

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.00 PM ON WEDNESDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2017 AT THE FBC CENTRE, GORSE RIDE NORTH, FINCHAMPSTEAD

PRESENT: Cllr Cundy, Chair. Cllr Markham, Vice Chair.
Cllrs Bowers, Bromley, Cornish, Mrs Driver, Mrs Jennings – Frisby, May, Pearce,
Pittock, Rampton, Veitch, Weeks, Woof.

Mrs Dagnall, Clerk.

66/2017 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Marshallsay and Mrs Yorke.

67/2017 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

Cllrs were reminded to check their dispensations and to advise the Clerk if these require amending.

68/2017 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2017 were signed as a true and correct record. A minor amendment was made under item 30/2017 Finance and General Purposes Committee report.

69/2017 CHAIRMANS REPORT

- Cllr Cundy advised that there will not be a presentation on the Nine Mile Cycle Route proposals as planned. On 14 February 2017 Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) informed the Clerk that the project has been shelved but that improvements to the footway for pedestrians will be implemented. Proposals will be presented to the April meeting of the Council.

WBC has now issued a press release regarding the change of plans. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact WBC Cllrs Baker and Richards requesting a meeting to discuss the reasoning behind and the implications of the decision.

- Wokingham District Association of Local Councils (WDALC) has still not responded to the letter sent on 9 December 2017 expressing concerns about the Organisation and seeking clarification on various points raised at the WDALC Annual General Meeting held on 30 November 2016. The Chair of the Berkshire Association of Local Councils (BALC) was copied in to the letter and has responded with views on certain points.

Cllr Cundy and the Clerk have been in contact with the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and the Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC) and will feed back on discussions in due course.

- NALC is promoting a 'Good Councillors Spring Conference' on 26 April in Farnborough. Cllrs Cundy plans to attend, other Cllrs interested in attending should contact the Clerk.
- 33/2017 COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID
Following discussion at the previous meeting evidence of support for nominating the Queen's Oak as an 'Asset of Community Value' has been collected from over 125 individuals, 4 local organisations, Dr Phillip Lee MP and 4 Borough Councillors. The nomination has now been submitted to WBC.

- 2017 will be the 10th anniversary of the death of David Hicks who was killed in action in Afghanistan. The family have been in contact regarding proposals to mark the anniversary and to show appreciation for the support the community has offered.

Cllr Weeks suggested that a project relating to local footpaths such as a charity walk, or seats on paths may be appropriate. It was agreed this would be referred to the Rights of Way Committee for discussion.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

No members of the public were present.

70/2017 COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Veitch reported on the meeting held on 25 January 2017, minutes have been circulated.

Applications

7 applications were considered. Objections and/or comments were lodged against the following applications:

- There were no objections to the application for improvements to access and parking at the California Country Park, but comments were submitted in relation to the adverse impact on the activities of the Scout Group based in the Park.
- Objections were lodged against the application at Two Hoots, Hollybush Ride.
- Objections were lodged against the application at the former Reading Football Club Training Ground. Barkham Parish Council has forwarded a letter of objection and has suggested that this could be supported by Arborfield Parish Council and Finchampstead Parish Council. It was agreed that the Council would support the letter.
- The application at Belscot, Reading Road was considered and there were no objections providing that residents' concerns were taken into account. Subsequent to the meeting a number of additional residents came forward, and supplementary comments supporting the residents' concerns have now been sent to WBC.

It was noted that under normal circumstances a development application considered by the Committee would not be looked again. However these circumstances were exceptional and while it was agreed that the residents should be supported, the original decision of the Committee was not reversed.

Decisions

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

- | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| • Manor Farm | FPC objected | WBC approved |
| • Hogwood Meadows, Park Lane | FPC objected | WBC approved |

Other matters

- There were no new Appeals. The Appeal at 24 Radical Ride was dismissed, the Appeal at Bluebell Farm, Commonfield Lane was allowed and the Appeal at Johnson Drive was withdrawn.
- There were no new enforcement issues, 1 issue was closed.

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Cllr Woof reported on current matters.

Financial position

- Unity Trust Bank £53,436.64
Including £29,859 CIL receipts.

- CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund account £70,805.25

The schedule of payments totalling £5078.60 (gross) was circulated to all Cllrs. All payments were approved and Cllrs Bromley and Woof agreed to authorise the electronic payments.

