

## FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30PM ON 17 JANUARY 2019 AT THE FBC CENTRE, GORSE RIDE NORTH, FINCHAMPSTEAD

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

Mrs K. Dagnall, Clerk.

#### **25/2019 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs May and Rampton.

#### **26/2019 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

#### **27/2019 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 12 December 2019 were approved and signed as a true and correct record.

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

No members of the public were present.

#### **28/2019 CHAIRMANS REPORT**

- Cllr Cundy thanked all Cllrs for their co-operation with the Co-option held prior to the meeting. The successful candidate will be contacted on Friday 18 January and Cllrs will be advised when the appointment is confirmed.

#### **29/2019 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Cllr Veitch reported on the meeting held on 9 January 2019.

Prior to the Committee meeting a meeting was held with Bewley Homes over proposals for a further parcel to be developed at Arborfield Green.

A further meeting was held with Wokingham Borough Cllrs and local residents to discuss the Gladman Land Appeal relating to proposals for development adjacent to Sand Martins Golf Course on the Finchampstead Road. The Public Inquiry will commence on 12 February and Cllrs Bromley and Cornish will be speaking at the Inquiry in addition to WBC Cllrs and representatives from the local 'Keep It Green' residents group. All will be expressing opposition to the proposals.

##### **Applications**

20 applications were considered.

Objections were lodged against development proposals at:

- Belscot, Reading Road
- Hopewell, Range Road
- High Ground, Jubilee Road
- Land east of Fairway, The Devil's Highway

- 10 Ambler Drive

### **Decisions**

All decisions were in line with WBC decisions.

### **Other matters**

- There is a new Appeal relating to Land north east of Brambletye, New Mill Road.
- The Appeal relating to proposals at 145 Nashgrove Lane was dismissed.
- 12 new enforcement issues were reported.
- Cllrs Cundy, Marshallsay, Veitch and Weeks have met to discuss a response to the WBC consultation on the Local Plan Update. A draft response will be circulated for consideration by the Council at its February meeting.

### **FINANCE & GENERAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Cllr Woof reported on the financial position of the Council, the meetings held on 18 December and 8 January and current matters.

#### **Financial position**

- Unity Trust Bank £16,211.21
- CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund account £76,296.21
- CCLA Property Fund £25,000
- The above figures include £24,791.46 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts.

The schedule of payments totalling £14,439.95 was circulated to all Cllrs. An additional payment of £200 to the Friends of Finchampstead Ridges was omitted from the list circulated.

The payments were unanimously approved. Cllrs Veitch and Woof agreed to authorise the electronic payments.

#### **Other matters**

- The Committee had an additional meeting on 18 December primarily to consider the 2019/20 draft budget which will be considered under a separate agenda item below, and to consider the overall grants and donations allocation within the budget. Further discussions over this took place at the meeting on 8 January.

Cllr Woof and the Clerk will be reviewing the grants policy to ensure this incorporates the agreed changes.

- At its meeting in October 2018 the Committee considered an application from the FBC Centre for funds towards the repair and refurbishment of the hall and loft floors at the Centre and deferred a decision on this.

The Committee reconsidered the application at its meeting on 8 January and agreed that a grant of £6880 should be awarded from Community Infrastructure Levy funds, subject to the Centre confirming that the balance of funds has been secured, and notification of a date for implementation of the works.

The grant was unanimously approved by the Council.

- The Committee considered updated versions of two policies which are covered by a separate agenda item below.

## **AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

Cllr Mrs Driver advised that the Committee is meeting on 30 January and a full report will be provided to the next Council meeting.

Cllrs Bromley, Cundy, Mrs Driver, Veitch and Woof and the Clerk visited the California Country Park on 10 January. The boardwalk railings have been secured, work to the car park is underway and the café is being redecorated.

## **RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE**

Cllr Woof reported on current matters.

- As advised at the previous meeting the Committee agreed to provide £200 to the Friends of Finchampstead Ridges for work around Spout Pond. The Group has expressed its thanks for this donation.
- The 2026 deadline for recording public rights of way under the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000 was raised recently. This has been discussed by the Committee several times and a request for information on paths which should be recorded was published but no suggestions came forward.

The local British Horse Society (BHS) representative is looking in to routes that should be included and has been in contact with Cllr Cornish about Bridleway 34.

No other relevant routes have been identified to date but the status of the paths through the older housing estates in the Parish will be looked in to and this will be progressed as appropriate. WBC has offered assistance with confirming the status of the paths.

- Contact has been re-established with the Loddon Valley branch of the Ramblers and it is hoped that regular meetings will take place with the group.
- Cllr Woof and the Clerk met the new WBC Rights of Way Manager on 17 January. The main topic of discussion was the path layout and quality on the restored Cemex site at Fleet Hill and the links from the site to the existing network, in particular Footpath 33. Concerns were raised over the restoration timescale, the need to open the site for public access and the need to dedicate the paths as rights of way as soon as possible. The Manor Farm restoration and future rights of way on the site were also discussed.

