate that these changes to a standard more formal approach is not intended to stifle parishioner participation but to improve the quality of our meetings.

All constructive comments, suggestions and/or questions are welcome.

**534. Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024 were received and discussed.

**RESOLVED THAT** the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024 be approved.

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

Nothing to report.

Andy Williams, Director of Economy and Regenerations, CCC will attend January’s meeting.

**ACTION:** A list of issues will be prepared ahead of the meeting. (include air ambulance).

**536. Planning**

The lists have been circulated. Nothing to report.

**537. Correspondence**

Nothing to report.

**538. Finance**

538.1 to approve payments

**2024-25**

DATE	REF	PAYEE	DETAIL	AMOUNT
11.10.24	E59	J Chatterton	Clerk Salary Oct	DPA
11.10.24	E60	HMRC	Tax & NI Clerk	DPA
17.10.24	E61	J Chatterton	Clerk Expenses Oct	£51.80
18.10.24	E62	NEST	Clerk Pension	DPA
08.11.24	E63	J Chatterton	Room booking	£350.00
08.11.24	E64	Topsorce	Payroll Inv 004993	£20.72*
08.11.24	E65	J Chatterton	Clerk Salary November	DPA
08.11.24	E66	HMRC	Tax & NI Clerk	DPA
08.11.24	E67	J Chatterton	Expenses November	£51.80

\*inc VAT

**RESOLVED THAT** the payments be approved.

**539. Draft budget and Precept 2025-26**

The draft budget and Precept request for 2025-26 was discussed in detail.

**RESOLVED THAT:**

- (i) The budget be approved at £23,999.00.
- (ii) Precept would be set in January once CCC had confirmed the grant amount.
- (iii) Full list of annual cost to each Band of property to be shared on the website and social media once the Tax Base was confirmed.
- (iv) Further update at January’s meeting.

**540. Defibrillator**

I have always maintained that the best site for our second defibrillator should be at the south end of Brentwood Avenue for a number of reasons.

Unfortunately, I am struggling to gain a response from the businesses except for the Posh hairstylist who were very co-operative, but it proved difficult to meet everyone’s needs.

I am still working on Plan D but am considering Plan E as well.

