

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 1 MARCH 2017 AT 7.30PM FBC CENTRE, GORSE RIDE NORTH FINCHAMPSTEAD, BERKSHIRE RG40 4ES

PRESENT: Cllr Bromley, Chair. Cllr May, Vice Chair.
Cllrs Bowers, Rampton, Weeks.

Mrs Dagnall, Clerk.

91/2017 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Cundy and Marshallsay.

92/2017 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

93/2017 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 October 2016 were agreed and signed as a true record.

94/2017 MATTERS ARISING

409/2016 Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE)

Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) gave a presentation at the Borough/ Parish Liaison Forum held in January 2017. Work is progressing and the scheme is expected to go live on 2 October 2017. WBC will be approaching Town and Parish Councils regarding potential Service Level Agreements through which the Local Councils can buy into the scheme and secure a higher level of service and / or additional services if required.

409/2016 WBC Street Lighting Upgrade

The WBC contract to replace or upgrade lamp columns runs to March 2018, some lantern replacement in Finchampstead is included in the current phase running to the end of March 2017.

The lamp column at the Memorial Park has been replaced and will be included in the Council's maintenance contract from 1 April 2017.

414/2016 Parking in The Village / at the Memorial Hall

The verge adjacent to the Memorial Park is being damaged due to parking by residents, for sports fixtures and for school drop off and pick up. The Finchampstead Park Management Committee (FPMC) is obtaining quotes for potential installation of a knee rail to prevent parking, although this would lead to more parking on the road itself. An alternative option would be to create an informal parking area similar to that by the entrance gate to the Park. It was acknowledged that this is a seasonal issue.

It was agreed that Cllrs May and Weeks would discuss this informally with local residents to assess the level of concern about the issue. It was also agreed that improved management of the parking at the Memorial Park / Sports Club car park would help alleviate the issue, and that this will be raised again at the next FPMC meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

No members of the public were present.

95/2017 INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2016/17

A report showing the current position was circulated. No issues were raised. It was noted that expenditure on the Avery Corner Car Park within the current financial year is unlikely (see item 100/2017 below).

96/2017 DATA LOGGER (SDR), SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE (SID) AND TRAFFIC SPEED ISSUES

- Cllr Bromley now prepares the SID session rota. Weekly sessions are now programmed to the end of April, with 14 volunteers and 2 Thames Valley Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) involved.
- Information on the outcomes of sessions held over the last year was circulated and has been used to identify the priority sites for monitoring.
- The potential for pole mounted static speed indicator device (SID) signs was discussed at the previous meeting. This has now been discussed with Thames Valley Police (TVP) who have provided an alternative supplier – Traffic Technology Ltd.. Cllr Bromley will follow this up and request a demonstration of the equipment.
- Neighbouring Parishes continue to express interest in the traffic monitoring issues. Cllr Bromley is meeting representatives from Woodley Town Council on 10 March 2017. Information and advice has also been provided to Barkham and Shinfield Parish Councils, and also Eversley and Binfield Parish Councils which are outside Wokingham Borough.
- Thames Valley Police is hoping to arrange a Borough wide 'Speedwatch', with equipment purchased with contributions from Town and Parish Councils and used on a rotational basis. Councils such as Finchampstead with their own equipment and established systems will continue as they are.
- WBC has requested comments on a proposed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for part of Nash Grove Lane prior to the formal consultation on the TRO. Following discussion at Main Council on 15 February 2017 the Clerk forwarded a number of comments and queries to WBC and a lengthy response has now been received. It was agreed that no further comments would be submitted.
- Cllr Weeks advised that following the announcement that the Nine Mile Ride cycleway proposal has been shelved, the four WBC Cllrs for Finchampstead have requested that alternative options are looked at to provide safe routes to the Bohunt School in both the short and longer term.

97/2017 CHURCH LANE / WHITE HORSE LANE JUNCTION

Cllrs Bromley and May met a WBC Highways Officer and St James' Church representatives to discuss ways to improve safety at the junction, along with required road repairs. A plan showing the proposed works and a quotation were circulated prior to the meeting.

The areas in question are on Church property not public highway, and the Church has committed to pay for the road repairs required at the junction.

