

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26 JULY 2017 AT 7.30 PM CALIFORNIA RATEPAYERS HALL, FINCHAMPSTEAD ROAD, FINCHAMPSTEAD

PRESENT: Cllr Woof, Chair. Cllr Cornish, Vice Chair.
Cllrs Mrs Eytle, Mrs Hartwell, May and Pittock.
Mrs Dagnall, Clerk.

309/2017 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Weeks and Mr Alexander, Footpath Warden.

310/2017 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present.

311/2017 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 April 2017 were signed as a true record.

312/2017 MATTERS ARISING

137/2017 Footpath Warden's Report / cycling

Increasing numbers of cyclists are using footpaths, including FP5,6,8,9,13 and 16, and in some cases such as FP16 these are dangerous to other users. Cllrs Cornish, Woof and the Clerk will discuss additional signage with Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) and will suggest that if WBC will provide suitable signage the Parish Council could install the signs. Ways to publicise routes available to cyclists will also be considered.

Cycling organisations and cycle shops may be able to assist with informing cyclists where they can and cannot go. It was noted that the new Green Way, and the future bridleways on the Fleet Hill and Manor Farm sites will provide new routes for cyclists.

139/2017 Improvements to the Rights of Way network

Walk related projects to mark the 10th anniversary of the death of David Hicks who was killed in action in Afghanistan were discussed. The Hicks family decided to proceed with an alternative scheme involving local schools and youth groups.

313/2017 INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2017/18

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

314/2017 FOOTPATH WARDENS' REPORT

Mr Alexander had advised the Clerk that routine maintenance was in hand and there were no specific issues to report.

315/2017 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 complete
FP3 overgrown	June 17	Complaint from resident. DC inspected –	

		reasonable condition. KD/RW to check if JA has strimmed.	
BP4 - drainage issues btw Park Lane & Whitehorse Lane	Jan 14	Meetings held with owner of Thatch 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 and lay planings to build up low spots on the path – in August 17.	
BP4 – fence	March 2017	Recurring issue. Fence leaning over path. WBC contacted the owner of 50 Nine Mile Ride and sent a follow up letter in April. JA advised temporary repair in place April 17.	
FP5 - fences leaning over path	March 17	Recurring issue. WBC has met the owners of Nine Mile Ride Industry – the tyres will be moved back and the fence panel replaced. JA advised fence replaced April 17.	May 17
FP8	July 17	Hedges would benefit from being reduced in height. Noted that the landowner reduced the hedges Spring 2017. KD will ask the landowner to repeat the cutting back.	
FP8	July 17	Narrow path width adjacent to Primrose Cottage due to encroachment by evergreen hedge – RW/KD to discuss with WBC.	
BP11 Gates	July 2017	Field and bridle gates at White Horse Lane replaced by landowner. FPC offered contribution. WBC to contribute 25%. WBC is looking into concerns raised by the BHS.	
FP12 overhanging trees	Jan 17	Trees overhanging from private land. Trees do not impact on the footpath therefore the issue is one between the householders.	N/A
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 has assessed – considers it OK. No cycling signs may be helpful.	March 17
FP24	July 17	Section leading to Wellingtonia Avenue very wet in winter. Consider surface improvements.	
Wick Hill / Heath Ride – junction FP 24 and 25? Restricted byway	May 2017	Condition of surface. WBC advised it will repair with road planings in the normal way for byways. Any further improvements would be up to residents.	
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>	
FP52 drainage issues	March 16	WBC has recently completed surfacing improvements along FP52 from Waverley Way to the Golf Course. WBC is looking at water running along Evendons Lane (potential blocked drains) and down FP27 Wokingham. WBC is also looking at the need for a pipe/grip to alleviate short flooded section along	July 17

		FP38 Wokingham (adjacent to Evendons Lane).	
FP54 missing gate		Gate missing on Manor Farm side of Longwater Lane. Advised WBC but suggest no action required future redesignation as Bridleway and different crossing point. WBC has agreed to leave as it is.	July 17

Cllr Pittock assisted the Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership with its recent survey of the Blackwater Path. The condition of the path, signage and seating on the stretch from Grove Lake to Eversley Bridge was assessed in May 2017 and findings reported back to the Partnership.

