

## FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30 PM ON THURSDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2016 AT THE MEMORIAL HALL, THE VILLAGE, FINCHAMPSTEAD

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**PRESENT:** Cllr Cundy, Chair. Cllr Markham, Vice Chair.  
Cllrs Bowers, Bromley, Cornish, Mrs Driver, May, Pearce, Veitch, Woof, Mrs Yorke.

Mrs Dagnall, Clerk.  
Two local residents (part).

#### **444/2016 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs Jennings-Frisby, Pittock, Rampton and Weeks.

#### **445/2016 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

#### **446/2016 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2016 were signed as a true and correct record.

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

Two local residents attended the meeting in relation to the protection of features of historic interest.

#### **447/2016 CHAIRMANS REPORT**

- Cllr Cundy attended the Berkshire Association of Local Councils (BALC) Annual General meeting (AGM) on 3 November 2016.
- An invitation to the Wokingham District Association of Local Councils (WDALC) AGM has been received. A response has been forwarded stating that this is unnecessary and inappropriate given that 11 of the 15 Member Councils have already expressed the view that the organisation should be disbanded.
- Cllr Cundy and the Clerk met a Finchampstead Baptist Church representative to discuss future community and Baptist Church provision on the Arborfield SDL. The Church has had various discussions with Barkham Parish Council, Barkham Church, Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) and Crest Nicholson but no firm proposals are in place.
- Cllr Cundy and the Clerk are continuing to liaise with WBC Officers regarding the WBC Asset Review. WBC has forwarded draft heads of terms for a 30 year lease for the allotment site and the Clerk will be forwarding comments and queries to WBC.

A fuller report on the Asset Review is expected in December and will be reported back at the next meeting.

- The Remembrance Day service was held at the War Memorial on 13 November 2016 and was well attended.

#### **448/2016 COMMITTEE AND GROUP MEMBERSHIP AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER GROUPS**

Cllr Cundy advised that in view of Cllr Markham leaving the area and the Council, arrangements need to be put in place to cover the various roles covered by Cllr Markham, for the period from January 2016 to the next Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2017.

Cllr Cundy proposed the following as replacements for Cllr Markham:

Vice Chairman of the Council:	Cllr Bromley
Vice Chairman of the Amenities Committee:	Cllr Bowers
Vice Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee:	Cllr Bromley
Community Infrastructure Levy Working Group:	Cllr Cundy
Finchampstead Park Management Committee:	Cllr Weeks
Finchampstead Village Club:	Cllr May

The proposals were unanimously approved by the Council.

It was also noted that Cllr Cundy has joined the Community Consultation Working Group and will in future act as Chair of the Group.

The Clerk will circulate the updated list with the minutes of the meeting.

## **449/2016 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Cllr Veitch reported on the meeting held on 2 November 2016, minutes have been circulated.

#### Applications

9 applications were considered. Objections were lodged against applications at:

- The Old Orchard, Wick Hill Lane.
- Silverstock Manor, Sandhurst Road.

#### Decisions

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

- |                                |                   |                   |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| • 24 Radical Ride              | FPC no objections | WBC refused       |             |
| • Wheatlands Manor, Fleet Hill | PC objected       | FPC no objections | WBC refused |

Applications objected to by FPC and also refused by WBC included:

- 19 Pine Drive
- Land opposite Warren Lodge
- Land at new Acres and Pineridge Caravan Park, Nine Mile Ride.

#### Other matters

- There is a new Appeal at Pickeridge House, Sandhurst Road.
- There were 2 new enforcement issues, with 2 issues closed.
- WBC has requested comments from the Parish Council on the sites put forward through the Call for Sites linked to the Local Plan Update. Cllrs Cundy, Marshallsay, Veitch and Weeks will be meeting to discuss this and will draft comments for consideration by all Cllrs. The final comments will be put to the December Main Council meeting for approval.

### **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

Cllr Woof reported on current matters.

