

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30PM ON 15 NOVEMBER 2018 AT THE MEMORIAL HALL, THE VILLAGE, FINCHAMPSTEAD

PRESENT: Cllr R. Cundy, Chair; Cllr S. Bromley, Vice Chair.
Cllrs Mrs C. Driver, Mrs S. McDonald, R. Marshallsay, J. May, A. Pearce, R. Rampton,
G. Veitch and R. Woof.

Mrs K. Dagnall, Clerk.

One member of the public.

428/2018 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs B. Eytley, S. Bowers, D. Cornish, Mrs N. Jennings-Frisby, G. Jukes OBE and S. Weeks.

429/2018 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Non pecuniary declarations of interest were received as follows:

Cllr Bromley: California Ratepayers Association; Finchampstead Park Management Committee.

Cllr Cundy: California Ratepayers Association; Finchampstead Primary School; Finchampstead Park Management Committee.

Cllr Rampton: Keep Mobile.

Cllr Woof: Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership.

430/2018 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 17 October 2018 were signed as a true and correct record.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

No members of the public were present.

431/2018 CHAIRMANS REPORT

- Following the resignation of Ian Pittock the Notice of Vacancy has been published. There has already been some interest in the vacancy.
- Cllr Steve Bowers is being presented with a 'roll of honour' award by the Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) Mayor on 22 November 2018. The Mayor introduced the awards to recognise community champions. Cllr Bowers has expressed his thanks to the Parish Councillors and staff whose help enables him to undertake the work that he does for the community.
- Manjeet Gill has resigned from the post of interim Chief Executive at WBC. The Acting Chief Executive is Heather Thwaites and an announcement regarding future plans is expected later this month.
- The Clerk has circulated some notes on the WBC Localities Programme which includes plans for a community hub at the Finchampstead Library. More information will be provided as and when this is available.
- WBC is holding a 'Community Conference' on 6 December as the next stage of development of the WBC Borough Plan known as 'Wokingham Together'. Cllrs Cundy and Jukes will be attending the event.

- Notes of the meeting about the California Country Park held with WBC on 15 October have been circulated. A further meeting has been arranged for January 2019 and it is hoped that this will be a regular event.
- The Legal & General Director of Social Value is keen to meet Council representatives in relation to support for the existing community and the new community at Hogwood Farm. A meeting is being arranged.
- Cllrs Bromley and Cundy attended the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) conference on 30 and 31 October.

Cllr Cundy summarised the talks and advised that there were some useful workshops covering mapping, General Data Protection Regulations, communications, the Community Right to Build and cyber crime. Information on website providers was also obtained.

- Cllr Cundy attended the Berkshire Association of Local Councils (BALC) Annual General Meeting on 14 November 2018. The Parish Council is not currently a member of BALC and cannot therefore be a member of NALC, but is a member of the Hampshire Association (HALC).

HALC has been providing BALC members with services and dealing with BALC finance and administration for a 3 month period which has now been extended to March 2019.

A President was elected for the coming year but several other positions are vacant. BALC agreed at the meeting to increase its charges for 2019/20 although it appears to have significant reserves and has no plans to reappoint to the vacant post.

NALC is reconsidering its membership policy and in future Councils who are not members of their own County Association may be able to join NALC.

- It was agreed at the previous meeting that Healthwatch would be invited to speak to the Council. This has been deferred to a future meeting.

432/2018 COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Veitch reported on the meeting held on 7 November 2018. .

As advised at the previous Main Council meeting the Committee had received additional information on the proposed pergola at the California Country Park café and had withdrawn its objections to the proposals. Details of the colour scheme for the structure have now been supplied, there is some concern over the dark grey framework but a limited range of colours is available and this does not include brown. The canopy colour will be 'cappucino'.

Applications

16 applications were considered.

Objections were lodged against development proposals at:

- Karalinga, Heath Ride
- 93 Reading Road
- 353 Finchampstead Road
- 53 Barkham Ride
- 351 Nine Mile Ride

Decisions

All decisions were in line with WBC decisions.

Other matters

- There is a new Appeal relating to proposals for up to 80 dwellings on land to the west of Finchampstead Road and adjacent to Sand Martins Golf Club. The Council objected to the application, Cllr Marshallsay is reviewing the previous response and is drafting a response to the Appeal which will include some additional points.
- Wokingham Area Housing Society held an exhibition on 23 October relating to proposals for two dwellings in The Village to be let as affordable accommodation. Several Councillors attended the event.
- 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.
- Cllrs Marshallsay and Veitch attended a WBC briefing session on the Local Plan Update on 8 November. A public consultation on the Update has now started and it was agreed that a group of Councillors should meet to collate a response to the consultation. The Clerk will progress this.

