

Finham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7:10pm, 21st May 2026 Finham Park School

Present:

Councillor Paul Davies (Chairman)
Councillor Angela Fryer
Councillor Kate Taylor
Councillor Ann Bush

Councillor James Morshead
Councillor Anthony Dalton (Vice Chairman)
Councillor Siddhanth Sharma

Coventry City Councillors: Councillor Blundell, Councillor Heaven, Councillor Reddy

Residents: 6

Attendance: Jane Chatterton, Proper Officer

Councillor Davies was in the Chair

736. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gough, Behal and Khatkar.

737. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

738. Chairman's Update (Councillor Davies)

As reported at the Annual Parish Meeting – Chairman's Welcome – 21st May 2026

Welcome to the Finham Annual Parish meeting for 2026.

As usual we will be covering three meetings tonight, each of varying length concluding with our standard monthly meeting for May.

Tonight sees our tenth year since inception which I and a number of my fellow councillors have experienced from the beginning, and which seems to have just flown by.

At this point I would like to offer my thanks, congratulations and respect for his stamina, dedication and professionalism to Cllr Tim Sawdon who retired this year as a Wainbody Cllr. After ten years on the Finham Parish Council and having similar experiences over this time, I can only wonder at how he kept at it for 52 years.

My congratulations also go to Cllrs John Blundell and Mattie Heaven who were re-elected in this month's local elections as well as to Cllr Pratibha Reddy who was elected for the first time.

The FPC continues to monitor and contact the two main protagonists, Warwick District Council and Coventry City Council, in the continued saga of Kings Hill in the hope that Finham will be able to benefit in some way and also regularly remind these councils that it is Finham that will be the most affected area by any of the changes made in the hope our suggestions and requests will not just be listened to but acted upon.

Initialled

A Kings Hill report appears later in the meeting tonight with details of a senior representative from Coventry City Council Planning Dept attending the FPC June meeting to hopefully address our concerns about Kings Hill.

The Parish Council continues to liaise with Coventry City Council about highways and planning matters, liaising with the two schools and regularly reviewing the local crime statistics.

Liaising with the management of the BP Station and CCC for improved exit signage for customers to avoid U turns at the traffic lights on St Martins Road.

Gaining agreement with the relevant residents and authorities to continue the placement of defibrillators across Finham.

It continues to support local events where requested and to do so if possible and promotes the Finham Festival, coinciding with the King's birthday scheduled for Saturday 20th June starting at 11.00am and planned to finish around 3.00pm.

As has become our regular practice for each parishioner to be allowed a maximum of 3 minutes to make representations and/or answer questions at the designated sections of the meetings tonight. The issues raised may not be answered immediately depending on their complexities but will be answered in an appropriate manner as soon as practicable.

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

All of these activities by the FPC take up a considerable amount of councillors' time, which they do for the benefit of the Finham community and for which they are paid nothing.

739. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th March 2026 were received and discussed.

RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 19th March 2026 be approved.

740. Matters Arising not listed on the agenda

There were no matters arising not listed on the agenda.

741. Planning

Nothing further to report.

742. Correspondence

742.1 Petitions

Bus Gate

We the undersigned petition the Council to instruct there will be no further work to be carried out on the bus gate in Green Lane until a suitable construction access route has been agreed and made public to the Kings Hill development and until detailed building plans have been made available and also made public. Called for by Finham Parish Council.

This ePetition ran from 11/03/2026 to 06/05/2026 and 585 people signed this ePetition.

Public Meeting request

We the undersigned petition the Council to organise an urgent public meeting with the relevant Council Officer to discuss the Kings Hill Masterplan. Called for by Finham Parish Council.

This ePetition ran from 11/03/2026 to 06/05/2026 and 327 people signed this ePetition.

Response from Anne Lynch – Interim Strategic Lead for Planning, CCC.

I will obtain a copy of the petition and will respond to it in accordance with the Council’s procedures. As previously advised, the developer has planning permission for the works within Coventry’s administrative boundary.

ACTION: Councillor Davies to follow up with Ann Lynch.

