

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10 JULY 2019 AT 7.30 PM CALIFORNIA RATEPAYERS HALL, FINCHAMPSTEAD ROAD RG40 3RL

PRESENT: Cllr R. Woof, Chair. Cllr D. Cornish, Vice Chair.
Cllr R. Cundy, Cllr G. Jukes OBE, Cllr J. May.

Mrs K. Dagnall, Clerk.
Mr J. Alexander, Footpath Warden.

280/2019 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs R. Margetts and Cllr S. Weeks.

281/2019 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present.

282/2019 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2018 were signed as a true record.

283/2019 MATTERS ARISING

108/2018 Risk assessment

Cllr Woof and the Clerk are working on this and it will be completed as soon as possible.

The work includes reviewing the instructions for the circular walks to ensure these are still current.

108/2018 Condition of rights of way / mapping

Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) is currently updating the definitive map. When this is complete the Clerk will request an updated layer for the online mapping used by the Parish Council.

At the previous meeting it was agreed that the Parish footpath map should be updated and redrawn. The map is based on the definitive map noted above. Examples of the work of a company (www.imagesbyhand.com) which may be able to undertake the work were displayed at the meeting and the Clerk will be seeking further information and quotations for the work.

113/2019 WBC Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP)

Cllr Woof and the Clerk collated a response to the RoWIP consultation in May 2019. The current plan was published in 2010 and the new plan will cover the period from 2020 to 2030.

The next stage of the consultation has commenced and runs from 4 July to 26 September. The draft plan proposes a revised suite of 76 actions under 6 broad headings.

1. Improving information

Deliver and maintain an up to date legal record of PROW, expand and improve the

information available to the public online and assist others to do the same and promote more routes.

2. Creating new links

Create more routes between towns and villages, fill gaps in the network for walking, cycling and horse riding & create more circular routes

3. Encouraging use of the network

Encourage use of the network for sustainable transport and fitness, increase confidence for people using PROWs and reduce conflict between users

4. Access for all

Develop more accessible paths and improve structures to cater for users with restricted mobility

5. Look after the network

Improve the surfacing of paths and reduce river side damage, manage vegetation and enforcement issues, seek improvements such as street lighting in certain areas and work in partnership with other organisations

6. Planning for the future

Make sure that the network is considered as part of the planning process, funds for improvement and enhancing the network are secured where required and ensure future developments do not cause problems for the network

It was agreed that in view of the importance of cross boundary working the Clerk would contact adjacent Parish Councils regarding their views on the RoWIP. It was noted that Wokingham Without Parish Council is currently looking in to appointing a Footpath Warden for the Parish.

The Clerk will circulate the RoWIP consultation information for comments. Cllr Woof and the Clerk will collate a response.

Cllr Jukes advised that the Neighbourhood Development Plan Green Spaces Group is looking at rights of way, and that a shared understanding between the Group and the Committee is required. It was agreed that the Group would be invited to give a presentation at the next Committee meeting.

It was noted that we had also agreed to invite representatives from the British Horse Society and the Ramblers to a future meeting.

284/2019 INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2019/20

A report showing current expenditure was circulated. No issues were raised.

285/2019 FOOTPATH WARDENS' REPORT

Mr Alexander advised that maintenance work is in hand and there are no major issues on the network. Some points are covered under the following agenda item.

286/2019 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 issues closed or actions agreed as summarised below.

Paths requiring more significant improvements are covered under agenda item 287/2019 'Improvements to the Rights of Way Network' below.

Location	Date Reported	Current position / Actions	Date completed/ rectified
FP3	Feb 19 July 19	Problem with gatepost. JA to replace post. Fence adjacent to path falling down. KD to report to WBC.	
FP5	May 18	Fences down over path. Path passable in July 2018 but WBC agreed to write to landowner again. Fences down again November 2018 and again May 2019 and again July 19. KD to report to WBC again.	
FP8	June 19	Overgrown btw Church and Tally Ho. Issue is the hedge at Primrose Cottage planted too close to the path. KD to report to WBC.	
FP9/10	Nov 18	Apparent water leak near High Barn. JM to notify Water Board.	
FP12	March 19	Holly prunings not obstructing path but may be a future issue. Monitor.	
FP13	July 19	RC to prune back overgrowing vegetation on section west of Longwater Road	
FP15	Jan 19	Damaged Kissing gate / post at top of FP15 near Warren Crest Farm. JA has a replacement post and will install asap.	
Byway 24 Heath Ride	July 17	Section leading to Wellingtonia Avenue very wet in winter. Raised with WBC September 17 – WBC to assess what works are required. FPC offered to contribute. April 2018 WBC agreed to lay planings – not done to date. KD to follow up with WBC. Surfacing work noted at Heath Ride / Wick Hill Lane June 2019	
FP29	June 19	Corroded and fallen sign reported to WBC and dealt with.	June 19
Byway 31/34 Roman Ride	Feb 19	Resident reported as in poor condition – bad potholes. KD explained situation with WBC byways. Comments reported to WBC – WBC advised April 2019 that a scrape and roll was being arranged.	
Range Road BW	June 19	WBC advised that pot holes being filled in.	
FP33	Nov 17 / Jan 18	Sign at FP33/FP54 needs replacing. Reported to WBC. RW to check if implemented. Noted GJ had reported a fallen sign to WBC – problem was rectified within 28 days.	
FP51	Jan 18	WBC to write to owners confirming status of paths. WBC to replace missing signpost – in hand to be completed by end July. RW to check if implemented.	

287/2019 IMPROVEMENTS TO THE RIGHTS OF WAY NETWORK

The current position with various improvement projects is summarised below.

