

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 24 JANUARY 2018 AT THE FBC CENTRE, GORSE RIDE NORTH, FINCHAMPSTEAD RG40 4ES

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs Driver; Chair..
Cllrs Mrs Eytle, Mrs Jennings– Frisby, Veitch.

Mrs Dagnall, Clerk.

40/2018 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Bowers, May and Pearce.

41/2018 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

42/2018 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2017 were signed as a true record, with one amendment to the wording regarding the possible future repositioning of the telephone box.

43/2018 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

337/2017 PROJECTS – CALIFORNIA COUNTRY PARK

Work on the access and car park improvements is underway and due to be completed this Spring. Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) has advised that it will be in contact when plans for the café area are available for comment.

The board walk is still closed and there is no further news on plans for repairs or replacement. The Clerk will ask WBC for an update on the current position. It was suggested that the Council could contribute funds to the project.

There is no further news on the Scout Hut issue, this was raised with the WBC Interim Chief Executive at a recent meeting and will be followed up by the Clerk in due course.

337/2017 CENTENARY OF THE END OF WORLD WAR I

St James' Church has agreed to light its beacon at 7pm on 11 November 2018 and this has been registered with the organisers of the national event. There has been a recent request for the Church bells to be rung and this has been passed to the Church. The Church will be holding a service from 6pm to 7pm on the day.

Cllr Mrs Eytle confirmed that the Arborfield Military Singers are available for the event and have been provisionally booked.

Cllr Mrs Driver will discuss arrangements for the event with the St James' Church Social Committee. The provision of buses to transport residents to the Church was discussed, and the potential streaming of the Church service to the Church Centre. It was agreed that the Council should be able to contribute funds to the event, for example for transport.

Cllr Veitch suggested that a tree could be planted to mark the event – it was

agreed that the new Churchyard extension would be an appropriate location. Cllr Mrs Driver will follow this up with the Church.

341/2017 BARKHAM RIDE ROUNDABOUT

WBC has refused permission for the installation of hanging baskets on the lamp columns around the roundabout. It was agreed that the Clerk should follow this up and try again to secure permission.

343/2017 TELEPHONE BOX

The telephone box has been fully refurbished and is now up and running as a book swop.

346/2017 WARREN WOOD COUNTRY PARK & BELL BARROW

Cllr Mrs Driver is compiling a summary about the Barrow for publication on the website and for inclusion in other appropriate publications.

Public Participation Session

No members of the public were present.

44/2018 I&E REPORT

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

45/2018 LITTER AND WASTE ISSUES

A report was circulated summarising the work of the Litter Warden from April 2017 to date.

	HOURS	MILES	SACKS COLLECTED	SIGNS CLEANED
2016/17 TOTALS	600	2527	1030	576
2017/18				
APRIL	51	198	74	81
MAY	52	225	84	30
JUNE	50	228	82	60
JULY	55	224	50	52
AUGUST	54	204	107	94
SEPTEMBER	59	239	108	73
OCTOBER	56	219	93	64
NOVEMBER	54	229	109	34
DECEMBER	55	219	75	0

JANUARY	56	244	103	59
TOTAL	542	2229	885	547

The Council's December 2017 e newsletter included an item on the extent of litter, the work of the Council's Warden and recycling opportunities. The Clerk is planning an update on this in the next newsletter and will also promote the Adopt a Street scheme.

Related issues were discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk would undertake the following actions:

- Ask WBC if the frequency of litter bin emptying in the FBC Playing Fields play area will be increased for the summer period, and / or if more or larger litter bins could be provided.
- Look for Keep Britain Tidy group posters / signs about litter.
- Put regular posts on social media about litter issues.

The annual community litter pick is being held on 24 and 25 March 2018. The Finchampstead Neighbourhood Action Group will be organising the event and details will be circulated in due course.

The Clerk has contacted WBC about the leaf litter on the footways and kerb sides on Barkham Ride. Overhanging branches at the junction of Finchampstead Road and Barkham Ride have also been reported.

The Clerk will report additional issues such as overhanging branches as long as specific details about the location are provided.

46/2018 CALIFORNIA CROSSROADS

It was agreed that a further tidy up session will be held on 15 April 2018, subject to key Cllrs being available. The Clerk will work with Cllr Pearce over plans for the event.

The Clerk has reported the blocked gullies in the parking bays again – this has been reported several times since 2015 and despite assurances from WBC the gullies have never been cleared and therefore the bays repeatedly flood and are currently full of leaf litter.

The hanging basket brackets are being replaced as some are beginning to perish and others have been incorrectly reinstalled by the contractor replacing the lamp columns.

47/2018 DEFIBRILLATORS

A new defibrillator was installed at the California Ratepayers Hall in December 2017 and a further one will be installed at the St. James' Church Centre this month.

The issue with the Memorial Hall cabinet has been resolved and the defibrillator has been returned to the cabinet.

Cllr Pearce has agreed to be the overall monitor and co-ordinator for the 5 defibrillators, ensuring that regular checks take place and are recorded, and that batteries and pads are replaced as required.

The Assistant to the Clerk is arranging a training / awareness session for the end of February / March 2018.

It was agreed that the Clerk would provide 'your nearest defibrillator is at' posters for the Community House and the St. Mary and St. John's Parish Centre.

48/2018 ALLOTMENT SITE

Cllr Veitch and the Clerk reported on the current situation.

A cost estimate has been obtained for the car park and water supply extension and track repairs. This is more than expected but quotes will be obtained and a decision can then be taken on whether the works can proceed this year.

The new lease with Cemex UK Ltd. is moving forward but there has been no progress with the WBC lease.

The West London Mental Health Trust has confirmed that the siren will be removed from the allotment site this spring. The Clerk will take a photograph of the siren and will let the Finchampstead Archivist know that it is being removed.

49/2018 HOUSEHOLD CONSULTATION

A summary of the response and all of the consultation comments have been circulated to all Cllrs.

Parks and open spaces, community halls and indoor facilities and outdoor sports facilities were rated 3rd, 4th and 5th out of 5 respectively. The comments on these areas have been passed to the Amenities Committee to look at and plan what action could or should be taken. Cllrs Mrs Driver and Pearce will be looking at this and will circulate information to the Committee in due course.

50/2018 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items to report

51/2018 FORUM

- The recording of historical features and information was raised. The Council's website includes information about the history of the Parish; the St. James' Church Conservation Area; the War Memorial; the World War I Centenary; Listed Buildings and other historical information. There are also links to related organisations and information including the Finchampstead Archives. The website does not currently include specific information about other local heritage features but this is planned.
- The Finchampstead Archives are open monthly at the FBC Centre Library and are regularly promoted by the Clerk through e newsletters and on social media.

52/2018 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be held on 9 May 2018.

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