

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD AT 7.30 PM ON TUESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2016 AT THE FBC CENTRE, GORSE RIDE NORTH, FINCHAMPSTEAD RG40 4ES

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs Driver, Chair. Cllr Markham, Vice Chair.
Cllrs Bowers, Bromley (part), Mrs Jennings-Frisby, Pearce, Veitch, Mrs Yorke.

Mrs Dagnall, Clerk.

342/2016 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Cundy and May.

343/2016 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

344/2016 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 May 2016 were signed as a true record.

345/2016 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

220/2016 CEMEX LTD APPLICATIONS

At a recent meeting Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) advised that the Section 106 Agreement is being finalised now. Subject to continued demand for materials, restoration of Fleet Hill Farm should be complete in around 12 months, and restoration of Manor Farm will follow on after this. Arrangements for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) to take on the sites are being finalised. The Clerk will ask WBC for details of the agreed rights of way to be provided on the site.

222/2016 LITTER AND WASTE ISSUES

As suggested the Clerk has posted information on Facebook about litter collected by the Litter Warden. This was also covered in the August 2016 newsletter, along with information about Adopt a Street.

224/2016 MUGA AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The new facilities at the FBC Centre playing fields are now officially open and appear to be very successful.

Concerns about the location of the unattractive bicycle storage building have been raised with WBC. The FBC Centre shares these concerns and is following up.

226/2016 BARKHAM RIDE ROUNDABOUT

WBC had advised that the roundabout would be planted up in early June. This has not taken place, the roundabout is unsightly and its condition is deteriorating. The Clerk has forwarded images to WBC and has been advised that the roundabout will be tidied up and a sponsor will be sought.

Public Participation Session

No members of the public were present.

346/2016 I&E REPORT

A report showing the current position was circulated. Commitments not shown include orders placed for works to the War Memorial and various asset repairs. No issues were raised.

It was noted that income for allotment rents is currently coming in. Income this year should exceed expenditure, unless any unexpected maintenance issues arise. Allotment rent and expenditure is tracked through the financial system, and a sum is kept in ear marked reserves as a contingency.

347/2016 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 TOTALS	525	2297	803	579
2016/17				
APRIL	46	204	69	29
MAY	48	213	70	70
JUNE	47	187	58	56
JULY	48	199	74	55
AUGUST	52	222	95	50
TOTAL TO DATE	241	1025	366	260

The increased litter collected in July and August arises from residential areas rather than main roads, and may be linked to it being the holiday period.

Cllr Mrs Driver agreed to contact the local schools and to offer to speak to the children about litter issues.

There have been several instances of overflowing litter bins over the holiday period. The Clerk advised that reporting to WBC online results in quicker action than issues reported by telephone.

348/2016 CALIFORNIA COUNTRY PARK

As agreed at the previous meeting, a summary of priorities and concerns was forwarded to WBC Cllr Ross. A meeting has also been held with the Scout Group, following which a letter was sent to Cllr Ross expressing concerns over the lack of security of tenure for the Group. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Cllr Ross again asking for a response to the letter.

WBC has recently issued proposals for improvements to access, car parking and the café area at the Park, and a meeting was held on 26 August 2016 with Cllr Ross and the WBC Green Infrastructure Manager. Cllrs Mrs Driver, Markham, Veitch and Woof and the Clerk visited the Park on 5 September 2016 to view areas affected by the proposals.

The proposals were discussed – the Clerk will summarise and circulate comments, and these will be reported to Main Council for approval before being submitted to WBC.

