

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.00 PM ON THURSDAY 16 MARCH 2017 AT THE MEMORIAL HALL, THE VILLAGE, FINCHAMPSTEAD

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

Mrs Dagnall, Clerk.

107/2017 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Pittock and Weeks.

108/2017 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

109/2017 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2017 were signed as a true and correct record.

110/2017 CHAIRMANS REPORT

- Cllr Cundy thanked everyone for their input to a very successful Annual Gathering last week. Over 60 local residents and representatives from various organisations attended, and there has been some very positive feedback on the event as well as coverage in the Wokingham Paper.
- Finchampstead has been voted one of the 15 best places to live in the South East in a survey by the Times published on 12 March 2017. The news has been covered by the Wokingham Paper and BBC Radio Berkshire.
- The position with the Wokingham District Association of Local Councils (WDALC) and the Berkshire Association of Local Councils (BALC) has been reported at previous meetings and the situation has not improved. The Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC) has been approached and would welcome the Council as a development partner. The Council agreed that despite this meaning that it would no longer have NALC membership, HALC would provide a considerably better service and value for money than BALC. It was unanimously agreed that the Council should join HALC, and that the Clerk should inform BALC that it would not be renewing its membership, and inform NALC that with regret it would no longer be a Member of the Association.
- The next Wokingham Borough Council (WBC)/ Parish Liaison Forum will be held on 3 April 2017 – suggestions for agenda items should be forwarded to the Clerk. Cllr Woof suggested that the lack of transparency over large scale projects such as the Fleet Hill / Manor Farm restoration and the California Country Park could be raised. The Clerk will follow this up.
- At the previous meeting a potential project to mark the 10th Anniversary of the death of David Hicks who was killed in action in Afghanistan was discussed. The Clerk has contacted the family and has offered to arrange a meeting to discuss a project involving local footpaths, or any alternative projects.
- Cllr Markham did not get selected in the ballot for the Royal Garden Party in June 2017.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

No members of the public were present.

111/2017 STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

As part of the policy review undertaken by the Finance & General Purposes Committee minor amendments to wording have been made to both Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. The documents were circulated prior to the meeting.

The Clerk summarised the changes to the Standing Orders. Cllr Woof recommended these for adoption and this was unanimously approved.

Cllr Cundy reminded Cllrs of various points in Standing Orders 1 – 3 covering the rules of debate and meetings generally.

The Clerk summarised the changes to the Financial Regulations. Cllr Woof proposed that the threshold for Committee expenditure under Regulation 4.1 be increased from £500 to £2000. This was unanimously approved and the Regulations were adopted subject to this amendment being made.

112/2017 COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Veitch reported on the meeting held on 22 February 2017, minutes have been circulated.

It was noted that Redrow Homes attended the meeting to discuss the forthcoming application for Parcels H – J on the Arborfield SDL (see agenda item 114/2017 below).

Applications

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

- 6 Cambrian Way.
- Land east of Finchampstead Road.
- 233 Nine Mile Ride.
- 357 Nine Mile Ride.

It was suggested that where comments on an application are more detailed and are forwarded to WBC as a letter these should be published on the Councils website, as well as being on the WBC website. The Clerk and Cllr Bromley will consider how best to address this.

Decisions

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

- | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| • 140 Nash Grove Lane | FPC no objection | WBC refused |
| • Magnolia House, Fleet Lane | FPC no objection | WBC refused |

Cllr Cundy attended the WBC Planning Committee meeting on 1 March 2017 and reiterated the Councils support for the access and parking improvements in principle, but its concern about the impact on the Scout Group. There is also concern about the level of future plans for the Park. The application was approved but the Clerk has requested a meeting to discuss the various issues.

Other matters

- Gladman Developments Ltd has been in contact regarding proposals for 100 dwellings on land west of Finchampstead Road. A meeting will be arranged in due course.
- There were new Appeals at Constant Springs, Fleet Hill and Broughton, Heath Ride. Cllr Marshallsay will be attending the informal hearing on the Broughton Appeal on 6 April 2017.
- The Appeal at 145 Nash Grove Lane was allowed in part, the Appeal at Landmark House, Jubilee Road was dismissed.

