

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 15 JUNE 2016 AT THE FBC CENTRE, GORSE RIDE NORTH, FINCHAMPSTEAD

PRESENT: Cllr Cundy, Chair.
Cllrs Bowers, Bromley, Mrs Driver, Marshallsay, Pearce, Rampton, Veitch, Woof,
Mrs Yorke.

Mrs Dagnall, Clerk.

246/2016 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Cornish, Mrs Jennings-Frisby, Mrs Hartwell, Markham, May and Pittock.

247/2016 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

248/2016 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2016 were signed as a true and correct record.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

No members of the public were present.

249/2016 CHAIRMANS REPORT

- Cllr Cundy thanked those who helped with the Council's stands at the Village Fete on 12 June 2016 and also the National Trust event at Simons Wood on 26 May 2016.
- On 19 May 2016 Cllr Bowers spoke about the Gorse Ride Estate on BBC Radio Berkshire and also on local TV.
- The Clerk has been in touch with Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) Cllr Margetts who is the new Cllr for Finchampstead North. Cllr Margetts will be attending the October Council meeting.
- The Leader and Chief Executive of WBC have written to the Council regarding the WBC '21 Century Programme', outlining changes in their way of working and possible closer working with Local Councils. The Clerk will circulate the letter to all Cllrs and a meeting will be arranged in September with the Leader and Chief Executive, and the Chairs of the Council's Committees – who will then report back to Main Council.
- Cllr Cundy and the Clerk met a WBC Officer recently regarding the WBC Asset Review and plans for the future management of various assets. A further meeting to review progress will be held in approximately 8 weeks.

250/2016 COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Veitch reported on the meeting held on 18 May 2016 - minutes have been circulated.

Applications

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

- 11 Russley Green.
- Byways, Longwater Lane.
- 215 Nine Mile Ride.
- 6 Cambrian Way.
- Heathmere, Heath Ride.

Decisions

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

- 78 Reading Road - FPC no objections WBC refused

Other matters

- There were no new appeals and no appeal decisions.
- There were 4 new enforcement issues. One issue was closed.
- The date of the next Committee meeting is Monday 20 June 2016, starting at 7.30pm.

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Cllr Woof reported on current matters.

Financial position

- Unity Trust Bank £50,888.44
- CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund account £65,577.94
- £20,000 will shortly be moved from the Unity account to the CCLA account.

The schedule of payments totalling £10,066.80 (gross) was circulated. All payments were unanimously approved.

Cllrs Bromley and Woof agreed to authorise the electronic payments.

Cllr Woof advised that the insurance renewal documents for the Village Club Trustees have been received with a quotation of £307.99. It was unanimously agreed that the Council would cover the cost of the insurance as a donation to the Club.

Cllr Woof advised that the asset review is underway and should be completed by the end of June 2016. To date no serious concerns or risks have been identified. There are a number of maintenance issues which will be dealt with in due course.

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr Mrs Driver reported on the meeting held on 25 May 2016 and other matters. Minutes have been circulated.

- An application to list the War Memorial as a historic monument was submitted to Historic England on 3 June 2016.
- Quotations have been sought for cleaning of the Memorial. It was agreed that an order should be placed with A.F. Jones Ltd. as per the quotation for £1078 (excluding VAT) for cleaning and repointing work.
- The damaged kerb at the Memorial was noted, and will be reported to WBC by the Clerk.
- Four allotment plots have been let to parishioners recently, and a further application is pending. Cllr Veitch and the Clerk will be carrying out the annual inspection of the site on 16 June 2016.
- Cllr Veitch mentioned the condition of the Trig. Point at The Ridges – this was raised with the National Trust Warden at the recent event. The Clerk will contact the National Trust and will look into cleaning of the item, and will also try and clarify if it is actually a Trig Point.

RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

Cllr Woof reported on current matters.