The Council had previously considered all of the sites put forward for Finchampstead and adjacent areas through the 'call for sites' and subsequently met WBC Officers and Councillors to discuss this. It was understood that the Town and Parish Councils would have further consultation with or information from WBC prior to the public consultation but this has not taken place and the sites are included in the current public consultation.

FINANCE & GENERAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Woof reported on the financial position of the Council, the meeting held on 23 October and current matters.

Financial position

- Unity Trust Bank £87,074.24
- CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund account £56,225.07
- CCLA Property Fund £25,000
- Including £30,791.46 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts.

A CIL payment of approximately £15,000 was received in October 2018 and is included in the above figures.

The Unity Trust Bank account balance will be reviewed when the November payments have been confirmed and funds may be moved to the deposit account.

Cllr Woof has recently reviewed the CCLA Property Fund investment and there are no concerns over the investment. The Fund will now be reviewed quarterly.

The Committee discussed applications for grants from and donations for various organisations at the meeting held on 23 October. Details are listed in the minutes of the meeting which have been circulated. Cllr Woof advised that all the grants and donations are within the budgeted provision and recommended these for approval. This was unanimously agreed.

The schedule of payments totalling £35,772.11 was circulated to all Cllrs. It was noted that this included all of the recommended grants and donations. The payment list was unanimously approved. Cllrs Veitch and Woof agreed to authorise the electronic payments.

Other matters

- Work on the 2019/20 budget is progressing.
- The Communications and Consultation Working Group is meeting on 22 November to discuss the Council's website requirements and how best to progress with a new site.
- Following discussion at the Committee meeting the Committee is holding an additional meeting on 22 November to discuss the future grants policy, potentially taking a different approach for smaller grants and the larger bids for capital works which are now coming forward. The potential use of CIL for the larger projects will also be discussed.
- As mentioned at the previous meeting the CIL Working Group met on 15 October 2018. Notes of the meeting have now been circulated.
- The purchase of a new 14" touchscreen laptop at a maximum cost of £400 was approved.

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr Mrs Driver reported on current matters.

- The Remembrance Day Parade was well attended and ran smoothly.

It is likely that Thames Valley Police will not cover the event in future years and so alternative arrangements will need to be put in place. A meeting involving representatives from each of the organisations involved – the Scout Group, Guides, Church and Parish Council – will be arranged to discuss this. Cllrs Mrs Driver and Weeks and the Clerk will progress this.

- Cllr Cundy mentioned the difficulties in achieving the required standard of maintenance for the War Memorial surrounds, and the increasingly uneven and sloping nature of the grassed area. It was suggested that a Landscape Architect could be asked to draft proposals and a cost estimate for improvements to the area.

It was agreed that this would be deferred until the outcome of the WBC study of the junction is known. This is due to be completed in March 2019.

- The event held at St. James' Church Centre on 11 November to commemorate the centenary of World War I was very successful. Approximately 250 people attended the event which included a concert, lighting of the beacon on the Church tower and the ringing of the Church bells.

Cllr Mrs Driver was thanked for her work to organise the event.

It was agreed that a letter of thanks would be sent to the person responsible for lighting the beacon on the Church tower.

- A commemorative tree has been ordered for the St. James' Churchyard and it is hoped that this will be planted before Christmas, along with 3 trees at Burnmoor Meadow.
- The two new Litter Wardens have started work and will be meeting Cllr Mrs Driver and the Clerk on 21 November to discuss progress. Any priority areas should be reported to the Clerk.

RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

Cllr Woof advised that the Committee will be meeting on 21 November.

- The new WBC Rights of Way Officer is now in post and a meeting is being arranged to discuss various outstanding matters including the path condition and layout on the future nature reserve at Fleet Hill Farm.
- The final work on the California Greenway is due to be completed along with work on the final section of the second Greenway, which runs from the California Country Park to Nine Mile Ride. It is still unclear if the Carolina Place link to the Greenway will be surfaced, and the Council is also pushing for improvements to the path linking Briarwood to the FBC Centre Playing Fields.
- The local British Horse Society (BHS) representative is collating evidence on unrecorded and under recorded routes in the area, whether footpaths, bridleways, restricted bridleways or byways, with a view to submitting applications for Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMO) before the 2026 deadline after which the routes cannot be reinstated.

Bridleway 34 which formerly linked Simon's Wood and Wick Hill is being included in the project and Cllr Woof has provided the BHS with additional information.

ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Cllr Bromley reported on the meeting held on 24 October and current matters.

- Speed Indicator Device (SID) and post mounted SID
The speeding issue at Nine Mile Ride near Park Lane is worsening, a recent SID session recorded 64 vehicles in an hour. Cllr Weeks has agreed to approach Thames Valley Police regarding additional enforcement in this area.

