

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30 PM ON THURSDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2016 AT THE MEMORIAL HALL, THE VILLAGE, FINCHAMPSTEAD

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

Mrs Dagnall, Clerk.

Prior to the meeting commencing, former Councillor Wally Chapman was presented with the Freedom of the Parish in recognition of his outstanding services to the community and to Finchampstead Parish as a Member of the Council from 1967 to 2016.

357/2016 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs May, Rampton and Pittock.

358/2016 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

359/2016 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2016 were signed as a true and correct record.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

No members of the public were present.

360/2016 CHAIRMANS REPORT

- A meeting was held with the Leader and Chief Executive of Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) on 21 September 2016. Cllrs Bromley, Cundy, Mrs Driver, Marshallsay, Veitch and Woof and the Clerk attended the meeting. The WBC representatives outlined the 'WBC 21 Century Programme' and future changes to their organisation and way of working, required due to funding pressures. WBC hopes to have a closer working relationship with Town and Parish Councils in future.
- The next Borough Parish Liaison Forum is on 10 October 2016. Future governance will be on the agenda as there are a number of potential changes to Parish boundaries linked to new developments. Cllr Cundy will be attending.
- Berkshire Association of Local Councils (BALC) and Wokingham District Association of Local Councils (WDALC) were discussed. WDALC has not met for some time and 11 of the 15 member councils do not feel it has a useful role, two councils have not commented, but two further member councils and BALC wish it to continue. The role of BALC was also discussed, it is unclear what benefits it brings to the Council at present. Cllr Cundy will be attending the BALC Executive meeting on 28 September 2016.

361/2016 COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Veitch reported on the meetings held on 3 August 2016 and 7 September 2016 – minutes have been circulated.

3 August 2016

This was the first meeting under the new 'paperless' system.

Applications

12 applications were considered. Objections were lodged against the application at:

- 274 Nine Mile Ride.

There were no objections to the application at 427 Finchampstead Road, provided this is only a food delivery service, not a take away restaurant.

Decisions

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

- | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| • Heathmere, Heath Ride | FPC objected | WBC allowed |
| • Cabin rear of 85 Kiln Ride | FPC objected | WBC allowed |
| • 348 Nine Mile Ride | FPC objected | WBC allowed |

Other matters

- There is a new Appeal at Mulberry, The Village (this was subsequently allowed).
- The Appeal at 20 Cricket Hill was allowed.
- There were 3 new enforcement issues

7 September 2016

Applications

11 applications were considered. Objections were lodged against applications at the following:

- 19 Pine Drive.
- Queensmere House, Sandhurst Road.
- Land at New Acres and Pineridge Caravan Park, Nine Mile Ride.

Decisions

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

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------|
| • 56 Pine Drive | FPC objected | WBC allowed |
| • 145 Nashgrove Lane | FPC no objection | WBC refused |
| • 111 Barkham Ride | FPC no objection | WBC refused |

Other matters

- There are new Appeals at 78 Reading Road, and 162c Nine Mile Ride.
- The Appeal at Wynora, Soldiers Ride was dismissed.
- There were 5 new enforcement issues with a further 6 closed.

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Cllr Woof reported on current matters.

Financial position

- | | |
|---|------------|
| • Unity Trust Bank | £76,659.85 |
| • CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund account | £70,712.14 |

It was noted that the above balance includes the final instalment of the precept payment from WBC.

The schedule of payments totalling £5855.27 (gross) was circulated. All payments were unanimously approved.

Cllrs Markham and Woof agreed to authorise the electronic payments.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Cllr Woof and the Clerk have made some progress with refining the Council's project list and also the WBC list, identifying which projects are or may be of relevance to the Parish.

A CIL payment of around £14,000 is expected from WBC in October 2016, along with suggestions of where this may be directed. The CIL Working Group will be meeting on 3 November 2016 to discuss this.

Grant applications

Applications will be considered at the next meeting of the Committee on 12 October 2016. There have been a larger number of applications than usual and the Clerk will be circulating details to the Committee shortly.