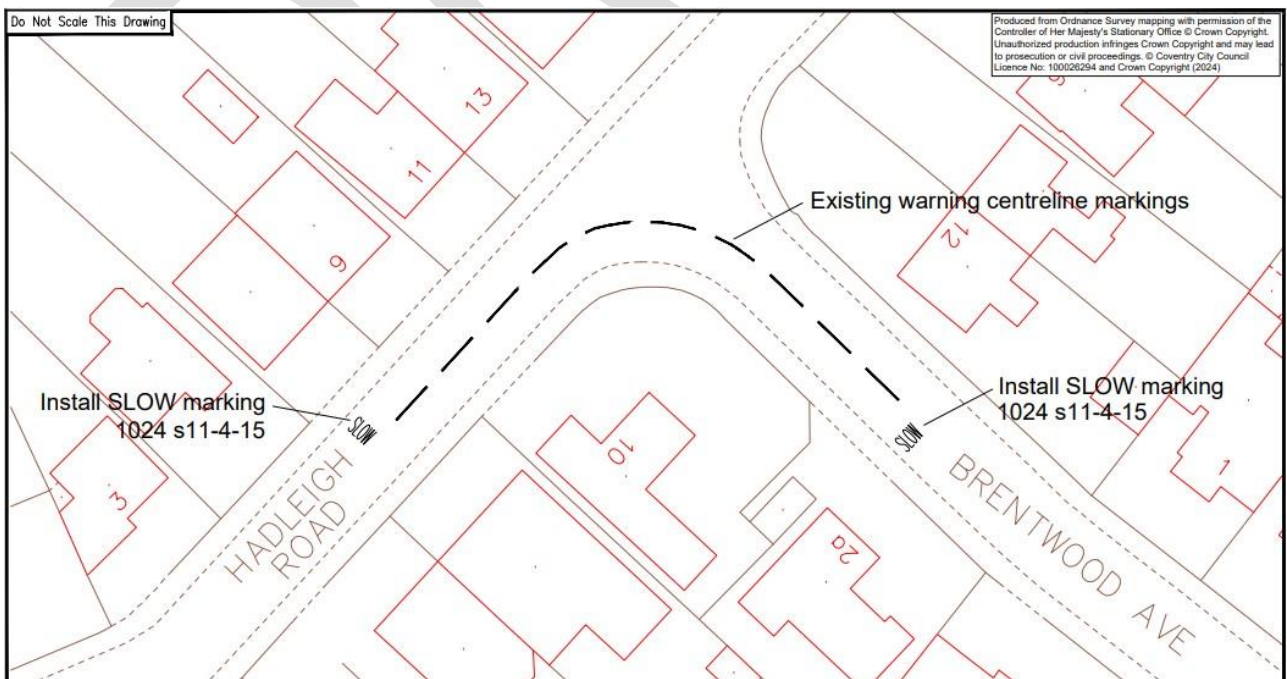
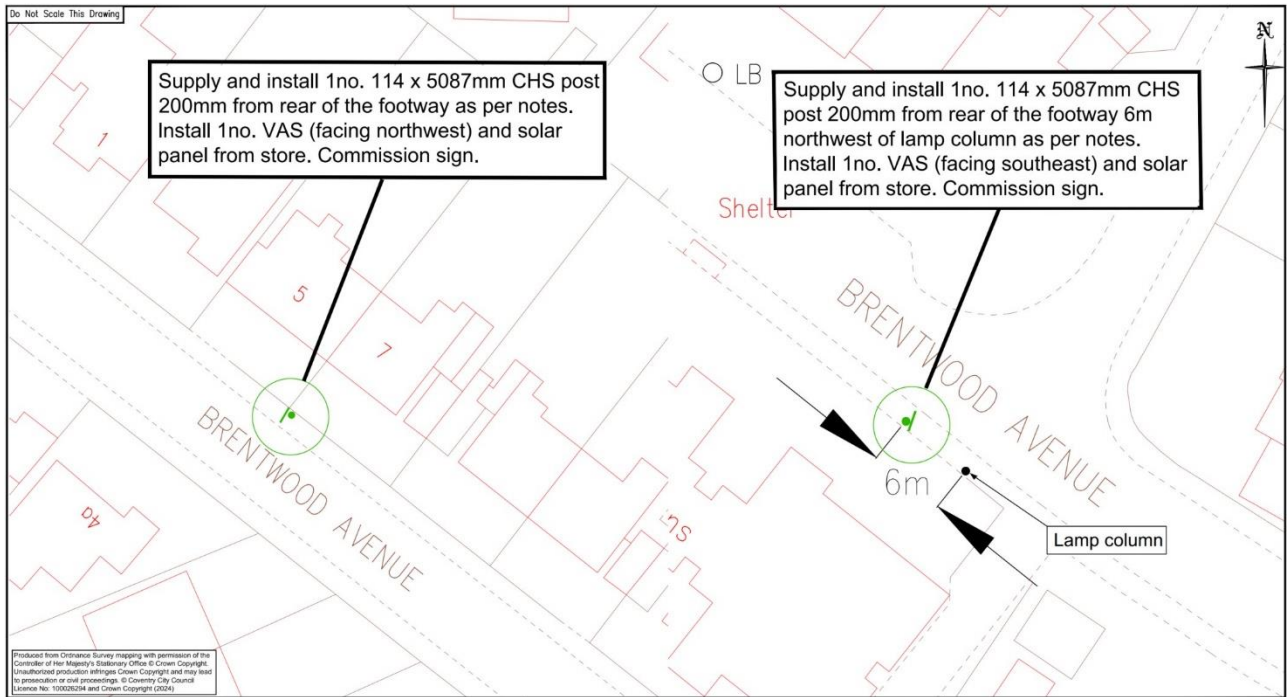
Initialled

One thought I had was whether the Council felt it would be a good idea to put out an appeal on Pride in Finham and other media to find out if there are any alternate sites which have not yet come into the reckoning.

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

David Keaney and Ward Councillors had updated on the outstanding measures for Brentwood Avenue and Hadleigh Road.

As per previous discussions, it is proposed to install 2 new vehicle activated flashing signs on Brentwood Avenue to aid speed compliance and to install new bend warning slow markings and lining as per the plans below.



Initialled

These works are due to commence in the next two weeks and should (weather dependent), be largely completed this side of Christmas. David Keaney is hopeful once installed they will be of benefit to the local community.

**Bus route change**

Councillor Khatkar reported that the number 24 and 25 bus routes have changed. The bus service goes from Coventry City Centre into Baginton but now the service bypasses Finham. Baginton residents use the shops in Finham because Baginton Store has now closed. This means that they are now unable to shop in Finham as cannot get there via public transport.

