

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD AT
7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 25 MAY 2016 AT THE
FBC CENTRE, GORSE RIDE NORTH, FINCHAMPSTEAD RG40 4ES**

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs Driver, Chair.
Cllrs Bowers, Cundy, Mrs Jennings-Frisby, May, Pearce, Veitch, Mrs Yorke.

Mrs Dagnall, Clerk.

217/2016 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Markham.

218/2016 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

219/2016 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2016 were signed as a true record.

220/2016 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

52/2015 CEMEX LTD APPLICATIONS

Cllr Veitch advised that the future plans for Fleet Hill Farm and Manor Farm were mentioned at a local RSPB meeting recently. The Clerk will try and find out more information on this.

52/2015 CALIFORNIA CROSSROADS TIDY UP

The Red Oak was finally pruned in March 2016. The Red Oak Stores is contributing half of the cost, and is also covering the cost of repainting the railings in front of the Stores.

60/2015 FORUM - LISTING OF WALL AT NORTH COURT

The proposed listing of the wall surrounding the former walled garden at North Court has not been progressed. As the wall may be at risk it was agreed that the Clerk should contact Historic England for advice. The Clerk will also speak to Cllr Weeks.

Public Participation Session

No members of the public were present.

221/2016 I&E REPORT

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

222/2016 LITTER AND WASTE ISSUES

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

	HOURS	MILES	SACKS COLLECTED	SIGNS CLEANED
2015/16 TOTAL	525	2297	803	579

2016/17				
APRIL	46	204	69	29
MAY	48	213	70	70
TOTAL FROM APRIL 2016	94	417	139	99

Cllr Pearce suggested that the figures could be put on Facebook – it was agreed that this was a good idea and will be actioned by the Clerk.

223/2016 CALIFORNIA COUNTRY PARK

Due to uncertainty over future plans for improvements to the Park Cllrs Cundy, Mrs Driver, Markham and Veitch and the Clerk met Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) Cllr Angus Ross on 23 May 2016 to discuss the current position.

The Council has also been contacted by the local Scout Group which is concerned that its lack of security of tenure is preventing it from making improvements to its base at the Park.

The meeting was a useful opportunity to stress the Council's interest in being involved with future plans for the Park, and its concerns on various matters. Cllr Ross is already following up several issues and a fuller response is expected shortly. Cllr Ross also advised that he had met the Scout Group recently and would forward a copy of his response to the Council.

It was agreed that the Clerk would draft a list of priorities for the Park and circulate this for comments. A meeting with the Scout Group will also be arranged to clarify its plans and aspirations.

224/2016 PROJECTS AND ASSET CONDITION

A report summarising the current position was circulated.

Tree planting

- 3 oak trees were planted in Burnmoor Meadow in January, adding to those planted in 2012 for the Diamond Jubilee. Plaques have been added to the new trees to mark the 90th birthday of Queen Elizabeth II. Cllr Veitch advised that he had checked the trees recently and all were doing well, as are 11 of the small oak saplings planted in February 2015.
- 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. Cllr Veitch and the Clerk will look into this.

Defibrillators

- The 3 units are regularly checked, the California Crossroads unit was out of service for a few days recently due to a faulty battery, but is now back in service. No units have been used.
- Heartstart First Aid courses in Swallowfield are promoted through newsletters, the website and Facebook.

Hanging baskets and floral displays

- There are now 11 baskets around the California Crossroads, the summer baskets have recently been installed.

- Two planted containers have also been installed outside the Post Office and the Red Oak Stores. The Red Oak Stores has agreed to maintain the bed adjacent to the planter which is currently full of weeds.

FBC Centre Playing Fields Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) and recreational facilities

- Work commenced on 4 May 2016 and is progressing according to plan. Work is expected to be completed in late June / early July.

Warren Wood

- There is no progress to report. Cllr May agreed to contact WBC to establish the current position.

Assets

- **Seats**
A seat by the play area at the Memorial Park has recently been removed and the location has been used by the Park Management Committee for a memorial seat. The Jubilee seat near the Church has been refurbished.
- **Noticeboards**
The noticeboards are in reasonable condition.
- **Bus shelters**
Cllr May advised that he had inspected the Barkham Ride shelter. It appears to be structurally safe but some repair work is required – Cllr May will obtain a quote for the work.

225/2016 WAR MEMORIAL

Historic England is advising that War Memorials should be listed to safeguard them for the future. It was agreed at the previous meeting that the Finchampstead Memorial should be listed if possible, the Clerk is collating the information required and will submit the application in June.

The 2016/17 budget includes provision for cleaning the Memorial which was last cleaned in 2010. It was agreed that the Memorial should be cleaned this year, the Clerk is obtaining 3 quotes for the work and will circulate details, a decision can be made at the next Main Council meeting.

226/2016 BARKHAM RIDE / FINCHAMPSTEAD ROAD ROUNDABOUT

The roundabout is currently unsightly with dead weed growth and spent winter bedding plants in the 3 small beds. These plants were put in in Autumn 2015 to replace the lavender previously in the beds.

The Clerk has contacted WBC, the roundabout is in its contract and summer bedding will be planted in early June. It was agreed this would be monitored and further action taken as necessary.

The roundabout was sponsored several years ago. In 2015 it was available for sponsorship for over £2000 per annum. One option could be for the Parish Council's contractor which supplies and maintains the hanging baskets at the California Crossroads to take on the roundabout. The Clerk will obtain a quote for this, including permanent not seasonal planting.

227/2016 ALLOTMENTS

A report was circulated on the current position.

- The Clerk visited the site in April 2016, attended the Allotment Association (FAA) meeting on 20 April 2016 and is in regular contact with the Association Chair.

- The annual inspection is due in June – the Clerk will contact Cllr Veitch to arrange a suitable time.
- A small number of plots are vacant, including new plots created at the south of the site. A new poster has been produced and the site has also been promoted on Facebook and in newsletters, and fliers will be taken to events over the next 2 months. Four new tenants have been signed up in the last 2 weeks.
- The Clerk has contacted the people on the waiting list who do not live in the Parish, and 3 have expressed interest in a plot. This has not been followed up yet due to the recent increase in interest from Parish residents and it was agreed that this would be reviewed again at the next meeting.
- The FAA has regular work parties to keep vacant plots clear, communal areas maintained and to make improvements to the site. Ditches created to the south of the site have helped improve drainage on the southern field.
- A local Scout Group visited the site recently and created two bug hotels.
- The Clerk has contacted the Cemex Land Agent regarding extending the lease for /purchasing the allotment land, and the possibility of additional adjacent land and is awaiting a response.

228/2015 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to report.

229/2016 FORUM

- The National Trust 'Live Local, Love Simon's Wood' is on Saturday 28 May 2016 from 10am to 3pm. The Council will have a stand.
- The Village Fete is on Sunday 12 June 2016. A photo competition is planned – any suitable photos should be sent to the Assistant to the Clerk.
- Cllr Veitch advised that he had taken and sent in a photo of the Trigonometry Point at Simons Wood. The feature needs cleaning and the surrounding area could be tidied up. This will be mentioned to the National Trust at the event on 28 May 2016.
- Cllr Veitch advised that the mowing regime for Burnmoor Meadow has been changed this year with tracks being cut but other areas left to grow longer to support biodiversity.

230/2016 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be held on 13 September 2016.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

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