

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30PM ON 20 SEPTEMBER 2018 AT THE MEMORIAL HALL, THE VILLAGE, FINCHAMPSTEAD

PRESENT: Cllr R. Cundy, Chair; Cllr S. Bromley, Vice Chair.
Cllrs D. Cornish, Mrs C. Driver, Mrs B. Eytley, Mrs N. Jennings-Frisby,
G. Jukes OBE, Mrs S. McDonald, R. Marshallsay, A. Pearce, G. Veitch and R. Woof.

Mrs K. Dagnall, Clerk.

352/2018 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs S. Bowers, J. May, I. Pittock, R. Rampton and S. Weeks.

353/2018 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

354/2018 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 19 July 2018 were signed as a true and correct record.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

No members of the public were present.

355/2018 CHAIRMANS REPORT

- The Berkshire Association of Local Councils (BALC) Officer resigned in July. The Hampshire Association (HALC) which Finchampstead Parish Council is a member of is now providing a service to BALC members. If this continues as a permanent arrangement it could be beneficial in allowing Finchampstead Parish to re-join the National Association (NALC).
- Several Councillors and the Clerk met the interim Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) Chief Executive at the end of July. Disappointingly there did not seem to have been any progress since the previous meeting in January 2018, although the Chief Executive has now provided a follow up note on some of the matters discussed.
- Information has been circulated about the new draft WBC Borough Plan. The Plan aims to promote and facilitate partnership working between WBC, Town and Parish Councils, Businesses, Health and Emergency Services and others. The current public consultation is aimed primarily at residents and all Councillors can submit individual responses. The Council will also be submitting a response but WBC has advised that it will be seeking greater engagement with the Town and Parish Councils at the next stage of the development of the Plan.
- The Barkham Parish Council petition against local development received around 4000 signatures. The petition has not been submitted to Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) yet.
- The WBC Mayor has launched 'roll of honours awards' to recognise community champions. Any borough resident can be nominated by a member of the public, there are children's and adults categories and awards are given out monthly.

- Finchampstead Parish Council business cards are now available from the Clerk.

356/2018 COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Veitch reported on the meetings held on 25 July, 15 August and 12 September 2018. Minutes of the meetings have been circulated.

25 July 2018

A presentation from Crest Nicholson on Parcel U1 at the Arborfield Strategic Development Location (SDL) took place prior to the meeting.

16 applications were considered. Residents attended the meeting and raised objections to proposals at Lakeside Retreat, New Mill Road and at land north of Nine Mile Ride.

A new Appeal was lodged in relation to proposals for 25 dwellings on land to the rear of 6 Johnson Drive.

15 August 2018

A presentation from Crest Nicholson on Parcel C2 at the Arborfield Strategic Development Location (SDL) took place prior to the meeting.

14 applications were considered including the first phase of the regeneration of the Gorse Ride Estate involving proposals for 46 dwellings at Arnett Avenue and Cockayne Court following demolition of the existing properties.

Barton Willmore, working on behalf of Reading Football Club has invited representatives from Finchampstead, Barkham and Arborfield and Newland Parish Councils to a meeting on 26 November 2018 to discuss proposals for 140 dwellings at the Hogwood Park (Reading Football Club) site.

12 September 2018

A presentation from Norwood regarding proposals for new homes at Ravenswood, Nine Mile Ride took place prior to the meeting. The site is located within Wokingham Without Parish, adjacent to Finchampstead Parish.

Applications

10 applications were considered.

The applicant and a number of members of the public attended the meeting in relation to proposals at Belscot, Reading Road.

Objections were lodged against development proposals at:

- 31 Barkham Ride.
- The Lodge, North Court, The Ridges.
- Lakeside Retreat, New Mill Road.

Decisions

All decisions were in line with WBC decisions with the exception of the application at Foxglade, Lower Sandhurst Road. The Parish Council objected to the application but it was approved by WBC.

Other matters

- There are new Appeals at Pine Platt, Heath Ride, 145 Nash Grove Lane and Pinecopse, Nine Mile Ride.
- The Appeal relating to 111 Barkham Ride was dismissed.

- Cllr Veitch and the Assistant to the Clerk met WBC Officers on 11 September to discuss local enforcement matters.
- WBC has confirmed that it can now demonstrate a land supply in excess of 5 years.
- Cllr Veitch attended a Minerals and Waste Plan public consultation event on 19 September 2018.
- Cllr Mrs McDonald was welcomed to the Committee.

FINANCE & GENERAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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

Financial position

- Unity Trust Bank £56,542.45
- CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund account £56,194.01
- CCLA Property Fund £25,000
- Including £54,270 CIL receipts.

The schedule of payments totalling £44,943.11 was circulated.

It was noted that the payments include nearly £39,000 of Community Infrastructure Levy payments to WBC for work at the Avery car park, the FBC Children's Centre / NHS integration project and the California Country Park board walk.

All payments were unanimously approved. Cllrs Bromley and Woof agreed to authorise the payments.

