

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30 PM ON 20 JULY 2017 AT THE MEMORIAL HALL, THE VILLAGE, FINCHAMPSTEAD

PRESENT: Cllr Bromley, Vice Chair.
Cllrs Cornish, Mrs Driver, Mrs Eytle, Mrs Hartwell, Mrs Jennings-Frisby, May, Pearce,
Rampton, Veitch, Woof, Mrs Yorke.

Mrs Dagnall, Clerk.

298/2017 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Bowers, Cundy, Marshallsay, Pittock and Weeks.

299/2017 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

300/2017 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 21 June 2017 were signed as a true and correct record.

301/2017 CHAIRMANS REPORT

- The Village Fete on 8 July was successful with good attendance and interest in the Council's stall. Cllr Bromley thanked all those who had helped with the stall at the event.
- Cllr Cundy attended a meeting with the Finchampstead Scout Group and Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) on 26 June 2017. WBC has put a proposal to the Group about their future occupancy of the Hut in the California Country Park and the Group is now considering this. WBC has also undertaken a detailed condition survey of the Hut.
- Cllr Bromley attended a Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC) Chaining Skills course on 5 July 2017. Cllr Mrs Eytle attended a HALC course for new Councillors on 13 July 2017. Both courses were well presented and useful.
- Cllr Cornish is following up on points arising from the June By Election and will report back in due course.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

No members of the public were present.

302/2017 COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Veitch advised that prior to the Committee meeting on 14 July 2017 a meeting was held with representatives from the Catesby Property Group in relation to the Group's planning application for the development of land south of Woodmoor, off Longwater Road.

The meeting was run in accordance with the recently agreed guidelines for meetings of this nature. These guidelines have now been published on the Council's website.

Cllr Veitch reported on the meeting held on 14 July 2017. Minutes of the meeting have been circulated.

Applications

21 applications were considered. Several residents attended the meeting in relation to applications at 148 Nine Mile Ride and 1 Ashdale Park. Objections were lodged against the following applications.

- 148 Nine Mile Ride.
- 16 Roycroft.
- 1 Ashdale Park.
- 2 West Court Cottages, Park Lane.
- 15 St. James' Road.
- 119 Reading Road.

There were no objections to the application to increase the number of pitches at Honeysuckle Lodge, Commonfield Lane from 2 to 4, provided that the increase is recognised in the Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan.

Decisions

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

- Agates Meadow Cottage, Fleet Hill FPC no objections WBC refused

Other matters

- There is a new Appeal at Land adjacent to the Stables, Lower Sandhurst Road. Cllr Veitch will be attending the informal hearing on 22 August 2017.
- The Appeal relating to an application to erect a building at Constant Springs, Fleet Hill was dismissed. The Appeal relating to the erection of a replacement detached garage at the same property was allowed.
- Appeals at 28 Church Hams and 36 Sandhurst Road were allowed.
- 6 new enforcement issues were noted, a further 6 issues were closed.

FINANCE & GENERAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Woof reported on the financial position of the Council, the meeting held on 26 June 2017 and current matters.

Financial position

- Unity Trust Bank £40,530.60
- CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund account £100,882.84
Including £24,859 CIL receipts.

The schedule of payments totalling £13,689.17 (gross) was circulated to all Cllrs. Cllrs Bromley and Woof agreed to authorise the electronic payments.

Meeting held on 26 June 2017 and current matters

- A potential investment in the CCLA Property Fund was discussed and will be covered under agenda item 303/2017 below.
- Funding for youth activities was discussed. The Finchampstead Baptist Church (FBC) Team was asked for information on additional activities which could be run should the level of funding be increased. Additional funding would be used to start a new youth club for young people in years 9 – 13, and to subsidise places on activity weeks in Snowdonia. The Committee approved the increase in funding, which is within the agreed budget, but has asked that regular reports are provided on activities supported by the Council's funding.
- The Forward Plan and an action plan for the Committee were discussed. 2017/18 action plans for all Committees are now progressing and work on this should be completed by the end of July.

- Discussions have started with HALC over a 'visioning' session in autumn 2017 to start the process of developing a new Forward Plan or Strategy for 2018 onwards.
- The asset inspection is complete and all repair and refurbishment works are in hand.
- The Annual Return has been approved by the external auditor.
- Cllr Bromley advised that the Council's web hosting will shortly be moved as the current host will no longer be providing the service. The transfer will involve short term disruption to the Council's email system.

Consultation and Communications Working Group

The Group met on 4 July 2017. Cllr Pearce was appointed as Vice Chair of the Group. An action plan and priorities were agreed, the main priority is the household consultation planned for autumn 2017. Cllr Pearce and the Clerk are meeting a WBC Officer on 25 July 2017 to discuss support WBC can offer relating to the consultation.

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr Mrs Driver reported on current matters.

