

## FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30 PM ON 21 MARCH 2019 AT THE MEMORIAL HALL, THE VILLAGE, FINCHAMPSTEAD

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**PRESENT:** Cllr R. Cundy, Chair; Cllr S. Bromley, Vice Chair.  
Cllrs D. Cornish, Mrs B. Eytley, G. Jukes OBE, Mrs N. Jennings – Frisby, Mrs R. Margetts, J. May, Mrs S. McDonald, A. Pearce, R. Rampton and G. Veitch.

Mrs K. Dagnall, Clerk.

#### **117/2019 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs S. Bowers, Mrs C. Driver, R. Marshallsay, S. Weeks and R. Woof.

#### **118/2019 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

#### **119/2019 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 20 February 2019 were approved and signed as a true and correct record.

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

No members of the public were present.

#### **120/2019 CHAIRMANS REPORT**

- The Annual Gathering held on 6 March was successful with over 100 attendees. There has been positive feedback from several people.

The 2020 Annual Gathering will be held on 11 March. The Committee reports and a Neighbourhood Development Plan report may be enough and a decision will be made nearer the time on whether an additional speaker is required.

- A presentation on Parkrun and the new California Parkrun was given at the previous meeting. Concerns were raised about the impact on the Park, conflict with other users and parking in residential roads. The first run was on 23 February and these have continued each Saturday since then. The runs have been popular and no issues have been raised to date.
- The new Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) Chief Executive starts in post this month.
- There has been no further information on the WBC Localities programme or Blueprints. There seems to be some confusion over the role of the Localities Officers and whether they cover specific areas or the whole Borough. The Clerk will continue to seek clarification on this and on who if anyone is covering the Parish.

#### **121/2019 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Cllr Veitch reported on the meeting held on 5 March 2019.

Prior to the Committee meeting Millgate Homes presented their proposals for 44 dwellings forming Parcel AA on the Arborfield Development, on the site of the former Sergeant's Mess.

## **Applications**

14 applications were considered.

Objections were lodged against development proposals at:

- Land east of Finchampstead Road (within Wokingham Town)
- Lakeside Retreat, New Mill Road
- 17 Cricket Hill

There were no objections to proposals at 25 Heather Close, but comments were submitted about the close proximity to the boundary of the adjacent property.

## **Decisions**

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

- |                            |                   |             |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| • Longmoor Farm, Park Lane | FPC no objections | WBC refused |
| • 5 Gilbert Way            | FPC objected      | WBC allowed |
| • 29 Ravenswood Avenue     | FPC no objections | WBC refused |

## **Other matters**

- The Gladman Land Appeal Hearing relating to proposals for development adjacent to Sand Martins Golf Course on the Finchampstead Road will resume on 8 April.
- Cllrs Marshallsay, Veitch and the Assistant to the Clerk will be meeting on 11 April to discuss enforcement matters.

## **FINANCE & GENERAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

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

### **Financial position**

- Unity Trust Bank £23,231.61
- CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund account £46,385.35
- CCLA Property Fund £25,000
- The above figures include £24,791.46 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts.

The schedule of payments totalling £7590.20 was circulated to all Councillors. A donation to the Finchampstead Baptist Church for refreshments for the Community Litter Pick was agreed.

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

### **Other matters**

- The Internal Auditor has met the Clerk and found that all matters are in order.
- The Clerk has started work on the end of year procedures and closedown.
- The Communications and Consultation Working Group are meeting a potential web site provider on 22 March.
- The 2018/19 Annual Report will be distributed to all households in the Parish during April. The Report was given to those attending the Annual Gathering and has been circulated to those on the e distribution list.
- The Finchampstead Emergency Response (FER) Working Group is holding a meeting for Early Responders and Refuge representatives on 4 April.
- A reminder that all Cllrs should use their official email addresses for correspondence.

