

## FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7 PM ON 20 FEBRUARY 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, G. Jukes OBE, Mrs N. Jennings – Frisby,  
Mrs S. McDonald, R. Marshallsay (part), A. Pearce, R. Rampton, G. Veitch, S. Weeks  
and R. Woof.

Mrs K. Dagnall, Clerk.

#### **79/2019 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs B. Eytel, Mrs R. Margetts and J. May.

#### **80/2019 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

#### **81/2019 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 17 January 2019 were approved and signed as a true and correct record.

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

No members of the public were present.

#### **82/2019 PARKRUN**

Peter Reilly, the Event Director of Parkrun gave a presentation on the new California Parkrun commencing on 23 February 2019. The free 5km jog, run or walk will take place each Saturday morning starting at 9am. The event will be run by volunteers and has been planned with and agreed by Wokingham Borough Council (WBC).

While the Council was supportive of the principle of the event concerns were expressed about participants parking in nearby residential areas and at the FBC Centre rather than at the California Country Park, and about potential conflict with other park users including horse riders and cyclists.

#### **83/2019 CHAIRMANS REPORT**

- Cllr Cundy reminded Councillors about the Annual Gathering on 6 March 2019 starting at 7pm.
- Cllrs Bromley, Cundy, Veitch and Woof and the Clerk met WBC officers on the 25 January 2019 to discuss the WBC 21<sup>st</sup> Century 'Localities Blueprints' initiative. WBC was provided with information about the Parish, local issues and priorities. There is no information yet on the next stage of or completion date for the initiative.

#### **84/2019 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Cllr Veitch reported on the meeting held on 6 February 2019.

##### **Applications**

9 applications were considered.

Objections were lodged against development proposals at:

- Pinewood, Tintagel Road

- 5 Gilbert Way
- 6 Johnson Drive (two applications)
- Model Farm, Barkham Ride

### **Decisions**

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

- |                          |                   |             |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| • 351 Nine Mile Ride     | FPC no objections | WBC refused |
| • Mill Stone, Heath Ride | FPC no objections | WBC refused |
| • 10 Ambler Drive        | FPC objected      | WBC allowed |

### **Other matters**

- There are new Appeals relating to an Annexe at Fleet Rise, Fleet Hill and to Pinecopse, Nine Mile Ride.
- The Appeal relating to caravan storage, repair and maintenance at Tree Tops, Heath Ride was allowed but the Appeal at the same site relating to the proposed erection of 3 dwellings was dismissed.
- The Inquiry relating to proposals for the land to the rear of 6 Johnson Drive will commence on 14 May 2019.
- Cllrs Bromley and Cornish attended and spoke at the Gladman Land Appeal Hearing held on 12 and 13 February relating to proposals for development adjacent to Sand Martins Golf Course on the Finchampstead Road. The Hearing has now been adjourned until 8 April 2019.
- WBC is reducing the consultation period for planning applications from 28 to 21 days from the end of February 2019. WBC has asked that the Parish Council Planning Committee meets every 3 weeks to tie in with this new timescale. The Committee agreed that it will continue to meet every 4 weeks, requesting extensions to the time period for comments when required.

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

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

#### **Financial position**

- |   |            |
|---|------------|
| • Unity Trust Bank                        | £32,383.80 |
| • CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund account | £46,344.41 |
| • CCLA Property Fund                      | £25,000    |
- The above figures include £24,791.46 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts.

The schedule of payments totalling £8868.45 was circulated to all Councillors.

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

#### **Other matters**

- The precept demand has been submitted to WBC.
- Work has started on the end of year closedown and preparation for the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (formerly known as the Annual Return).
- A meeting with a potential web site provider is being arranged.
- The Finchampstead Emergency Response (FER) Working Group is holding a meeting for Early Responders and Refuge representatives on 4 April 2019.

### **AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

Cllr Mrs Driver advised that the Committee met on 30 January.

- A California Crossroads tidy up session will take place on 19 May 2019. This will be the 6<sup>th</sup> session held since 2015.
- Arrangements for the Community Litter Pick on 24 March are in hand. Cllr Mrs McDonald is co-ordinating the event.

The Annual Gathering will be used as an opportunity to promote the Litter Pick and the Adopt a Street scheme.