- California Crossroads – the Red Oak Stores and Cresswells Garage have now tidied up their frontages. This will continue to be monitored. The hanging baskets were taken down as the lamp columns were due to be replaced. This has now been deferred to September so the baskets have been put back up again.
- Defibrillator - an insurance claim has been submitted for the damaged defibrillator and cabinet. The Clerk has applied for a grant for 2 new defibrillators and cabinets – to replace the unit at the California Crossroads and to provide a unit at the California Hall.
- Barkham Ride roundabout – WBC has now weeded the roundabout and will be looking at the structure and brickwork to see what work is needed or feasible. This will be discussed further at the next meeting of the Committee.

RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

Cllr Woof reported on current matters. The next meeting of the Committee is on 26 July 2017.

- The construction of Green Way AR3 running from Commonfield Lane through the California Country Park to Gorse Ride North is progressing and is due for completion in September 2017. The public consultation report is now available; the key issues raised were safety over the potential use of the Green Way as a safe route to school, use by horses and the Commonfield Lane crossing.

There will be a further consultation over the use of the route as a safe route to school. The Clerk will ask WBC for an update on this. The second phase of the Green Way providing a bridleway link from the Park to Nine Mile Ride is due to be completed by Spring 2018 and should alleviate the issue of riders trying to gain access through to Gorse Ride North.

- The Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership has produced a strategy for the next 5 years. The strategy demonstrates the commitment of the Partnership to supporting the Moor Green Lakes Nature Reserve and the future reserves on Manor Farm and Fleet Hill Farm.
- A meeting is being arranged with the WBC Rights of Way Team to discuss various matters including adoption of the future rights of way on the Fleet Hill and Manor Farm sites, surface

and drainage issues on a number of paths and the increasing misuse of paths by cyclists.

- The gates at the White Horse Lane end of BP11 were damaged and were locked for a short period for safety reasons. The gates have been replaced by the owner of Church Farm who has been thanked for his prompt action.

Cllr Cornish raised concerns about the changing character of the California Country Park with the introduction of the Green Way, the planned car park extension and improvements to the café area, the closed boardwalk and the level of antisocial behaviour. WBC has advised that the only further planned changes are improvements to the play area and potentially to the lake side paving.

Thames Valley Police has been informed of the recent antisocial behaviour. WBC has confirmed that it will be carefully monitoring the use of the Green Way when the route opens to minimise any misuse or conflict between users.

ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Cllr Bromley reported on the meeting held on 5 July 2017 (minutes have been circulated) and current matters.

- The Council owned lamp columns and / or lanterns have now been replaced under the WBC contract. WBC is taking over 6 of our columns on Nine Mile Ride, leaving the Council with 6.
- Parking in The Village and at the Memorial Hall – the Finchampstead Park Management Committee has consulted residents and plans to extend the knee rail along the length of the verge, subject to permission from WBC, and to mark out the car park to maximise the use of the space available.
- Plans for the War Memorial junction and the Avery Car Park have not progressed. Cllr Weeks has agreed to follow this up with WBC.
- Residents continue to be in contact over traffic and parking matters in various areas.
- A consultation is underway on a proposed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) reducing the speed limit on Fleet Hill from 50mph to 40mph. A response has been submitted supporting the proposal.
- Notes of the Major Projects meeting held on 20 July 2017 have been circulated. Work will be taking place at the California Crossroads from 11 to 17 August 2017, including installation of an antiskid surface.

Cllr Cornish advised that although the cycleway markings on the Finchampstead Road have been refreshed, vegetation along the route has not been cut back. The Clerk will report this to WBC.

303/2017 INVESTMENT IN THE CCLA PROPERTY FUND

The CCLA Property Fund offers an opportunity for a long term investment of 5 years or more, with a reasonable return. Advice has been sought and an Independent Financial Advisor's report commissioned – a requirement of investment in the Fund.

The Finance & General Management Committee discussed this at its meeting on 26 June 2017 and proposed that £25,000 should be invested in the Fund. This is the minimum level of reserves which should be held by the Council.

Following a vote it was agreed by a majority that the investment should proceed.

304/2017 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Borough / Parish Liaison Forum – 3 July 2017

The WBC notes of the meeting have been circulated. Cllr Rampton attended the meeting and advised that WBC Cllr Firmager was appointed Chair, and Shinfield Parish Cllr Mrs Peer Vice Chair. Agenda items included Community Resilience and an update on the WBC 21st Century Programme.

Questions were raised at the Forum about the increasing demands of housing developers, and the issues around WBC being able to demonstrate the required 5 Year Land Supply.

It was agreed that the Clerk would ask Cllr Weeks for an update from the recent meeting with WBC Cllr David Lee and the Minister of State for Housing and Planning. The Clerk will also draft a letter to the Minister regarding the Council's concerns over the current planning system allowing development on the grounds of the 5 Year Land Supply not being demonstrated, despite the Borough having granted permission for over 10,000 dwellings equating to a Land Supply of over 10 years.