Residents of the Reading Road believe there is a speeding issue on the Road despite evidence to the contrary. At the request of residents Thames Valley Police recently undertook a SID session on the Road and recorded one vehicle speeding in an hour.

The Committee agreed to purchase a dashcam or video camera for use on the SID unit itself and Cllr Marshallsay is currently looking into this.

- Gateways
WBC has now replaced some of the damaged or broken gateway signs but not others. WBC has not provided information on the proposals for signs in additional locations.
- WBC has refreshed some of the road markings in the Parish, including the 30mph roundels on the Finchampstead Road.
- War Memorial junction
It is understood that the WBC study of the junction is underway and due to be completed in March 2019. There is no further information on the proposals for Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) at the junction.
- The lack of progress on resolving the maintenance issues on our roadsides and pavements is disappointing. Following the Parish Councils bid to get the condition of these areas reviewed by WBC some issues have been resolved but it now appears that each specific issue will have to be reported individually, and even then most are not rectified.

Cllr Bromley will develop a plan for working in pairs to survey roads across the Parish and record and report issues.

It is very clear that the road/kerbsides are not being swept as per the schedules. Cllr Bromley

asked Cllrs to look out for road sweepers and to let the Clerk know if they are seen so that this can be checked against the schedules.

The Clerk will contact the WBC Ward Councillors expressing the Council's concerns.

- **California Crossroads improvements**
The Committee viewed the draft proposals which will have been further refined for the 3 day public consultation in early December – the Clerk has circulated details of the event. The actual improvements will not start until 2020 as South East Water will be undertaking work at the Crossroads during 2019.
- The increasing number of incidents at the Park Lane / New Mill Road junction on the Reading Road is a concern. Cllr Bromley is following this up with WBC and will also report that the flashing warning signs are not working.
- The seat at the California Ratepayers Hall bus stop has been stolen again. It was agreed that this would be referred to the Amenities Committee.

433/2018 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership

Cllrs Weeks and Woof attended the AGM on 19 October. Cllr Woof advised that the Partnership is undertaking work within and outside the Valley with significant volunteer involvement. Contracts for Suitable Areas of Natural Green Space (SANGS) are generating a large proportion of the Partnership's income. The financial position of the Partnership is stabilising.

A paper has been produced on future options for the Partnership and this will be circulated. This reflects the fact that the original core funding arrangement is now at an end, and the future intention is that Partner contributions should be in proportion to the extent of the Valley and the level of activity in each area, and will be subject to Service Level Agreements. A new Steering Group is being formed which will include Cllr Weeks, and changes are likely to be in place for 2019/20.

Finchampstead Neighbourhood Action Group

Cllrs Bromley, Rampton, Weeks and Woof attended the meeting on 6 November.

Discussion topics included inconsiderate parking across the Borough, and concerns that recycled and general waste collections were not being treated separately. WBC Cllr Stanton will be arranging a visit to the Re3 Recycling Facility at Smallmead, Reading.

Finchampstead Park Management Committee

Council representatives were unable to attend the meeting on 24 October as this clashed with the Council's Roads & Road Safety Committee meeting. The next meeting will be held on 3 December 2018.

Gorse Ride Estate

Cllr Jukes attended a meeting on 29 October regarding rodent control on the Estate. The Clerk will circulate the report.

The Gorse Ride Community Development Worker is leaving the post.

434/2018 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Cllrs Cornish, Cundy, Jukes, Marshallsay, Pearce and Woof have been meeting regularly to progress the first stages of the Plan. The Group will continue as a Parish Council Working Group until such time as a steering group with wider representation is formed.

It was noted that 3 potential volunteers have already come forward as a result of the item in the e newsletter issued in early November.

A poster / flier and a briefing document were circulated to Councillors for comments.

Cllr Marshallsay advised that the material would be used to inform residents and attract volunteers to assist with the Plan. A household distribution of the leaflet is planned and two public events will be held in January 2019.

The documents were approved for use subject to the rewording of the third question in the Question and Answer section, and references to the WBC Development Plan being amended to WBC Local Development Plan or Local Plan.

435/2018 ARBORFIELD STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT LOCATION (SDL)

The Steering Group including Cllrs Bromley and Veitch will be visiting the Legal & General development site at Bucklers Park, Crowthorne on 20 November.

Cllr Cundy advised that representatives of the Finchampstead Baptist Church (FBC) are interested in running the new community facilities at Arborfield Green, and have met WBC to discuss this. The FBC has also been in contact with other churches in Arborfield and with Barkham Parish Council regarding the potential facilities.

