

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30 PM ON 16 NOVEMBER 2017 AT THE MEMORIAL HALL, THE VILLAGE, FINCHAMPSTEAD

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

Mrs Dagnall, Clerk.

451/2017 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs Eytley, Marshallsay and Weeks.

452/2017 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

453/2017 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 18 October 2017 were signed as a true and correct record.

454/2017 CHAIRMANS REPORT

- Cllr Cundy thanked those who participated in the 'visioning' session on 11 November 2017. The session was very helpful and the Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC) will be producing a report covering the findings from the session. This will be discussed at a future Council meeting.

HALC had circulated a number of questions to be completed in advance of the day, to inform proceedings on the day. If any Cllrs have any points they would like to discuss about the workings or structure of the Council or related matters these can be raised with Cllr Cundy or Cllr Woof so that these can be addressed as appropriate.

- The Remembrance Day Parade and Service held on 12 November 2017 were well attended and ran smoothly. Cllr Cundy will discuss the traffic management with Cllr Weeks.
- It was noted at the previous meeting that Cllr Bromley and the Clerk would be preparing a report on Neighbourhood Development Plans for this meeting, following a conference attended in October 2017. This has been deferred to the January or February meeting of the Council.
- Cllr Mrs Yorke has resigned from the Council due to her forthcoming move out of the area. The Notice of Vacancy has been published.
- The Clerk is arranging a meeting with the interim Chief Executive of Wokingham Borough Council (WBC). This is likely to be held in January 2018 and it is intended that Cllr Cundy and all Committee Chair persons will attend.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

No members of the public were present.

455/2017 COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Due to the timing of the deadline for comments members of the Committee met on 18 October 2017 to discuss the revised plans relating to a proposed development reference 170261 for land east of the Finchampstead Road, outside of the Parish. It was agreed that the Committee's earlier objections submitted in February 2017 were still valid and comments were submitted accordingly.

Cllr Veitch reported on the meeting held on 1 November 2017. Minutes of the meeting have been circulated.

Applications

15 applications were considered.

Objections were lodged against the following applications.

- Land rear of 6 Johnson Drive.
- Tree Tops, Heath Ride.

Decisions

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

- 26 The Spinney FPC objected WBC approved
- Tulaig, Heath Ride FPC no objections WBC refused

Other matters

- WBC has now completed initial reviews of the majority of sites put forward through the 'Call for Sites' and Cllrs Cundy and Veitch will be meeting WBC Cllrs and Officers on 20 November 2017 to discuss the findings. There will be further assessments of the sites and a public consultation will take place at a later stage.
- There were no new appeals. The appeal relating to 233 Nine Mile Ride was dismissed.
- There is an informal hearing on 29 November 2017 relating to proposals for land opposite Warren Lodge, Warren Lane. Cllr Marshallsay will attend to represent the Council.
- A response has been submitted to the Government consultation on 'The right homes in the right places'.
- A further letter will be sent to Alok Sharma MP in response to the reply received to the initial letter. A separate letter will be sent to the Prime Minister, Secretary of State and other appropriate persons in relation to housing matters, particularly issues around the 5 year land supply.

FINANCE & GENERAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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

Financial position

- Unity Trust Bank £29,478.65
- CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund account £75,942.61
- CCLA Property Fund £25,000
- Including £4,859 CIL receipts.

The schedule of payments totalling £7783.64 (gross) was circulated to all Cllrs. It was noted that this included a donation to the Wokingham Poppy Appeal along with payment for the wreath provided by the Organisation. This donation and the payment list were unanimously approved. Cllrs Bromley and Cundy agreed to authorise the electronic payments.

- **Business Continuity**
Cllrs Bromley, Woof and the Clerk have met to discuss the Business Continuity Plan and the priorities for action.
- **Finchampstead Emergency Response**
Cllr Woof advised that Cllr Weeks is considering arranging a trial run to check availability of the early responders and how many people can be assembled.
- **Grant applications**
Applications have been received from the Gorse Ride Schools, The Finchampstead Netball Club and the First Days Children's Charity. These will be discussed at the meeting of the Finance and General Management Committee in January 2018 and recommendations will be made to Main Council at its subsequent meeting.

It was noted that the Council's preference is for all grant applications to be considered at the same time such that the merits of all cases can be considered equally. The deadline for applications each year is set for a date in September, with the applications considered in October.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

The household consultation is underway, the closing date is 30 November 2017 but the Clerk has requested an interim report. Cllr Cundy is inputting hard copy responses to the software package and advised that a small number of responses were 'spoilt' and could not be input.

A meeting of the Working Group is being arranged for early December to discuss the consultation outcome and other communications matters. These include proposals for welcome packs for new residents discussed by Cllrs Mrs Eytel and Pearce and the Assistant to the Clerk.

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr Mrs Driver reported on current matters.

- The California Crossroads Tidy Up session on 5 November was successful and the area looks cleaner and neater. A contractor also carried out some works prior to the volunteer session. The Clerk will ask the Handyman to paint the railings in front of the Red Oak Stores.
- Barkham Ride roundabout and surrounds – WBC has now planted up the roundabout with seasonal bedding but is still considering whether hanging baskets can be installed on the lamp columns.
- Telephone box – the refurbishment of the box is underway and it is hoped that the book swap will be up and running in December.
- The grant application to the Scottish and Southern Energy Resilient Communities Fund was successful and will cover the cost of two defibrillators and cabinets. These will be installed at the California Ratepayers Hall and the St James' Church Centre.
- The Allotment Association Annual General Meeting is on 22 November 2017. Cllr Veitch and the Clerk will be attending.
- Cllrs Veitch, Weeks and the Clerk plan to meet Cemex UK Ltd regarding proposals for the renewal of the allotment lease.

RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

Cllr Woof reported on the meeting held on 8 November 2017 and current matters. Minutes of the meeting have been circulated.

- Cycling on footpaths is an increasing issue. This is considered trespass against the landowner and is a civil rather than a criminal offence. Safety for all users is a priority, and a second priority is ensuring that only paths with a suitable surface and width are used by cyclists or considered for use by cyclists. Cllrs Cornish and Woof plan to discuss this with WBC. WBC has already agreed to put signage in particular problem areas.

Ways of promoting good practice and potential routes for cyclists are being looked into.

- WBC has agreed to spread planings on BP4, and to deliver planings for FP13 which will be spread by allotment tenants. The Parish Council has covered the cost of the material.
- Efforts are still being made to encourage WBC to progress some of the larger improvement projects, notably on FP33 and BP26, including offering a contribution towards the project(s). The possibility of the Parish Council commissioning feasibility and design work for FP33 is being looked into.
- The Green Way will be officially opened on 2 December 2017 at 1.30pm. Cllrs Cornish, Cundy and Woof and the Clerk have been invited, along with Cllrs Pittock and Weeks as WBC representatives.

It was noted that there are still outstanding issues on the route including encroaching vegetation, reinstatement, fencing and access points. The Clerk will again follow this up with WBC.

ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Cllr Bromley reported on the meeting held on 25 October and current matters.

- A mobile Speed Indicator Device (SID) was loaned from a supplier. This was trialled on Longwater Road and was very effective with reports showing a 3mph reduction in the speed limit while the device was in place. However, the Committee agreed that this model was not suitable for the Council's needs and alternatives are being looked into.
- The improvements to the White Horse Lane / Church Lane junction are taking place this week. The original plans did not fully take into account the levels and a form of retainer is needed to contain the extended verge and prevent erosion which will involve additional costs. Cllrs Bromley and May are discussing options with the contractor.
- WBC provided 3 layout options for improvements to the Avery Corner Car Park. WBC is now revising these to incorporate the priorities of a school drop off zone and the maximum number of parking spaces.
- Cllr Bromley met WBC Highways Officers on 14 November to discuss various outstanding matters and points raised at the Committee meeting. The meeting was very positive and as a result two WBC Officers attended and assisted with a recent SID session, and have requested that data from SID sessions is sent to WBC from now on.

Civil Parking Enforcement – it was confirmed that the Council can 'buy in' additional enforcement at a rate of around £10 / hour on weekdays and £15 / hour at weekends. The introduction of timed parking bays at the California Crossroads will be progressed in spring

2018.

Gateways - WBC has agreed to consider gateways for Wellingtonia Avenue, Nine Mile Ride Extension and Park Lane, and Fleet Hill.

- WBC has invited Council representatives to a training session on the Wokingham Strategic Transport Model on 29 November 2017. Cllrs Bromley and Cundy will attend.

456/2017 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Gorse Ride Steering Group – 31 October 2017.

Cllrs Bowers, Cundy and Rampton attended the meeting. The purpose of the Group is for residents and local community Groups to work with the Council and its partners on the project and the Group will meet regularly from now on. It was agreed that good communication is key to the success of the project.

Finchampstead Neighbourhood Action Group – 7 November 2017

Cllr Bromley advised that matters discussed included fly tipping as well as the usual traffic issues and update from Thames Valley Police.

The Group agreed to submit an application to the Public Protection Partnership Community Fund for a pole mounted Speed Indicator Device (SID). If successful this will be used in conjunction with the pole mounted SID the Parish Council is planning to purchase, enabling traffic travelling in both directions to be monitored.

Cllrs Weeks and Woof attended the Annual General Meeting of the Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership on 3 November 2017. Cllr Weeks was re-elected Vice Chair of the Partnership. The Partnership continues to deliver extensive work within and outside the Valley, but its financial position is not secure in the long term. Options are being looked at for a revised and more sustainable partnership arrangement from 2019/20.

457/2017 ARBORFIELD STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT LOCATION (SDL)

- A Community Forum was held on 31 October 2017.
- The Community Liaison Group is meeting on 20 November 2017.

458/2017 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence has been circulated by email.

The following organisations have sent letters or emails of thanks for the grants or donations received: Keep Mobile; Me2 Club; MS Therapy Centre; Wokingham Volunteer Centre; Wokingham Job Support Centre; Homestart; Berkshire Vision; the California Association; St James' Church and the Gorse Ride Schools.

459/2017 FORUM

- The WBC 21st Century programme was raised. WBC is undergoing extensive restructuring and in the future there will be area based 'case officers' providing a link between residents, Parish Councils and other organisations and the various service areas within WBC. There will also be more emphasis on self-service opportunities for residents.
- A lunch for all Cllrs and staff will be arranged for January 2018.

460/2017 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 13 December 2017 at 7.30pm at the FBC Centre.

Festive refreshments will be provided after the meeting. Cllrs partners are invited to attend from 9pm.