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.

316/2017 IMPROVEMENTS TO THE RIGHTS OF WAY NETWORK

FP20 - Potential re-designation as a bridleway

- The landowners of the southern stretch running from Ambarrow Lane to Horseshoe Lake have now been identified and will be contacted to establish their views on the potential re-designation of the path.

FP33 - condition and network improvements

- Improvements to the section of FP33 running from where it meets FP29 to Longwater Lane are a priority, along with re-designation of the path as a bridleway to link in to the restoration scheme for this area. This will be discussed with WBC.

New reserves and rights of way at Manor Farm and Fleet Hill Farm

- A meeting took place with WBC on 21 April 2017, the restoration and the new path network were discussed. Cllrs Weeks and Woof attended a site visit on 16 May 2017 with representatives from WBC, Cemex UK Ltd and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).

Works at Fleet Hill Farm should be completed this year, followed by Manor Farm by the end of 2018. Negotiations are continuing over when the RSPB takes over management of the sites.

It was noted that there is no public access to the sites at present.

BP26 and BP34 - condition and network improvements

- The drainage report on FP26 was passed to WBC in July 2016. The project has been added to the list of potential projects for 2017/18 and WBC will consider this in due course.
- There has been no response from the owner of Brunsdon Farm regarding the potential reinstatement of a link between BP26 and BP34. Cllr Woof and the Clerk will discuss this with WBC, and will also contact the local Ramblers. Cllr May agreed to make some additional enquiries.

Green Ways

- Green Way AR3 is due for completion in September 2017. Cllr Woof reported the public consultation response at the recent Main Council meeting. A further consultation is due to take place on the use of the route as a safe route to school – the Clerk has asked WBC for an update on this.

The final route at the FBC Centre has not been formally confirmed but it is understood that bollards will be installed behind the existing vehicle gate, the gate will be locked when the Centre and car park are closed and users will have to use the existing path to Gorse Ride North. In the longer term the path may be routed through to Watkins Close.

The second phase of the Green Way project – the bridleway link from the California Country Park to Nine Mile Ride – is due to be completed by Spring 2018. This should alleviate the issue of horse riders trying to gain access to Gorse Ride North along the existing paths.

Circular walks

- The waymarking of the second circular walk is complete. The third circular walk will be waymarked on 26 August 2017, subject to permission from the landowner.
- Cllrs Cornish and Woof will be discussing future potential circular routes.

Ambarrow Trail

- There has been no further news, this may have been superceded by the Bracknell Forest pack of circular walks which includes a short walk around Ambarrow Court and Hill. Cllr Mrs Hartwell advised that the National Trust is working on a circular route including National Trust land at Simons Wood and Ambarrow Court.

California Country Park

- Cllrs May and Pittock advised that the boardwalk does not appear to be beyond repair and that short term repairs may be viable - the Clerk will ask WBC for an update on the current position. The Clerk will also advise WBC that only one end of the boardwalk has a warning sign. It was agreed that the boardwalk issue should be followed up through the Amenities Committee.
- The car park signs do not have the correct information on opening times – the Clerk will report this to WBC.

317/2017 FORWARD PLAN 2013-18

- An update to the Rights of Way section of the Plan was circulated, along with a draft action plan for 2017/18. Comments on the draft action plan should be forwarded to the Clerk by 4 August 2017.

318/2017 CORRESPONDENCE

- There was no correspondence to report.

319/2017 FORUM

- Cllr Pittock advised that the European legislation relating to requirements for Special Protection Areas (SPA's) may be changed, which could impact on future Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANGS) provision and also the protection of existing SANGS. The importance of ensuring that new rights of way through SANGS are formalised as definitive rights of way and therefore protected was noted and will be pointed out to the WBC Rights of Way Team.

320/2017 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 8 November 2017 at the California Hall.

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