743. Finance

743.1 Payments

Expenditure 2025-2026

DATE	REF	PAYEE	DETAILS	AMOUNT	VAT
21.03.26	E124	J Chatterton	NetNerd Hosting 468097	£59.99	£10.00
21.03.26	E125	Lloyds	Service Charge	£4.25	£0.00
25.03.26	E126	J Chatterton	NetNerd Domain	£8.39	£1.40
25.03.26	E127	DCK Payroll	Invoice 26858	£18.00	£3.00
25.03.26	E128	WALC	Invoice 1718 Crisis Comms	£48.00	£8.00
30.03.26	E129	P Davies	Reimbursement	£9.90	£0.00
30.03.26	E130	WALC	Invoice 1719 FOI	£48.00	£8.00

Expenditure 2026-27

DATE	REF	PAYEE	DETAILS	AMOUNT	VAT
15.04.26	E1	WALC	Annual Subscription	£1,175.00	£136.00
15.04.26	E2	J Chatterton	Clerk Salary April	DPA	£0.00
15.04.26	E3	HMRC	Tax & NI Employer and Employee	DPA	£0.00
16.04.26	E4	J Chatterton	SLCC Membership	£130.00	£0.00
16.04.26	E5	J Chatterton	Reimbursement PC Office costs	£50.00	£0.00
23.04.26	E6	NEST	Clerk Pension Employee & Employer	DPA	£0.00
23.04.26	E7	Lloyds	Service Charge	£4.25	£0.00
14.05.26	E8	J Chatterton	Clerk Salary May	DPA	£0.00
14.05.26	E9	HMRC	Tax & NI Employer and Employee	DPA	£0.00
14.05.26	E10	J Chatterton	Reimbursement PC Office costs	£59.00	£0.00
14.05.26	E11	NEST	Clerk Pension Employee and Employer	DPA	£0.00
14.05.26	E12	DCK Payroll	Invoice 27189 May	£18.00	£3.00
14.05.26	E13	DCK Payroll	Invoice 27139 April	£18.00	£3.00

INCOME - 2026-27

DATE	REF	PAYEE	DETAILS	AMOUNT
23.04.26	R	CCC	Yearly Precept	£21,485.00
23.04.26	R	CCC	Grant	£2,514.00

RESOLVED THAT the payments be approved and the income noted.

743.2 Bank Reconciliation 31st March 2026

The Bank Reconciliation 31st March 2026 was received and discussed.

Balance per bank statements as at 31 st March 2026:	£	£
	£57,023.29	
		£57,023.29
Petty cash float (if applicable)	£0.00	£0.00
Less: any un-presented cheques at 31 st March 2026	£0.00	
	£0.00	
		£0.00
Add: any un-banked cash at 31 st March 2026	£0.00	
		£57,023.29

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

CASH BOOK

Opening Balance 1 st April 2025 (Prior year Box 8)	£61,910.47
Add Receipts up to 31 st March 2026	£24,839.03
Less: Payments up to 31 st March 2026	(£29,726.21)
	£57,023.29
Closing balance per cash book as at 31 st March 2026	

RESOLVED THAT the Bank Reconciliation 31st March 2026 be approved.

743.3 Quarterly Report 31st March 2026

The Quarterly Report 31st March 2026 was received and discussed.

RESOLVED THAT the Quarterly Report 31st March 2026 be approved.

743.4 Grant Applications

743.4.1 Finham Primary School

It was noted that Finham Primary School joined the OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) scheme last academic year. Through donations and volunteer work they had built fantastic foundations for OPAL to grow enhancing playtimes for all the children.

To help boost the creativity, social skills and imaginative play we are looking to purchase some play clothes to enhance the OPAL facilities.

RESOLVED THAT

- (i) the grant request of £200.00 be approved.
- (ii) Clerk to make the payment.

743.4.2 Scout Group

The Scout Group had made a grant request to help towards running costs.

RESOLVED THAT

- (i) the grant request of £200.00 be approved.
- (ii) Clerk to make the payment.

744. Audit Process**744.1 Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025-26 Part 3**

It was reported that the 2025-26 accounts had now been internally audited by Louise Best a competent and independent auditor. Her report had been noted.

Extract from the Internal Auditor's report:

As requested I have completed an examination of the financial statements and cashbook. In doing so I have verified the bank reconciliation and agreed the cashbook entries to the bank statements. I have also agreed expenditure to supporting documentation and to approval by the Councillors in the Minutes. I have reviewed VAT on the invoices to cash book entries.

The financial statements and cashbook are in very good order. The Clerk retains accurate records and files supporting documentation in a methodical order.

The financial statements are accurate and are supported by underlying financial records and documentation.

The Parish Council were required to complete the AGAR Part 3. Part 3 was to be completed by all smaller authorities where either the higher of gross income or gross expenditure exceeded £25,000 but did not exceed £6.5 million; and any other smaller authorities that either were unable to certify themselves as exempt; or had requested a limited assurance review.

The AGAR was made up of three parts, pages 3 to 6:

- The annual internal audit report was completed by the authority's internal auditor.
- Sections 1 and 2 were to be completed and approved by the authority.
- Section 3 was completed by the external auditor and would be returned to the authority.