349/2016 PROJECTS AND ASSETS

- **War Memorial.**
An order has been placed for cleaning and repair work to be completed by the end of October 2016.
An application has been submitted to Historic England for listing of the Memorial.
- **Notice boards and seats**
An order has been placed for the refurbishment of 2 noticeboards on Kiln Ride, painting a seat at Simons Wood, and cleaning the seat at Warren Lane.
- **Silver Jubilee Oak and heritage features**
An order has been placed for removal of the railings and creation of a bed around the Silver Jubilee tree. When this is complete a Stonemason will be asked to clean the stone plaque, and also to clean the Trig Point at Simons Wood.
An order has been placed to prune back vegetation around the water trough and to clean out the trough basin.
- **Bus stops**
California Hall - an order has been placed for minor repairs.
Barkham Ride - Cllr May contacted 3 companies but only one - APT Construction Services Ltd. has provided a quote. This is for the sum of £1600 plus VAT. It was agreed that this would be recommended to Main Council for approval. Cllr May will supervise the works.
- **Tree planting at Burnmoor Meadow**
Cllr Veitch and the Clerk will discuss species with a view to placing an order for planting 3 additional trees between November 2016 and February 2017.
- **Warren Wood**
There is no progress to report. The Clerk and Cllr May will discuss the next stage.

350/2016 ALLOTMENTS

- The annual inspection was completed by Cllr Veitch and the Clerk in June 2016. No issues were identified.
- Several plots have been let recently, 1 full plot and 2 half plots are currently vacant, but 3 recent applicants are looking at these.
- Plot rent invoices were issued on 30 August 2016 and payments are coming in steadily. Allotment Association subscriptions are collected with the rent and are paid to the Association as a lump sum.
- The Allotment Association has requested permission to develop further plots in the south west corner of the site. This was agreed and the Clerk will advise the Association.
- 4 non parish residents are interested in having plots. Due to the level of local interest it was agreed that this would not be permitted, but that this would be kept under regular review.
- The Clerk contacted Fisher German, the Land Agent acting for Cemex Ltd., in May 2016 regarding the future purchase or lease of additional land adjacent to the site. Fisher German acknowledged this but there has not been any further response. The Clerk contacted Fisher German again at the end of August 2016 and is awaiting a response.

351/2016 COMMUNITY ORCHARD

Cllr Veitch suggested that if Cemex Ltd allow the use of additional land adjacent to the allotments this could be used as a community orchard – subject to ground conditions and access. Other sites could also be considered.

It was agreed this would be progressed as and when Cemex Ltd. confirm their intentions.

352/2016 CALIFORNIA CROSSROADS TIDY UP

- The tidy up in September 2015 was successful. Work included weeding, pruning, litter picking, painting railings and fencing and cleaning railings. Additional painting was completed by the Handyman after the event.
- After discussion it was agreed that a further tidy up event would be held on 23 October 2016 from 9.30am – 12 noon, focusing on weeding, litter picking and also cleaning the yellow railings.
- A further tidy up will be arranged for Spring 2017.

The two new planters have been attractive, but the planter by the Post Office has apparently been causing an obstruction for the resident. This has now been moved to the verge at Cresswells Garage but may be moved back to the Post Office in future.

353/2016 PROTECTION FOR FEATURES OF LOCAL INTEREST

- The WBC Managing Development Delivery Document (Local Plan) 21 Feb 2014 includes a section on Heritage and the following policies:
Policy TB24 – Designated Heritage Assets (Listed Buildings, Historic Parks and Gardens, Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Conservation Areas).
Policy TB25 – Archaeology
Policy TB26 – Buildings of Traditional Local Character and Areas of Special Character.
- Policy TB26 covers areas and features which may not meet standards for statutory listing or other protection, but which are of considerable local significance or importance to the Boroughs heritage. This policy is currently being reviewed as part of the Local Plan update, including a review of the procedure for updating or adding to the list. This should be in place in October 2016.
- It was agreed that the Clerk would collate a list of all the features in the Parish currently protected, and that suggestions would be sought for additional features which should be protected under Policy TB26 detailed above. This will include asking residents to suggest features for inclusion on the 'local list'
- The Clerk will also continue to seek details of what features are already covered under Policy TB26.

354/2015 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to report.

355/2016 FORUM

- Cllr Veitch noted the new Finchampstead book produced by the Finchampstead Society. Copies are available from the Parish Office.
- Cllr Markham advised that some progress is being made with improvements to the Memorial Park.
- Cllr Mrs Driver advised that there will be a quiz on 22 October 2016 at St James' Church to raise funds for the Churchyard extension project.
- Cllr Mrs Yorke was welcomed as a member of the Committee.

356/2016 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be confirmed in due course.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

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