

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 30 JANUARY 2019 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 B. Eytle, Mrs N. Jennings–Frisby, J. May, Mrs S.
McDonald, A. Pearce and G. Veitch.

Mrs Dagnall, Clerk.

39/2019 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All Committee members were present.

40/2019 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

41/2019 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2018 were signed as a true record.

42/2019 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES AND OTHER ITEMS

330/2018 ARCHIVE MATERIAL

The old records of Parish Council events and information and documents which were not required by the Berkshire Records Office have been offered to the Finchampstead Society Archive. The Archive has retained some items and returned others.

Cllr May advised that he has a video of the events held to commemorate the centenary of the Parish Council in 2004 and intends to get the video digitised so it can be readily viewed. All agreed with this approach and that if possible the film should be shown at the Annual Gathering. The Clerk will check if there is a copy of the video in the Office.

333/2018 WAR MEMORIAL

A new contractor has been secured and will start maintaining the surrounds to the Memorial in March 2019.

The Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) proposals for the junction will be discussed at the February Main Council meeting.

334/2018 CALIFORNIA CROSSROADS

The tidy up session held on 7 October was successful. The Handyman has now repainted all the blue railings.

It was agreed that a further tidy up session should take place and a provisional date of 19 May 2019 was agreed. Previous sessions have run from 9.30am to 12 noon.

336/2018 CENTENARY OF THE END OF WORLD WAR I

As reported to Main Council the events held on 11 November 2018 ran smoothly and were well attended.

CALIFORNIA HALL BUS SHELTER

The seat installed in August 2018 to replace the stolen seat was itself stolen in November 2018. The Clerk is looking in to alternative options, a wall mounted seat made from recycled plastic may be suitable subject to the fixings being appropriate for the bus shelter structure. This is currently being checked and it was agreed that subject to this the seat should be purchased and installed.

FIRST AID / DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

A training session is being arranged for Spring or early Summer 2019.

Cllr Pearce advised that all the defibrillators have been checked and are in working order. St. James' Church is running a training session in February – the Clerk will contact the Church to offer help with publicising the session.

Public Participation Session

No members of the public were present.

43/2019 INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2018/19

A report showing the current position with the Committee budget was circulated with the agenda and at the meeting.

The Litter Warden salaries are now included in staff costs and the Committee budget is now just for equipment for the Wardens.

Expenditure on Community Activities to date has been on the California Crossroads Tidy Up and the World War I event. There may be further expenditure for equipment for the Community Litter Pick in March 2019.

The total allotment rental income to date is £5304 but this includes £1115 in subscriptions and service charges collected on behalf of the Allotment Association.

44/2019 LITTER, WASTE AND RECYCLING MATTERS

After a seven-month period with no Litter Warden the two new Litter Wardens commenced work in late October 2018. Priority routes and the required frequency of visits will be determined over time. Information on the work carried out to date is summarised below.

| 2018/19 | HOURS | MILES | SACKS |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| APRIL - OCT | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| NOVEMBER | 68 | 135 | 65 |
| DECEMBER | 12 | 17 | 12 |
| JANUARY | 17 | 36 | 21 |
| TOTAL | 97 | 188 | 98 |

The potential for separating the litter collected in to recyclable and other material will be discussed with the Wardens. WBC currently collects the sacks of litter and will be consulted

over the possibility of collecting both litter and recyclable materials.

The 2019 Community Litter Pick will be run jointly by the Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Action Group and will be co-ordinated by Cllr Mrs McDonald. Cllrs Bromley, Mrs McDonald and Rampton and the Clerk met on 24 January to discuss the Litter Pick and an action plan was drawn up.

The aims are to improve co-ordination of the various groups involved, to ensure the health and safety of all participants and to enable more promotion of the events to increase awareness and participation.

The main date for the Litter Pick is 24 March but some groups may work on other days, including the FBC Centre on 17 March.

'Adopt a Street' volunteers will be contacted in relation to the litter pick. It was agreed that information on the roads covered and those not covered may be a way of encouraging volunteers from other roads to get involved with the Scheme.

The Annual Gathering on 6 March 2019 will be a good opportunity to promote the Litter Pick and the 'Adopt a Street' scheme. It was noted that WBC will be giving a talk on recycling at the event.

45/2019 BARKHAM RIDE ROUNDABOUT

The roundabout is now being kept tidy but the beds are bare. WBC has provided a quotation to plant the beds with lavender, the Clerk has requested further information on the extent of the work and on arrangements for ongoing maintenance.

An alternative quotation has been requested from an outside contractor.

The California Crossroads improvements are due to be implemented in 2020 and it was agreed that improvements to the Barkham Ride roundabout and surrounds would complement the improvements to the Crossroads.

Additional locations for hanging baskets could be identified across the area, although it was noted that WBC has previously refused permission for the installation of hanging baskets on the lamp columns around the roundabout.

46/2019 GREEN SPACE NEAR TICKENOR DRIVE

A resident has approached the Council about the possibility of putting this green space to better use, for example as a community allotment or wildlife area. WBC has stated that it may be willing to transfer the land to the Parish Council.

The land is part grassed, part scrub and has several mature and semi mature trees including pines and birch which are typical of the area. The area has close board garden fences on 3 sides and a metal fence with locked gate adjacent to the path running alongside the area.

It was agreed that this was not an appropriate space for the Parish Council to take over given the nature of the site and the need for immediate and ongoing management and maintenance.

It was agreed that WBC should be approached over its plans for the site and the potential for removing the fence and gate.

