

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25 OCTOBER 2017 AT 7.30PM FBC CENTRE, GORSE RIDE NORTH FINCHAMPSTEAD, BERKSHIRE RG40 4ES

PRESENT: Cllr Bromley, Chair. Cllr May, Vice Chair.
Cllrs Bowers, Cundy, Eyle, Marshallsay, Rampton and Weeks.

Mrs Dagnall, Clerk.

410/2017 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All Committee members were present.

411/2017 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

412/2017 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2017 were agreed and signed as a true record.

413/2017 MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Bromley advised that there have been a number of staff changes at Wokingham Borough Council and a meeting with a new member of the Highways team is planned to discuss various outstanding matters and other matters which arise from the Committee meeting.

272/2017 Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE)

WBC introduced CPE in October 2017. Cllrs Bromley and Cundy attended a WBC briefing session on 25 September 2017.

WBC has been asked for a rate for additional enforcement in the Parish. This and the potential introduction of timed bays at the California Crossroads will be raised at the meeting to be arranged with WBC.

272/2017 WBC Street Lighting Upgrade

WBC will be taking over the six columns on Nine Mile Ride which are owned by the Parish Council once the lanterns are replaced - these are not included in the current phase of works. The Clerk will inform the energy supplier of the change in responsibility at the appropriate time.

The Clerk has contacted WBC regarding the possibility of WBC taking over the remaining 6 Parish owned columns. WBC refused, largely due to setting a precedent. The Clerk will raise this again and ask if WBC would take the columns if a payment was offered.

272/2017 Parking in The Village / at the Memorial Hall

The Finchampstead Park Management Committee (FPMC) has marked out the Memorial Hall / Sports Club car park to maximise the use of the available space. It is also planning to extend the existing knee rail along the length of the verge to prevent parking. Cllr Bromley will be progressing this.

272/2017 War Memorial junction

There has been no response to requests for information about the proposed study of the junction, or of the Council's offer of potential support for the study. This will be raised at a meeting to be arranged with WBC.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

No members of the public were present.

414/2017 DATA LOGGER (SDR), SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE (SID) AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Cllr Weeks advised that the Thames Valley Police enforcement sessions which take place once a month in each of the 3 priority locations in the Parish – The Village, Nine Mile Ride and Longwater Road – have resulted in 2571 tickets being issued in the last 3 years. The highest number are issued for offences in Longwater Road.

Cllr Bromley advised that SID sessions are operating again now that Thames Valley Police resources are back in place to send the follow up letters. A new rota is now in place with 12 sessions planned between November 2017 and January 2018.

Residents have been in contact regarding various traffic and parking issues. Reports of speeding in Wellingtonia Avenue are being followed up with SDR monitoring, and a SID session will be arranged if necessary. The issue is thought to have arisen as a result of the resurfacing of the Avenue.

Following SDR monitoring and a SID session in Gorse Ride North WBC installed its Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) for around 2 weeks. WBC has been asked if a flashing school sign as used on other roads close to schools could be installed, and / or road markings. This will be followed up at the meeting to be arranged with WBC.

Nine Mile Ride will be monitored once the roadworks are complete in order to assess the impact of the reduction in speed limit.

Commonfield Lane has been monitored in relation to ongoing discussions over the form of crossing on the Lane. There is a high volume of traffic but not a speeding issue. WBC has confirmed that the crossing will remain uncontrolled, but this will be kept under review.

WBC has been asked about the recalibration of the Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) on the Finchampstead Road. This will be followed up at the meeting to be arranged.

The Fleet Hill road safety scheme will be implemented during the week commencing 30 October 2017. This relates to the reduction in the speed limit from 50 to 40 mph and includes installation of a VAS.

The Clerk is following up a query regarding air quality monitoring at the California Crossroads

415/2017 POLE MOUNTED SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE (SID)

Cllr Bromley advised that a pole mounted SID has been loaned from the supplier and has been installed on Longwater Road for several days. SDR reports show that it has been very effective in reducing traffic speed.

The SID was viewed by the Committee. The bracket is large and substantial so could not be left on lamp columns, it is also awkward to fit.

It was agreed that Cllrs Bromley and Cundy would look into simpler alternatives, such as those used in Eversley Parish. Cllr Cundy volunteered to run the scheme if and when a unit is purchased although back up would be required for holiday periods.

The potential use of a unit in the Parish will be raised with WBC at the meeting to be arranged.

416/2017 CHURCH LANE / WHITE HORSE LANE JUNCTION

The agreed works to help improve safety at the junction will be implemented during November 2017.

WBC had committed to install a cross roads sign on White Horse Lane but this has not been done and will be raised with WBC. WBC will also be asked about other ways of improving safety such as changing priorities and / or road markings.

417/2017 VILLAGE GATEWAYS PROJECT

Cllrs Bromley and May met a WBC Highways Officer in June 2016 to discuss the potential for gateway signs for Wellingtonia Avenue.

Cllr Bromley has recently asked WBC about the possibility of gateway signs on the sections of Nine Mile Ride extension and Park Lane where a 30mph speed limit is now in place.

The B3348 Fleet Hill is another potential site now that the speed limit has been reduced. An option could be to install a 'Welcome to Finchampstead' without a speed limit reminder on the bridge, and a gateway on Fleet Hill.

The variation in size of gateway signs and the above matters will be raised at the meeting to be arranged with WBC.

418/2017 AVERY CORNER CAR PARK

WBC has now provided 3 options for layout improvements at the car park. It was agreed that the priorities are to maximise the number of parking spaces and to create a drop off zone. A meeting is being arranged with WBC in early November to discuss the options.

It was noted that there may be further modifications as part of the wider California Crossroads improvement project which will be implemented at some point in the future.

419/2017 INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2017/18 AND BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2018/19

A report showing the current position was circulated. It was noted that funds are also committed to the work at the Church Lane / White Horse Lane junction noted under 416/2017 above.

It was agreed that the 2018/19 budget should have similar lines, without the Avery Car Park (assuming work is completed this financial year), and without street lighting improvements as this work is now complete. Provision for street light energy and maintenance will be reduced in line with the reduced number of columns and improved energy efficiency. Other sums can be similar to 2017/18.

It was also agreed that £2000 should be included for additional parking enforcement.

420/2017 MAJOR PROJECT CO-ORDINATION MEETINGS

Recent meetings have been reported at Main Council. The next Major Projects meeting is on 26 October 2017.

421/2017 ROAD AND FOOTWAY CONDITION ISSUES

Encroaching vegetation is an issue in a number of areas. The Clerk will include this in a newsletter. Specific examples can be forwarded to the Clerk for reporting to WBC.

422/2017 INCIDENT REPORTS

- An incident at the California Crossroads overnight on 17/18 October 2017 resulted in damage to and loss of some of the railings on the traffic islands. The Police were in pursuit of the vehicle concerned.

423/2017 CORRESPONDENCE

- No correspondence has been received that has not already been noted.

424/2017 FORUM

- WBC has introduced a new app for reporting issues but this is not fully operational.
- The Clerk will look into the 'My Council' app.
- Cllr Rampton advised that most of the lamp columns in Foxcote are not working. Cllr Weeks will follow this up.
- Regulations regarding roundels were discussed – this will be raised at the meeting with WBC.
- Cllr Weeks advised that Thames Valley Police (TVP) Inspector Donachy is taking over as Chief Inspector for Hampshire and TVP Inspector Lloyd will be covering the Finchampstead area.

425/2017 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be confirmed in due course.

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