#### **Financial position**

- |   |            |
|---|------------|
| • Unity Trust Bank                        | £83,493.76 |
| • CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund account | £70,755.82 |

The schedule of payments totaling £8188.41(gross) was circulated to all Cllrs. It was noted that this included a payment of £200 to the Wokingham Poppy Appeal to cover the cost of the Remembrance Day Service wreath, and a donation to the Appeal.

Two additional payments not included on the list were for £17.73 for the SLCC for reference books, and £1293.60 (gross) to AF Jones Ltd for work to the War Memorial.

All payments were approved and Cllrs Bromley and Woof agreed to authorise the electronic payments.

### **Community Infrastructure Levy**

WBC has transferred just under £30, 000 to the Parish Council and this is included in the bank balance above. It will be put in a separate account as an Ear Marked Reserve and will be shown separately on future payment lists. WBC has recently sent a list of infrastructure projects the Council may wish to contribute to and the CIL Working Group is meeting on 22 November to discuss this.

The Clerk will be starting work on the 2017/18 draft budget next week.

### **AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

Cllr Mrs Driver reported on current matters.

### **Allotments**

Potential changes to the lease from WBC were noted under the Chairman's report above. The Allotment Association AGM was held on 16 November 2016 and was attended by Cllrs Cundy, Veitch and Weeks and the Clerk.

### **Burnmoor Meadow**

3 additional trees have been planted this week, and the small saplings have also been weeded and new guards installed.

### **California Crossroads**

The tidy up on 23 October 2016 was successful. The Co-Op has approved the grant application for £250 and another planter has been ordered. The blocked drains / gullies have been reported to WBC and will be cleared within the next week.

### **Barkham Ride roundabout**

The roundabout has finally been planted up by WBC. The site is not available for sponsorship.

### **Asset works**

The Barkham Ride bus stop repair and refurbishment is complete. A bed has been created around the Silver Jubilee tree near St James Church, and an order has been placed to refurbish the stone plaque. Other minor asset works are complete or progressing.

### **Litter**

Cllr Mrs Driver has visited Nine Mile Ride School to speak to the children about the importance of not dropping litter, and will also be visiting Gorse Ride Infant and Junior Schools.

### **RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE**

Cllr Woof reported on current matters and the meeting held on 9 November 2016. Minutes will be circulated in due course.

- The footpaths and bridleways are generally in good condition with WBC acting promptly on maintenance issues and the Footpath Warden carrying out regular maintenance work.
- Further progress has been made with resolving drainage issues on BP4. WBC has issued a works order for clearance of the ditch adjacent to the bridle path and will also be looking at the culverts on White Horse Lane. WBC has agreed to supply material to build up the path when the ditch clearance is complete.

- Progress has also been made with resolving drainage issues on FP52 by Sand Martins Golf Course. WBC has agreed to look at the ditches on Evendons Lane to see if these are contributing to the issue.
- The restoration of an alternative route between BP26 and BP34 has been discussed with WBC, and WBC has agreed that the land owner can be approached over the matter. The Clerk will be drafting a letter.

It was noted that an additional stretch of BP26 has been fenced.

- The gap adjacent to the kissing gate on FP29/P33 has been fenced by the landowner.
- New way marker posts have been installed on FP20 through Fishers Copse and the second circular walk will be waymarked on 26 November 2016 – volunteers should contact Cllr Woof.
- Cllr Woof has completed the information for the third circular walk and the Clerk will now prepare this for publication on the website.

Cllr Cornish suggested that FP18 running north from Jubilee Hill would benefit from way markers. This will be looked into by the Committee.

Cllr Pearce advised that a handrail is needed on the path running past St James Church and through the new churchyard which is used by the Health Walks. Cllr Woof agreed to look into this.

### **ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Cllr Bromley reported on current matters and the meeting held on 26 October 2016.

#### **War Memorial Junction**

Incidents at the junction have become more frequent recently and there are increasing concerns over safety for road users. WBC had advised that it was planning a study of the layout of the junction to improve safety but timescales on this are unclear. The Committee discussed this and agreed the following actions.