- There were four new enforcement issues, three issues were closed.
- No further sites have come forward through the Local Plan Update ‘call for sites’.
- Cllrs Cornish, Mrs Driver, May, Veitch, Mrs Yorke and the Assistant to the Clerk attended a course on Affordable Housing on 21 February 2017.
- Cllrs Cundy and Veitch attended a Planning Framework training course on 7 March 2017.
- Cllrs Cundy and Veitch will be attending a WBC training session on the Local Plan on 27 March 2017.

Cllr Veitch suggested that the Council should again discuss whether a Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Parish should be progressed. This was agreed and will be an agenda item for a future meeting.

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

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

Financial position

- Unity Trust Bank £48,212.84
Including £29,859 CIL receipts.
- CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund account £70,821.55

The schedule of payments totalling £12,262.93 (gross) was circulated to all Cllrs. All payments were approved and Cllrs Bromley and Woof agreed to authorise the electronic payments.

Other matters

- The Internal Auditor has visited and is happy with current arrangements.
- The Accountant will be coming in on 5 April 2017 to work with the Clerk to complete the end of year accounts and the Annual Return.
- Staff appraisals are now being planned.
- The next meeting of the Committee has been changed to 26 April 2017. The agenda will include finalising some policies including the new training policy, discussing the grant policy and potential future donations to schools and reporting on progress with the asset inspection as well as other matters.

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr Mrs Driver reported on current matters.

- The third California Crossroads Tidy Up will be held on Sunday 2 April 2017 from 9am to 12 noon.
- A meeting with the Scout Group is being arranged to discuss the current position with the WBC plans for the California Country Park and the impact on the activities of the Group, and the position with the Scout Hut lease.
- As noted above a meeting is also being arranged with WBC to discuss the next stages with plans for the California Country Park.
- Cllr Veitch and the Clerk will be visiting the allotment site next week to discuss the Allotment Association plans for the creation of additional plots.

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 – the Clerk follow this up.
- A response will be submitted to the current WBC public consultation on proposals for Green Way AR3 running from Commonfield Lane through the California Country Park.
- Maintenance issues on FP9 and FP5 are in hand.

- The Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership will be holding a 'Big Valley Ramble' on Sunday 23 April 2017. See www.bvct.org.uk for details.

ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Cllr Bromley reported on the meeting held on 1 March 2017 and current matters.

- Speed Indicator Device (SID) and Speed Data Recorders (SDR)
Recent SID sessions on Longwater Road and Nine Mile Ride have each recorded over 20 vehicles over the speed limit. A further volunteer has come forward to help with sessions.

Cllr Bromley has provided advice to the Clerk and Cllrs from Woodley Town Council.

Thames Valley Police has provided details of a potential supplier for a pole mounted SID and Cllr Bromley will be requesting a demonstration of the equipment.

- WBC has advised that the replacement of street light columns in the Parish will start in April and May 2017. No Parish Council owned columns are included in this first phase.
- The Committee agreed to proceed with proposals to improve safety at the Church Lane / White Horse Lane junction, subject to a second quotation being obtained. St James' Church has agreed to cover the cost of road repairs also required at the junction.

113/2017 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Gorse Ride Multi Agency Group – 9 March 2017

Cllr Bowers reported that the Group discussed ways of encouraging local people to walk and cycle and use the new Green Way and other routes when these are in place.

There has been an increase in antisocial behaviour on the Estate.

Finchampstead Park Management Committee (FPMC) – 15 March 2017.

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

- The Committee discussed a proposal to site a bottle bank in the car park for a trial period. This was rejected.
- Parking on the verge adjacent to the Park is an issue. Various options are being considered and it was agreed that local residents should be consulted on whether the verge should be left as it is, a knee rail installed or a parking area created.

The FPMC Annual General Meeting will be held on 10 April 2017 and formal nomination of the Council representative on the Committee is required. It was unanimously agreed that Cllr Weeks should be nominated and the form was signed by Cllr Cundy on behalf of the Council.

Multi Academy Trust plans for Nine Mile Ride School and St Crispins School

A letter from the Governors of Nine Mile Ride School has been circulated to all Cllrs and WBC has issued a press release about the proposals. Cllr May – a Governor at Nine Mile Ride School – advised that the proposals will benefit both pupils and the financial position of the Schools. A public consultation is underway and runs until 31 March 2017. There will be an open meeting on 21 March 2017 at 7pm at Nine Mile Ride School which will include a presentation on the proposals.

