

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30 PM ON THURSDAY 12 MAY 2016 AT THE FBC CENTRE, GORSE RIDE NORTH, FINCHAMPSTEAD

PRESENT: Cllr Cundy, Chair.
Cllrs Bowers, Bromley, Cornish, Mrs Driver, Mrs Jennings-Frisby, Mrs Hartwell,
Markham, Marshallsay, May, Pearce, Veitch, Woof, Mrs Yorke.

Mrs Dagnall, Clerk.

185/2016 ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

Cllr Cundy was elected unanimously and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

186/2016 ELECTION OF THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

Cllr Markham was elected unanimously.

187/2016 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Pittock, Rampton and Weeks.

188/2016 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

189/2016 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 April 2016 were signed as a true and correct record.

190/2016 CHAIRMANS REPORT

- Cllr Cundy welcomed Cllr Mrs Yorke to the Council.
- Cllr Mrs Driver advised that she is undertaking some research with a view to putting former Cllr Wally Chapman forward for a Queen's Honour, and requested any relevant information on his work in Finchampstead. Dr Phillip Lee MP has also contacted Cllr Cundy for information in relation to this.

The Parish Council has the power to bestow the title of 'Honorary Freeman of the Parish' on any deserving individual. This will be considered again when research into other awards has progressed.

- The proposals to improve the California Country Park are apparently on hold. The Scout Group has been in touch asking for help as they want to improve their building in the Park but Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) will not renew their lease. Cllrs Cundy, Markham and Veitch plan to meet WBC Cllr Ross to discuss how to progress this.
- The topping out ceremony for the new Warren Close Elderly Persons development took place on 8 March 2016. Cllr Cundy advised that he had visited recently and felt the development of 24 flats is very impressive.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

No members of the public were present.

191/2016 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES FOR 2016/17

All Councillors had been consulted prior to the meeting and the following Committee memberships were confirmed.

Amenities Committee

Cllrs Bowers, Mrs Driver, Mrs Jennings-Frisby, Markham, May, Pearce and Veitch. One vacancy.

Planning Committee

Cllrs Bromley, Cornish, Mrs Driver, Mrs Jennings-Frisby, Marshallsay, Pearce and Veitch. One vacancy.

Rights of Way Committee

Cllrs Cornish, Mrs Hartwell, May, Pittock, Weeks and Woof. Two vacancies.

Roads & Road Safety Committee

Cllrs Bowers, Bromley, Pittock, Marshallsay, May, Rampton and Weeks. One vacancy.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned to allow each of the four committees to elect a chair and vice chair. The roles were confirmed as follows.

Amenities Committee	Chair Cllr Mrs Driver	Vice Chair	Cllr Markham
Planning Committee	Chair Cllr Veitch	Vice Chair	Cllr Marshallsay
Rights of Way Committee	Chair Cllr Woof	Vice Chair	Cllr Weeks
Roads & Road Safety Committee	Chair Cllr Bromley	Vice Chair	Cllr May

192/2016 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The Finance & General Purposes Committee includes the Chair of or a representative from each of the four Committees, and additional members up to a maximum of eight.

Membership for 2016/17 was confirmed as follows.

Cllrs Bromley, Markham, May, Rampton, Veitch and Woof. Two vacancies.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned to allow the committee to elect a chair and vice chair. This was confirmed as follows.

Finance & General Purposes Committee	Chair Cllr Woof	Vice Chair	Cllr Markham
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193/2016 WORKING GROUPS AND MEMBERSHIP FOR 2016/17

Membership was confirmed as follows.

Lead Member for allotments	Cllr Veitch.
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	Cllrs Bowers, Markham, May, Pittock, Rampton & Woof.
Community Consultation	Cllrs Bowers, Bromley, Cornish, Pearce & Woof.
Devolution	Cllrs Cundy, Pearce & Rampton.
Finchampstead Arborfield Steering Group (FAST)	Cllrs Bromley, Mrs Driver, May, Pearce, Pittock & Veitch.
Parish Hardship Fund	Cllrs Cundy & Mrs Driver.
Risk Assessment	Cllrs Pittock, Rampton & Woof.

194/2016 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES, GROUPS AND GOVERNING BOARDS

Membership was confirmed as below.

Outside organisations	
Blackwater Valley Partnership - Cllrs Weeks & Woof. CPRE - Cllr Marshallsay. FBC Centre Advisory Board - Cllr Cundy. Finchampstead Emergency Response (FER) - Cllrs Pearce, Pittock & Weeks. Finch NAG - Cllrs Bowers, Bromley, Pearce, Rampton & Woof. Finchampstead Park Management Committee (FPMC) - Cllr Markham.	Keep Mobile - Cllr Rampton. Village Club Trustees - Cllrs Cundy & Markham Veteran Tree Project - Cllr Veitch Wokingham United Charities Trust - Cllr Veitch WDALC - Cllr Rampton
School Governors	
Finchampstead Cof E - Cllr Cundy Gorse Ride Federation - Cllr Rampton.	Nine Mile Ride Primary - Cllr May
Wokingham Borough Council Groups	
Borough/Parish Liaison Forum - Cllrs Cundy & Rampton. California Crossroads Group - Cllrs Bromley & May. Greener & Cleaner Environment - Cllrs May & Veitch.	Gorse Ride Community Forum - Cllr Bowers. Gorse Ride Multi Agency Group - Cllr Bowers. Gorse Ride Working Group - Cllrs Bowers, Cundy & Rampton.

