

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 10 MAY 2017 AT THE FBC CENTRE, GORSE RIDE NORTH, FINCHAMPSTEAD RG40 4ES

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

Mrs Dagnall, Clerk.

184/2017 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Cundy.

185/2017 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

186/2017 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

187/2017 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

56/2017 CEMEX LTD RESTORATION – FLEET HILL AND MANOR FARMS

Cllrs Cundy, Veitch, Weeks and Woof and the Clerk met a Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) Officer recently and discussed various matters relating to the restoration of the sites. Plans of the rights of way within the site, and the restoration of the site are now to hand. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) will eventually take over both sites and also Moor Green Lakes, starting with Fleet Hill Farm following completion of restoration work in 2017, and the other sites by early 2019. Moor Green Lakes Group will continue to be managed by the existing Moor Green Lakes Group.

Cllrs Cundy, Marshallsay, Weeks and Woof will be visiting the site on 16 May 2017 with representatives from Cemex UK Ltd, the RSPB and WBC.

The Clerk advised that a representative from the RSPB has been booked to speak at the 2018 Annual Gathering.

56/2017 BARKHAM RIDE ROUNDABOUT

The roundabout was weeded as part of the California Crossroads Tidy up on 2 April 2017.

56/2017 CALIFORNIA CROSSROADS TIDY UP

The tidy up event held on 2 April 2017 was successful with volunteers weeding, litter picking and pruning.

Cllr Pearce has drafted a list of tasks to be used at the next session, it would be helpful to have overall co-ordinator on the day to make best use of the resources available.

It was agreed that a further tidy up should be held in late October / early November 2017.

It was noted that the hanging baskets and planters will be planted up with the summer displays at the end of May.

56/2017 PROTECTION FOR FEATURES OF LOCAL INTEREST

WBC has recently confirmed it's updated 'Buildings of Traditional Local Character' Policy and has adopted it as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The criteria and procedures for nominating buildings and features have also been updated – the criteria are strict and the nomination procedure is very detailed.

64/2017 FORUM – ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE

As reported at Main Council the Queens Oak Public House is now listed as an Asset of Community Value.

Public Participation Session

No members of the public were present.

188/2017 I&E REPORT

A report showing the current position and the budget available for 2017/18 was circulated. No issues were raised.

189/2017 LITTER AND WASTE ISSUES

A report was circulated summarising the work of the Litter Warden to date. It was noted that the total number of sacks collected in 2016/17 was significantly higher than in the previous year.

	HOURS	MILES	SACKS COLLECTED	SIGNS CLEANED
2014/15 TOTALS	576	2385	729	644
2015/16 TOTALS	525	2297	803	579
2016/17 TOTALS	600	2527	1030	576
2017/18				
APRIL	51	198	74	81
MAY	52	225	84	30
TOTAL	103	423	158	111

Cllr Mrs Driver has now visited all 3 Finchampstead Primary Schools to talk about litter issues. Cllr Mrs Driver and the Clerk met WBC Officers to discuss the increasing litter problem but no additional action was proposed.

It was noted that there has been a lot of fly tipping in White Horse Lane and also in Park Lane recently. There has also been fly tipping in Commonfield Lane and on The Ridges.

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact WBC for clarification of the policy for disposing of household 'do it yourself' waste.

The Finchampstead Park Management Committee has been asked if it would accommodate a bottle bank in its car park but the request has been refused.

Cllrs May will be attending the WBC Cleaner and Greener meeting on 15 May 2017.

190/2017 ASSETS

A report on the condition of assets and work required was circulated prior to the meeting. #

- **Seats**

The metal seats at Simon's Wood and on FP9 require refurbishment. It was agreed that the work should be arranged subject to clarifying the issues with the seat on FP9.

The Jubilee Seat near St James' Church requires cleaning due to bird droppings from overhanging tree branches. Cllr Mrs Driver agreed to contact St. James' Church.

- **Noticeboards**

The boards at Barkham Ride, St James' Church, Kiln Ride Barbers, Kiln Ride / Finchampstead Road and the Memorial Hall require refurbishment.

It was agreed that noticeboards are now a less important form of communication given the website, e newsletters and Facebook. Some are likely to be little used – particularly those on Kiln Ride and at the Tally Ho. It was agreed that the Clerk would place a notice in these boards indicating that they may be removed, and Cllr Mrs Driver would include this in the Finchampstead Magazine article. Subject to the outcome the boards may be removed.

The Clerk will arrange refurbishment of the boards at Barkham Ride, St James' Church and the Memorial Hall.