The new WBC Greenways Officer also attended the meeting and shared provisional plans for the wider greenway network across the Borough.

## **ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Cllr Bromley reported on current matters.

- Speed Indicator Device (SID) and Post mounted SID updates  
A camera has been purchased and is proving very useful in enabling number plates to be clearly identified.

Nine Mile Ride (west) is still a major issue and a high proportion of the SID sessions are taking place there. Thames Valley Police has been asked to undertake enforcement action in this location.

Cllr Jukes is now assisting Cllr Bromley with the processing of information from the SID sessions.

The potential for publishing more information on the speedwatch activities and outcomes was

discussed both to raise awareness of the work and of the speeding 'hot spots' in the Parish.

- As previously advised WBC has now provided draft proposals for changes to the War Memorial junction. Discussion on this has been deferred to the February meeting of the Council.

### **30/2019 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

#### **Finchampstead Neighbourhood Action Group – 8 January**

Cllr Bromley advised that antisocial behaviour experienced over the Christmas period was discussed by the NAG and has been followed up by Thames Valley Police.

The 2019 Community Litter Pick was discussed. This year this will be run jointly with the Parish Council and a meeting will be arranged shortly to discuss co-ordination and promotion of the event. Cllr Mrs McDonald has agreed to lead on the organisation of the event.

The WBC Community Litter Pick weekend is the 23 and 24 March. The Finchampstead Litter Pick will take place on 24 March although some groups will work on other dates, including the FBC Centre on 17 March.

#### **Gorse Ride Multi Agency Group – 10 January**

Cllr Bowers and Cllr Jukes attended the meeting.

Cllr Jukes advised that representatives from West Berkshire Council Environmental Health Department (working with and on behalf of WBC) and Bracknell Pest Control attended the meeting. The widespread rodent issue reported appears to have been exaggerated and no overall approach to control is required at present. Individual cases are being dealt with appropriately and the need for residents to report future issues through the West Berkshire Council website has been stressed.

Excess rubbish on the Estate is a contributory problem and WBC has agreed to address this with a one off litter pick/collection.

Cllr Bowers advised that the California Crossroads proposals had been discussed at the meeting, and that the new Community Development Worker, Simon Ingle, is now in post.

The Gorse Ride Steering Group meeting planned for 24 January has been cancelled with a further date to be advised.

Soil sampling and drain investigations are currently taking place on the Estate to inform proposals for the regeneration. A tree survey is also taking place.

#### **Cleaner and Greener – 15 January**

Cllr Veitch attended the meeting and advised that the main topic discussed was the introduction of food waste recycling in April 2019.

### **31/2019 BUDGET AND PRECEPT DEMAND 2019/20**

Cllr Woof advised that the draft budget was discussed at Finance and General Management Committee meetings in December and January and that a final draft has been circulated to all Cllrs.

The proposed budget is £159,806 and the precept demand £153,698. This gives a Band D figure of £25.90 (£24.20 in 2018/19).

Cllr Woof recommended the budget for approval and this was unanimously agreed by the Council.

The Clerk will submit the precept demand to WBC by the 4 February deadline.

### **32/2019 CALIFORNIA CROSSROADS PROPOSALS**

Cllr Bromley advised that following discussion at the December Council meeting it was agreed that a separate meeting should be arranged.

The Clerk circulated suggested comments and 9 Councillors responded. All comments were collated and were then discussed at a meeting on 9 January with 11 Councillors present.

A draft response to the consultation has now been circulated and Cllr Bromley recommended this for approval by the Council. This was unanimously agreed by the Council and the Clerk will submit the response to WBC.

### **33/2019 POLICY UPDATES**

Cllr Woof advised that the IT and Communications Policy and the Financial Regulations have been updated and were considered and approved by the Finance and General Management Committee at its meeting on 8 January.

Cllr Woof recommended the Policy and Regulations for approval and adoption by the Council. This was unanimously agreed.

### **34/2019 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Cllr Cornish provided an update on behalf of the Working Group

- The Group met WBC Officers on 16 January. The meeting was extremely helpful and informative. The WBC Officers have offered significant help with aspects of the area designation process.
- Public meetings will take place on 21 and 24 January 2019 and information promoting the events and asking for volunteers to help with the Plan was distributed to all households in the Parish during the week commencing 7 January 2019.
- A full update will be provided at the February meeting of the Council.