- The two new kissing gates for FP8 have been installed by the local Ramblers. The Ramblers have suggested that a nearby stile could also be replaced with a gate, and the Clerk is looking into land ownership in the area in order to seek permission.
- A meeting with a drainage engineer was held to look at the drainage issues on FP29 and FP33, and also BP26. A potential solution to the problem on FP29 has been identified involving installing pipework under the path. FP33 would need to be built up to overcome the issues there, but this may tie in with the future re-designation of the path as a bridleway, and the work which would be required to bring the path to an appropriate standard. A potential solution to the issue on BP26 has also been identified involving installing pipework. These suggestions will be discussed with WBC.
- 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. As the next stage the Clerk will be contacting the Berkshire Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) regarding drainage on its site at Shepperlands Copse.
- The potential redesignation of FP20 as a bridleway is currently on hold pending resolution of land ownership issues. This also means that part of the Council's circular walk from Simon's Wood cannot be waymarked, but the rest of the route will be waymarked in July 2016 – Cllr Woof will circulate a proposed date.
- FP3 has been reported as being overgrown. WBC has advised that it will carry out hedge cutting on the path in August, and in the interim the Footpath Warden will carry out some maintenance.

ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Cllr Bromley reported on the meeting held on 8 June 2016 and current matters. .

Speed Data Recorder (SDR) and Speed Indicator Device (SID)

- Following a complaint about speeding in Ravenswood Avenue the Golf Club has been contacted – the Manager has informed all members and has asked to be notified of any further problems.
- Extended analysis of SDR data at the various SID sites has been undertaken, allowing SID sessions to be planned for specific times and directions to make best use of resources.
- 4 SID sessions are currently being undertaken per month, recent results are as follows:
 - 19/5 – Nine Mile Ride (NMR) near 314 – 24 vehicles recorded
 - 25/5 – Longwater Road – 15 vehicles recorded
 - 1/6 – NMR nr Manor Park Drive - 31 vehicles recorded
 - 9/6 - Finchampstead Road near Washington Gardens – 25 vehicles recorded
 - 14/6 – The Village – 25 vehicles recorded. This session included an incident of a van deliberately knocking the SID device over – this was captured on film and this has been passed to the Police who are following up.
- Cllr Weeks is looking into pole mounted SID devices which are circulated around different locations, similar to those used in Eversley, and is also investigating if 30mph roundels can be painted on Nine Mile Ride to help with speed awareness

Major Project Works

- A report from the meeting held on 17 May 2016 has been circulated.

Other matters

- The yellow line changes have now been implemented in Whittle Close and Gorse Ride South, including at the junction with Nine Mile Ride

- Cllrs Bromley and May have met representatives from St. James' Church to discuss parking and road safety issues around the Church. The main issue is safety at the junction of White Horse Lane and Church Lane. Various possible solutions have been discussed including introducing road markings, extending the verge to restrict parking at the junction, or introducing a one way system. Cllrs Bromley and May will be visiting the site with a WBC Highways Officer for advice on the best approach.
- Cllr Pittock has resigned from the Roads & Road Safety Committee - Cllr Bromley expressed thanks for the work he has previously carried out on behalf of the Committee.

251/2016 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Finchampstead Park Management Committee

Cllr Markham's report on the meeting held on 1 June 2016 has been circulated. Cllrs Bromley and Cundy also attended the meeting. Various projects were discussed but not progressed.

Finch NAG

Cllr Bromley reported on the meeting held on 14 June 2016.

- WBC Tenant Services are hosting a Fun Day on 11 August 2016 in the FBC Centre playing fields. The NAG plans to attend
- Speed Indicator Device (SID) sessions and related road traffic issues were reported.
- Thames Valley Police reported a major drugs raid recently undertaken in Crowthorne. Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) was down slightly in the Finchampstead area but several ASBO's have been issued to young offenders.
- The WBC Community Development Worker is currently organising a schedule of events for the school summer holidays.
- The opening of the Multi Use Games Area at the FBC Centre playing fields was discussed. Details are to be confirmed.
- The next meeting will be held on 9 August 2016.

Gorse Ride Multi Agency Group

Cllr Bowers reported on the meeting held on 15 June 2016. The Group has recently reformed and the meeting was well attended. The needs of the Estate will be discussed at the next meeting in September, based on analysis of social and other statistics.