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr Mrs Driver reported on the meeting held on 13 September 2016. Minutes have been circulated.

The proposed California Country Park improvements were discussed and the draft consultation response will be covered under agenda item 9 below.

- Litter Warden reports show that the level of litter has increased significantly over the summer holiday period. Cllr Mrs Driver is contacting the local Schools to offer a talk to the children. St Mary & St John's Church may be starting a litter pick initiative involving local schools.
- The War Memorial is due to be cleaned and repaired by the end of October 2016. An application was made to Historic England for the Memorial to be listed, and confirmation that this has been approved was received shortly after the Committee meeting. The Memorial is now Grade 2 listed.
- Various asset repair works are in hand, including creating a new bed around the Silver Jubilee Oak near the Church.

Cllr May has obtained a quote for repair and improvement works to the Barkham Ride bus stop. 3 companies were approached but only one submitted a quote – for the sum of £1600 + VAT.. The Committee recommended this for approval and this was unanimously approved by the Council. Cllr May will supervise the work.

- Allotments - several plots have been let recently and there are now only 1 ½ vacant plots, with one new tenant pending. The Association has been given permission to mark out additional plots on the remaining area to the south west of the site.
- California Crossroads tidy up – the Committee agreed to have another tidy up on 23 October from 9.30 to 12 noon. Further details will follow.
- The Committee discussed the various levels of protection for features of national and local historic significance and interest. The Clerk will be collating a list of all local buildings and features which are currently protected, and additional features can then be suggested for inclusion under the WBC policy.
- Cllr Mrs Yorke was welcomed to the Committee.

RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

Cllr Woof reported on current matters

- The Ramblers will be installing a further kissing gate on FP8 next week to replace a stile. The gate is being funded by the Council.
- A meeting was held with WBC on 28 July 2016, including a site visit to FP20 around Fishers Copse to discuss way marking. WBC will be installing the way markers this month.
- A meeting was held at Rectory Farm on 14 September 2016 at the request of the landowner. Cllr Woof, the Clerk and the WBC Rights of Way Officer attended and various issues and potential improvements were discussed..
- A meeting was held on 20 September 2016 regarding drainage issues on BP4. Cllr Woof, the Clerk, the WBC Rights of Way Officer and a representative from BBOWT, the Local Wildlife Trust, discussed the issues with a local landowner. BBOWT will be undertaking some ditch clearance and further advice is being sought from the WBC Drainage Engineer.
- Drainage issues on FP52 by Sand Martins Golf Course have been discussed with WBC who may be able to provide materials to build up the path. Cllr Woof has contacted the Golf Course to see if it could provide labour to spread the material.
- The WBC proposed Green Ways route AR3 through the California Country Park will be discussed with WBC to ensure the most appropriate route through the Park is followed.

ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Cllr Bromley reported on current matters. .

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

One SID session is being carried out per week at present. Thames Valley Police (TVP) is being very co-operative and large numbers of offences are being followed up.

Several local Town and Parish Councils have expressed interest in the traffic monitoring activities and queries are being followed up including invitations to attend a SID session. The Council's equipment will not be lent to other Councils. The Leader of WBC also expressed interest in the activities and has been forwarded information.

TVP may be able to contribute funds to the purchase of post mounted vehicle activated signs (VAS) and this is being followed up through the Neighbourhood Action Group.

Road markings

Following an enquiry to WBC about the potential for installing roundels on a stretch of Nine Mile Ride it appears that WBC has changed its policy and is not installing any further roundels or remarking existing ones. WBC has stated that roundels cause confusion for drivers. Cllr Weeks is following this up.

Avery Car Park project

Following a meeting on 19 July 2016 WBC agreed to provide quotations for various works to progress the planned improvement project. No information has been received to date but a further meeting has been arranged for 20 October 2016.

Major Projects

A meeting was held on 20 September 2016 and a report will be circulated. Gas works on the Fernlea Estate start in December. A number of local roads will be affected by other utility and road works from November onwards, and there will be some road closures.

