

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 9 MAY 2018 AT THE FBC CENTRE, GORSE RIDE NORTH, FINCHAMPSTEAD RG40 4ES

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs C. Driver; Chair. Cllr S. Bowers, Vice Chair.
Cllrs R. Cundy, Mrs N. Jennings–Frisby, Mrs S. McDonald, A. Pearce and
G. Veitch.

Mrs Dagnall, Clerk.

179/2018 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs Eytle.

180/2018 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

181/2018 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2018 were signed as a true record.

182/2018 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

43/2018 CALIFORNIA COUNTRY PARK

Work on the car park, access and café area improvements has been delayed while Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) puts the work out to tender.

WBC has awarded a contract to replace the board walk and the work is due to be completed in July. The Council has agreed to contribute funds to the project to enable it to proceed.

The Scout Group has advised that some progress has been made towards resolving the issues over its lease for the Scout Hut in the Park.

43/2018 BARKHAM RIDE ROUNDABOUT

The roundabout is again covered with weeds. The Clerk has advised WBC Officers that this is now being referred to the WBC Ward Councillors as all suggestions and offers of support from the Parish Council have been rejected and WBC is not maintaining the roundabout as it should. WBC has also refused permission for the installation of hanging baskets on the lamp columns around the roundabout.

43/2018 TELEPHONE BOX

The book swap is running well. As agreed at the Main Council meeting on 21 April 2018 a geocache has been installed in the box.

43/2018 WARREN WOOD COUNTRY PARK & BELL BARROW

Cllr Mrs Driver has produced a summary document about the Bell Barrow. This was included in the May 2018 e newsletter and will be published on the website.

49/2018 Household consultation

Cllrs Mrs Driver and Pearce have undertaken some analysis of the comments relating to the work of the Committee. Due to the volume and format of comments on other areas – particularly Rights of Way and Roads and Road Safety – a different

approach to the analysis is being taken. This work is underway.

Public Participation Session

No members of the public were present.

183/2018 COMMITTEE BUDGET 2018/19

A summary of the budget available for 2018/19 was circulated.

184/2018 LITTER, WASTE AND RECYCLING MATTERS

A report was circulated summarising the work of the Litter Warden over the last year. A total of 1136 sacks of litter were collected.

	HOURS	MILES	SACKS COLLECTED	SIGNS CLEANED
2016/17 TOTAL	600	2527	1030	576
2017/18 TOTAL	663	2704	1136	702

The Litter Warden is unwell and has not worked for 7 weeks. WBC has been informed. Cllr Mrs Driver has mentioned this in the Finchampstead Magazine article and the Clerk mentioned it in the recent e newsletter. In both cases the 'adopt a street' scheme was promoted but no additional volunteers have come forward. It was noted that although there are only around 20 volunteers in the scheme a number of additional residents do work to keep their road or street clean and tidy.

It was agreed that if the Warden has not been in touch in 4 weeks the Clerk will make contact and will advise that we will be looking for temporary cover for the role.

The litter bins in the FBC Playing Fields and the litter and dog waste bins in the California Country Park were overflowing after the Bank Holiday weekend as the normal collection day is Monday. The Clerk will follow this up with WBC.

WBC Officers will be attending the Main Council meeting on 20 June 2018 to give a presentation on waste and recycling.

WBC is very keen to get another bottle bank in the Parish. At present there are bottle banks at the California Country Park and the Avery Corner Car Park. The Memorial Park would be an ideal location but the Park Management Committee has previously rejected the idea. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Management Committee again with the proposal.

185/2018 CALIFORNIA CROSSROADS

The tidy up session planned for 22 April 2018 was cancelled due to a lack of volunteers.

It was agreed that a further tidy up session should take place and a provision date of 23 September 2018 was agreed.

The Red Oak stores bed is very overgrown – the Clerk will ask Cllr Bromley to speak to the Shop owner.

The Clerk has reported the blocked gullies in the parking bays 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. It was agreed that the Clerk would make a further approach to a more senior officer at WBC.

The hanging basket brackets have been replaced. The summer baskets will be installed later this month and the tubs will be planted up for summer.

186/2018 DEFIBRILLATORS

The training session on 27 March 2018 was delivered by Heartstart Swallowfield and was very successful.

Posters giving the location of the nearest defibrillator (at the California Ratepayers Hall) have been given to the Community House and the St. Mary and St. John's Parish Centre.

The Memorial Hall cabinet is still an issue – the temperature sensor is now thought to have failed. It was agreed that a new cabinet should be purchased as soon as possible at an estimated cost of £500.

187/2018 ALLOTMENT SITE

The Clerk reported on the current situation.

- The car park and water supply extension and track repairs are progressing well and will be completed this month.
- Some tree work is required – the Clerk has asked for a quotation.
- A waste exemption licence is now in place. There was some concern that the amount of communal composting on site might be in breach of regulations but the licence has confirmed this is not the case.
- There has been no further progress with the Cemex lease or the WBC lease.
- The West London Mental Health Trust removed most of the Broadmoor siren in early March and will return to remove the remaining section.

There is some concern about the safety and security of the electricity cabinet outside the allotment site gate – this served the siren and still serves the pumping station. The Clerk will contact the Electricity Board stating the Council's concerns.

- The Allotment Association is holding a 'Friends and Family Day' on Sunday 3 June. All Councillors and immediate family are welcome to attend but it is not a public event. Details will follow shortly.

188/2018 CENTENARY OF THE END OF WORLD WAR I

Cllr Mrs Driver advised that arrangements in place for 11 November 2018 include:

- A concert with the Arborfield Military Wives Choir – this will be streamed to the Church Centre if required. There will be a collection for the Choir or for Help for Heroes.
- The beacon on the Church Tower will be lit at 7pm.
- The Church bells will be rung.

- Refreshments will be organised by the Church Social Committee and will be served in the Church Centre.

It was agreed that transport to the event would not be arranged. Cllr Mrs Driver agreed to make enquiries about the Last Post being played after the concert, and to establish if any financial assistance is required to support the event.

Cllr Veitch advised that St James' Church has agreed that a commemorative tree can be planted in the new Churchyard extension. The Clerk will arrange the purchase and planting of the tree - a hornbeam *Carpinus betulus* – and an appropriate plaque.

189/2018 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items to report

190/2018 FORUM

- Records of former Council events are held in the Parish Council Office but there are plans to send some of these to the Berkshire Record Office for safekeeping. Cllr Mrs Driver and the Clerk will progress this.

191/2018 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be held on 5 September 2018.

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