Other matters

- **2017/18 Audit** – the audit is now complete and the external auditors report was unqualified.
- **General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)** - further progress is being made towards compliance. Councillors were thanked for using their official email addresses and using the privacy statement wording as the footer to their emails. This is recommended practice and helps greatly towards compliance.

The Clerk and Cllr Bromley will be reviewing the Council's Email Policy and incorporating this in to Communications Policy as part of the work towards GDPR compliance. It is hoped to have this drafted for adoption at the October meeting of the Council.

- **Asset inspection** – the 2018 inspection is now complete. No major issues or risks have been identified and some minor repairs and refurbishment works are in hand.
- **Finchampstead Emergency Response** - the Working Group has met twice recently and has been in contact with the WBC Emergency Planning Officer.
- The **Communications and Consultation Working Group** is meeting on 21 September 2018.
- A meeting of the **Community Infrastructure Levy Working Group** is being arranged for October 2018.

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr Mrs Driver reported on the meeting held on 5 September 2018, minutes have been circulated.

- Archiving – some old records have been sent to the Berkshire Records Office and others will be offered to the Finchampstead Society Archives.
- Litter – the Litter Warden is still off and it is uncertain if or when he will return to work. The position has been advertised and to date three applicants have come forward. It is likely that the Council will appoint more than one Warden to share the workload and that the Warden (s) will be employees of the Council.

The employment of the Wardens has been looked in to and apart from the need to draw up contracts and job descriptions and put the new employee(s) on the payroll there will be no financial implications for the Council in terms of National Insurance or pension costs.

Several new 'Adopt a Street' volunteers have come forward recently.

- California Crossroads – a tidy up session is planned for 7 October 2018. All Cllrs are invited to take part.

The possibility of installing Christmas lights at the Crossroads was discussed again. It was agreed not to proceed but that provision for Christmas decorations should be part of the future improvement scheme for the crossroads.

- Allotments – drafts of new 30 year leases have been received from both landowners. These have now been considered by the Council's solicitors and the Clerk and Cllr Veitch will be reviewing the documents.
- Centenary of the end of World War I – arrangements are in place for a concert and the lighting of the beacon at St. James' Church on the evening of 11 November 2018. Details will be circulated in due course and the event will be promoted across the Parish.

A commemorative tree will be planted in the St. James' Churchyard.

The Remembrance Day service at the War Memorial will take place at 3pm on 11 November 2018 as in previous years.

The banners produced as part of the Wokingham Remembers project in 2014 are being used by Reverend Ramsbottom for a project with local schools in October and will then be displayed in Wokingham Town Hall along with banners from other Wokingham Towns and Parishes. The banners will be on display at the St. James' Church Centre for the Remembrance weekend.

- Cllr Mrs McDonald was welcomed as a new member of the Committee.

RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

Cllr Woof reported on current matters.

The main concern at present is the paths on the Cemex site at Fleet Hill Farm which do not appear to have been laid out in accordance with the agreed plans, and therefore do not link with the adjacent paths as expected. This has been discussed with WBC who has agreed to look in to the issue; the Clerk will follow this up.

It was noted that although the Fleet Hill Farm site is not officially open it appears to be being used, particularly by horse riders.

Restoration is progressing on the Manor Farm site but it looks unlikely that this will be completed this year. The Clerk will ask for an update on the current position.

The WBC Rights of Way Manager has left but a new Officer is expected to be in post in October 2018.

Greenways

The second Greenway from California Country Park to Nine Mile Ride is almost complete.

Lighting has been installed on the first Greenway running from the FBC Centre to Arborfield Green.

A plan of the overall Greenway network has been requested but is not currently available and the route of the next Greenway to be constructed is still to be confirmed.

The sleeper footbridge on FP10 is in need of repair and this has been reported to WBC.

Cllrs Weeks and Woof will be attending the Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership Annual General Meeting on 19 October 2018.

ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Cllr Bromley reported on current matters.

- A meeting took place with WBC Officers on 6 September 2018. WBC will be undertaking a study of the War Memorial junction in March 2019 and in the interim is looking at the possibility of installing vehicle activated signs (VAS) which the Parish Council has offered to pay for. Improved signage at the Church Lane / White Horse Lane junction was agreed. A number of existing 'gateway' signs will be replaced with smaller versions and several new locations for the signs were agreed.
- The bid to get the condition of road signs, kerbsides and gullies reviewed by the WBC Overview and Scrutiny Work programme 2018/19 was accepted. Several specific issues have now been addressed by WBC but the overall problem does not appear to be being looked at. Cllr Bromley and the Clerk are now collating details of additional specific problems as this seems to be the best way of ensuring these are addressed. Cllr Pearce offered to assist with this work.
- The two new bus stops on Nine Mile Ride by the California Country Park have been installed. These will become the responsibility of the Parish Council in due course.
- Speed Indicator Device (SID) sessions are continuing and a new volunteer has come forward. There is a severe speeding issue on Nine Mile Ride (west) and the Police have been asked to undertake enforcement action.

Finchampstead now comes under the Thames Valley Police Wokingham area and different

Police Officers are responsible for the Parish although the Police Community Support Officers remain the same.