Neighbourhood Action Group - Annual Litter pick

Cllr Rampton confirmed that the litter pick will take place on Sunday 19 March 2017 from 9am. Refreshments will be available at the Greyhound and at the FBC Centre.

The Scout Group will be undertaking its litter pick on 26 March 2017.

114/2017 ARBORFIELD STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT LOCATION (SDL)

- As noted under item 112/2017 above Redrow Homes attended the Planning Committee meeting on 22 February 2017 to discuss the forthcoming Reserved Matters application for Parcels H – J.
- The Steering Group meeting planned for 7 March 2017 was cancelled.
- Crest Nicholson held a public exhibition on proposals for Parcel U on 11 March 2017.
- The next Community Forum will be held on 20 March 2017
- The next Community Liaison Group meeting will be held on 10 April 2017.

115/2017 COMMUNICATIONS AND CONSULTATION

An update on Council communications was circulated.

It was noted that there has been a significant increase in use of the Council's website and Facebook page in the last month.

The 2016/17 Annual Report was distributed at the Annual Gathering and has since been emailed to all those on the e-distribution list. Hard copies will be delivered to all households in the Parish by the end of April 2017.

116/2017 CORRESPONDENCE

- Dr Phillip Lee MP Newsletter
- Invitation to Keep Mobile AGM – 8 April 2017 at 2pm.
- Crowthorne Choral Society concert tickets – 19 March 2017 at 7.30pm at Wellington College.

Items circulated by email over previous month:

- Invitation to opening of the Queens Oak PH – 18 March 2017 from 6pm.
- NALC newsletters and bulletins.
- CCB Action for All e bulletin
- WBC news/media releases including bid to Accelerated Construction Programme, Garden Waste renewal, secondary school admissions, innovation and investment and budget.
- WBC Traffic management updates.
- WBC Libraries information.
- Thames Valley Police alerts and event information.
- Arborfield SDL information and newsletters.

117/2017 FORUM

- Cllr Bowers asked if there were any plans to mark the centenary of the end of World War 1 in 2018. This will be considered when plans for activities on a wider or national scale are known.
- Cllr Mrs Driver mentioned the weeds on the Barkham Ride roundabout. This is unlikely to be addressed by WBC.
- Cllr Mrs Jennings- Frisby advised that the recent quiz at the California Ratepayers Hall was successful, raising £400.

118/2017 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 12 April 2017 at the FBC Centre at 7.30pm.

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

UNITY TRUST BANK ACCOUNT 04/03/17			£48,212.84	
INCLUDING CIL RECEIPTS TOTAL £29,859				
CCLA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 28/02/17			£70,821.55	
TOTAL FUNDS			£119,034.39	
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 MARCH 2017				
STAFF COSTS	4,828.81	0.00	4828.81	
JDB CONTRACTORS (BULBS -MEMORIAL)	98.00	19.60	117.60	246578638
JDB CONTRACTOR (MEMORIAL)	36.00	7.20	43.20	655822575
J MCARDLE - ASSET WORKS	349.00	0.00	349.00	687166665
OFFICE DEPOT - INK/SUPPLIES	61.86	12.37	74.23	505429609
FBC CENTRE - OFFICE RENT/SERVICE CHAF	1,480.09	0.00	1480.09	939998454
M4 PROMOTIONS - CLLR BADGE	15.00	3.00	18.00	119401402
BERKSHIRE CIC - PLANNING COURSE	80.00	16.00	96.00	975522309
JAY PRINTERS - ANNUAL REPORT	527.00	0.00	527.00	123076838
Allotment costs				
-	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Grants and contributions - subject to final approval by Council where appropriate				
READIBUS - COMMUNITY TRIPS	229.00	0.00	229.00	555315306
FB CHURCH YOUTH WORK OCT16-MAR17	4500.00	0.00	4500.00	785490471
TOTAL MARCH 2017 PAYMENTS		£58.17	£12,262.93	
TOTAL REMAINING			£106,771.46	
MARCH PETTY CASH / CARD PAYMENTS				
<i>Total petty cash payments</i>	7.40	0.00	7.40	
<i>Total Card payments (Clerk)</i>	30.67	0.00	30.67	
<i>Total Card payments (Footpath Warden)</i>	31.67	0.00	31.67	
TOTAL	69.74	0.00	£69.74	