- The Litter Wardens are working well and have collected around 150 sacks of litter since they started in November 2018.
- Cllr Veitch and the Clerk are meeting a Wokingham Veteran Trees Association and a WBC Officer in March 2019 to discuss the wellingtonia trees on Wellingtonia Avenue and how to ensure that those trees which are on private land are kept in good health. Those on the National Trust land have been surveyed and measures put in place to improve their growing conditions.
- A dedication ceremony is being arranged for the hornbeam tree planted in the St. James' Churchyard to mark the centenary of the end of World War I.
- The Finchampstead Village Fete will be held on 29 June 2019 at the Memorial Park.

#### **RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE**

Cllr Woof reported on current matters.

- The main concern is progressing the completion of the nature reserves at Fleet Hill and Manor Farms so that they and the rights of way within them can be opened to the public. It is understood that WBC Officers will be meeting Cemex UK Ltd. in late March to discuss this.
- The Rights of Way Officer who formerly covered the Parish will now be working in a different area. WBC has not advised who will be covering Finchampstead in future.
- The Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership has provided information on the people counters used on the Blackwater Valley Path. This will be passed to WBC for potential use on the California greenway.

#### **ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Cllr Bromley reported on the meeting held on 13 February 2019.

- WBC has again been asked about the new gateway signs and other signs which it has previously agreed to install.
- Speed Indicator Device (SID) and Post mounted SID updates  
The Post mounted SID's are now in full use and are being well received by the public.

SID sessions continue weekly with reports being provided to Thames Valley Police. The Police are not currently providing any feedback and Cllr Weeks has agreed to follow this up.

Nine Mile Ride (west) continues to be the road with the greatest speeding problem.

- The Committee discussed sharing information from PSID or SID sessions and agreed that the existing 'Road Safety in Finchampstead' information sheet was the best way of explaining the speed watch activities. This will be circulated at regular intervals.

- The condition of our roadsides and pavements is still a concern. WBC is apparently undertaking spot checks on highway contractor performance this month.

Cllr Bromley and the Clerk will be attending a presentation on 18 March about the new WBC Highways Contracts which will be in place from 1 April. It is hoped that these will lead to an improvement in standards.

- The level of traffic in Commonfield Lane was raised. WBC has previously looked at improvements to the Lane but there are currently no plans to make any changes. Cllr Bromley monitors the traffic once a year, at present the only increase in traffic levels is between 8am and 9am. This may change as the Bohunt School expands.

## **85/2019 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

### **Borough / Parish Liaison Forum – 4 February.**

Cllrs Bromley, Cundy and Rampton attended the meeting. Minutes have been circulated.

The next Forum will be held on 1 April 2019 and the main topic will be a discussion / consultation on the draft Borough Community Plan known as Wokingham Together. The Parish Council commented on the first draft of the Plan in October 2018.

### **Gorse Ride Community**

Cllr Bowers reported that the Steering Group met on 8 February. There were two public consultation events on 9 and 15 February on proposals for phase two of the regeneration which will take place in 3 phases between 2020 and 2029. The events were well attended.

It is hoped that the area will be called the Gorse Ride Community in future rather than the Gorse Ride Estate.

## **86/2019 WBC LOCAL PLAN UPDATE CONSULTATION**

Cllrs Cundy, Marshallsay, Veitch and Weeks have drafted a response to the consultation and this was circulated to all Councillors.

There is some concern over the increasing use of the terms 'Finchampstead North' and 'Finchampstead Village'. The relevance of this in planning terms was noted with 'Finchampstead North' being a modest development location and 'Finchampstead Village' a limited development location.

However, this terminology could indicate separate communities whereas the Parish should be regarded as one community. Referring to the 'northern part of Finchampstead' rather than 'Finchampstead North' would be preferable. A comment on this will be added to the consultation response.

The response was approved and will be submitted to WBC.

## **87/2019 WAR MEMORIAL JUNCTION PROPOSALS**

The main concerns over the junction are summarised below.

- The narrow road width adjacent to the Memorial island (and North Court) when travelling south and bearing left towards the Ridges
- The lack of visibility when travelling north from The Village and turning right towards the Ridges
- The narrow width and partly 'blind bend' when travelling north from The Village and continuing north along Jubilee Road
- The safety of the War Memorial itself, a Grade II listed building

- A general dislike of the junction among residents

It was noted that there has been one serious accident and 10 lesser (reported) accidents at the junction in the last 19 years, but there have been many minor incidents.

