

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD AT 7.30 PM ON TUESDAY 31 JANUARY 2017 AT THE FBC CENTRE, GORSE RIDE NORTH, FINCHAMPSTEAD RG40 4ES

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs Driver, Chair; Cllr Bowers, Vice Chair.
Cllrs Markham, May, Veitch.

Mrs Dagnall, Clerk.

53/2017 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Cundy, Mrs Jennings-Frisby, Pearce and Mrs Yorke.

54/2017 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

55/2017 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2016 were signed as a true record.

56/2017 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

345/2016 CEMEX LTD APPLICATIONS

There is no further information but it is understood that the restoration work on Fleet Hill Farm will be completed by the end of 2017, and on Manor Farm in 2018.

345/2016 BARKHAM RIDE ROUNDABOUT

Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) finally planted the roundabout with seasonal plants in Autumn 2016. The roundabout is not available for sponsorship. WBC also swept the kerbs around the roundabout and refreshed some of the road markings.

352/2016 CALIFORNIA CROSSROADS TIDY UP

The tidy up event held on 23 October 2016 was successful with volunteers weeding, litter picking and pruning. Daffodil bulbs were planted on the island in the Avery Car Park.

The Mid Counties Co-operative provided a grant of £250.00 and a further planter has been purchased and installed outside the Post Office.

It was agreed that a further tidy up should be held in April. The Clerk will liaise with other interested parties over a suitable date.

353/2016 PROTECTION FOR FEATURES OF LOCAL INTEREST

Following the previous meeting the Clerk collated and circulated a list of Listed Buildings in the Parish, and the one building included on the WBC Local List.

WBC has not confirmed details of its new policy for 'Buildings of Traditional Local Character and Areas of Special Character' or the procedure for nominating features for inclusion on the Local List. When information is available the scheme will be promoted to encourage residents to suggest buildings and features for inclusion.

Public Participation Session

No members of the public were present.

57/2017 I&E REPORT

A report showing the current position was circulated. Expenditure is well within budget and no issues were raised.

Warren Wood was discussed and is noted under item 59/2017 below.

58/2017 LITTER AND WASTE ISSUES

A report was circulated summarising the work of the Litter Warden to date. It was noted that the total collected this year to date already exceeds the total collected in the previous 12 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
SEPTEMBER	52	225	115	48
OCTOBER	51	225	102	39
NOVEMBER	48	200	82	54
DECEMBER	47	198	70	86
JANUARY	54	220	101	0
TOTAL	493	2093	836	487

Cllr Mrs Driver has visited Gorse Ride Schools and Nine Mile Ride School to speak to the children about litter issues, and will be visiting the Village School shortly.

Cllr Mrs Driver and the Clerk will be meeting WBC Officers shortly to discuss ways of addressing the increasing litter problem, and also bottle bank provision in the Parish.

59/2017 PROJECTS AND ASSETS

- **War Memorial.**

Since the last meeting the Memorial has been listed as a Grade II Monument by Historic England. It has also been cleaned and repaired.

The Memorial does not have any permanent means of securing wreaths but it was agreed that the current temporary string system was adequate.

An order was placed for additional bulb planting around the Memorial in October / November 2016.

- **Notice boards and seats**

The Warren Lane seat has been cleaned but the refurbishment of 2 noticeboards on Kiln Ride and painting the seat at Simons Wood is outstanding and will be completed when weather conditions allow.

- **Silver Jubilee Oak and heritage features**

The Water Trough has been cleaned out and vegetation cleared.

Silver Jubilee Oak – the old railings have been removed and a bed created around the tree. An order has been placed with a Stonemason to clean the stone plaque, and also to clean the Trig Point at Simons Wood.

- **Bus stops**

Repair work at the California Hall bus stop has been completed and the Barkham Ride bus stop has been refurbished.

- **Tree planting**

A further two oaks and a River Birch were planted at Burnmoor Meadow in November 2016. Cllr Veitch and the Clerk met WBC Officers on site in December 2016 – the area of wildflower meadow will be reduced in 2017 at the request of residents. Residents are still in communication with WBC over other aspects of maintenance of the site.

- **Warren Wood**

There is no progress to report. Interpretation of the site features has not moved forward, Cllr May agreed to follow this up.

60/2017 ALLOTMENTS

- There are no vacant plots although one will be available when a heap of compost has been moved. One Parish resident is on the waiting list at present.
- The Allotment Association has started to create access over the ditch to allow further plots to be created in the south west corner of the site.
- The Clerk has contacted Fisher German, the Land Agent acting for Cemex Ltd., regarding the future purchase or lease of additional land adjacent to the site but no decision has been made or is likely to be made until Cemex Ltd. complete their work in the area.

61/2017 TELEPHONE BOX ADOPTION

British Telecom has advised that the traditional red telephone box at the California Crossroads is available for adoption, subject to a 90 day consultation with WBC.

It was agreed that subject to the outcome of the consultation the Council should adopt the box. It was also agreed that when the California Crossroads redesign progresses, an alternative and improved location could be found for the box, although still at the Crossroads. Uses for the box will be considered at the same time.

62/2017 COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

A provisional sum of £2000 has been included in the 2017/18 budget with a view to providing Christmas displays in the Parish. This could include a 'switch on' event for the community with carol singing, followed by refreshments at a local Hall. This may also encourage local businesses to provide their own displays or contribute to displays.

It was agreed that this should be progressed and as a first stage the Clerk will look into potential locations for trees at the California Crossroads and The Village.

63/2017 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to report.

64/2017 FORUM

The proposed nomination of the Queens Oak as an Asset of Community Value is progressing well with support coming forward from local individuals and organisations.

65/2017 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be held on 10 May 2017.

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