

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.00PM ON 12 DECEMBER 2018 AT THE FBC CENTRE, GORSE RIDE NORTH, FINCHAMPSTEAD

PRESENT: Cllr R. Cundy, Chair; Cllr S. Bromley, Vice Chair.
Cllrs S. Bowers, D. Cornish, Mrs C. Driver, Mrs B. Eyle, Mrs N. Jennings – Frisby,
Mrs S. McDonald, R. Marshallsay, J. May, A. Pearce, G. Veitch, S. Weeks (part)
and R. Woof.

Mrs K. Dagnall, Clerk.
Mrs A. Kent, Assistant to the Clerk.

464/2018 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr G. Jukes OBE and Cllr R. Rampton.

465/2018 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Non pecuniary declarations of interest were received from Cllrs Bromley, Cundy and Mrs Jennings-Frisby in relation to the California Ratepayers Association.

466/2018 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Amendments were recorded and the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 15 November 2018 were signed as a true and correct record.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

No members of the public were present.

467/2018 CHAIRMANS REPORT

- Cllr Bowers was presented with a 'roll of honour' award by the Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) Mayor on 22 November 2019 and the Council congratulated him on this achievement.

Cllr Bowers expressed his thanks to the Parish Councillors and staff whose help enables him to undertake the work that he does for the community.

- Cllr Cundy received an invitation to the Wokingham Schools Carol Concert on 9 December 2019 as Chair of the Parish Council but attended in his capacity as Chair of Governors of the Finchampstead Primary School.
- Cllr Cundy and the Committee Chairs have a meeting next week with the Chief Executive Officer of Social Value who are working with Legal and General Homes in relation to support for the existing local community and the new community at Hogwood Farm.
- A meeting has also been arranged with WBC in January 2019 to discuss the next stage of the WBC Localities programme.
- The 'Community Conference' about the new Borough Plan known as 'Wokingham Together' has been cancelled with a further date to be arranged. Cllrs Cundy and Jukes had planned to attend the conference.
- WBC has announced the appointment of Susan Parsonage as the new Chief Executive of the Council. Ms Parsonage is expected to start work with the Council in March 2019. Cllr Bowers advised that he was on one of the stakeholder panels involved with the interview process.

468/2018 COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Veitch reported on the meeting held on 5 December 2018.

Applications

15 applications were considered.

Objections were lodged against development proposals at:

- 17 Cricket Hill
- Fairlands Caravan Site, Farley Hill (within Swallowfield Parish)

Decisions

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

- Longmoor Farm, Park Lane FPC objected WBC approved
- 26 Church Hams FPC no objections WBC refused

Other matters

- A detailed response has been submitted in relation to the Appeal by Gladman Developments Ltd. in relation to proposals for development on land adjacent to Sand Martins Golf Course on the Finchampstead Road.

WBC Cllrs Margetts and Sargeant will be meeting the Committee on 9 January 2019 to discuss the Appeal. The Chair of the local 'Keep it Green' campaign has also been invited to the meeting.

- There is a new Appeal relating to the Gladman Developments Ltd. proposals for an area of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) adjacent to the Finchampstead Road. Cllr Marshallsay is drafting letters to Natural England and the Planning Inspectorate.
- Appeals relating to Grange Cottage, Fleet Hill and Pine Platt, Heath Ride were dismissed.
- Barton Willmore, working on behalf of Reading Football Club, had 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. This meeting was cancelled.
- Cllrs Cundy, Marshallsay and Veitch will be meeting in January 2019 to consider a response to the WBC consultation on the Local Plan Update.
- A Certificate of Lawful Use has been granted for an additional 18 pitches at the California Country Park Touring Park. The original agreement for the site did not specify the number of pitches permitted on the site so this is limited only by the space available.
- Work on the first phase of the Gorse Ride Estate regeneration has commenced with the demolition of properties at Cockayne Court and Arnett Avenue. The Clerk will contact WBC regarding enforcement of the Traffic Management Plan which prohibits construction traffic at certain times, including during school drop off and pick up times.

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 £38,210.26
- CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund account £76,260.69
- CCLA Property Fund £25,000
- Including £30,791.46 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts.

The schedule of payments totalling £12,558.01 was circulated to all Cllrs.

The California Ratepayers Association has applied for funds for improvements to its car park. The Committee considered this and recommended that £6000 should be awarded from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts, and the payment was included on the schedule. This decision was approved by the Council.

The payment list was unanimously approved. Cllrs Veitch and Woof agreed to authorise the electronic payments.

Other matters

- The Committee had an additional meeting on 22 November to discuss a future grants policy. It was agreed in principle that in future grants would be categorised into applications under £1000 from smaller local groups, ongoing support for organisations providing activities / services on a long term basis, and larger applications for capital projects. Community transport donations would form a separate category.

