

## FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30pm ON THURSDAY 17 MARCH 2016 AT THE MEMORIAL HALL, THE VILLAGE, FINCHAMPSTEAD

---

**PRESENT:** Cllr Markham, Vice Chair.  
Cllrs Bowers, Chapman, Cornish, Mrs Driver, Mrs Jennings Frisby, Mrs Hartwell  
Marshallsay, Pearce, Rampton, Veitch, Woof.

Mrs Dagnall, Clerk.

#### **117/2016 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Cundy, Mrs Driver, May, Pittock and Weeks.

#### **118/2016 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were received.

#### **119/2016 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 February 2016 were signed as a true and correct record.

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

No members of the public were present.

#### **120/2016 VICE CHAIRMANS REPORT**

- The Annual Gathering held on 9 March 2016 went well with around 50 attendees. A hard copy of the Annual Report distributed at the meeting is included in all Cllrs packs. Thames Valley Police (TVP) has been booked to speak at next year's event, the provisional date is 8 March 2017
- As agreed at the last meeting a contribution has been made to the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) and recreational facilities project at the FBC Centre playing field. Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) will be issuing a press release shortly (which will acknowledge our contribution) and the plans will be on display at the FBC Centre from 28 March 2016. Construction will start in early May 2016.
- Cllrs Cundy and Veitch and the Clerk attended a meeting of some of the southern parishes on 3 March 2016, hosted by Shinfield Parish Council. A number of issues were raised by other Parishes. The meeting was followed by a presentation from WBC on progress with the Strategic Development Locations (SDL's), and the 5 year housing supply requirement / Local Plan update. These presentations have been circulated to all Cllrs.
- The Clerk circulated an editorial column published in the Wokingham Paper 19 February 2016 titled 'the Parish Council system needs reviewing' which included incorrect information about Parish Councils. Responses from Cllr Markham and the Clerk were published in subsequent editions.
- Cllr Weeks had circulated information about changes to Thames Valley Police (TVP) including the combining of the Bracknell and Wokingham Forces. We had understood from this that TVP would be moving out of the FBC Centre, but this is not the case and TVP will continue to share the Parish Office.

## **121/2016 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Cllr Veitch reported on the meeting held on 24 February 2016. Minutes have been circulated.

#### Applications

23 applications were considered.

Objections were lodged against the applications for development at:

- Pine Ridge, Nine Mile Ride (adjoining parish consultation).
- Johnson Drive – development of 34 dwellings. A number of residents attended the meeting to raise objections against the application.
- 72 Reading Road.
- 333 Nine Mile Ride.

#### Decisions

Decisions were in line with Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) decisions with the exception of the following:

- Park Farm House, Park Lane                      FPC objected                      WBC approved

#### Appeals

- The appeal at Broughton, Heath Ride was allowed.

#### Other matters

- Bracknell Forest and Wokingham Borough Councils have commissioned a joint review of the Green Belt within the two Boroughs, to assess whether land within the existing Green Belt meets the purposes of the Green Belt which are set out in National Policy.

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

Cllr Woof reported on the Council's financial position and current matters.

#### STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Unity Trust Bank	£15,847.15
CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund	£65,508.73

#### SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS FOR MARCH 2016

A copy of the schedule of cheques and other payments totaling £12,168 (gross) was circulated to all Councillors for consideration. An additional late payment of £102.76 for Annual Gathering expenses was noted.

- The list included a number of payments already approved, including the contribution to the MUGA project agreed at the previous meeting.
- WBC has invoiced for the work to the Avery Car Park implemented in 2013
- The cost of the new lamp column included on the payment list will be covered by the insurance payment which has recently been received.

All payments were approved by the Council and it was agreed that Cllrs Bromley and Woof would authorise the electronic payments.

Cllr Woof advised that plans for staff appraisals are in hand.

Cllr Bromley advised that the FBC Centre management is looking into options for improved broadband provision for its offices – provision for public areas and the Children's Centre will remain as it is. The Parish Office has separate broadband and one option is for the Centre to take this over, with speed and capacity upgrades, and to then recharge a proportion to the Parish Council.