- The Clerk would contact WBC suggesting installation of a 'oncoming vehicles in the middle of the road' sign on Jubilee Hill and an improved '90' bend in both of the existing road signs', and asking that road markings are refreshed.
- Cllr Weeks would ask a local transport expert for advice and comments.
- Cllr Weeks would ask WBC to progress its planned study. It was noted that The Clerk has recently contacted the WBC Lead Member for Highways regarding the study and is awaiting a response.
- Subject to the outcome of the above, the Committee will consider commissioning a study.

#### **Church Lane/White Horse Lane**

Cllrs Bromley and May have met a contractor to discuss the planned improvements. However, there is now subsidence in the area which needs addressing, and this work could be implemented with the other improvements. A meeting will be arranged with a St James' Church representative to discuss the next stage.

#### **Avery Corner Car Park**

A meeting was held with the WBC Car Parks Manager on 20 October 2016, as a follow up to the meeting held in June 2016. WBC had made little progress and presented a quotation for a scheme which reversed the flow of traffic. Whilst this is the preferred scheme, it is not possible to achieve without moving the telegraph pole and widening the entrance to allow two-way traffic. WBC has now agreed to provide a new quotation for the scheme agreed in June 2016, and additionally to provide an actual price for the relocation of a telegraph pole, which would allow the preferred scheme to be

implemented. The Committee agreed that up to £2500 could be allocated to the project, which is within the current budget

#### **Data Logger (SDR) and Speed Indicator Device (SID)**

- WBC has advised that it is not possible to install roundels on 30mph stretches of road where street lighting is not more than 200m apart.
- Thames Valley Police may be able to contribute to the cost of a pole mounted SID device - a meeting to discuss this will be arranged as soon as possible.
- A SID session rota is now in place until the end of January 2017. Any Cllrs are welcome to participate.
- SID sessions are continuing weekly, a recent session outside the Finchampstead Surgery (northbound) detected 48 speeding vehicles, and one on Nine Mile Ride near Manor Park Drive detected 26 vehicles.

#### **450/2016 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

##### **Finchampstead Park Management Committee**

Cllr Markham reported on the meeting held on 7 November 2016. Progress with improvement projects is slow. Details of the memorial benches have been collated, but a list of memorial trees is outstanding.

The new lamp column outside the Hall has now been installed by the WBC Contractor.

The next meeting of the Committee is on 30 January 2017.

##### **Gorse Ride Multi Agency Group (GRMAG) and Community Forum**

Cllr Bowers reported on recent meetings and related matters.

- Bracknell & Wokingham College have raised the issue of potential pupils finding it difficult to travel to the College on public transport.
- WBC has circulated data on areas of deprivation. The area with the highest level of deprivation is at Pinewood.
- The Tenants Services Fun Day held in August 2016 at the FBC Centre playing fields was successful with over 600 visitors, and a high percentage from the Gorse Ride Estate. The next Fun Day will be held on 8 August 2017 and will also involve the Emergency Services.
- The Thames Valley Police Inspector will be attending the next Community Forum on 28 November 2016.
- WBC Tenants Services will be sending letters to all properties on the Estate advising that condition surveys of the properties will be taking place, and that there will be a further update in March 2017.
- Reverend Mark – Aaron Tisdale will be leaving in March 2017.

##### **Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership**

Cllr Woof reported on the Annual General Meeting held on 4 November. Cllr Weeks also attended the event as Vice Chair of the Partnership.

- The strategy for 5 years from 2017 is being reviewed, and will incorporate the restored Manor Farm and Fleet Hill Farm sites.
- Many access improvements have been implemented on the riverside path, and various projects at Moor Green Lakes.
- This year has seen the highest ever level of volunteer tasks, valued at £700,000 including £200,000 volunteer labour.
- Management of SANGS and other projects is an important area of work and an income generator.
- Finances are stable. The Clerk will circulate the Financial Report.