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) was also discussed as this is a potential source of funds for some larger capital projects. It was agreed that the CIL Working Group should be disbanded and that CIL would be dealt with by the Committee in future.

- The Committee will be meeting on 18 December to discuss the 2019/20 budget and how the new grants process relates to this.
- The Communications and Consultation Working Group met on 22 November to consider a potential new website for the Council. Three companies were selected to approach for a proposal and will be invited to give a presentation to the Working Group in January or February.
- Policies: The IT and Communications Policy is under review and a revised version will be circulated in due course for discussion and potential adoption at the January Council meeting. The updated Financial Regulations will also be circulated for potential adoption at the January meeting.

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr Mrs Driver reported on current matters.

- Cllr Mrs Driver and the Clerk met the two new Litter Wardens on 21 November to review their first month of work with the Council. Any problem areas should be reported to the Clerk who will pass this on to the Wardens.
- Three additional trees were planted at Burnmoor Meadow on 5 December, and a Hornbeam tree was planted in the St. James' Churchyard extension to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War I. Cllr Mrs Driver will liaise with St. James Church over an official ceremony to mark the planting of the tree.
- The seat at the California Hall bus stop has been stolen. Options for replacement are being considered and will be discussed at the January Committee meeting.

- Following an approach from a local resident and enquiries by the Clerk the Council has been in principle been offered a small green space between Tickenor Drive and Barkham Ride. The Clerk will circulate information and this will be discussed at the January Committee meeting.
- A new contractor has been appointed to maintain the War Memorial surrounds.
- The Barkham Ride roundabout beds have been weeded.

RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

Cllr Woof reported on the meeting held on 21 November and current matters.

- The paths are generally in good condition for the time of year and the current focus is on trying to progress some of the bigger issues, the priorities being the path layout on the restored Cemex site at Fleet Hill and the links from the site to the existing network, and the condition of BP26.
- Greenways – the final work to the second greenway and the surfacing of links to the first greenway may not be completed until March 2019. This is apparently due to delays with the delivery of the bridge required for the second greenway.
- The Committee discussed the 2011/12 rights of way survey and whether this should be repeated. It was agreed this was not a high priority at present but that it would be useful to categorise the various paths according to their type and level of use. For example it may be acceptable for rural footpath to be muddy whereas a route to school or for cycling should have a better surface.
- The possibility of a route in to Rooks Nest Country Park from Booth Drive or Gilbert Way has been raised. Cllr Woof has had an initial look on site and it appears that there is potential for a route from Booth Drive. However, it is understood that this was discounted when the site was originally planned. This will be looked in to further.
- The Committee agreed to contribute £200 to a National Trust project to improve a section of path around Spout Pond between Dell Road and Drift Lane.
- The status of new paths created on SANGS was queried. If the SANG is managed and maintained by WBC the paths will be permissive. However, a number of SANGS are the responsibility of a Community Interest Company (CIC), Developer or other body and it may be appropriate to protect the paths by formal designation as definitive rights of way.

Cllr Weeks agreed to follow this up with WBC.

ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Cllr Bromley reported on current matters.

- Speed Indicator Device (SID) and Post mounted SID updates
Almost 3000 vehicles have been recorded exceeding the speed limit during SID sessions undertaken over the last 3 years.

Options for cameras have been looked in to and tested during SID sessions and the chosen camera will be purchased shortly.
- The Think Ford garage has been contacted over transporter vehicles unloading on the Finchampstead Road and the garage denied that this was taking place. A further letter has now been sent to the garage with details of the dates and times when transporters have been

seen in recent weeks.

- WBC has now provided draft proposals for changes to the War Memorial junction. The information will be circulated for discussion at January Main Council.
- A fatal accident involving a car and a motor cycle took place on Wellingtonia Avenue recently. The cause of the accident is unknown.

469/2018 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES FBC Advisory Board – 4 December.

Cllr Cundy and Weeks attended the meeting. The Centre is generally performing well.

The Centre has submitted an application to the Council for funds towards work to the sports hall and loft floors. A decision on this was deferred by the Finance & General Management Committee pending further information coming forward. The work is not covered by the sinking fund in place for the building. Cllr Woof and the Clerk will discuss how to progress this.

The Church is still negotiating over a potential community facility in Arborfield and this will determine whether or not the FBC Centre is extended.

Finchampstead Park Management Committee – 3 December

Cllrs Bromley, Cundy and Weeks attended the meeting.

Work on the knee rail on the verge outside the park starts on 14 January. The financial position of the organisation is good, the play area passed its safety inspection, and the Sports Club rent increase has been agreed,

Gorse Ride

A new Community Development Worker has been appointed and starts in post in January.