The FBC has recently started a pop up café on Tuesday mornings at the Arborfield Community Centre on Sheerlands Road.

436/2018 CORRESPONDENCE

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

437/2018 FORUM

- The 2019 meeting schedule has been circulated.
- Cllr Veitch raised the issue of the car transporter parking on the Finchampstead Road by the Think Ford Garage. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Garage expressing concerns about the traffic congestion this causes.
- Cllr Pearce advised that the Chief Executive of the Wokingham Citizens Advice Bureau is retiring shortly and that there have been a number of other staff changes this year.

438/2018 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 12 December 2018 at the FBC Centre. The meeting will commence at 7pm and Councillors' partners are invited to attend for festive refreshments from 9pm.

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

**FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL
PAYMENT LIST 15 NOVEMBER 2018**

UNITY TRUST BANK ACCOUNT 10/11/18			£87,074.24	
CCLA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 31/10/18			£56,225.07	
CCLA PROPERTY FUND 31/03/18			£25,000.00	
INCLUDING CIL RECEIPTS TOTAL £30,791.46				
TOTAL FUNDS			£168,299.31	
	NET	VAT	TOTAL	
Outstanding payments yet to be cleared				
D.TICKNER - CHOIR MASTER 11/11/18	50.00	0.00	50.00	CH300250
TOTAL PAYMENTS OUTSTANDING			£50.00	
Payments already approved and paid				
BT TELEPHONE/BROADBAND	72.98	14.59	87.57	DD
D. CANE - WAR MEMORIAL	240.00	0.00	240.00	215424880
PAYMENTS NOVEMBER 2018				
Staff costs			£5,015.39	
Other costs				
SSE STREET LIGHT ENERGY	97.99	4.89	102.88	250264115
WESTCOTEC - SID PARTS	199.50	39.90	239.40	42732139
SLCC CONFERENCE - KD	75.00	15.00	90.00	26198583
SLCC REFERENCE BOOK	56.00	0.00	56.00	"
C. DRIVER - EXPENSES 11/11/18	42.49	0.00	42.49	CH300251
S BROMLEY - EPSON PROJECTOR	384.96	76.99	461.95	75226693
Allotment costs				
FAA - SUBS AND SERVICE CHARGES X 80	1040.00	0.00	1040.00	51078955
Grants and contributions - subject to final approval by Council where reqd				
READIBUS - COMMUNITY TRIPS	174.00	0.00	174.00	116835034
READING & WOKINGHAM COACHES - GORSE RIDE PANTOMIME TRIP	290.00	0.00	290.00	564142282
ARC YOUTH COUNSELLING	2000.00	0.00	2000.00	134512374
BERKSHIRE MS THERAPY CENTRE	1200.00	0.00	1200.00	519004953
CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU	2964.00	0.00	2964.00	697988292
FINCHAMPSTEAD COMMUNITY TRIPS	200.00	0.00	200.00	835321328
2ND FINCHAMPSTEAD SCOUT GROUP	460.00	0.00	460.00	CH300252
HOME START WOKINGHAM	800.00	0.00	800.00	756303312
KEEP MOBILE	3500.00	0.00	3500.00	21592523
ME2 CLUB	500.00	0.00	500.00	736224542

SCHOOL DAYS BY FIRST DAYS	1500.00	0.00	1500.00	CH300253
WOKINGHAM JOB SUPPORT CENTRE	1000.00	0.00	1000.00	872071709
WOKINGHAM VOLUNTEER CENTRE	1200.00	0.00	1200.00	366058135
CALIFORNIA RATEPAYERS HALL	1000.00	0.00	1000.00	846511812
FINCHAMPSTEAD MEMORIAL HALL	400.00	0.00	400.00	188895511
ST JAMES' CHURCHYARD TRUST	800.00	0.00	800.00	CH300254
NINE MILE RIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL	2674.00	0.00	2674.00	CH300255
GORSE RIDE INFANT SCHOOL	1395.00	0.00	1395.00	CH300256
GORSE RIDE JUNIOR SCHOOL	1783.00	0.00	1783.00	CH300257
FINCHAMPSTEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL	884.00	0.00	884.00	CH300258
BLACKWATER VALLEY CP	4000.00	0.00	4000.00	CH300259
TOTAL NOVEMBER 2018 PAYMENTS		£136.78	£35,772.11	
TOTAL REMAINING			£132,477.20	
NOVEMBER PETTY CASH / CARD PAYMENTS				
Total petty cash payments	26.93	0.00	26.93	
Total Card payments (Clerk)	10.20	0.00	10.20	
Total Card payments (Footpath Warden)	0.00	0.00	0.00	
TOTAL				