Other matters

- The 2017/18 Precept Demand has been submitted to WBC.
- The Internal Auditor will be making a first visit on 7 March 2017.
- Finchampstead Emergency Response Working Group - a meeting for Early Responders and Refuge representatives was held on 26 January 2017. The WBC Emergency Planning Officer and Thames Valley Police Inspector also attended. Cllrs Weeks, Pearce and Pittock will be organising a 'dummy run' to check availability and see how many people can be assembled at a point in time.
- The HR Sub Committee met prior to the Council meeting to discuss staffing matters. Appraisals will be carried out during March 2017.

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr Mrs Driver reported on the meeting held on 31 January 2017 and current matters.

- The Committee agreed to hold another California Crossroads Tidy Up – provisionally on Sunday 2 April 2017.
- Litter – the Litter Warden has collected 836 sacks so far in 2016/17, which is more than in the whole of the previous year 2015/16. Cllr Mrs Driver and the Clerk met WBC Officers on 7 February to discuss the increasing problem. WBC is considering arranging a competition for young people to promote awareness of the need to dispose of litter correctly, but it was acknowledged that litter thrown from cars is a large part of the problem. Bottle banks were also discussed, the banks in the California Country Park will be remaining, and WBC is keen to put banks in the Memorial Hall/Sports Club car park – even on a trial basis. The Clerk will be writing a proposal to be discussed at the next Finchampstead Park Management Committee meeting.
- The Committee agreed to adopt the red telephone box at the California Crossroads – subject to the required consultation with WBC. It is hoped that when the Crossroads improvement project progresses the box can be moved to a better location and a use will be found for it.
- The Committee also agreed to aim to provide Christmas displays in the Parish. As a first stage the Clerk will be looking into potential locations at the California Crossroads and the Village.

RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

Cllr Woof reported on current matters.

- A local landowner has been contacted regarding the possibility of reinstating a link between BP26 and BP34. No response has been received to date.
- FP52 and paths around Sandmartins Golf Course – Cllr Woof has visited the area with the WBC Footpaths Officer who is now looking into drainage and surface improvements.
- BP4 – the ditch has been cleared by WBC, with some additional work by the Footpath Warden. WBC has agreed to provide material to build up the path and this will be followed up shortly.
- Green Ways – Cllr Woof met WBC Officers on 20 January to discuss the route of Green Way AR3 through the California Country Park. A public consultation on the route is now underway, running to 17 March 2017. Hard copy plans are available to view in the Office. It was noted that a number of Cllrs had already responded to the consultation.

ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Cllr Bromley reported on current matters. The next meeting of the Committee will be on 1 March 2017.

- Speed Indicator Device (SID)
Weekly sessions are continuing and a new rota is in place until the end of April. A recent session on Reading Road found 4 vehicles exceeding the limit over a 1 ½ hour period. In contrast to this 24 vehicles were recorded on Nine Mile Ride near Kings Mere, and 27 on Nine Mile Ride near Manor Park Drive.
- Cllrs Bromley and May attended a WBC Transport Vision workshop on 25 January 2017. This was not what was expected and was more of a consultation session.
- The issue of large vehicles using Park Lane continues, despite action by Thames Valley Police. Crest Nicholson, WBC and relevant companies have been made aware of the issues.
- The condition of Church Lane is a concern with extensive damage to verges, ditches and drains by contractor vehicles and also an HGV known to be travelling to the Arborfield SDL. WBC is following this up and has confirmed that a damaged manhole and culvert in the area will be repaired.

The Clerk will ask WBC if it seeks to recover costs where there is evidence of vehicle damage.

- WBC is proposing a Traffic Regulation Order to reduce the speed limit to 20mph on the stretch of Nashgrove Lane from its junction with Gilbert Way to the northern end, and has asked for comments prior to undertaking a formal consultation.

It was felt that this was rather unusual given other WBC and Thames Valley Police priorities and it was agreed that the Clerk would respond raising queries relating to the evidence of need and practical aspects of the proposal.

71/2017 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Borough / Parish Liaison Forum – 23 January 2017.

Cllrs Bromley, Cundy, Rampton and the Clerk attended the meeting. It included a very long presentation on Civil Parking Enforcement and a very short and unproductive discussion on future governance arrangements. The Agenda item on the Asset Review was carried forward to the next meeting.

Finchampstead Park Management Committee – 30 January 2017.

Cllr Weeks attended the meeting as the new Parish Council representative on the Committee. Cllrs Bromley and Cundy also attended as representatives of the California Ratepayers Association and Finchampstead School respectively.

Finchampstead Neighbourhood Action Group – 7 February 2017.

Cllr Weeks chaired the meeting which was also attended by Cllrs Bromley, Rampton and Woof.