47/2019 ALLOTMENT SITE

Site condition

The site is in very good order. The relocation of the compost bins has been completed and this has released two additional plots. A skip has been used to dispose of excess waste, mainly from some vacated plots.

The new gate on the entrance track is due to be installed in early February.

Some tree work is needed to the central belt alongside the ditch and to a tree by the entrance gate. Two quotes have been obtained and provision has been made in the 2019/20 budget with the intention of undertaking the work in Autumn/Winter 2019.

Tenants and plots

There are currently 95 plots and around 84 tenants including 12 non-parish residents. 3 plots have been let this week. Two full plots and one half plot are currently vacant.

Lease arrangements

As previously advised new 30 year leases are being negotiated with Cemex UK Ltd. and with WBC. The Cemex UK Ltd. lease is nearing completion but further work is required with the WBC lease.

The West London Mental Health Trust has still not removed the remains of the Broadmoor siren tower. WBC is now in negotiation with the Trust over the lease in place for the tower.

Rent review

A rent review is due. Information on rents charged by other local councils is being collected and it was agreed that Cllrs Mrs Driver and Veitch and the Clerk would discuss the review and report back to the next Committee meeting.

48/2019 TREE PLANTING AND PROTECTION

A hornbeam tree has been planted in the St. James' Churchyard extension to mark the centenary of the end of World War I. A plaque has been installed. Cllr Mrs Driver will be liaising with the Church over a dedication ceremony for the tree, potentially on a Sunday in late Spring.

Two English oak trees and a river birch have been planted at Burnmoor Meadow, adding to the trees planted in previous years including those to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee and the 90th birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Plaques for the trees are mounted on wooden plinths which are starting to rot. It was agreed that alternative options for individual plaques and for one larger plaque/ interpretive feature for the avenue should be looked in to.

Cllr Veitch advised that the Wokingham District Veteran Trees Association (WDVTA) has raised the issue of management for the Wellingtonia trees on Wellingtonia Avenue. Around 25 of the trees are on National Trust land and the other 75 are on private property. The National Trust has previously surveyed the trees on its land and has undertaken work to reduce compaction around the trees.

A survey of the trees on private land is proposed and a meeting is being arranged with a WBC Officer to discuss how this can be progressed. All residents of the Avenue will need to be contacted and this will be an opportunity to stress the importance of the trees and the need for appropriate management.

Post meeting note: The Wellingtonia trees on private land are covered by a Group Tree Preservation Order. Those on National Trust land are not included.

Cllr Veitch advised that the Government Department for Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has issued a consultation on the protection and enhancement of England's trees and woodlands. This includes proposals to introduce a requirement to consult the community before removing any street trees, and a requirement for local authorities to report on the number of trees removed and planted in their area. Cllr Veitch and the Clerk have each responded to the consultation.

A resident has been in contact with WBC over the removal of street trees in Pine Drive. WBC no longer has a budget for replacement or new tree planting. Cllr Veitch and the Clerk will discuss how to approach a possible partnership with WBC and residents to safeguard and enhance the street tree population of the Parish.

It was noted that a tree survey is underway on the Gorse Ride Estate in connection with the regeneration of the Estate.

49/2019 REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE 2019

It is understood that Thames Valley Police will not be attending the event in 2019. In previous years the Police have covered the 3 approaches to the Memorial, and Church Lane and Longwater Road. The Clerk will request written confirmation of this change, at the same time expressing the Council's concern and disappointment if this is the case.

Cllr Mrs Driver advised that a meeting will be arranged with St. James' Church and youth group representatives to discuss how the 2019 event should be organised.

An option may be to hold the event and service in the Memorial Park, potentially with some form of new memorial.

It was noted that the Royal British Legion organise and manage the Arborfield parade. Cllr Mrs Driver has contacted the Legion for advice and information but has not had a response.

50/2019 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items to report.

51/2019 FORUM

- Cllr Mrs Driver advised that the Telephone Box Book Swop has been tidied and surplus books disposed of.

52/2019 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be held on 8 May 2019.

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

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

| MINUTE REFERENCE | ACTION | RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S) |
|------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 42/2019 | Parish Centenary video – digitise | JM |
| 42/2019 | Make arrangements for the California Crossroads tidy up in May 2019 | Clerk/AP |

| | | |
|---------|--|---------------------------|
| 42/2019 | New seat for the California Hall bus shelter | Clerk |
| 42/2019 | Defibrillator training session spring / early summer 2019 | Clerk / Asst to the Clerk |
| 44/2019 | Potential for separating waste collected by the Litter Wardens to recyclable / other materials | Clerk |
| 44/2019 | Community Litter Pick 2019 co-ordination | SM |
| 45/2019 | Barkham Ride roundabout Circulate further information on potential planting of the site when available. | Clerk |
| 46/2019 | Tickenor Drive green space Contact WBC over plans for the space. Contact the resident interested in the space. | Clerk |
| 47/2019 | Arrange allotment site tree works for Autumn 2019 | Clerk |
| 47/2019 | Complete new allotment leases | Clerk |
| 48/2019 | Dedication ceremony for WWI Hornbeam tree | CD |
| 48/2019 | Source replacement plaques or plaque for commemorative trees | Clerk |
| 48/2019 | Meet WBC and WDVTA regarding Wellingtonia Avenue trees. | GV/Clerk |
| 48/2019 | Consider involvement with street tree planting in partnership with WBC and residents. | GV/Clerk |
| 49/2019 | Seek confirmation that Police will not attend the 2019 Remembrance Day parade. | Clerk |
| 49/2019 | Arrange meeting regarding 2019 Remembrance Day parade | CD |