

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2016 AT THE FBC CENTRE, GORSE RIDE NORTH, FINCHAMPSTEAD RG40 4ES

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs Driver, Chair. Cllr Markham, Vice Chair.
Cllrs Cundy, Mrs Jennings-Frisby, May, Veitch.

Mrs Dagnall, Clerk.

49/2016 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Bowers.

50/2016 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

51/2016 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2015 were signed as a true record.

52/2016 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

348/2015 FORUM – CEMEX LTD APPLICATIONS

There is still no date for determination of the planning applications for Fleet Hill Farm and Manor Farm – but discussions are continuing as reported at other meetings.

348/2015 FORUM – SEATS AT ROOKS NEST WOOD

The Clerk has now received a response from Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) to the query raised in April 2014 as to why there are no seats in Rooks Nest Wood. WBC has advised that this is not due to a policy decision, and that if there is a demand it will be looked into, subject to budget. This has been posted on Facebook, a small number of responses were received – some for and some against seating. It was agreed not to progress this.

348/2015 LINESMAN PROPOSAL/FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT

As agreed at the previous meeting the Clerk has published information from WBC on landowner responsibilities on the website and in newsletters.

350/2015 CALIFORNIA CROSSROADS TIDY UP

The Tidy Up event on 27 September 2015 was successful. The Handyman has now completed painting not finished on the day. WBC has now granted permission for the pruning of the Red Oak, and this should be completed this month.

Public Participation Session

No members of the public were present.

53/2016 I&E REPORT

A report showing the current position was circulated. No issues were raised.

54/2016 LITTER AND WASTE ISSUES

A report was circulated summarising the work of the Litter Warden in recent months.

	HOURS	MILES	SACKS COLLECTED	SIGNS CLEANED	COST £
2015/16					
OCTOBER	48	201	79	0	
NOVEMBER	50	201	77	40	
DECEMBER	48	222	71	80	
JANUARY	33	229	88	0	
TOTAL FROM APRIL 2015	425	1893	623	472	£5289.50

In December 2015 the Warden reported a number of fly tipping issues which were reported to WBC and which have been dealt with.

55/2016 PROJECTS AND ASSET CONDITION

A report summarising the current position was circulated.

Tree planting

- The small oak saplings planted at Burnmoor Meadow in February 2015 by Cllr Veitch and the Clerk are doing well with 12 of the 15 surviving.
- 3 oak trees were planted in Burnmoor Meadow in January, adding to those planted for the Diamond Jubilee in 2012.
- The 2016/17 budget includes provision for further tree planting. Some of the area is too wet for oak trees and alternatives will be needed. It was agreed that Cllr Veitch and the Clerk would look into this and report back to the next meeting.

Defibrillators

- The 3 units are regularly checked and are in good condition. No units have been used.
- Heartstart First Aid courses at Wellington College and in Swallowfield are being promoted through newsletters, the website and Facebook.

Flagpoles

- A pole and Union flag were installed at the California Hall in November.

Hanging baskets and floral displays

- There are now 11 baskets around the California Crossroads.
- The 2016/17 budget includes provision for up to 3 planted containers at the Crossroads. It was agreed that the Clerk should order 2 containers for placing under the Red Oak tree outside the Red Oak Stores, and outside the Post Office.

Warren Wood

- There is no progress to report. Cllr May and the Clerk will discuss how best to follow this up.

Assets

- **Seats**

A seat by the play area at the Memorial Park has been removed as it was in poor condition. The location has been used by the Park Management Committee for a memorial seat.

The Jubilee seat near the Church will be refurbished this spring when weather conditions are suitable.

- **Jubilee Stone** - this was cleaned in November 2015

- **Noticeboards**

As agreed at the previous meeting, posters were put in several boards asking if they were useful. 3 replies were received, boards at the California Crossroads, Kiln Ride/Nine Mile Ride, the Memorial Hall and St James Church were specifically mentioned as being useful.