The Annual Litter Pick was discussed. The main litter pick, including the FBC Centre volunteers and various other groups around the Parish will take place on Sunday 19 March 2017. There may be a second litter pick on 26 March 2017 for groups unable to take part in the first litter pick.

72/2017 ARBORFIELD STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT LOCATION (SDL)

- Redrow Homes held a public exhibition on proposals for Parcels H, J and I on 4 February 2017 and will be attending the Planning Committee meeting on 22 February 2017.
- Cllrs Bromley and Pittock attended a visit to Bohunt School on 7 February 2017. The School is very impressive and is on course to be handed over to Bohunt in June 2017, with the new parts of the school open to pupils in September 2017.
- Future meetings include the Steering Group on 7 March 2017, a Community Forum on 20 March 2017 and the Community Liaison Group on 10 April 2017.

73/2017 STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

This item was deferred until the next meeting of the Council on 16 March 2017. The revised documents will be circulated in advance of the meeting.

74/2017 COMMUNICATIONS AND CONSULTATION

An update on Council communications was circulated.

The Clerk has signed up to Streetlife, now known as NextDoor, and is monitoring messages.

The Annual Gathering will be held on 8 March 2017 and the Consultation and Communications Working Group met on 9 February 2017 to discuss the event. The event will follow the usual format and Thames Valley Police and the FBC Youth Work Team have been invited to give presentations.

Invitations will be sent out this week, with a reminder in a newsletter closer to the event.

The Annual Report is currently being drafted and will be distributed at the event. It will then be distributed to all households in the Parish during March.

75/2017 CORRESPONDENCE

- Dr Phillip Lee MP Newsletter

Items circulated by email over previous month:

- NALC newsletters and bulletins.
- BALC e newsletter
- CCB Action for All e bulleting
- WBC news/media releases.
- WBC Traffic management updates.
- WBC Libraries information.
- WBC item re trees and vegetation causing highway obstruction
- Thames Valley Police alerts and household advice
- Rural Crime Action Group survey

76/2017 FORUM

- Two local residents have now expressed interest in any future vacancies on the Council.
- 'Sandhurst Cross' - the location of the former fuel allotment land is believed to be the area around the junction of the Nine Mile Ride and Sandhurst Road / Lower Wokingham Road.
- There will be a quiz at the California Ratepayers Hall on Saturday 11 March 2017. Those interested should contact Cllr Bromley.
- Cllr Mrs Driver advised that several people have commented on the dangerous footpath layout at the Gorse Ride North entrance to the FBC Centre. Cllrs Cundy and Weeks will raise this at the next meeting of the FBC Advisory Board.
- The potential for starting meetings at 7pm was discussed and will be followed up.

77/2017 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 16 March 2017 at the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.

There will also be a meeting for all Cllrs with the WBC Head of Housing starting at 6.45pm prior to the Main Council meeting.

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

UNITY TRUST BANK ACCOUNT 10/02/17			£53,436.64	
INCLUDING CIL RECEIPTS TOTAL £29,859				
CCLA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 31/01/17			£70,805.25	
TOTAL FUNDS			£124,241.89	
Outstanding cheques yet to be cleared	NET	VAT	TOTAL	
-				
TOTAL CHEQUES OUTSTANDING			£0.00	
Payments already approved and paid				
BT TELEPHONE/BROADBAND	63.48	12.69	76.17	DD
PAYMENTS FEBRUARY 2017				
STAFF COSTS	4,316.46	0.00	4316.46	
JDB CONTRACTORS (MEMORIAL/VIEW)	92.00	18.40	110.40	70725225
GREENHAM (LITTER WARDEN SUPPLIES)	118.78	23.76	142.54	97259681
RBS - ALLOTMENT SOFTWARE SUPPORT	156.00	31.20	187.20	166051913
Allotment costs				
-	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Grants and contributions - subject to final approval by Council where appropriate				
READIBUS - COMMUNITY TRIPS	72.00	0.00	72.00	246774375
WBC - GORSE RIDE SUMMER TRIP	250.00	0.00	250.00	
TOTAL FEB 2017 PAYMENTS			£5,078.60	
TOTAL REMAINING			£119,163.29	
FEBRUARY PETTY CASH / CARD PAYMENTS				
Total petty cash payments	11.97	0.00	11.97	
Total Card payments (Clerk)	97.74	6.00	103.74	
Total Card payments (Footpath Warden)	0.00	0.00	0.00	
TOTAL	109.71	6.00	£115.71	