In view of the above the Parish Council asked WBC to undertake a study of the junction and to develop proposals for improvements to it, primarily in respect of road safety.

The WBC Highway Engineers have produced three options which were circulated along with brief explanatory notes prior to the meeting. Cllr Bromley displayed the proposals and provided further explanation of each of the options.

It was agreed that Councillors should submit brief comments on the 3 options to the Clerk. These will be collated and discussed by the Roads & Road Safety Committee. An additional Committee meeting will be arranged if necessary.

### **88/2019 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Cllr Cornish provided an update on behalf of the Working Group

- Public meetings were held on 21 and 24 January 2019. A total of 44 people attended and around 20 volunteers have come forward to assist with the Plan. The first meeting will be held on 26 February 2019.
- A presentation was given explaining the current position.
- The next stage is to apply to WBC for the formal designation of a Neighbourhood Area. This was approved and the application will be submitted to WBC.

### **89/2019 ARBORFIELD STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT LOCATION (SDL)**

- Cllr Pearce attended the Community Liaison Forum on 30 January 2019. Notes have been circulated.
- Cllrs Bromley, Cundy and Veitch and the Clerk had a presentation from Crest Nicholson on 31 January on their updated proposals for the District Centre at Arborfield Green.
- The decision not to provide health facilities at Arborfield Green is a concern and the Clerk will be writing to Dr Philip Lee MP on the matter.

### **90/2019 CORRESPONDENCE.**

The FBC Centre has expressed its thanks for the grant to be awarded for the hall and loft floor improvements.

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

### **91/2019 FORUM**

- Cllr Bromley advised that the knee rails adjacent to the Memorial Park are in place and are working well with more people now using the car park.
- Cllr Veitch expressed concerns over the proposed work at Horseshoe Lake and the potential impact of the greatly increased number of visitors on the site and the surrounding roads. The changes may also adversely impact the Moor Green Lakes Nature Reserve and cause over use of its car park.
- Cllr Veitch noted a spate of fly tipping in Lower Sandhurst Road and Dell Road.

### **92/2019 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 21 March 2019 at the Memorial Hall.

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

**FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL - PAYMENT LIST 20 FEBRUARY 2019**

<b>UNITY TRUST BANK ACCOUNT/10/02/19</b>			£32,383.80	
<b>CCLA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 31/01/19</b>			£46,344.41	
<b>CCLA PROPERTY FUND 31/03/18</b>			£25,000.00	
INCLUDING CIL RECEIPTS TOTAL £24,791.46				
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<b>£103,728.21</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 DD9A
FPMC - MEMORIAL HALL HIRE 24/1/19	48.50	0.00	48.50	664210712
<b>PAYMENTS FEBRUARY 2019</b>				
<b>Total Staff costs</b>			<b>£5,618.00</b>	
<b>Other costs</b>				
FBC CENTRE - OFFICE RENT	781.64	0.00	781.64	92370211
FBC CENTRE - OFFICE SERVICE CHARGE	758.25	0.00	758.25	"
RBS SOFTWARE - ASSET MGMT SOFTWARE	336.50	67.30	403.80	638945955
GREENHAM - LITTER PICKERS	42.30	8.46	50.76	963103744
<b>Allotment costs</b>				
SMALLWOOD-BARRIER SUPPLY/INSTALLATION	890.00	178.00	1068.00	84967899
<b>Grants and contributions - subject to final approval by Council where reqd</b>				
READIBUS - COMMUNITY TRIPS	188.00	0.00	188.00	259229815
<b>TOTAL FEBRUARY 2019 PAYMENTS</b>		<b>£253.76</b>	<b>£8,868.45</b>	
<b>TOTAL REMAINING</b>			<b>£94,859.76</b>	
<b>FEBRUARY PETTY CASH / CARD PAYMENTS</b>				
Total petty cash payments	9.68	0.00	9.68	
Total Card payments (Clerk)	271.11	48.16	319.27	
Total Card payments (Footpath Warden)	0.00	0.00	0.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£280.79</b>	<b>£48.16</b>	<b>£328.95</b>	