

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 8 MAY 2019 AT THE FBC CENTRE, GORSE RIDE NORTH, FINCHAMPSTEAD RG40 4ES

PRESENT: Cllr S. Bowers, Vice Chair.
Cllrs R. Cundy, Mrs N. Jennings–Frisby, Mrs R. Margetts, J. May, A. Pearce
and G. Veitch.

Mrs Dagnall, Clerk.

174/2019 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs Driver, Mrs B. Eyle and Mrs McDonald.

175/2019 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

176/2019 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2019 were signed as a true record.

177/2019 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES AND OTHER ITEMS

42/2019 ARCHIVE MATERIAL

Cllr May has arranged for the video of the events held to commemorate the centenary of the Parish Council to be digitised. This will be circulated so it can be viewed by all those interested.

42/2019 WAR MEMORIAL

The new contractor who agreed to maintain the surrounds to the Memorial from March 2019 has not been in contact. The owner of Manor Farm has now agreed to undertake the work.

42/2019 CALIFORNIA HALL BUS SHELTER

Following the theft of two seats a new recycled plastic seat was installed in March 2019.

42/2019 FIRST AID / DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

Heartstart Swallowfield ran a training session at St. James' Church in March 2019 so there are now plans to arrange a further session in autumn 2019.

Cllr Pearce undertakes regular monthly checks of the units and others do interim checks. Cllr Pearce and the Clerk keep records of battery and pad expiry dates and replace these as required.

45/2019 BARKHAM RIDE ROUNDABOUT

Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) planted the roundabout with lavender in April 2019.

46/2019 LAND AT TICKENOR DRIVE

As agreed at the previous meeting the Clerk has advised the local resident that the Parish Council is not able to take over the site and has contacted Wokingham

Borough Council (WBC) over its plans for the site.

49/2019 REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE

Cllrs Mrs Driver and Weeks are meeting representatives from the local Scout and Guide Groups on 14 May to discuss arrangements for the 2019 Parade. As Thames Valley Police are no longer able to assist with road closures it is likely that the event will be held at an alternative location, possibly the Memorial Park.

The Clerk will circulate the information / explanation received from the Police.

It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Dr Phillip Lee MP and John Redwood MP expressing concern over the lack of Police availability. The letter will be copied to St. James' Church and the local Scout and Guide Groups.

Public Participation Session

No members of the public were present.

178/2019 INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2019/20

A report showing the current position was circulated with the agenda. Expenditure to date has been minimal due to the early stage in the financial year and no issues were raised.

179/2019 LITTER, WASTE AND RECYCLING MATTERS

The two new Litter Wardens collected a total of 174 sacks of litter between November 2018 and March 2019. The Wardens only cover roadsides and alleyways, not public open spaces.

Information on the work carried out to date is summarised below.

	HOURS	MILES	SACKS
2018/19			
APRIL - OCT	0	0	0
NOVEMBER- MARCH	177	304	174
2019/20			
APRIL	18	25	17
TOTAL	18	25	17

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 held in March was very successful as reported at Main Council.

Two new 'Adopt a Street' volunteers have joined the scheme as a result of the litter pick.

180/2019 CALIFORNIA CROSSROADS TIDY UP

The next tidy up session will be held on Sunday 19 May from 9.30am to 12 noon. Cllr Pearce and the Clerk are co-ordinating the event. There will be a range of tasks including weeding, litter picking, sweeping and painting. All volunteers are welcome.

181/2019 ALLOTMENT SITE

Site condition

The site is in very good order. Cllr Veitch and the Clerk will be undertaking the annual inspection in June.

The new gate on the entrance track was installed in February. The tenants are finding it much easier to operate than the bollards.

As previously reported some tree work is needed to the central belt alongside the ditch and to a tree by the entrance gate. Provision has been made in the 2019/20 budget with the intention of undertaking the work in Autumn/Winter 2019.

Details of a 'Friends and Family Day' on 2 June will be circulated. All Councillors are welcome to attend.

Tenants and plots

The maximum number of plots have now been created on the site. Four plots have been let since January. One full plot and one half plot are currently vacant, with a further plot being used by the Association until it is in good enough condition to rent.

