

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5 APRIL 2017 AT 7.30 PM
CALIFORNIA RATEPAYERS HALL, FINCHAMPSTEAD ROAD, FINCHAMPSTEAD**

PRESENT: Cllr Woof, Chair. Cllr Weeks, Vice Chair.
Cllrs Cornish, Cundy, Mrs Hartwell, Pittock.

Mrs Dagnall, Clerk.
Mr Alexander, Footpath Warden.

132/2017 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr May.

133/2017 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present.

134/2017 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 July 2016 were signed as a true record.

135/2017 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising which would not be covered under agenda items.

136/2017 BUDGET 2017/18

The approved budget for 2017/18 was circulated. This is a total of £5000, as in 2016/17. It was noted that the total expenditure in 2016/17 was £3234.

137/2017 FOOTPATH WARDENS' REPORT

Mr Alexander advised that priorities have been clearing branches following the February storm.

The two strimmers are currently being serviced. Servicing of the one hedge cutter in use will be arranged.

Increasing numbers of cyclists are using the footpaths including FP5, 6, 8, 9 and 13 as well as others. The Clerk and Cllr Woof will discuss additional signage with Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) and will consider ways to publicise routes available to cyclists.

Wokingham does not have a cycle route network although the future Green Ways and Cemex restoration will provide additional opportunities for cyclists. Appropriate signage will be vital on routes used by pedestrians, horses and cyclists to ensure conflict is avoided.

138/2017 CONDITION OF RIGHTS OF WAY

A summary of ongoing issues and additional issues raised since the previous meeting was circulated. The current position was discussed and actions agreed as summarised below.

Location	Date Reported	Current position / Actions	Date completed
BP4 - drainage	Jan 14	Two meetings held with owner of Thatch	

issues btw Park Lane & Whitehorse Lane		Cottage, WBC Rights of Way and WBC Drainage, and BBOWT. WBC cleared ditch along BP4 November 16 and checked culverts on White Horse Lane. BBOWT agreed to check ditch in Copse for obstructions but has not done this to date. WBC Rights of Way will supply planings to build up low spots on the path. JA can help spread material. To be arranged – KD / RW.	
BP4 – fence	March 2017	Recurring issue. Fence leaning dangerously over path. WBC contacted the owner of 50 Nine Mile Ride some time ago and has recently sent a follow up letter. To be monitored.	
FP5 - fences leaning over path	March 17	Recurring issue. Reported recently as tyres stacked against fence are making it lean over path. WBC has met the owners of Nine Mile Ride Industry – the tyres will be moved back and the fence panel replaced. To be monitored.	
FP8 overgrown	July 16	Dealt with by Ramblers. Owner of Rectory Farm has also undertaken work.	Dec 16
FP9	March 17	Fence leaning over path by Memorial Park. Dealt with by FPMC.	March 17
BP11 hedge encroachment at lower end	Dec 15	Mr Bishop flail cut autumn 2016. If further work is needed JA will do this and liaise with Mr Bishop over removal of arisings.	
FP12 overhanging trees	Jan 17	Trees overhanging from private land. WBC unlikely to action. RC agreed to contact the landowners.	
FP13 gate	Aug 16	WBC removed damaged gate Sept 16 leaving a gap. Neighbours asked for gate to be reinstated – work completed by JA Feb/March 17. Neighbours are not happy with the work. RW / SW will visit to assess. No cycling signs may be helpful.	March 17
FP13 overgrown	Nov 16	Holly overgrowing path - JA actioned.	Nov 16
BP26 Surface condition/ severe drainage issues.	Ongoing	Advice from Drainage Engineer obtained and source of problem identified. Raised with WBC July 16 – KD/RW to discuss next stage with WBC. <i>'Missing link' between BP26 and BP34 covered separately.</i>	
FP29/FP33 drainage issues / surface condition	Ongoing	Advice from Drainage Engineer obtained. Agreed no short term measures required as Cemex restoration on adjacent land is now progressing. <i>Potential redesignation linked to Cemex restoration plans covered separately.</i>	
FP52 drainage issues	March 16	RW has contacted Sandmartins Golf Course and has visited with WBC. WBC looking at water running along Evendons Lane (potential blocked drains) and down FP27 Wokingham. WBC also looking at sufacing improvements	

		along FP52 from Waverley Way to the Golf Course and need for a pipe/grip to alleviate short flooded section along FP38 Wokingham (adjacent to Evendons Lane). Work held up due to other priorities.	
FP54 Flooding	Ongoing	Periodic flooding of path from Longwater Road past Thames Water pumping station to Blackwater River. WBC jetted Culvert under Longwater Rd March 2016. Restoration on Manor Farm should alleviate problem.	