It was agreed that this is a sensible proposal in principle and that it should proceed on a trial basis to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the Parish Council.

### **AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

Cllr Markham reported on current matters.

Cllr Mrs Driver and the Assistant to the Clerk are making arrangements for an event to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

- The event will be held on 21 April from approximately 6.30pm to 8pm. The timing for the lighting of the beacon at St James' Church is to be confirmed.
- The Queens Oak Public House will arrange a barbecue
- A shuttle bus service is being arranged with various pick up points.
- Cakes are being arranged (offers of help welcome).
- Local Schools have been informed.
- Posters and publicity will be out soon.
- Each Cllr was asked to bring a bottle of Prosecco to the next Main Council meeting, for use at the April event.

Other matters

- For the first time the Litter Warden has collected over 100 sacks of rubbish in a month, over 18,000 items of litter. The Clerk will ask the Warden if he would be prepared to give a talk to local schools.
- As reported at the last Council meeting the Amenities Committee has agreed to look into listing of the War Memorial as a historic monument. Cllr Pittock has suggested that this should not be progressed as it may compromise future plans to improve the junction.

It was agreed that listing should be looked into as planned, and will be discussed at each stage. The uncertainty of timing for any improvements to the junction was noted as this has been under discussion for many years.

### **RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE**

Cllr Woof reported on the meeting held on 16 March 2016.

- Cllr Mrs Hartwell attended the meeting and was welcomed on to the Committee.
- Manor Farm and Fleet Hill Farm – Cllr Weeks noted that there appear to have been some changes to the original restoration plans for Manor Farm, including additional bridle path sections. While this is positive, there was some concern over the lack of consultation. Cllr Woof will review the original plans and will discuss with Cllr Weeks.  
Hampshire County Council (HCC) has agreed to take responsibility for the bridge from Manor Farm over the Blackwater River, and this will become a right of way. HCC will be contacted in due course over its plans for additional rights of way leading from the bridge.
- New kissing gates have been purchased for FP8 and the Ramblers volunteers are ready to install these as soon as WBC has completed the utility searches.
- The owner of Fleet Hill Farm has given permission for the gap by the kissing gate at the junction of FP29 and FP33 to be fenced. The Footpath Warden will undertake the work.
- The potential redesignation of FP20 as a bridleway is progressing. WBC and Bracknell Forest Council are supportive, as is the landowner provided no costs are incurred. Cllr Weeks will be speaking to the landowner again before this is progressed to the next stage.
- The potential for reinstating the missing link between BP26 and BP34 was discussed by the Committee. As a first stage land ownership will be looked into.
- The impact of the condition of some paths – including FP33 and FP54 – on the Blackwater Valley 'Walk the Path' event on 24 April 2016 was discussed. WBC is to look at a culvert

under Longwater Road to see if this is a contributing factor. The paths will be looked at nearer the time of the event and alternative routes will be planned if needed.

- The National Trust is holding an event at Simon's Wood on 28 May 2016 and has asked the Council to be involved. A display and appropriate information will be arranged.
- The second circular walk will be waymarked during April. One section through Fishers Copse may be delayed as landowner permission for new posts is needed.

Cllr Chapman was thanked for all he has done for the Committee and local rights of way during his years on the Council.

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

Cllr Bromley reported on current matters.

- The Avery Car Park project was put on hold following a decision to include it in the California Cross scheme. However, this scheme has now been delayed so WBC will be contacted to see if the drop off zone and additional parking bays can now be implemented.
- The SID and SDR units are being well used in several areas. Following monitoring of the Finchampstead Road near Warren Lane with the SDR a speed problem has been identified, and a SID session will be arranged. 3 SID sessions are being held a month at present, but this can be increased if additional volunteers are available.
- The WBC street light upgrade project is progressing, those columns only needing new lanterns will be dealt with in the first phase starting in April 2016.
- There are no Major Projects in Finchampstead at present, but work at the Finchampstead Road / Evendons Lane is causing delays.