195/2016 TO APPROVE THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2015/16

The Annual Governance Statement was circulated prior to the meeting. This was unanimously approved and was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk on behalf of the Council.

196/2016 TO APPROVE THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTING STATEMENT 2015/16

Relevant papers were circulated prior to the meeting.

Cllr Woof had reviewed the Accounting Statement for 2015/16, together with the Financial Statements (unaudited) for the year ending 31 March 2016, the bank reconciliation, reserves reconciliation and explanation of variances for the Annual Return. The documents were recommended to the Council for approval.

It was unanimously agreed that the Accounting Statement and supporting documents be approved and these were signed by the Chairman and the Clerk on behalf of the Council.

197/2016 THE POWER OF COMPETENCE

A report was circulated prior to the meeting.

The Council became eligible to hold the Power of Competence in 2012 and resolved at its meeting on 12 December 2012 that it would adopt the Power. The legislation states that following the resolution to adopt the Power, this can be held until the day of the Annual Meeting in the next election year, that is 2016.

The Council still fulfils the eligibility criteria of having at least two thirds of the total number of Councillors being elected, and having a qualified Clerk holding a relevant sector specific qualification.

The Council resolved to adopt the Power for a further term. This will be held until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2020 unless changes result in the Council no longer being eligible.

198/2016 COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Veitch reported on the meeting held on 20 April 2016 - minutes have been circulated.

Applications

19 applications were considered. Objections were lodged against applications at the following.

- 36 Radical Ride.
- Manor Farm.
- Church Farm.
- 24 Booth Drive.
- Lambda Cottage, Wick Hill.
- Landmark House, Jubilee Road.

Decisions

Decisions were in line with WBC decisions with the exception of the following:

- Land between Wellington Road and Shute End (Elms Field), Wokingham
- FPC objected WBC approved
- Moor Green Farm, Lower Sandhurst Road
- FPC objected WBC approved

Other matters

- There were no new appeals.
- There were 3 new enforcement issues. One issue was closed.

Two Planning Committee meeting dates have been changed – the June meeting will be on Monday 20 June and the August meeting on Wednesday 3 August.

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Cllr Woof reported on current matters.

Financial position

- Unity Trust Bank £56,832.21 (including 50% of the precept)
- CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund account £65,577.94

The schedule of payments totalling £6297.40 (gross) was circulated. All payments were unanimously approved.

Cllrs Bromley and Woof agreed to authorise the electronic payments.

Cllr Bromley advised that plans to share broadband provision with the FBC Centre offices are progressing.

RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

Cllr Woof reported on current matters.

- The two new kissing gates for FP8 will be installed next week.
- A landowner has been contacted about flooding on BP4. It appears this is a wider issue with several ditches and culverts under different land ownership being involved in the problem.
- A meeting with WBC is planned to discuss rights of way on and around Rectory Farm. Other matters which will be progressed with WBC relate to BP26 and FP20.
- WBC has expressed interest in establishing FP33 as a bridleway, and the Council has indicated its approval for this as part of the Cemex Ltd. restoration works on the Fleet Hill Farm site. However, significant improvements to drainage and the surface would be needed

before use by horses could be allowed. Funding from the Blackwater Valley Countryside Trust may be available.

- The Blackwater Valley Walk the Path event on 24 April 2016 was successful.
- The National Trust event 'Live Local, Love Simon's Wood' will be held on 28 May 2016 from 10am to 3pm. The Council will have a stand and the Clerk will circulate a rota shortly.

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr Mrs Driver reported on current matters.

- The Beacon lighting event on 21 April 2016 to celebrate the 90th Birthday of Queen Elizabeth II was very successful and there has been very positive feedback. Between 300 and 400 people attended. The Assistant to the Clerk, Anna Kent, was thanked for her assistance with organising the event.
- Plaques have been installed at the 3 oak trees planted at Burnmoor Meadow in spring 2016 dedicating the trees to Queen Elizabeth II.
- The installation of the multi use games area and recreational facilities at the FBC Centre playing fields commenced last week and is progressing well.
- Cllr May and other local residents met representatives from St James' Church recently to discuss issues relating to signage and parking. These have now been resolved but Cllrs Bromley, Mrs Driver and May plan to meet to discuss if any further matters need to be addressed.

ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Cllr Bromley reported on current matters.

- **Speed Indicator Device (SID)**
Several new volunteers have come forward enabling sessions to be increased to one a week. Recent sessions on Longwater Road and Sandhurst Road were successful.
- **Ravenswood Avenue**
A complaint was received about speeding. The Golf Club has been asked to remind its members of the speed limit on the Avenue.
- **Lamp columns / Nine Mile Ride**
WBC has advised that a number of Parish owned columns on Nine Mile Ride will be removed in connection with the creation of the new cycleway, and will be replaced with WBC columns.
- **Major Projects**
No works directly affecting Finchampstead are planned. Eversley Road in Arborfield will be closed in late November / early December to allow kerb improvements to take place. Wellingtonia Avenue is due to be resurfaced later this year.

Virgin Media is installing cabling in Manor Park Drive and adjacent roads.

- **Parking around the FBC Centre**
Following recent complaints and concerns parking in the roads around the FBC Centre is being monitored using videos to highlight issues.
- **War Memorial**
The kerb around the War Memorial has been damaged. This will be reported to WBC.

199/2016 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Finch NAG

A meeting was held on 26 April 2016. This was the first evening meeting and was well supported with some additional residents attending.

The Group plans to put together a flier / other material to circulate to find out what issues local people would like it to address.

Gorse Ride Community Forum

Cllr Bowers advised that the minutes of the recent Forum would be sent to the Clerk for distribution. One matter discussed was the planned increase in bus services to 3 per hour.

Green and Cleaner Environment (formerly known as the Campaign for Waste)

A meeting was held on Thursday 28 April 2016. Cllr Veitch advised that the meeting included a presentation on the new 10 year grounds maintenance contract.

Finchampstead Park Management Committee

Cllr Markham advised that the AGM was held on 25 April 2016. Cllr Bromley has now joined the Committee as a representative of the California Ratepayers Association.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on 1 June 2016.

200/2016 ARBORFIELD STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT LOCATION (SDL)

- The Community Liaison Group met on 18 April 2016. Cllr Pearce attended, notes and the minutes from the meeting have been circulated.
- FAST had a presentation from Crest Nicholson on 21 April 2016 on proposals for Parcels A – G, and a Public consultation event on the proposals was held on 23 April.
- The May Steering Group meeting was cancelled.
- The California Crossroads project is officially on hold. It is in the WBC 'capital vision' for 2019/20.

201/2016 COMMUNICATIONS

An update on Council Communications was circulated prior to the meeting.

The Clerk and Assistant Clerk were thanked for their work on this.

The Clerk will monitor the Finchampstead and Barkham Facebook page with a view to sharing posts on the Council page.

202/2016 CORRESPONDENCE

- BALC Training Opportunity - Councillor Training 29 June 2016, 6pm – 9.30pm Calcot.
- Dr Philip Lee MP newsletter
- Thank you from residents for the Beacon Lighting event.

Items circulated by email over previous month:

- NALC newsletters and bulletins.
- BALC newsletter.
- Public Sector Executive online.
- Local Government News.
- WBC news/media releases including Elevate Wokingham funding, Wokingham Town Centre regeneration, What can we Scrutinise for you? Transport to Bohunt School. Street Party arrangements for Royal Birthday.
- Re3 Waste & Recycling campaign.
- CCB Action for All e bulletin.
- Thames Valley Police alerts.
- Wokingham Volunteer Centre Green n Tidy Plant sale 18 May 2016

203/2016 FORUM

- Any Cllrs who would like generic or named Parish Council business cards should contact the Clerk by 20 May 2016.
- Cllr Cundy congratulated Cllr Pittock on his re-election as a WBC Cllr for Finchampstead South. Cllr Pittock has advised that he has stood down as the WBC Deputy Executive for Childrens Services.
- Cllr Mrs Driver advised that there will be a special celebratory service at St James' Church on 12 June 2016 to mark the 90th birthday of Queen Elizabeth II. The Clerk has received the invitations and will circulate these.
- Cllr Veitch noted that following the recent election there is a new WBC Cllr representing Finchampstead North. The Clerk will invite the Cllr to attend the next Main Council meeting.
- Cllr Veitch advised that a resident is likely to come to the next Amenities Committee meeting regarding plans for the California Country Park. As noted above a meeting is planned with WBC Cllr Angus Ross, and the Clerk will try and arrange this before the Amenities Committee meeting.
- Cllr Bowers advised that the brick built houses in Whittle Close have now been excluded from the area of Gorse Ride identified for potential redevelopment.
- The Clerk will contact WBC again regarding arrangements for toilet provision at the California Country Park over the summer period.
- The Village Fete will be held on Sunday 12 June 2016. The Clerk has booked a stand and will circulate a rota shortly.

204/2016 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 15 June 2016 at 7.30pm at the FBC Centre.

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