The most direct route for the service from Coventry is through Finham, so why has this stopped. Councillor Khatkar is going to speak with the WDC Councillor and Baginton Parish Council. The service is subsidised by WCC.

**ACTION:** Councillor Khatkar to liaise with WDC, Baginton PC.

**542. Kerb stones - Grass Verges Protection Report  
Petition 37/23 – Finham residents to be allowed to tender and look after grass verges outside homes**

As many of you know, a group of residents and I attended a meeting with Coventry City Council – City Services Committee on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024 to discuss why CCC was pursuing a policy of banning a number of houses along Green Lane from protecting the grass verges from damage by vehicles temporarily parking with two wheels on these verges which had been protected from such damage by residents for over 3 decades.

The CCC suggested the stones being used were a danger to the public although none of us, some of whom have lived here for over 40 years, knows of anyone coming to harm as a result of these stones being placed along the grass verges away from the kerbs.

I and three residents spoke on behalf of the group and for those who were unable to attend along with Cllrs. John Blundell and Mattie Heaven.

We were all told that what we were doing is against the law in their opinion.

Since this meeting, I have received a letter in response from CCC to this meeting. The sum of which is a:-

**Recommendation: - Look at other methods to protect verges from vehicle parking including options which the Council would be prepared to provide consent to, for residents to deliver.**

The intention now is to canvass the affected households as well as others that might come forward in the future to come to a proposal that is acceptable to CCC.

**543. Finham Festival**

Councillor Khatkar updated that he and Councillor Dalton had visited the Library on 2<sup>nd</sup> November to discuss plans for a Parish Council Finham Festival in 2025. It is planned to hold the Festival on the Green (owned by CCC). The Library were asked if they would provide an electricity and water supply for the event.

Thank you to Councillor Blundell for raising the issue and questions with CCC and we now know what is required.

The following was agreed:

- The event would take place on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June – 11am to 3pm
- Welfare facilities to be hired
- Licencing to be arranged (music licence to be purchased)
- Potential for power and water could be supplied by the Library.
- Generators would also be used to power equipment.
- The Library would like to sell refreshments (hot drinks and cake) to raise funds for the Library.
- Road closure – initial costings of £2,400 for the Road Closure Order – it was decided not to close the road.
- Councillor Khatkar to meet with the Lead of Earlsdon Festival to establish what steps were required.
- Use CJs Events
- Money raised to go to Myton Hospice
- Leaflet drop of neighbouring properties to be made informing them of the event.
- Stalls would be free and stall holders to provide a donation to the Myton Hospice.

**ACTION:** Clerk to order new hi viz jackets.

#### 544. Task groups & Working Parties

- **Highways – Councillor Morshead**

Brentwood & Hadleigh – reported earlier in the meeting.

BP Island - I received a comprehensive reply from Ian Lewis, regarding the part time lights. He confirmed the importance of a fail-safe sequence for switching the lights on and off, but also confirmed that this is the current situation. The only parameter we can vary, I think, would be extending the initial red phase, if there are still near misses.

Thanks was given to Ian Lewis for his time, engaging with and answering the question. Much more than the Department of Transport did.

Road sign approach to BP island - I passed on to David Kearney the observation made on Facebook, that the road sign on the approach to the BP Island directs people into the wrong lanes, and may be a cause of the road rage issues reported in previous meetings. He is going to get this reviewed and replaced if necessary.

Others have reported near misses due to confusion from seeing a green light at the pedestrian crossing just before the island, thinking they have right of way at the island. David said his team are already looking at adding louvres to the pedestrian crossing lights to avoid this confusion.

Stonebridge junction - See report from the Warwickshire World website:

<https://www.warwickshireworld.com/news/people/warwickshire-county-council-leader-requests-running-update-for-public-on-delayed-a46-project-4869547>

Warwickshire Council have been questioned by Councillor Richard Dickson over the extraordinary delays to the Stoneleigh junction, where the new bridge has stood incomplete and unconnected for many months. The Council Leader has requested an update from the council.

Initialled

I have asked a question to Richard on Facebook: "Is it worth asking whether the spoil that's about to be dug out of the A46 for the HS2 bridge could be used here? It's coming from fulfilling the same purpose, and is about to be dug out, and the road will be closed anyway. Just a thought". If I hear anything, I'll report back.

- **Schools – Councillor Mrs Bush**

School started last week thinking about our brave soldiers and the sacrifices they made.

The whole school took part in an assembly followed by a staff verses children football match ending with Mrs Farrell playing the French horn to start and end out two-minute silence. Your children behaved impeccably showing all their Finham values.