The Clerk will arrange a meeting with WBC Rights of Way Officers to discuss various improvements to the condition of the routes and to the network as a whole.

139/2017 IMPROVEMENTS TO THE RIGHTS OF WAY NETWORK

FP20 - Potential redesignation as a bridleway to Ambarrow Lane.

- The landowner of the southern stretch running from Ambarrow Lane to Horseshoe Lake has now been identified and will be contacted.

FP33/FP29 - condition and network improvements

- As noted in the condition report, the drainage report on FP29 was passed to WBC on 28 July 2016. Improvements to FP29 are expected in connection with the Cemex restoration work on Fleet Hill Farm and the route may be designated as a bridleway. As the restoration is now progressing and due to be completed in 2017 no interim improvement measures are necessary.

Cllr Woof advised that Cllr Veitch had attended the Finchampstead Society Annual General Meeting on 30 March 2017. A representative from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) spoke about its future plans for the Fleet Hill, Manor Farm and Moor Green Lakes sites which it will be taking over when the Cemex restoration is complete – this is likely to be through a management agreement in the short term, with a full take over in 2019 when all sites are fully restored. The management of the Moor Green Lakes will continue to be through the existing volunteer group.

The future RSPB reserve will be a great asset to the Parish and the Council is keen to be kept up to date with progress on the restoration work. The Clerk has been in contact with WBC for copies of the final restoration plans and has asked that the Council is kept up to date and involved at appropriate stages. Cllr Weeks agreed to contact Cemex regarding a visit to the site.

BP26 and BP34 - condition and network improvements

- As noted in the condition report, the drainage report on FP26 was passed to WBC on 28 July 2016 for consideration. WBC has advised that the proposals seem workable, subject to funding being available. This will be discussed further with WBC.
- The Clerk has written to the owner of Brunsden Farm regarding the potential reinstatement of the missing link but has not had a response. A follow up letter will be sent.

Ambarrow Trail

There is no further news on the project but Bracknell Forest Council has produced an attractive pack of several circular walks including one around Ambarrow Court and Hill.

Green Ways

- Cllr Woof met WBC Officers to discuss the route of Green Way AR3 through the California Country Park, prior to the public consultation on the route. The public consultation ended on 17 March 2017 and comments have been submitted to WBC.

It was noted that the Council has committed Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds in principle to the Green Way project, but this is subject to the outcome of the public consultation, concerns being addressed and final details of the route being confirmed.

Circular walks

- The third circular walk starting at the California Country Park has been published on the website. Cllr Woof will suggest a date for way marking the route, potentially in May 2017. The Clerk will order some additional adhesive way markers.
- A further circular walk in the north of the Parish could run through both Finchampstead Parish and Barkham Parish, incorporating Rooks Nest Wood Country Park and the Bull Public House at Barkham, and possibly the new Hazebrook Meadows open space. Cllrs Cornish and Woof will discuss this and other potential circular routes.
- Cllr Weeks advised that he and Cllr Cundy and the Clerk met the family of David Hicks who was killed in action in Afghanistan to discuss a potential footpath related project to mark the 10th anniversary of his death and which would benefit the local community. Various options for sponsored or circular walks were discussed, either as new walks or linking to existing routes.

Cllr Weeks agreed to speak to colleagues in the Finchampstead Society about the possibility of promoting the 2017 May Day walk as a sponsored event to mark the anniversary and to raise funds for the local community.

A future circular route on the Fleet Hill and Manor Farm sites may be an option for a permanent waymarked route - this and other options will be discussed further.

- The Clerk will put links on the website to circular routes provided by Bracknell Forest Council, the National Trust or others.
- The potential for footpaths having local names was discussed, as this could make them easier to reference than using the definitive path numbers.

140/2017 CORRESPONDENCE

- A new edition of Rambling for Pleasure in East Berkshire – 24 Country Walks around Maidenhead, Wokingham, Bracknell and Ascot – has been published.
- WBC issued a consultation on a proposed Traffic Regulation Order for BOAT 18 which would prohibit all motor vehicles with 4 or more wheels and over 1.5m wide from using the route. The proposal was supported.
- The Ramblers Association membership renewal notice has been received.

141/2017 FORUM

No items were raised.

142/2017 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 26 July 2017 at the California Hall.

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