### **35/2019 ARBORFIELD STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT LOCATION (SDL)**

- Cllr Weeks advised that the Clinical Commissioning Group has confirmed that there will be no medical facilities on the SDL. WBC is not in agreement with this but is unable to influence the decision. It has been advised that the Shinfield Medical Centre has sufficient capacity to cater for the new residents.
- Cllrs Bromley, Cundy, Mrs Driver, Veitch and Woof and the Clerk met representatives from the Social Value Portal just before Christmas. The organisation is working to deliver the social value outcomes associated with the Legal & General Homes development at Hogwood Farm. This involves support for the existing community and the new community.

Information will be circulated as soon as this is available.

- Crest Nicholson is keen to meet to present their updated proposals for the District Centre at Arborfield Green. This will involve Cllr Cundy and the Committee Chairs as with the previous District Centre proposals. A meeting is date is being arranged.
- WBC has granted approval for development of Parcels U1 and U2 off Biggs Lane.
- Bewley Homes are undertaking consultation on proposals for Parcel X including around 70 dwellings bordering Biggs Lane / Langley Common Road. 20% of the dwellings will be

affordable. The site will be known as Equestrian Walk

- The next Community Liaison meeting is on 30 January 2019.

### 36/2019 CORRESPONDENCE.

A letter from Homestart Wokingham has been received thanking the Council for the grant awarded.

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

### 37/2019 FORUM

- Cllr Pearce reported that the flashing school warning traffic sign on Barkham Ride is operating in the evening. Cllr Pearce has reported this but no action has been taken.
- Cllr Veitch reported that New Mill Restaurant directional signs are still present on Nine Mile Ride although the Restaurant is no longer open. This has been reported previously.
- Cllr Mrs Driver reported the 'No access to the Schools' sign on Barkham Ride / Gorse Ride North. This has been reported previously and the view of WBC is that the signage is for vehicles and as such is correct.
- Monitoring the use of the California greenway was mentioned. Cllr Woof advised that WBC has not installed counters due to the cost but that he is seeking advice from the Blackwater Valley Partnership on how it monitors use of the Blackwater Valley Path.
- Cllr Mrs Eytel queried the current position with the Bohunt School. It is believed that due to the increased intake to the School there are no longer plans for a sixth form.

The Clerk will report or follow up the above issues as appropriate.

### 38/2019 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 20 February 2019 at the FBC Centre.

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

## FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL PAYMENT LIST 17 JANUARY 2019

<b>UNITY TRUST BANK ACCOUNT/10/01/19</b>			£16,211.21	
<b>CCLA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 31/12/18</b>			£76,296.21	
<b>CCLA PROPERTY FUND 31/03/18</b>			£25,000.00	
INCLUDING CIL RECEIPTS TOTAL £24,791.46				
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<b>£117,507.42</b>	
	<b>NET</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	
<b>Outstanding payments yet to be cleared</b>				
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS OUTSTANDING</b>			<b>£0.00</b>	
<b>Payments already approved and paid</b>				
BT TELEPHONE/BROADBAND	72.98	14.59	87.57	BT DD9
IBS OFFICE SOLUTIONS - PRINTER COSTS	154.81	30.96	185.77	460789489

ROYAL MAIL - NDP DISTRIBUTION	592.95	118.59	711.54	660577854
JAY PRINTERS - NDP PRINTING	378.00	0.00	378.00	751884545
FRIENDS OF FINCHAMPSTEAD RIDGES	200.00	0.00	200.00	CH300261
<b>PAYMENTS JANUARY 2019</b>				
<b>Staff costs</b>			<b>£5,618.17</b>	
<b>Other costs</b>				
WINDOWFLOWERS LTD - BASKETS	459.75	91.95	551.70	924016371
SSE STREET LIGHT ENERGY	99.88	4.99	104.87	451997889
OFFICE DEPOT	37.49	7.50	44.99	70499274
ROYAL MAIL - DOOR TO DOOR COLLECTION	75.00	15.00	90.00	423321616
HEARTWOOD TREES	1280.00	256.00	1536.00	269317782
S.P.BROMLEY - SPEEDWATCH CAMERA	281.02	56.20	337.22	87465537
<b>Allotment costs</b>				
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<b>Grants and contributions - subject to final approval by Council where reqd</b>				
READIBUS - COMMUNITY TRIPS	78.00	0.00	78.00	159939787
READIBUS - COMMUNITY TRIPS	79.00	0.00	79.00	776370702
FB CHURCH YOUTH WORK	6000.00	0.00	6000.00	86112256
<b>TOTAL JANUARY 2019 PAYMENTS</b>		<b>£581.19</b>	<b>£14,439.95</b>	
<b>TOTAL REMAINING</b>			<b>£103,067.47</b>	
<b>JANUARY PETTY CASH / CARD PAYMENTS</b>				
Total petty cash payments	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Card payments (Clerk)	170.09	32.40	202.49	
Total Card payments (Footpath Warden)	0.00	0.00	0.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£170.09</b>	<b>£32.40</b>	<b>£202.49</b>	