### **FINCHAMPSTEAD EMERGENCY RESPONSE (FER)**

Cllr Pearce reported that he, Cllr Weeks and the Clerk met on 8 March 2016 to discuss how the Council would manage FER now that it has been taken over from Finch NAG.

Communications with existing volunteers and refuge centres were discussed, and an annual meeting is planned in October involving the WBC Emergency Planning Team. The need for ongoing promotion and awareness raising was discussed and the scheme will be mentioned regularly in Council newsletters.

### **122/2016 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

#### **Finchampstead Park Management Committee (FPMC)**

Cllr Markham advised that as agreed at the previous Council meeting, he and Cllrs Bowers, Cundy and Weeks and the Clerk met on 10 March 2016.

It was agreed that initially Cllr Markham would continue to encourage the Management Committee to widen its membership, and the Clerk would seek a legal opinion on the Council's role as Custodian and Management Trustees, and on the documents in place. A sum of up to £425.00 for this work was approved by the Council.

The FPMC meeting planned for 16 March 2016 was postponed. The AGM will be held on 25 April 2016.

#### **Gorse Ride**

Cllr Bowers advised that the March Community Forum was cancelled due to illness. In future the Forum will meet every two months

#### **Wokingham Area Housing Society (WAHS)**

At the previous meeting Cllr Mrs Driver advised that the Chair of WAHS had forwarded a letter stating that with the refocusing of the Society following the lease of Warren Close to Housing

Solutions Ltd, the make-up of the Management Committee would be changed and a Parish Council representative would no longer be required. Cllr Mrs Driver has now met the Chair of WAHS and will report the outcome at the next meeting.

#### Finchampstead Neighbourhood Action Group (Finch NAG)

The next meeting will take place on 12 April 2016.

Cllr Rampton advised that plans for the litter pick on 20 March 2016 are in place and all are encouraged to attend. Groups will meet at the FBC Centre and the Greyhound, and the Scout Group is covering the California Country Park. Some areas will not be included this year including Carolina Place and Sand Martins.

#### **123/2016 ARBORFIELD STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT LOCATION (SDL)**

- An Arborfield Community Forum meeting was held on 22 February 2016. Cllr Pearce attended and a report has been circulated.
- The Reserved Matters application for the Nine Mile Ride Extension was considered by WBC on 15 March 2016 and was approved. The Council had submitted comments and Cllr Bromley spoke at the meeting expressing the Councils' concerns. Barkham Parish Council also addressed the meeting.
- There is an exhibition on proposals for parcel T (residential) on Saturday 19 March 2016 from 1pm to 5pm at the Garrison Community Centre.
- The Council's FAST members are meeting Curtin & Company / Crest Nicholson on 8 April 2016 for a preview of proposals for parcels A – G (residential), before these go to public exhibition.

#### **124/2016 CORRESPONDENCE**

- Tickets for Crowthorne Choral Society concert on Sunday 20 March 2016.

Items circulated by email over previous month:

- BALC newsletter.
- NALC newsletters and bulletins.
- Public Sector Executive online.
- Local Government News.
- Thames Valley Police alerts.
- Rural Matters newsletter.
- WBC Libraries newsletter.
- WBC news/media releases including temporary parking in Wokingham, My Journey, annual litter pick, Secondary School Offer.
- CCB Action for All e bulletin.
- Dr Phillip Lee MP newsletter.

#### **125/2016 FORUM**

- Cllr Pearce asked that a letter of thanks be sent to WBC relating to the improvements made to the FBC Centre playing field play area. The Clerk will arrange this.
- Cllr Markham reminded Cllrs that election nomination forms must be submitted to WBC between 31 March 2016 and 4pm on 7 April 2016.
- Cllr Markham advised that due to his potential move out of the Parish, he will only stand for election if it is uncontested, that is if there are over 17 candidates he will not stand.

#### **126/2016 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 13 April 2016 at 7.30pm at the FBC Centre.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

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