362/2016 WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN UPDATE CONSULTATION

The Planning Committee discussed the consultation document at its meeting on 7 September 2016. A draft response was circulated to all Councillors and further comments incorporated.

Minor amendments were agreed and the Clerk will submit the final response to WBC.

363/2016 HOGWOOD PARK DEVELOPMENT CONSULTATION

A consultation event on development proposals for Hogwood Park took place on 9 September 2016. Comments were collated and circulated to all Councillors. The response was agreed by the Council and will be submitted to Barton Willmore Ltd..

364 /2016 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Finchampstead Park Management Committee

Cllr Markham advised that a meeting was held on 20 July 2016. Some progress is being made with improvements to the Park and resolving various issues.

Finch NAG

Cllrs Weeks, Bromley and Rampton attended the meeting on 12 September 2016. There were updates from TVP and on road traffic issues. Finances were discussed and a grant application has been submitted to the Council for funds towards web site and other costs.

365/2016 CALIFORNIA COUNTRY PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Cllr Mrs Driver advised that a meeting to discuss the proposed improvements was held with WBC Cllr Ross and the WBC Green Infrastructure Manager on 26 August 2016. Cllrs Mrs Driver, Markham, Veitch, Woof and the Clerk then visited the Park on 5 September 2016 to view the areas affected by the proposals.

The improvements to access, car parking and the café area were discussed further at the Amenities Committee. Comments have been circulated to all Councillors and were recommended for approval. This was unanimously approved by the Council and the response will be forwarded to WBC.

WBC Cllr Ross has not responded to the letter sent in July 2016 regarding the issues being experienced by the Scout Group. The Clerk will write a further letter requesting a full response.

366/2016 ARBORFIELD STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT LOCATION (SDL)

- Cllrs Bromley and Veitch attended the Steering Group meeting on 6 September 2016. WBC has approved the application for Parcel T and will be considering the application for Parcels A – G in October. Proposals for the Marino land in the southern part of the SDL have not progressed. The format and agenda for the next Community Forum was discussed and agreed.
- The next Community Liaison Group meeting is on 3 October 2016. Cllrs May and / or Pearce will attend.
- The next Community Forum will be held on 10 October 2016. Agenda items will include updates on the 'call for sites', the school and the Shinfield Relief Road.

367/2016 COMMUNICATIONS

An update on Council Communications was circulated.

The number of residents on the e distribution list has increased significantly. Web site views are fairly consistent but Facebook likes have increased from 92 in July to 105.

There is potential for having a presence at Christmas fetes held at local schools. After discussion it was agreed that other events would be more appropriate and Christmas fetes would not be attended.

368/2016 CORRESPONDENCE

- Invitation to WBC Sports Council Sports Awards 2016, 25 November 2016, 7.30pm.
- Invitation from WBC Mayor to Voluntary Sector, 16 November 2016 at 7pm.
- Invitation to Community Council for Berkshire AGM, 26 October 2016 at 5.45pm.
- Copies of NALC magazine – LCR.
- Dr Phillip Lee MP newsletter.

Items circulated by email over previous month:

- NALC newsletters and bulletins.
- BALC newsletter.
- BALC minutes from meeting held 27 July 2016.
- WBC news/media releases including new secondary school; changes at re3 recycling centres; recycling week; bike bonanza; air quality management areas; Local Plan update.
- Thames Valley Police alerts.
- Ramblers Walk About festival information.
- Healthwatch – community cash funds

369/2016 FORUM

- Cllr Bromley advised all to be alert about phishing emails such as the recent one claiming to be from HMRC.
- Cllrs Bromley and Mrs Driver advised that there will be a Quiz night on 21 October 2106 in aid of the St James' Churchyard extension.
- Cllr Woof advised that he will be attending the Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership AGM on 4 November 2016.
- Cllr Markham advised that he had attended the consecration of the St James' Churchyard extension on 21 September 2016. The Bishop of Reading officiated at the event.

370/2016 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 19 October 2016 at 7.30pm at the FBC Centre.

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