

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30 PM ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2017 AT THE MEMORIAL HALL, THE VILLAGE, FINCHAMPSTEAD

PRESENT: Cllr Cundy, Chair. Cllr Bromley, Vice Chair.
Cllrs Cornish, Mrs Driver, Mrs Jennings-Frisby, Marshallsay, May, Pearce, Rampton,
and Veitch.

Mrs Dagnall, Clerk.

363/2017 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Bowers, Mrs Eytel, Mrs Hartwell, Weeks, Woof and Mrs Yorke.

364/2017 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

365/2017 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 20 July 2017 were signed as a true and correct record.

366/2017 CHAIRMANS REPORT

- Following the July meeting there was some correspondence about how the outcome of a vote was recorded in the minutes. It was noted that if Cllrs wish to have their names and votes recorded in the minutes they need to state this, in accordance with Standing Order 3r.

It was also noted that the Council's Standing Orders can be amended if the Council wishes to change the way this type of situation is dealt with in future.

- Further to the meeting held in June 2017 between the 1st Finchampstead Scout Group and Wokingham Borough Council (WBC), and attended by Cllr Cundy, the Scout Group has sent a detailed response to WBC on its proposals for the future management of the Hut. There is no further progress to report but the Clerk will be contacting the Scout Group to ask if any support is needed.
- California Country Park
Work is underway on improvements to access and parking at the Park, and to the café area. This is due to be completed by Easter 2018.
- Cllr Cornish is following up on points arising from the June By Election and will report back in due course.
- A 'Visioning session' has been arranged for the Council for 11 November 2017, to start the process of developing a new Forward Plan or Strategy for 2018 onwards. This will be facilitated by the Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC).
- WBC has appointed a Project Manager for the Gorse Ride Estate redevelopment and the Officer will be attending the October meeting of the Council to provide an update on the current position.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

A local person attended to observe the meeting.

367/2017 COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Veitch reported on the meetings held on 14 August and 6 September 2017. Minutes of the meetings have been circulated.

Meeting held on 14 August 2017

Applications

19 applications were considered. Several residents attended the meeting in relation to applications at Land to the rear of Tree Tops, Heath Ride; Belscot, Reading Road; 26 The Spinney and Land off Longwater Road.

Objections were lodged against the following applications.

- Land off Longwater Road.
- Land west of Twin Oaks.
- Land to the rear of Tree Tops, Heath Ride.
- Belscot, Reading Road.
- 26 The Spinney.
- 89 Barkham Ride.
- Parcel Q, Nine Mile Ride, Arborfield.

An application has been submitted for a certificate of lawful existing use at Magnolia House, Fleet Lane. Comments were lodged suggesting that if the application was allowed, conditions should be placed to minimise disruption to neighbouring residents.

A notification of a change of use from a storage building to a dwelling house at Broughton Farm, Heath Ride was received. No comments were requested but objections have been submitted.

Decisions

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

- Walled Garden, Wick Hill FPC no objections WBC refused

WBC refused an application for a change of use at Belscot, Reading Road. The Committee had not objected to the proposals but had offered support to residents who considered the application unacceptable particularly due to potential noise nuisance.

Other matters

- WBC has released seven reserve sites across the Borough including a site at 216B – 242A Nine Mile Ride which could accommodate around 40 homes.
- There new Appeals at 163A Nine Mile Ride and Belscot, Reading Road.
- The Appeals at Church Farm, Church Lane and at The Cabin, rear of 85 Kiln Ride were allowed.

Meeting held on 6 September 2017

Applications

10 applications were considered. One person attended the meeting in relation to the application at 10 The Village.

Objections were lodged against the following applications.

- Broomfield, Lower Sandhurst Road.
- 47 Foxcote.
- Pinecopse, Nine Mile Ride.
- 10 The Village.

Cllrs Bromley and Veitch met representatives from Crest Nicholson and Cratus Communications to discuss the Council's concerns over proposals for Parcel Q – part of the Arborfield Green development. Revised proposals were subsequently submitted and were considered by the Committee. There were no objections but concerns have been raised about the level of parking provision.

Decisions

Decisions were in line with WBC with the exception of the following.

- 16 Roycroft FPC objected WBC allowed
- 2 West Court Cottages, Park Lane FPC objected WBC allowed

Other matters

- There is a new Appeal at Land south west of 18 Barkham Ride.
- Cllr Veitch attended an Informal Hearing on 22 August 2017 in relation to Land adjacent to The Stables, Lower Sandhurst Road.
- The Appeal at 163A Nine Mile Ride was dismissed.