Lease arrangements

New 30 year leases have been agreed with Cemex UK Ltd. and with WBC. The documents are expected for signature in the near future.

The West London Mental Health Trust removed the remains of the Broadmoor siren tower in March.

Rent review

As agreed at the previous meeting Cllrs Mrs Driver and Veitch and the Clerk have discussed the rent review. Information on this was circulated with the agenda. The rent has not increased since the site opened in September 2012.

Cllr Veitch advised that the recommendation is to increase the plot rental by 2.5% which equates to a £1.50 increase per annum on a full size plot.

This was agreed by the Committee with the increase to take effect from 1 October 2019, subject to ratification by the Council at its next meeting on 16 May.

The Clerk will inform the Association and the Tenants.

Cllr Veitch recommended that the rent should be reviewed annually from now on, this was agreed.

182/2019 TREE PLANTING AND PROTECTION

- The hornbeam tree has been planted in the St. James' Churchyard extension to mark the centenary of the end of World War I is doing well. Cllr Mrs Driver is liaising with the Church over a dedication ceremony for the tree
- Cllr Veitch and the Clerk will be considering the potential for more planting at Burnmoor Meadow. The 'Avenue' created to date is now complete.
- The Clerk is looking in to replacement plaques for the commemorative trees at Burnmoor Meadow.

- Cllr Veitch and the Clerk have met representatives from the Wokingham District Veteran Trees Association (WDVTA) and WBC to discuss the management of 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 management work to improve the growing conditions for the trees but the private property owners may be unaware of the importance of the trees and how best to care for them to ensure their ongoing health.

A survey of the trees on private land is proposed and a meeting or seminar for property owners to offer advice and guidance on the management of the trees. The trees on National Trust land may be resurveyed at the same time.

A proposal will be put to the Parish Council requesting funding for the project.

- Cllr Veitch advised that tree strategies have also been discussed and it is suggested that the Parish Council could have a strategy as part of the emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan. This could form a model for strategies for other parts of Wokingham Borough. WBC itself should also have a tree strategy.

Cllr Veitch and the Clerk will progress this.

183/2019 CORRESPONDENCE

- A request for Parish and Town Councils to get involved with VE Day 75, being organised to celebrate and commemorate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day. VE Day 75 will take place over the weekend of 8 – 10 May 2020. This will be included on the agenda for the next Committee meeting.

184/2019 FORUM

- Cllr Pearce raised concerns over bus route changes relating to the South East Water work on Nine Mile Ride starting in September 2019. Cllr Mrs Margetts advised that WBC is still waiting for information on this from the bus companies.

The matter will be raised at Main Council on 16 May and outstanding concerns can be collated and followed up as appropriate.

- Cllr Bowers suggested that the well at the California Country Park could be a location for a map or information on the Park or local footpaths. WBC is planning to carry out improvements to the feature and has not decided on a future use. The Clerk will pass the suggestion on.

185/2019 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting was planned for 4 September but this may be rescheduled to earlier in the week. The Clerk will circulate a poll.

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

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

MINUTE REFERENCE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)
177/2019	Arrange defibrillator training session autumn 2019	Clerk / Asst to the Clerk
179/2019	Potential for separating waste collected by the Litter	Clerk

	Wardens to recyclable / other materials	
180/2019	Make arrangements for the California Crossroads tidy up 19 May 2019	Clerk/AP
181/2019	Annual allotment site inspection	GV/Clerk
181/2019	Arrange allotment site tree works for Autumn 2019	Clerk
181/2019	Complete new allotment leases	Clerk
181/2019	Allotment rent review – seek agreement at Main Council and advise FAA/Tenants of any increase	GV/Clerk
182/2019	Dedication ceremony for WWI Hornbeam tree	CD
182/2019	Consider further tree planting at Burnmoor Meadow	GV/Clerk
182/2019	Source replacement plaques or plaque for commemorative trees	Clerk
182/2019	Progress Wellingtonia Avenue tree project.	GV/Clerk
182/2019	Progress tree strategy project	GV/Clerk
183/2019	VE Day 75 to be discussed at September meeting	Clerk/all
185/2019	Confirm date of next meeting in September 2019	Clerk