Documentation that must be sent to the external auditor:

- the Annual Governance and Accountability Return Sections 1, 2 and 3
- a bank reconciliation as at 31st March 2026
- an explanation of any significant year on year variances in the accounting statements
- notification of the commencement date of the period for the exercise of public rights
- Annual Internal Audit Report 2025-26

744.2 Section 1 Annual Governance Statement

The Parish Council completed Section 1 of the AGAR, and Section 1 was signed by the Chairman and Clerk as required.

RESOLVED THAT Section 1 Annual Governance Statement be completed and approved.

744.3 Section 2 Accounting Statements

The Parish Council completed Section 2 of the AGAR, and Section 2 was signed by the Chairman and Responsible Financial Officer as required.

RESOLVED THAT Section 2 Accounting Statements be completed and approved.

744.4 Notice of Public Rights

The Notice of Public Rights and Publication of Unaudited Annual Governance and Accountability Return of the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2026 was a requirement under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 Section 26 and 27, The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (S1 2015/234).

RESOLVED THAT the Clerk & RFO prepare the notice to be displayed on the PC website and Noticeboard.

745. Finham Festival 2026

Councillor Dalton updated that plans were progressing.

Volunteers were needed to help with arrangements and on the day. Anyone interested could email the Clerk on Clerk.finhampc@outlook.com

Required:

Face painter

Local performers

746. Defibrillator Brentwood Avenue

The Chairman updated that after a lot of toing and froing over the past 12 months and some setbacks I am now able to state that a defibrillator will be mounted on the Brentwood Gardens block of flats opposite the shops on Brentwood Avenue in the very near future.

This will make two in Finham sponsored by the Finham Parish Council, adding to the one on Green Lane shops completed some time ago.

With regard to the BP Station, although I have been told by the manager that it is BP policy to mount defibrillators on all BP owned properties and that Finham has been given a priority, we are still waiting.

When BP does carry out this work, it will complete the initial plan of the FPC.

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

It was reported that Councillor Morshead was still trying to get hold of BP with regards to signage improving the information on the forecourt for how to access or egress the forecourt onto St Martins Road.

A chase email had copied in David Keaney. He had been in touch with the BP garage and had suggested the updates which would make this clear and safer. He was supportive of the interventions.

• **Schools – Councillor Mrs Bush**

The Children continue with their enthusiasm and pride in learning.

Year 4 enjoyed a memorable sleepover and Year 6 completed their SATs.

The school extended thanks to staff, parents and carers for their support.

Year 3 have been exploring Ancient Greece in history and myth-based writing in English

Year 1 have been focused on computing (BeeBots) and non-fiction writing about sea created.

Year 2 have been working on instructional writing and materials in science

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

These are the Crime Figures for Green Lane/Finham for March 2026 (April figures not available until beginning of June).

Burglary	0
Criminal Damage	1
Other Theft	2
Possession of weapons	1
Public Order	1
Shoplifting	2
Vehicle Crime	5
Domestic/Violence	7
Other Crime	1
Total	20

There was a Police Meeting held at St Martins Church on Tuesday 12th May. Sgt Breslin was unable to attend but two police officers represented him. There were no members of the Community attending.

We discussed parking outside schools again, but the issue remains that school and the Parish Council can only request that parents are considerate in how they park.

• **Kings Hill – Councillor Davies**

As a result of the debacle of a meeting plan that never happened, I speak of the March Finham Parish Council Meeting that was intended to have in attendance representatives of Warwick District Council (the authority over Kings Hill) Warwickshire County Council (the authority over the road infrastructure of Kings Hill and most of its surrounds) and Coventry City Council (the authority responsible for the welfare of Finham residents).

This meeting plan failed at the very last minute due to the late realisation that the expert from WDC was unable to attend due to holiday commitments.

However, after numerous badgering and deliberately provocative emails we appear to have secured the attendance of Richard Edgington Principal Town Planner and possibly John Seddon of Highways of Coventry City Council who will be attending our 18th June FPC monthly meeting.

Initialled

Have your questions ready, the Finham Parish Council intend to send Richard a short list of questions which might help him to understand our concerns and hopefully answer them and again hopefully answer them to our satisfaction.

Very late on Monday night I was informed of South Warwickshire Local Plan Briefings that were to be held on Teams via the internet on 19th and 20th May. Apparently, Parish Councils affected were informed but not Cubbington or Finham and possibly others as well.

I found out through contacts established over the last ten years of areas affected by the intentions of WDC to build new housing across the county.

I registered for yesterday's meeting which was attended by 65 representatives and chaired by Philip Clarke of WDC and aided by Andrew Cornfoot again of WDC.

I believe the attendance for the briefing the day before was a similar number of concerned councillors and general public.