ROUTE	ISSUE	RoWIP	CURRENT POSITION	NEXT STAGE
FP20	Improvement and redesignation as bridleway	Y	Have landowner details from WBC. On hold pending other priorities.	
FP33	Improvement and redesignation as bridleway	Y	Proposal drawn up for drainage and surfacing work. On hold - links to Fleet Hill nature reserve path network issues. Potential funding from WBC through Loddon Valley Way project (c/o Greenways Officer) Landowner consultation required.	
BP26	Drainage issue	N	2016 drainage report from D Hartwell 2016 passed to WBC.	Discuss with WBC / seek contribution
BP34	Missing link with BP26	Y	BHS including this in DMMO reference 2026 deadline	
Greenways			Link from California Country Park to NMR due to be completed July along with final work on California Greenway links. Signage by end of 2019 Some gates on California greenway removed (or stolen)	
Fleet Hill Farm and Manor Farm reserves	Ensure paths are of appropriate construction, laid out as agreed plans and sites open to public	N	March 2019: WBC Officers met CEMEX - discussed the reinstatement and areas to be completed or needing modification. Cemex to provide plans to resolve issues – for completion in the summer. Includes proposal re the FP33/FP29 link.	Noted GJ and RW walked sites early June. Fleet Hill site deteriorated. No path construction on Manor Farm to date. RW to speak to SW.
Finchampstead Road nr Church Lane	Visibility for walkers crossing road	N	WBC cleared footway and landowner cut hedges autumn 2018. Still an issue.	KD to raise with Localities Officer
Briarwood path to FBC Playing Fields	Surface condition	N	WBC not interested. Do not consider it important route. Noted it is used for Parkrun. KD has recently asked for a quote to do 25m stretch and to do whole length 75m.	
New route to Rooks Nest	From Booth Drive	N	Existing informal route through unfenced woodland (when ditch is dry. Consultation with residents required.	Land belongs to WBC

Hogwood Farm Paths	New route along park lane btw FP28 and BP4 linking to existing paths and new paths on site	Y	Plans available with proposed paths on site. Monitor as L & G development progresses.	
Status of paths on estates	Potential designation as row before 2026 to protect for future	N	Including Gorse Ride estate, Fernlea Estate. 1 The alleyway from Finchampstead Rd (opposite the end of Pine Drive) to Jerry Moor Hill 2 From Mornington Ave to The Spinney 3 Barkham Ride to Tickenor Drive	Discuss with WBC RoW Manager
Route from The Village to California Crossroads	Off road route adjacent to jubilee road b3016 to join path to war memorial to path at spring gardens – joint roads & road safety / row project	N		Draft letter of authority so JM can meet North Court Chair Person to discuss potential permissive route
Cycle route to Wokingham				RJM/RW/DC/KD to meet late August. RJM to lead.

288/2019 NATIONAL TRUST FINCHAMPSTEAD RIDGES IMPROVEMENTS

The Friends of the Ridges Group has been working with the National Trust to develop a new route to be known as the Ridges Ramble, which has involved opening up the relatively unused western end of the Ridges with clear and safe paths. The project is due to be completed in September 2019.

The Group has requested funding of £750 towards the repair and extension of 4 boardwalks, and £100 for works to the Ironstone Pond edge. The other outstanding work is the supply and installation of way markers which will be funded by the National Trust. All labour and tools are provided by the National Trust and the volunteers.

It was noted that the Council provided a contribution of £200 in January 2019 for the new Spout Pond Boardwalk.

It was agreed that a contribution of £750 would be made towards the repair and extension of the boardwalks.

289/2019 CYCLE ROUTE TO WOKINGHAM

A cycle route to Wokingham was identified as a priority in the household consultation undertaken in November 2017.

Cllr Mrs Margetts has agreed to take the lead on the project and an initial meeting with Cllrs Woolf and Cornish and the Clerk will be arranged for early September.

290/2019 CORRESPONDENCE

- There was no correspondence to report.

291/2019 FORUM

- Cllr Cornish raised the issue of dog walking companies using local open spaces including Simon's Wood and the California Country Park. It was felt that this was not a problem as long as mess was cleared and the dogs were not adversely affecting the use and enjoyment of the areas by other users. The Clerk will check if WBC or the National Trust have any policies on this.

292/2019 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- The next meeting will be held on 6 November / 30 October 2019 – to be confirmed.

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

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

MINUTE REFERENCE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)
283/2019	Complete risk assessment Review text for circular walks	RW/Clerk
283/2019	Request updated rights of way layer for digital mapping – when the WBC definitive map update is complete	Clerk
283/2019	Progress redraw of the Parish footpath map Look into Bracknell Forest maps eg routes starting from South Hill Park.	Clerk Clerk
283/2019	RoWIP consultation response Contact Barkham and Wokingham Without Parish Councils ref their responses	RW/Clerk Clerk
283/2019	Invite NDP Green Spaces Group to next meeting	GJ/Clerk
285/2019	Ensure all equipment is serviced including Tanaka hedge cutter	JA
286/2019	Condition reports/checks to be followed up as per table included in minutes.	
286/2019	Look into ways of categorising paths according to level and type of use	DC/RW
287/2019	Progress improvement projects as per table included in minutes	
288/2019	Friends of the Ridge grant – advise Group of contribution	Clerk
289/2019	Cycle route to Wokingham – meet early September to discuss	RJM / RW/DC/Clerk
290/291	Check policies on use of open spaces by dog walking companies	Clerk
292/2019	Date of next meeting – update meeting schedule / room booking	Clerk