It was agreed to progress the project to extend the verge to prevent parking at the junction and so improve sight lines. A maximum budget of £1300 was agreed, subject to obtaining a further quotation for the works. It was noted that Cllr Weeks was not in support of the project.

WBC has agreed to install a low level crossroads sign on White Horse Lane north of the junction, and in future will be looking at improvements to signage and road markings on the Lane. At that stage potential changes in priority will be considered.

98/2017 WAR MEMORIAL JUNCTION

WBC has agreed to provide costings for a professional survey and study of the junction, which would include recommendations and options to improve road safety.

WBC plans to refresh the road markings within the next 2 months, but does not support changes to signage.

The Clerk has spoken informally to a local transport expert who is happy to assist. Cllr Weeks will follow this up.

99/2017 VILLAGE GATEWAYS PROJECT

Cllrs Bromley and May met a WBC Highways Officer on 23 June 2016 to discuss the potential for gateway signs for Wellingtonia Avenue. WBC has agreed a location for one sign, and is considering an offset post to allow installation of a second sign which would otherwise overhang the highway.

100/2017 AVERY CORNER CAR PARK

In June 2016 WBC Officers agreed to provide costs for the remarking of the car park and creation of additional parking bays, and the creation of a school drop off zone. Despite several follow ups costs have still not been provided. Cllr Weeks agreed to follow this up with WBC.

A second future phase of the scheme will aim to remove a telegraph pole to allow the car park entrance to be widened, and the direction of flow in the car park to be changed.

A letter has been sent to shops and businesses requesting that staff do not park in the parking bays at the crossroads. Cllr Bromley advised that recent issues with contractor vehicles parking in the bays have been resolved.

101/2017 MAJOR PROJECT CO-ORDINATION MEETINGS

Cllr Bromley attended the meeting held on 21 February 2017. Notes have been circulated.

102/2017 ROAD AND FOOTWAY CONDITION ISSUES

- Church Lane – verges and drains have been damaged by contractor vehicles and also an HGV. This has been reported to WBC and the Police, and WBC is following this up.

Cllr May has also received complaints about other parts of Church Lane with issues linked to temporary building work.

- Wellingtonia Avenue was resurfaced in January 2017.
- There are a large number of pot holes on local roads, the Clerk and others have reported several to WBC.
- Cllr Mrs Driver raised concerns over the footway leading into the FBC Centre car park from Gorse Ride North. This comes to a dead end and pedestrians then have to use the entrance road to the car park which is particularly dangerous when vehicles are parked along the entrance road. Cllrs Cundy and Weeks will raise this at the next FBC Advisory Board meeting. Cllr Weeks also commented on the lack of lighting in parts of the car park.

103/2017 INCIDENT REPORTS

- A local resident has reported several incidents with large vehicles using Park Lane. This has been reported to the businesses concerned and Developers connected to the Arborfield Development. Thames Valley Police has distributed fliers to local businesses advising of the restrictions on the Lane, and Cllr Bromley has visited a number of businesses in person.

104/2017 CORRESPONDENCE

- WBC issued a Local Transport Plan consultation which was completed by Cllrs Bromley and Woof in December 2016.
- Letter and details regarding revised vehicle and pedestrian access routes around Sheerlands Road from 11 February 2017.
- WBC press release proposing that the school crossing patrol service ceases at 8 locations where there are safe crossing points, with a further 7 sites to be reviewed.

105/2017 FORUM

- The main Annual Litter Pick will be held on 19 March 2017, involving the FBC Centre team and others. Litter picks in The Village, and in the California Country Park (involving the local Scout Group) will take place on 26 March 2017.
- A further California Crossroads Tidy Up session will take place on 2 April 2017.
- Cllr Bromley advised that work to extend the Doctor's Surgery starts shortly and the number of parking spaces at the Surgery will be reduced for the duration of the work. Temporary parking for up to 6 staff may be provided at the California Hall.
- Cllr Bowers thanked Cllr Bromley for his work on traffic monitoring activities and queried how this would continue without Cllr Bromley. This will be considered as part of the Business Continuity Plan currently being drawn up.
- Cllr Weeks advised that former Cllr Dr John Dewhurst has passed away.

106/2017 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 5 July 2017.

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