There was a great deal of new information but not for Kings Hill which is now a part of the SWLP whereas before it had been a part of the now defunct WDC Local Plan.

The key points coming out of this briefing session were:-

- a) The original Timing Plan is now obsolete
- b) The launch of the Public Consultation is now set for – 12th June 2026
- c) Public Consultation will last from 12th June to 27th July 2026
- d) Kings Hill is exclusively for housing, schools, shops, clinic, community area but not for manufacturing

This all assumes that the proposed plans will be approved by WDC and Stratford on Avon District Council. These are the two councils that have joined up to create a common Local Plan ie. the South Warwickshire Local Plan.

The WDC meeting to approve (or not) is to be held on 28th May 2026.

Other interesting points were:-

- a) A new by-pass for Stoneleigh (no route highlighted)
- b) Adoption of the new plan is planned for March 2028 ie. no building in 2026 or 2027

These new timings make the question of why our Elizabethan ancient hedgerow was destroyed on the 9th February 2026 when no building is likely to take place until well after March 2028.

Why is this grotesque fence there now and why do residents have to suffer its ugliness for some years to come?

Why are two access points shown on plans for Kings Hill, one north or the proposed bus gate adjacent to the Finham Primary School. Opinion expressed to the FPC states why is one access point needed let alone two.

Finham deserves some answers, answers which have not been given at any time over the last five years or more despite persistent questioning by the FPC.

Initialled

I do hope that Richard Edgington and/or John Seddon can enlighten us all and at the same time assure us that no HGVs for either site clearance or for construction will ever be allowed along Green Lane during the building of whatever on Kings Hill.

CCC urgently need to review just how it looks after the welfare of an area that provides well over £4m into its coffers every year in return for very little.

748. Councillors' reports and items for future Agenda:

Councillor availability for Saturday 20th June – Finham Festival

The Chairman suspended the Standing Orders

749. Coventry City Councillors

Councillor Blundell

Council Membership

It was reported that at today CCC meeting, the Labour party had taken a long time to decide who was going to be the Leader and the Deputy.

Normally everything was sorted beforehand, there were two parts to the Mayor Making process, The first being the ceremonial part. Councillor Roger Bailey was the new Lord Mayor.

The second part of the meeting had started a 3pm for the election of the new Council Leader and they appoint the Cabinet.

Two nominations for Leader had been received – Cllr George Duggins and Cllr Jackie Gardner.

With the Greens help Cllr George Duggins was elected. The Conservative Councillors had abstained from the vote.

It was announced that Councillor Blundell was the new Conservative Leader, with Councillor Mattie Heaven as the Deputy.

The Chairman congratulated the Councillors on their appointments.

Kings Hills

It was suggested that a Council Officers were attending next month's Parish Council Meeting that questions were ready ahead of the meeting. It was hoped that Officers from WDC would attend the meeting to answer planning questions.

Temporary Fence

It was noted that the Planning Officer for Lioncourt Homes was very helpful at the start but after being asked difficult questions she had gone quiet. Lioncourt would not be the final developer – the land would be sold on to developers.

Councillor Blundell reported that he had made a request for Green Lane not to be used for construction vehicles – CCC had confirmed that this required a traffic order. Previously CCC had said they would resist large vehicles, but this was different from a legislation prevention.

Finham Festival

The Ward Councillors would be having a stall at the Festival.

Issues

ACTION: Clerk/Chairman to send over any other matters that require their attention.

Councillor HeavenSchool Parking Issues

It was reported that inconsiderate and dangerous parking during drop off and pick times was still an ongoing issue.

Solutions to combat the problems was needed.

Note only were motorists blocking residents drives but some were event parking on their drives during the busy times. When a resident asked them to remove their car they were subjected to verbal abuse. Some residents have had to resort to installing barriers to prevent access to their drives.

ANPR Enforcement car

Councillor Blundell has requested the ANPR Enforcement car schedule. The response was that the car was "off the road" due to "technical issues". An easy copout, no date given for reinstatement for its availability.

ACTION:

- (i) Councillors requested Councillor Blundell discuss the issues at the MAT meetings.
- (ii) Clerk to send an email to Councillor Blundell making the formal request for this to be on the next agenda for the MAT meeting

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

St Martins Road closure –

ACTION: Councillor Morshead to ascertain what this means.

South Warwickshire Local Plan

Joint Cabinet Committee – discussed 28th May, meeting taking place in Stratford.

The Chairman updated that this would be available via a webcast.

ACTION: Chairman to send the residents a copy of is Kings Hill Report.

751. Date for the next meeting

The date for the next meeting was confirmed as 18th June 2026. Attendance expected from Officers from CCC and WDC to speak about Kings Hill.

Meeting closed at 8:15pm