School ended the week with a spotty day for Children in Need. It was fantastic to see your children dressed up in all their spots.

On Monday, Year 6 boys and girls participating in football practice contributed to the annual Remembrance Day football match against the adults, showcasing remarkable teamwork, respect, determination, and enjoyment in front of the entire school community.

- **Kings Hill – Councillor Davies**

As stated in the last Kings Hill report, a letter was sent to Adam James, Site Delivery Officer, Warwick District Council and we have received a reply concerning when the consultations/examinations are to start for the South Warwickshire Local Plan which is the joint local plan for Stratford and WDC.

Adam James has advised that a report is to be taken to the Joint Cabinet in December which seeks approval to undertake a consultation on the Preferred Options. If this report is approved, it is anticipated that the consultation will commence early in the new year.

Any papers for the Joint Cabinet meeting will be published and available to view at [https://estates8.warwickdc.gov.uk/cmIS/Committees/tabid/103/ctl/ViewCMIS\\_CommitteeDetails/mid/529/id/131/Default.aspx](https://estates8.warwickdc.gov.uk/cmIS/Committees/tabid/103/ctl/ViewCMIS_CommitteeDetails/mid/529/id/131/Default.aspx).

The SWLP consultations will be publicised on the [South Warwickshire Local Plan consultation portal](#).

Anyone wishing to receive updates can register through:-

<https://www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp/stay-in-touch.cfm>

Shortly after last month's FPC meeting, a report appeared in the media about a serious failure on the part of Warwick District Council's Planning Committee. The article states:-

"Authorities in charge of planning must be able to demonstrate a five-year land supply - sufficient land to build enough new homes, plus the probability that they will come forward in that timeframe - for local plans that lay out where development should take place to carry full weight".

"During an appeal over a housing application in Leek Wootton in May, national inspector Steve Lee ruled that the authority, which handles planning decisions across Warwick, Leamington Spa, Kenilworth and Whitnash, could not evidence the number of homes it said would be built out over the next five years on 14 different sites allocated for housing".

"The district's planning committee now has less power to refuse development plans after this inspector ruled it had overestimated the probable delivery of new homes over the next five years".

This means developers will now receive “a presumption in favour of sustainable development” making it easier for developers to push through their plans unless there is a very good reason to refuse planning permissions.

Councillor Chris King (Leamington Clarendon) is WDC’s portfolio holder for place, a role that includes overseeing planning policy.

He has stated “It is tricky. Everyone knows that if you lose that supply it means developers can have a look and are much more able to put you under pressure to allow the applications to go through, we just have to deal with that as best we can”.

Cllr. Chris King went on to say – “We have sites in our local plan that have just not been developed for many years and they are part of our supply. At the moment we can’t prove that anything is happening, and we can’t do anything about that, we are just waiting on the whim of a developer or their arrangement with another house builder”.

For those who live in Finham and wonder why Kings Hill is at all relevant to the residents here should bear in mind what is stated in this report and take on board that Kings Hill is expected to increase the number of cars in the area by 8,000 plus, there are no plans for infrastructure improvements and there has been no announcement about what financial benefits Finham might receive via S106 agreements.

There are no agendas published as yet for the WDC Planning Committee’s meetings currently scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024 or for 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

**545. Councillors’ reports and items for future Agenda:**

- Giga Factory
- Finham Festival
- Precept Request
- Bridge on the A46 – no timeframe, review progress

*The Chairman suspended the Standing Order*

**546. Coventry City Councillors**

**Councillor Blundell updated:**

Proposed nursery on Green Lane – question over parking. It had been confirmed that Leasowes Nursery had agreed to allow parking on their site.

Meeting about the kerb stones – CCC were sticking to their point. CCC regard this as a nuisance and therefore illegal. Now pushing for what CCC are going to do to prevent people from parking on the kerbs/verges. CCC promised they would work with residents on a solution.

Police meeting in November – crime in Wainbody is low.

Finham Festival – Councillor Blundell is happy to assist with the arrangements and getting access to the correct Officers.

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

Brentwood Avenue – all the effort has gone into Hadleigh Road, nothing at the other end. People have taken to parking at the T-junction. This creates a pinch point for the buses.

Crime, Vehicle theft – 10<sup>th</sup> October car was stolen from the car park at Cannon Park. There are ANPR cameras for parking times. No cameras for crime prevention or recording vehicle crimes.

**548. Date for the next meeting**

The date of the next parish council meeting was confirmed as **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025** at Finham Park School.

Meeting closed at 8:25pm

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