A letter was sent to Alok Sharma MP, the Minister of State for Housing and Planning, expressing the Council's concerns over the current planning system, particularly in relation to the methodology used to calculate the 5 year land supply. A response to the letter has been received but does not address the issues. The Clerk will be arranging a meeting to discuss the next stage.

It was noted that Barkham Parish Council has written to Sajid Javid MP on the same topic.

WBC Cllrs Simon Weeks and David Lee have met the Minister of State for Housing and Planning recently to express their disappointment over the current situation.

FINANCE & GENERAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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

Financial position

- Unity Trust Bank £19,523.07
- CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund account £75,915.76
Including £24,859 CIL receipts.
- CCLA Property Fund £25,000

The schedule of payments totalling £7466.65 (gross) was circulated to all Cllrs and was unanimously approved. Cllrs Bromley and Veitch agreed to authorise the electronic payments.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on 11 October 2017 and will include consideration of the grant applications and donations for 2017/18.

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr Mrs Driver reported on the meeting held on 5 September 2017 and current matters.

- Concerns over the standard of maintenance of the War Memorial surrounds are being followed up by the Clerk.
- The Beacon at St James' Church has been registered as one of the 1000 beacons to be lit across the United Kingdom on 11 November 2018 in commemoration of the end of World War I.
- California Crossroads – a tidy up session is planned for 5 November 2017. More details will follow. The Clerk has emailed all of the businesses but has not had any response; Cllr Mrs

Driver has visited a number of the businesses to try to encourage their involvement in improving the area.

- Barkham Ride roundabout – WBC cleared the beds on the roundabout and repaired the brickwork but the site is covered with weeds and is unsightly. WBC has been contacted regarding this.

The Committee discussed the possibility of putting ornamental stone in the beds rather than plants, and installing hanging baskets on the lamp columns around the roundabout. The Clerk is obtaining a quotation and has contacted WBC for permission for the improvements.

- Telephone box – the Clerk has requested a quotation from the Handyman to refurbish the box and install shelving for potential use for a book swap.
- Allotments – several new tenants have taken on plots. The annual invoices have been sent out. Additional car parking is needed - Cllr Veitch and the Clerk will be progressing this and will present a proposal to the Council in due course.
- Warren Wood – the Bell Barrow at the site is designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Cllrs Mrs Driver and May have been in contact with Reading University which has been researching barrows, and with the Berkshire Archaeology Officer. The University has advised that further archaeological research could be undertaken but it would not expect this to provide any better evidence about the date of the barrow, and would be very costly. There is also concern that the investigations carried out in the 1960's may result in any new investigations having modern contamination.

Information on the Barrow will be collated and promoted on the Council's website, in newsletters and by other appropriate means.

- Defibrillators – the California Crossroads unit has been replaced. A grant application for two further defibrillators has been submitted and if successful the units will be located at the California Ratepayers Hall and the St James' Church Centre.

RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

Cllr Woof Cornish reported on the meeting held on 26 July 2017 and current matters.

- Misuse of paths by cyclists is an increasing issue in several areas. There is some ambiguity over the law relating to cycling on paths, and this and the approach taken by WBC is being clarified. In addition to taking measures to alleviate the issue on paths, ways of promoting routes which cyclists can use are being looked in to.
- The new Green Way running from the FBC Centre through the California Country Park is nearly complete. There are some outstanding works but WBC has advised it is undertaking final snagging and the various issues will be dealt with.
- Cllr Woof and the Clerk met WBC on 6 September 2017 and discussed various maintenance works and also larger scale improvements to paths including FP33 and BP26. A contribution from the Council may enable some of the projects to progress sooner and this is being followed up.
- The potential impact of changes in European legislation on Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANGS) and the paths within them has been raised with WBC. WBC has advised that those spaces adopted by WBC will be secure for the foreseeable future.

ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Cllr Bromley reported on current matters.

- Speed Indicator Device (SID) sessions continue. Finchampstead Road and Longwater Lane are still the major problem areas. A recent hour long session on Gorse Ride North noted 18 vehicles exceeding the 20mph speed limit.

A session on Nine Mile Ride undertaken prior to the traffic calming works and speed limit reduction recorded 32 vehicles exceeding the limit. A session taken on the same day and the same time after the works recorded 16 vehicles.

- The loan of a mobile SID has been arranged and this will be demonstrated at the next Committee meeting in October 2017.
- The WBC contractor which is replacing lamp columns across the Borough has agreed to pay for the lost data logger brackets.
- The Finchampstead Park Management Committee has arranged for the car park to be marked out. There are also plans to install a knee rail on the verge alongside the Park.
- The Proposed Traffic Regulation Order for Fleet Hill has been approved. The speed limit will be reduced from 50mph to 40mph and the road markings and signage will be installed between 31 October and 3 November 2017.
- Cllrs Bromley and Cundy will be attending a Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) briefing session on 25 September 2017.