## **AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

- Cllr Mrs McDonald advised that all arrangements are in place for the Community Litter Pick on 24 March. Approximately 300 volunteers will be taking part, the largest groups are at the FBC

Centre, The Village and Heath Ride with a few other smaller groups (Hollybush Ride, Pine Drive, Waverley Way) and several individuals taking part.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Finchampstead Scout Group is taking part by litter picking the California Country Park, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Finchampstead Cub Scouts are joining the FBC litter pick.

The Finchampstead Litter Pick is the largest event in Wokingham Borough.

- Cllr Veitch and the Clerk have met a Wokingham Veteran Trees Association 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. The intention is to liaise with residents to ensure the trees are surveyed and to ensure that any necessary work is undertaken.

Those trees on the National Trust land have been surveyed and measures have been put in place to improve their growing conditions.

It was noted that as well as being a local asset the Avenue may be of national significance.

- There have been some concerns expressed on social media about refuse and recycling collections being combined, defeating the object of recycling. While best practice is for the refuse collectors to keep the recycling separate from the refuse, in practice the sophisticated sorting at the Re3 Recycling Facility means that the items are separated at that point.

This matter was also raised at the recent Finchampstead Neighbourhood Action Group meeting and a visit to the Recycling Facility is being arranged.

- The new seats at the California Ratepayers Hall bus stop will be installed next week.

### **RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE**

Cllr Cornish reported on the meeting held on 13 March and current matters.

- WBC Officers have a meeting with Cemex at the end of March about the Fleet Hill Farm and Manor Farm sites and we will continue to push for answers about when the sites will be completed and open to the public.

This impacts on plans to improve other parts of the network especially FP33 which is in very poor condition.

- The condition of the byways is a concern for many residents but WBC has limited resources to improve these at the moment. The stretch of Heath Ride (BW24) leading to Wellingtonia Avenue needs improvement, particularly as WBC is promoting it as a cycle route. WBC has again been asked to look at this and a contribution has been offered from the Parish Council.
- Cllr Woof and the Clerk will be discussing how to progress with proposals to improve the drainage on BP26.
- The WBC Rights of Way Improvement Plan was discussed at the meeting. WBC has since advised that it plans to assess and review the Plan this year and has requested comments by the end of April.
- Cllr Woof and the Clerk will be discussing how to identify any paths within or around areas of housing which should be designated as rights of way before the 2026 deadline in order to protect them for the future.

- The Clerk is looking for a company which can redraw and update the footpath map.
- The missing bridge on the Greenway will be installed by or during May. It is assumed that the outstanding link paths from Heather Close and the lakeside path will be completed at the same time but it is still unclear if the Carolina Place link will be surfaced.

The next Greenway will run from Arborfield Green to the North Wokingham SDL. A public consultation on the proposals is underway.

- Cllr Mrs Margetts was welcomed to the Committee.

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

Cllr Bromley reported on current matters.

- SID sessions continue weekly. Thames Valley Police is no longer acknowledging or providing feedback on the reports supplied – Cllr Weeks is following this up as is WBC Cllr Stanton on behalf of the Neighbourhood Action Group.

There is increasing concern over the continued speeding on Nine Mile Ride and Longwater Road.

- Avery Corner Car Park  
Traffic Wardens have recently issued tickets to people parking in the school drop off zone outside of drop off times.

WBC has advised that the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) that supports enforcement at this location states that vehicles must park within a marked bay. The drop off point is marked with a hatched marking confirming it to be a drop off point only. WBC did not make this clear when they designed and implemented the scheme on behalf of the Parish Council. Cllrs Bromley and Weeks are following this up with WBC to see if the TRO can be amended or if an alternative solution can be found.

- There have been minor improvements to the condition of some roadsides and footways within the Parish.

Cllr Cundy and the Clerk attended a presentation on 18 March about the new WBC Highways Alliance and contracts to come in to place from 1 April 2019.

From 1 April there will be a new improved online reporting system HIMS (Highway Management Information System) accessed through the WBC website, along with a smartphone app.

- War Memorial junction  
As agreed at the previous Main Council meeting a separate meeting is being arranged for the Roads & Road Safety Committee and other interested Cllrs to discuss the next stage with the project.