Gorse Ride Estate

- A new Community Development Worker started in post on 17 July 2017.
- A dedicated Project Manager for the Estate redevelopment will be starting in September 2017.
- Work on the first phase of the redevelopment is progressing and a planning application is expected in autumn 2017.
- Architects will be appointed in September 2017 to start work on master planning the whole Estate.
- The Steering Group will be reconvening, and is likely to meet every 2 months from September 2017.
- The Clerk has invited WBC to attend an autumn meeting of the Council to provide an update on progress.

305/2017 ARBORFIELD STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT LOCATION (SDL)

- The Steering Group July meeting was cancelled; the next meeting will be in September. The next Community Liaison Group meeting is on 18 September 2017.
- WBC has granted permission for Parcels H, I and J. Parcel Q will be the next to come forward.
- Cratus Communications are now dealing with communications, Curtin and Company are no longer involved.
- Work has commenced on the Safe route to Bohunt School, involving improvements to Nine Mile Ride, Park Lane and Hogwood Lane. The work will be completed by 3 September 2017.
- The consultation on the proposed TRO to reduce the speed limit on sections of Park Lane and Nine Mile Ride has now closed.
- The northern part of the Nine Mile Ride extension is now open. WBC is currently working on design options for the southern section of the extension.
- Cllr Veitch and the Clerk attended a meeting on 28 June 2017 with WBC and neighbouring Parishes about the specification for and future management of the new allotment sites to be

created on the SDL.

- Cllrs Bromley and Marshallsay attended a visit to the Bohunt School on 11 July 2017.
- There will be a community 'Picnic on the Green' at Arborfield Green on 22 July 2017. Details have been circulated.

306/2017 CORRESPONDENCE

Items circulated by email over previous month:

- NALC newsletters and bulletins.
- WBC news/media releases.
- WBC Rooks Nest Walk – 2 August at 7pm.
- WBC Traffic management updates.
- Thames Valley Police alerts.
- Arborfield SDL information and newsletters.
- CPRE campaigns update.
- Arborfield Green Picnic on the Green 22 July 2017 from 12 noon – 3pm.

It was agreed that in future only correspondence not already circulated should be noted at Main Council meetings.

307/2017 FORUM

- No matters were raised.

308/2017 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 21 September 2017 at 7.30pm at the Memorial Hall.

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

UNITY TRUST BANK ACCOUNT 09/06/17			£40,530.60	
CCLA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 30/06/17			£100,882.84	
INCLUDING CIL RECEIPTS TOTAL £24,859				
TOTAL FUNDS			£141,413.44	
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
M FOUR PROMOTIONS - BADGES	195.60	39.12	234.72	118720000
S.P. BROMLEY - HARDWARE/COURSE EXP.	252.13	41.16	293.29	129883469
THORNHILL LTD - IFA REPORT	350.00	0.00	350.00	539850286
PAYMENTS JULY 2017				
Staff costs			5320.76	
Other costs				
SSE - STREET LIGHT ENERGY	138.11	6.90	145.01	CH 300221
SSE - STREET LIGHT REPAIR	161.95	32.39	194.34	997455291
WBC - STREET LIGHT REPLACEMENT	851.57	0.00	851.57	
D. CANE - WAR MEMORIAL	80.00	0.00	80.00	483100829
WINDOWFLOWERS - FLORAL DISPLAYS	447.00	89.40	536.40	56716334
FBC CENTRE - RENT/SERVICE CHARGE	1,480.09	0.00	1480.09	823534054
C. CONNELL - INTERNAL AUDIT	350.00	0.00	350.00	259453185
JAY PRINTERS - MAP PRINTING	135.00	0.00	135.00	542741717
HALC - 2 x TRAINING COURSES	180.00	36.00	216.00	61149368
Allotment costs				
CEMEX UK - LEASE	250.00	0.00	250.00	318416611
WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL - LEASE	708.00	0.00	708.00	272428235
Grants and contributions - subject to final approval by Council where appropriate				
READIBUS - COMMUNITY TRIPS	422.00	0.00	422.00	948789908
FB CHURCH - YOUTH WORK APRIL-JUNE	3,000.00	£0.00	£3,000.00	45255450
TOTAL JULY 2017 PAYMENTS		£164.69	£13,689.17	
TOTAL REMAINING			£127,724.27	
JULY PETTY CASH / CARD PAYMENTS				
<i>Total petty cash payments</i>	1.40	0.00	1.40	
<i>Total Card payments (Clerk)</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	
<i>Total Card payments (Footpath Warden)</i>	42.92	8.59	51.51	
TOTAL			£52.91	