- **Bus Shelters**

The bus shelters are in good condition.

- **Defibrillators**

The Unit at California Crossroads is out of service due to a problem and is being evaluated – the Clerk will chase this up again. The other two units are operational.

- **War Memorial**

The Memorial is in good condition. The maintenance contractor has given up and recommended another contractor but the Clerk has been unable to get a quotation to date.

Cllr Mrs Driver agreed to contact Beech Landscapes / Garden Angels contractors to see if they would be interested in quoting for the work.

- **Historic / commemorative features**

The Silver Jubilee Oak is now set in an edged bed and the plaque has been refurbished.

The stone plaque marking the Golden Jubilee Oak is in good condition.

The Queen Victoria Jubilee Oak plaque needs cleaning and the ivy pruning – Cllr Mrs Driver agreed to contact St. James' Church.

The water trough and pump are in good condition.

The trig point at The Ridges has been cleaned, weeded and repointed.

The 6 commemorative trees and plaques at Burnmoor Meadow, the saplings at Burnmoor Meadow and the Jubilee tree and plaque on the green near St. James' Church are doing well.

191/2017 ALLOTMENTS

- Cllr Veitch and the Clerk visited the site in April and agreed the Allotment Association (FAA) plans to create new plots on the south west corner of the site, including bridges for access over the ditch to the new plots.
- 4 plots have been let recently including 2 in the new area. One application is pending.
- The Clerk will be contacting the four potential tenants living outside the Parish to see if they are still interested in a plot.
- The FAA is fund raising for additional car parking.
- The FAA is holding a 'Friends and Family' day on 4 June 2017
- There has been no further progress with the new WBC lease.
- There has been no further progress with securing a longer lease with Cemex Ltd, or the freehold of the land or with requests for additional land.

- WBC has asked to meet representatives from Finchampstead, Barkham, Arborfield and Newland and Swallowfield Parish Councils regarding plans for management of future allotment sites on the SDL. Cllr Veitch and the Clerk have agreed to attend a meeting.

192/2017 PROJECTS

- **Telephone box**

The contract for adoption of the traditional box at the California Crossroads has now been signed and British Telecom will forward a completion notice when the telephone has been removed. The contract requires the Council to put a sign in the box advising of the new ownership – the Clerk will arrange this and will also put a notice in the nearby noticeboard and advise the local businesses.

An alternative location will be considered when the California Crossroads redesign progresses.

Any suggestions for a use for the box in the interim should be forwarded to the Clerk.

- **California Country Park**

Cllrs Cundy, Weeks, Woof, Veitch and the Clerk met a WBC Officer on 21 April 2017. It was confirmed that the only plans in place for the Park are the access and car parking improvements, the café area, new signage and also improvements to the play area. WBC has no plans to put additional features in the Park but may replace the lakeside paving when funds are available.

WBC advised that the large car park will cater for existing users and also future residents of the Arborfield development.

WBC has been in touch with the Scout Group and the Group is expecting a proposal about the future of the Hut from WBC in the near future.

- **Warren Wood**

Reading University has been researching barrows across the Country but has not apparently looked at the Warren Wood barrow. Cllr May has asked WBC to follow this up with the University and English Heritage but has not had any response. It was

agreed that Cllrs Mrs Driver and May would follow up direct with the University.

When more information about the barrow is available an information board for the site could be produced.

193/2017 PARISH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN AND AMENITIES ACTION PLAN

The existing Forward Plan for 2013-2017 was discussed at a recent Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting. The Plan needs review and reformatting to allow it to be used as a helpful working document.

A draft Action Plan for 2017/18 for the Amenities Committee was circulated, using the objectives from the original Plan.

Projects which involve a number of Committees or the whole Council may have a separate Action Plan, and there would also be a Council Communications Action Plan.

It was agreed that comments on and suggestions for the Action Plan should be forwarded to the Clerk by 31 May 2017.

194/2017 CORRESPONDENCE

- In commemoration and remembrance of the end of World War 1 and the many killed or wounded, a chain of 1000 beacons will be lit throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories at 7pm on 11 November 2018. It was agreed that Finchampstead should participate and that Cllr Mrs Driver would follow this up with St. James' Church.

195/2017 FORUM

- A new associate priest, Reverend Julian McAllen, has joined the parish of Finchampstead and California.
- A traffic incident on New Mill Road will be reported to the Roads & Road Safety Committee.

196/2017 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be held on 5 September 2017.

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