The post mounted SID's are working well. Monitoring with the Data Recorders has shown that the SID's are proving to be effective in reducing speed while in situ.

357/2018 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

California Crossroads Working Group – 19 September 2018

Cllrs Bromley and Pittock attended the meeting with WBC Officers and consultants and representatives from local businesses. There will be a public consultation on the draft proposals in early December 2018.

Finchampstead Park Management Committee –12 September 2018.

Cllr Weeks attended the meeting. Minutes of the meeting have been circulated.

Gorse Ride Estate

The Multi Agency Group meeting planned for 13 September was cancelled but has been rearranged for 18 October 2018. The Steering Group will be meeting on 1 October 2018.

Finchampstead Neighbourhood Action Group (Finch NAG) – 4 September 2018.

Cllrs Bromley, Rampton and Woof attended the meeting.

Various matters were discussed including speed watch and the Thames Valley Police reorganisation.

The annual community litter pick was discussed and it was agreed that this should in future be a joint Parish Council / NAG event – the Clerk will arrange a meeting to discuss plans for the 2019 event. Groups undertaking a litter pick outside the main event could be covered under 'Adopt a Street' as long as they are registered for the scheme.

358/2018 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

A document prepared by the Working Group and proposing that the Council proceeds with a Neighbourhood Development Plan was circulated prior to and at the meeting.

Cllr Cornish gave a presentation to the meeting including an outline project plan.

It was unanimously agreed that the project should proceed to stage two of the project plan and Cllrs Cornish, Cundy, Jukes, Marshallsay, Pearce and Woof agreed to take this forward.

Cllr Cundy thanked the Working Group of Cllrs Cornish, Marshallsay and Pearce for their work on the project to date.

359/2018 ARBORFIELD STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT LOCATION (SDL)

A Community Forum was held on 13 September 2018. Cllr Pearce attended and notes have been circulated.

The Steering Group met on 18 September 2018. Cllrs Bromley and Veitch attended and notes have been circulated.

360/2018 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence has been circulated by email and/or covered under agenda items above.

- Invitation to Wokingham Volunteer Centre Annual General Meeting at 12 noon on 26 September 2018 at Wokingham Town Hall.

- Invitation to the Community Council for Berkshire Annual General Meeting at 9.15am on 8 November 2018 in Purley.

361/2018 FORUM

- The Queen's Oak Public House has now reopened.
- Cllr Veitch raised concerns over the way WBC is communicating with the Parish Council over the various plans for the California Country Park, and with some of the proposals for the Park. The Clerk will arrange a meeting with WBC to discuss this and ensure the Council is fully up to date and involved.
- The Assistant to the Clerk will be arranging a lunch for all staff and Councillors. This is likely to be in November.
- Cllr Mrs Driver advised that an oak tree has been planted on the Finchampstead Road verge to replace the vandalised commemorative tree, but as this has been planted out of season and in such dry conditions it is unlikely to survive.

362/2018 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 17 October 2018 at the FBC Centre.

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

UNITY TRUST BANK ACCOUNT10/09/18			£56,542.45	
CCLA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 31/07/18			£56,194.01	
CCLA PROPERTY FUND 31/03/18			£25,000.00	
INCLUDING CIL RECEIPTS TOTAL £54,270				
TOTAL FUNDS			£137,736.46	
	NET	VAT	TOTAL	
Outstanding payments yet to be cleared				
TOTAL PAYMENTS OUTSTANDING			£0.00	
Payments already approved and paid				
BT TELEPHONE/BROADBAND	70.28	14.05	84.33	DD
CLIFTON INGRAM LLP-VILLAGE CLUB ADVIC	356.00	71.20	427.20	300670105
PAYMENTS SEPTEMBER 2018				
Staff costs			£4,620.71	
Other costs				
RBS SOFTWARE - ALPHA SUPPORT	119.00	23.80	142.80	136739829
CAME & COMPANY - INSURANCE	1292.11	0.00	1292.11	234149160
WBC - AVERY CORNER CAR PARK WORKS	4592.49	0.00	4592.49	415947233
WBC - FBC CHILDRENS CENTRE / NHS	9000.00	0.00	9000.00	593551703
WBC - CALIFORNIA BOARDWALK	25000.00	0.00	25000.00	106720811
Allotment costs				
NONE				
Grants and contributions - subject to final approval by Council where reqd				
READIBUS - COMMUNITY TRIPS	248.00	0.00	248.00	937066364
JAY PRINTERS - VILLAGE CLUB DOCS	47.00	0.00	47.00	683338835
TOTAL SEPTEMBER 2018 PAYMENTS		£23.80	£44,943.11	
TOTAL REMAINING			£92,793.35	
SEPTEMBER PETTY CASH / CARD PAYMENTS				
Total petty cash payments	2.30	0.00	2.30	
Total Card payments (Clerk)	24.66	4.14	24.84	
Total Card payments (Footpath Warden)	10.00	2.00	12.00	
TOTAL	£36.96	£6.14	£39.14	