The Bramley Grove board was vandalised and has been removed and donated to the Allotment Association.

- **Bus shelters**

The Barkham Ride shelter is safe but its condition is deteriorating, the 2016/17 budget includes provision for its replacement. It was agreed that Cllr May would inspect the shelter and this would be reviewed at the next meeting.

56/2016 WAR MEMORIAL

Historic England is advising that War Memorials should be listed to safeguard them for the future. It was agreed that the Clerk should apply for the Finchampstead Memorial to be listed.

The 2016/17 budget includes provision for cleaning the Memorial. It was agreed that this would be discussed again at the next meeting, and a decision would be made on whether to clean the Memorial in 2016/17 or in 2017/18.

Cllr Veitch suggested that more daffodils could be planted around the Memorial as the existing bulbs are now crowded and not flowering as well as previously. It was agreed that a photograph should be taken of the daffodils in flower this spring, and additional planting would be discussed at the next meeting.

57/2016 ALLOTMENTS

A report was circulated on the current position.

- Cllr Veitch and the Clerk visited the site on 18 January 2016. The Clerk is in regular contact with the Allotment Association (FAA). The site is generally looking good for the time of year with most plots cultivated. The site is considerably drier than at the same time in the last two years.
- A small number of plots are vacant, including new plots created at the south of the site. The Clerk will start promoting for new tenants over the next month.
- FAA is using three half plots on the southern part of the site which to date have been too wet to let to tenants. Crops are being grown to sell in the Village Shop to raise funds for site improvements.
- FAA has installed a second shed, and a second compost bin is under construction.
- Horses grazing on adjacent land were evicted by the Police in December/January. The fence is still present and this is being monitored by the Land Agent.
- The WBC lease has increased from £650 to £708 per annum from 2015, but no invoice has been received to date. The first water bill was received in November 2015, for 12 months water supply.
- The Clerk will be contacting the Cemex Land Agent regarding acquisition of the allotment land and adjacent land. The Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) land will be discussed as part of the WBC Asset Review which is due to take place this year.

58/2016 ROYAL BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) is encouraging Local Councils to light beacons to celebrate the 90th birthday of Her Majesty the Queen on 21 April 2016.

Cllr Mrs Driver advised that St James' Church has given permission for the beacon to be lit, and arrangements are in place for it to be lit by an engineer.

It was agreed that an event would be arranged for 7pm to 8.30pm on 21 April 2016, including a barbecue, birthday cake and drinks, ending with the lighting of the beacon. There will be a pianist present. Transport to the event will be offered, photographs arranged, and the event will be promoted as widely as possible by the Council. The Assistant to the Clerk will work with Cllr Mrs Driver on arrangements for the event.

It was noted that Churches are being encouraged to celebrate the official birthday of The Queen on 11 June 2016, and the Finchampstead Churches are currently making arrangements for this. It was agreed that the Council would support and promote this event as appropriate.

It was also noted that the Finchampstead Memorial Park Sports Club is celebrating its 50th anniversary in June 2016.

The Clerk will look into commemorative plaques for the 3 oak trees recently planted at Burnmoor Meadow, similar to those placed under the Jubilee trees.

59/2015 CORRESPONDENCE

- WBC consultation relating to the development of a playing pitch strategy. A response was submitted in November 2015.

60/2016 FORUM

- Cllr Veitch advised that the Planning Committee felt the wall surrounding the former walled garden at North Court should be listed. The Clerk will contact the Finchampstead Society for relevant history, will speak to Cllr Weeks, and will look into the information required by Historic England to support an application for listing.
- Cllr Cundy advised that he had cleared vegetation to allow a view from the seats near the War Memorial, and that he would undertake more work to widen the view. When completed, a meeting will be arranged with the Contractor to ensure that the clear view is maintained in future.

61/2016 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be held on 25 May 2016.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

PART II

Under the Local Government Act 1972 Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and media representatives were excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

62/2016 RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

These minutes are subject to confirmation at the next meeting of the Committee.