Wokingham District Association of Local Councils

Cllr Rampton advised that following his letter asking for views on the future of the organisation 10 of the 15 member Councils have confirmed that the Association should be disbanded. A further 3 have not responded and 2 have requested more time to consider the matter. Cllr Rampton advised that the Berkshire Association of Local Councils (BALC) has some concerns about the disbanding of the Association, and that no further action will be taken until all Councils have replied.

It was noted that the Association has not had an AGM and is therefore no longer a properly constituted body.

252/2016 ARBORFIELD STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT LOCATION (SDL)

- The Steering Group meeting planned for 14 June 2016 was cancelled. The next meeting is on 12 July 2016.
- WBC has now validated the Reserved Matters Application for Parcel T and the Council has now been forwarded the Application for comments. An application for Parcels A – G is expected imminently.

- The next Community Forum is on 29 June 2016 – the agenda has been circulated. The meeting will focus on highways and transport issues, healthcare provision and the new secondary school. Cllr Pearce will be attending.

253/2016 COMMUNICATIONS

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

Cllr Bromley and the Clerk attended a NALC Digital Councils event on 18 May 2016. The various presentations confirmed that the Council's focus on the website, e newsletters and Facebook is appropriate. A number of actions have been identified, including assessing the accessibility of the website for the disabled.

The potential use of Whats App, a free smart phone messaging system was discussed. It was agreed that this could be a useful alternative tool for forwarding images for promotional use, or to allow concerns and issues to be reported. Any images should be forwarded to the Assistant to the Clerk. It was also agreed that it was not appropriate to use Whats App for other Council communications.

254/2016 CALIFORNIA COUNTRY PARK

Cllrs Cundy, Mrs Driver, Markham Veitch and the Clerk met WBC Cllr Ross on 23 May 2016 to discuss the Park and the Borough Councils plans for it. The draft masterplan prepared in 2013 has been shelved and the only current proposal is for an extension to the car park.

Cllr Ross advised that work on plans for the Park may start again later this year. Cllr Ross is meeting local Scout Groups including the Finchampstead Group which uses a building in the Park, and will also be meeting Parish Councils and others to discuss the Green Ways Project and how this relates to access to the Park.

Cllr Ross asked the Council to summarise its concerns and comments on the Park and its future improvement. A draft list was discussed and the Clerk will amend this and forward to Cllr Ross.

The Council is also planning to meet the local Scout Group to clarify its aspirations and concerns.

255/2016 HONORARY FREEDOM OF THE PARISH

Cllr Mrs Driver advised that information has been collated for an application for a Queens' Honour for former Cllr Wally Chapman. Letters of support are now needed – various suggestions were made and will be followed up. It was noted that the application process can take up to 18 months.

It was unanimously agreed that the Council should confer the title of 'Honorary Freeman of the Parish of Finchampstead' on Wally Chapman in recognition of his services to the Council's area. However, legislation requires that no less than two thirds of the Council pass the resolution, and in view of this this would be carried forward to the July meeting of the Council when more members would be present.

It was agreed that a presentation could be made prior to the September 2016 Council meeting.

256/2016 CORRESPONDENCE

- Invitation to Berkshire Vision AGM at 2pm on 21 October 2016, Green Park, Reading.
- 4 tickets to Crowthorne Choral Society concert 19 June 2016, 7.30pm at Wellington College.

Items circulated by email over the previous month:

- NALC newsletters and bulletins.
- BALC newsletter.
- WBC news/media releases.

- CCB Action for All e bulletin.
- Thames Valley Police alerts.
- WBC briefing on Grounds Maintenance Contract and grass cutting
- WBC notification of changes at Bracknell and Reading recycling centres
- WBC library activities
- WBC draft Economic Development Strategy (response forwarded to WBC)
- WBC consultation on proposed Land Drainage Bylaws (response forwarded to WBC)

257/2016 FORUM

- Cllr Bromley advised that Berkshire Vision had recently taken Reading Borough Council to Court over the 'shared space' scheme introduced in the Town centre, and had lost the case.

258/2016 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 21 July 2016 at 7.30pm at the Memorial Hall.

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