As previously noted demolition work for the first phase of the regeneration has commenced.

470/2018 CASUAL VACANCY

The closing date for applications is 19 December and a number of interested people have already come forward.

A document outlining the process for the co-option on 17 January 2019 was circulated and three standard questions for Councillors to ask the candidates were agreed.

471/2018 CALIFORNIA CROSSROADS PROPOSALS

Cllr Weeks advised that the level of public interest in the proposals has been far greater than with most WBC consultations. Implementation of the finally agreed scheme will not be until 2020.

A document summarising comments to date was circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask WBC for an extension to the deadline for responses, and that a separate meeting would be arranged in January to discuss and agree the Council's response.

Additional comments should be forwarded to the Clerk for inclusion in the discussion document.

472/2018 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 the Steering Group until June 2019, after this and as new volunteers join

the team some Councillors may choose to withdraw, but around 3 Councillors will remain on the Group, one of who will be the Process Manager for the Group and will report back to the Council.

Information is being sent out to various local groups and organisations.

Public meetings are planned for 21 and 24 January 2019 and information promoting the events and asking for volunteers to help with the Plan will be distributed to all households in the Parish during the week commencing 7 January 2019.

The next immediate priority is to move to the Designation process with WBC.

473/2018 ARBORFIELD STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT LOCATION (SDL)

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

The Group was impressed with the quality of the homes, the site management and the interest in and support for the community shown by Legal and General Homes.

474/2018 CORRESPONDENCE

A number of organisations have expressed thanks for the grants and donations awarded by the Council. These include the Wokingham Volunteer Centre, Gorse Ride Schools, Finchampstead Primary School, St. James Church, MS Therapy Centre, Me2 Club, Keep Mobile, School Days, CAB, Finchampstead Community Trips, ARC, Finchampstead Womens Group and Nine Mile Ride School.

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

475/2018 FORUM

No matters were raised.

476/2018 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 17 January 2018 at the FBC Centre as this is more suitable for hosting the co-option process. The starting time of the meeting will depend on the number of candidates and is likely to be 7pm or earlier.

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

**FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL
PAYMENT LIST 12 DECEMBER 2018**

UNITY TRUST BANK ACCOUNT 04/12/18			£38,210.26	
CCLA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 26/11/18			£76,260.69	
CCLA PROPERTY FUND 31/03/18			£25,000.00	
INCLUDING CIL RECEIPTS TOTAL £30,791.46				
TOTAL FUNDS			£139,470.95	
	NET	VAT	TOTAL	
Outstanding payments yet to be cleared				
2ND FINCHAMPSTEAD SCOUT GROUP	460.00	0.00	460.00	CH300252

FINCHAMPSTEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL	884.00	0.00	884.00	CH300258
BLACKWATER VALLEY CP	4000.00	0.00	4000.00	CH300259
NINE MILE RIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL	2674.00	0.00	2674.00	CH300255
TOTAL PAYMENTS OUTSTANDING			£8,018.00	
Payments already approved and paid				
BT TELEPHONE/BROADBAND	72.98	14.59	87.57	BT DD8
SP BROMLEY - LAPTOP / IT KIT	376.14	72.64	448.78	608025665
MJ BODINGTON - ASSET WORKS	225.45	0.00	225.45	181126
D COLVER DESIGN - NDP FLIER DESIGN	70.00	0.00	70.00	CH300260
PAYMENTS DECEMBER 2018				
Staff costs			£5,252.34	
Other costs				
WEL MEDICAL DEFIB BATTERY	139.95	27.99	167.94	761418067
BRACKNELL TROPHIES - TREE PLAQUES	110.00	22.00	132.00	599191117
OFFICE DEPOT	76.33	15.27	91.60	320986308
SLCC SUBSCRIPTION	300.00	0.00	300.00	292948091
Allotment costs				
SMALLWOOD - CONTRACT RETENTION	290.94	58.19	349.13	580370324
Grants and contributions - subject to final approval by Council where reqd				
READIBUS - COMMUNITY TRIPS	265.00	0.00	265.00	912902697
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION - GRANT	6000.00	0.00	6000.00	256391701
TOTAL DECEMBER 2018 PAYMENTS		£196.09	£12,558.01	
TOTAL REMAINING			£118,894.94	
DECEMBER PETTY CASH / CARD PAYMENTS				
Total petty cash payments	14.52	0.00	14.52	
Total Card payments (Clerk)	395.64	56.31	451.95	
Total Card payments (Footpath Warden)	0.00	0.00	0.00	
TOTAL	£410.16	£56.31	£466.47	