### **122/2019 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

#### **Finchampstead Neighbourhood Action Group – 5 March 2019**

Cllr Bromley advised that concerns were raised about the increasing number of vacant properties on Gorse Ride and a spate of petty thefts associated with this. WBC will be asked to ensure that vacant properties are properly secured.

South East Water will be commencing work in Gorse Ride South and Billing Avenue in July 2019, there is concern about how the routing of the new pipes will tie in with the regeneration of the area

and the proposed new road layout.

### **123/2019 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Cllr Cornish provided an update on behalf of the Working Group

- The first meetings for volunteers took place on 26 February and 19 March. These were well attended and there are now over 20 active volunteers involved with the project.
- An application was submitted to WBC for the formal designation of a Neighbourhood Area and this has now been approved.

<http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/planning-policy/planning-policy-information/neighbourhood-planning/>

- Interviews with potential Planning Consultants took place on 18 March and a company has been selected.

### **124/2019 ARBORFIELD STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT LOCATION (SDL)**

Cllr Cundy advised that the Community Liaison Officer at Arborfield Green has asked for comments on a proposal to hold a monthly Farmers' Market. The Clerk will confirm that the Council has no objections to the proposal.

The next Community Liaison meeting is on 9 May. Cllr May will attend.

The Clerk has asked for information on when the equine sculptures will be installed by the A327 roundabout. The feature will be within Finchampstead Parish.

The Arborfield Green Summer Fete will be held on 22 June.

### **125/2019 CORRESPONDENCE.**

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

### **126/2019 FORUM**

- A lunch for Cllrs and staff will be arranged for April or May.
- The 'Next Door' social network was discussed.

### **127/2019 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 17 April 2019 at the FBC Centre.

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

**FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL - PAYMENT LIST 21 MARCH 2019**

UNITY TRUST BANK ACCOUNT 08/03/19			£23,231.61	
CCLA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 28/02/19			£46,385.35	
CCLA PROPERTY FUND 31/03/18			£25,000.00	
INCLUDING CIL RECEIPTS OF £24,791.46				
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<b>£94,616.96</b>	
	<b>NET</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	
Outstanding payments yet to be cleared				
<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 DD11
<b>PAYMENTS MARCH 2019</b>				
<b>Staff costs</b>			<b>£5,490.07</b>	
<b>Other costs</b>				
OFFICE DEPOT - STATIONERY	47.00	9.40	56.40	510355260
RBS SOFTWARE - ALLOTMENT SUPPORT	119.00	23.80	142.80	166305821
JAY PRINTERS - ANNUAL REPORT PRINT	152.00	0.00	152.00	245637279
NBB RECYCLED FURNITURE-BUS STOP SEATS	240.00	48.00	288.00	347715625
NALC - DIRECT INFORMATION SERVICE	135.00	27.00	162.00	488447958
FBC - LITTER PICK REFRESHMENTS	120.00	0.00	120.00	977603164
R. CUNDY - ANNUAL GATHERING EXPENSES	160.05	9.17	169.22	481749203
R CUNDY - CHAIRMANS EXPENSES	397.80	0.00	397.80	150108394
<b>Allotment costs</b>				
CASTLE WATER	454.91	0.00	454.91	427902884
<b>Grants and contributions - subject to final approval by Council where required</b>				
READIBUS - COMMUNITY TRIPS	157.00	0.00	157.00	410071689
<b>TOTAL MARCH 2019 PAYMENTS</b>		<b>£117.37</b>	<b>£7,590.20</b>	
<b>TOTAL REMAINING</b>			<b>£87,026.76</b>	
<b>MARCH PETTY CASH / CARD PAYMENTS</b>				
Total petty cash payments	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Card payments (Clerk)	27.05	5.41	32.46	
Total Card payments (Footpath Warden)	0.00	0.00	0.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£27.05</b>	<b>£5.41</b>	<b>£32.46</b>	