#### **451/2016 ARBORFIELD STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT LOCATION (SDL)**

- The Steering Group meeting due to take place on 8 November 2016 was cancelled.
- The next Community Liaison Forum meeting is on 5 December 2016, Cllr Pearce will be attending.
- Crest Nicholson has sold parcels H, I and J to Redrow Homes (information has been circulated).
- Crest Nicholson has sent an invitation to the 'Arborfield Green Community Christmas Lights Event on 8 December at 6pm. The Clerk will recirculate the details.
- WBC plan to have a welcome meeting for new residents when 100 houses are occupied, involving several partners. It is unclear if Parish Council representatives will be invited.

Cllr Cundy advised that discussions are continuing with other Parishes over future Governance of the various SDL's, including over Parish boundaries, and this will be on the agenda for the Borough Parish Liaison Forum in January 2017.

#### **452/2016 PROTECTION FOR FEATURES OF LOCAL HISTORIC INTEREST / SIGNIFICANCE**

Cllr Mrs Driver advised that information had been circulated prior to the meeting including details of relevant policies contained in the WBC Local Plan, buildings and features listed by Historic England, and the one building in Finchampstead on the current WBC local List of Buildings of Traditional Local Character and Areas of Special Character. WBC is currently reviewing its policy and procedure relating to this Local List, which is intended to cover areas and features which do not meet the standards for statutory listing or other protection, but which are of considerable local significance or importance to the Borough's heritage.

It was noted that buildings and features which are already listed by Historic England and / or are a Conservation Area are covered by a higher level of protection than the Local List can provide. The Local List is a means of raising awareness of the importance of a local feature should any development or other proposals come forward which may affect the feature.

Buildings / features which could be put forward for the WBC Local List were discussed and various suggestions made. Additional suggestions should be forwarded to the Clerk.

It was agreed that this should be promoted locally to encourage residents and organisations such as the Finchampstead Society to put forward features for possible inclusion in the List.

#### **453/2016 COMMUNICATIONS**

An update on Council Communications was circulated.

The Clerk will be arranging a meeting of the Consultation Working Group in the near future.

Cllr Bromley advised that there have been some issues with Parish Council emails and asked for any error messages to be forwarded to him.

#### **454/2016 CORRESPONDENCE**

- Invitation to Wokingham Borough Schools Carol Concert, 11 December 2016 (Cllr Cundy attending)
- Invitation to Nine Lessons and Carols, 18 December 2016 at Wellington College (Cllr May attending)
- Dr Phillip Lee MP e newsletter.
- Complimentary tickets – Crowthorne Choral concert 3 December 2016 at Wellington College.

Letters and emails giving thanks for grants and donations received from:

- Nine Mile Ride School
- Finchampstead School
- Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership
- California Association
- Berkshire Vision
- MS Therapy Centre
- Finch NAG
- Keep Mobile
- 1<sup>st</sup> St Sebastians Scout Group
- Cruse
- Relate
- Citizens Advice Bureau
- Wokingham Job Support Centre
- Wokingham Volunteer Centre

Items circulated by email over previous month:

- NALC newsletters and bulletins.
- WBC news/media releases including solution to housing needs – potential garden village settlement; One Public Estate Programme; Adult Services Partnership.
- WBC Strategic Development Locations updates.
- WBC Libraries information.
- Thames Valley Police alerts.
- WBC Traffic Management notices.

#### **455/2016 FORUM**

- The meeting schedule for 2017 has now been finalised and circulated to all Cllrs.
- Cllr Cundy advised that Miss Isobel Vaughan-Morgan, former Parish Cllr and Chair of the Council will celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on 26 November 2016.
- Cllr Bowers raised the potential for an award for voluntary work in the community. The Finchampstead Society Trophy is presented annually for work in the community, the Clerk will contact the Society regarding promoting the Award more widely, and the possibility of presenting this at the Annual Gathering.

#### **456/2016 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 14 December 2016 at 7.30pm at the FBC Centre.

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