Cllr Cundy advised that WBC is proposing to install two bus shelters outside the California Country Park and has asked the Parish Council to take over responsibility for maintenance of the shelters. This was agreed in principle subject to agreement over the specification of the shelters, and an indication of the maintenance requirements.

368/2017 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Finchampstead Neighbourhood Action Group – 5 September 2017

Cllrs Bromley and Rampton advised that the outcomes of the survey undertaken at the Community Fun Day on 8 August 2017 were discussed. The main issues raised included speeding, dog fouling and litter.

The spate of burglaries in the Parish was noted.

Wokingham Volunteer Centre Annual General Meeting (AGM) – 13 September 2017

Cllrs Mrs Eytel and Mrs Yorke attended the meeting and found it very informative. The Centre provides a wide range of activities and services and has previously received grants from the Council. This could be a good example to show residents how Parish Council funds are utilised and this will be followed up.

369/2017 ARBORFIELD STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT LOCATION (SDL)

- The Steering Group last met in May 2017. The date of the next meeting has not been confirmed.
- The Community Liaison Forum met on 18 September 2017. Cllr Pearce attended and notes have been circulated.

- The Community Liaison Manager from Cratus Communications has met the Clerk and the Assistant to the Clerk and is keen to maintain good communications.
- The safe route to Bohunt School is now in place utilising Nine Mile Ride, Park Lane and Hogwood Lane. The speed limit on sections of Nine Mile Ride and Park Lane has been reduced to 30mph.
- Commonfield Lane Crossing – there has been considerable correspondence over the proposals for the crossing which involve signing and road markings. Borough and Parish Cllrs consider that a controlled crossing is required and WBC Cllrs will be meeting to discuss this shortly.
- Cllr Bromley attended the official opening of the northern part of the Nine Mile Ride extension on 11 September 2017. WBC is currently working on design options for the southern section.
- A report from the Major Projects meeting held on 19 September 2017 has been circulated.

370/2017 COMMUNICATION AND CONSULTATION

A report was circulated. There has been a significant increase in the engagement through Facebook since the previous report in May 2017.

The Working Group is meeting on 26 September 2017 to finalise arrangements for the household consultation to take place in November 2017.

370/2017 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence has been circulated by email.

- An invitation to the Readibus AGM on 21 September 2017 was declined as this clashed with the Council meeting.
- An invitation to the Community Council for Berkshire AGM on 19 October 2017 will be declined.

371/2017 FORUM

- Cllr Rampton advised that Keep Mobile has been granted charitable status. The potential changes in legislation relating to community transport could have a serious impact on the organisation.
- Cllr Cundy advised that Shinfield Parish Council has invited Council representatives to attend a meeting of the southern parishes with WBC Cllr David Lee to discuss various planning matters. The meeting is not considered necessary or appropriate and the invitation will be declined.

372/2017 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 18 October 2017 at 7.30pm at the FBC Centre.

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

UNITY TRUST BANK ACCOUNT 03/09/17			£19,523.07	
CCLA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 31/08/17			£75,915.76	
CCLA PROPERTY FUND 31/08/17			£25,000.00	
INCLUDING CIL RECEIPTS TOTAL £24,859				
TOTAL FUNDS			£120,438.83	
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 SEPTEMBER 2017				
Staff costs			5110.72	
Other costs				
D. CANE - WAR MEMORIAL	160.00	0.00	160.00	648757923
OFFICE DEPOT INK / STATIONERY	21.47	4.29	25.76	65657507
RBS SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE (ALPHA)	116.00	23.20	139.20	
CAME & CO - INSURANCE PREMIUM	1,196.97	0.00	1196.97	539683421
Allotment costs				
-			0.00	
Grants and contributions - subject to final approval by Council where appropriate				
READIBUS - COMMUNITY TRIPS	328.00	0.00	328.00	565833590
WBC - GRANT FOR GORSE RIDE TRIP	506.00	0.00	506.00	44898902
TOTAL SEPTEMBER 2017 PAYMENTS		£27.49	£7,466.65	
TOTAL REMAINING			£112,972.18	
SEPTEMBER PETTY CASH / CARD PAYMENTS				
<i>Total petty cash payments</i>	19.05	0.00	19.05	
<i>Total Card payments (Clerk)</i>	60.00	0.00	60.00	
<i>Total Card payments (Footpath Warden)</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	
TOTAL			£79.05	

