

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2018 AT 7.30PM FBC CENTRE, GORSE RIDE NORTH FINCHAMPSTEAD, BERKSHIRE RG40 4ES

PRESENT: Cllr Bromley, Chair. Cllr May, Vice Chair.
Cllr Bowers, Cllr Cundy, Cllr Jukes OBE, Cllr Marshallsay, Cllr Rampton and
Cllr Weeks.

Mrs Dagnall, Clerk.

76/2018 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All Committee members were present.

77/2018 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

78/2018 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 October 2017 were agreed and signed as a true record.

79/2018 MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Bromley advised that a meeting with the new Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) Highways Team took place on 14 November 2017. This provided useful updates on a number of matters which will be covered below and in other agenda items.

413/2017 Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE)

WBC introduced CPE in October 2017 and has confirmed that it will in future be able to provide additional enforcement for the Parish at a rate of around £10 to £15 per hour.

The potential introduction of timed bays at the shop frontages at the California Crossroads has been discussed with WBC. WBC has agreed to progress with a Traffic Regulation Order provided that the local shops and businesses and the Parish Council support the proposal.

Cllr Bromley has advised WBC that liaison with the local shops and businesses over the last few years has shown that they are fully supportive of the introduction of timed bays. Cllr Bromley or the Clerk will ask WBC if further evidence of this is required.

The Committee agreed that the introduction of 1 hour timed bays at the shop frontages with no return within 2 hours would be supported. In addition the introduction of up to 8 timed bays allowing 2 hour stays in the Avery Corner Car Park would be supported, with both proposals subject to approval at the next Main Council meeting.

Cllr Weeks agreed to speak to the owner of JATS Pharmacy over the use of its car park by Tooth Booth staff.

413/2017 WBC Street Lighting Upgrade

WBC has still not confirmed when it will take over the six columns on Nine Mile Ride which are currently owned by the Parish Council. It is assumed this will be after the columns are replaced which should be before 31 March 2018.

The Clerk will inform the energy supplier of the change in responsibility at the appropriate time.

WBC has declined the offer to take over the remaining 6 columns owned by the Parish Council. The Clerk will contact WBC again over this and will ask if a commuted sum would make a difference.

413/2017 Parking in The Village / at the Memorial Hall

The Finchampstead Park Management Committee (FPMC) is still planning to extend the existing knee rail along the length of the verge to prevent parking. The utility searches are complete and when the contractor has provided a start date Cllr Bromley will request a works permit from WBC.

413/2017 War Memorial junction

WBC has confirmed it has no plans to undertake a study of the junction to look at potential safety improvements. WBC has however suggested that it could install vehicle activated warning signs (VAS) at the junction. It was agreed that Cllr Bromley would progress this with WBC, with the exact location of the VAS to be left to the discretion of the Highway Officers.

416/2017 Church Lane / White Horse Lane

The island and road repairs have been completed, apart from the installation of reflective discs. The island needs to be planted or grassed, with access provided to the Parish noticeboard. The Clerk will progress this.

WBC Highways and Transport Communication Briefing Session.

Cllrs Bromley, Cundy and Weeks attended the session on 26 February 2018. WBC has recognised that it needs to improve its communications over highway works given the extent of the works which will be taking place in the coming years. 24/7 working was discussed and supported by a high proportion of the attendees so this may be progressed by WBC.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

No members of the public were present.

80/2018 INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2017/18

A report showing the current position was circulated prior to and at the meeting. No issues were raised. It was noted that the budget is underspent, largely due to the Avery Car Park works now being funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy. However, proposals for further expenditure would be discussed under agenda item 83/2018 below.

81/2018 HOUSEHOLD CONSULTATION

The consultation undertaken in November 2017 identified Roads and Road Safety as the second highest priority for residents.

The Clerk has started to group the comments in to various categories including road and footway condition, speeding, road safety and other areas. The next stage will be to identify what if any action can be taken – this may be raising awareness of current activities, referring to WBC or taking direct action.

Cllr Jukes offered to assist with the work and the Clerk will arrange a meeting to progress this.

82/2018 DATA LOGGER (SDR), SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE (SID) AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MATTERS

Residents have raised issues at Reading Road and at Wimbushes. These have now been resolved with no further action required.

A resident has raised concerns over speeding on the Finchampstead Road between the California Crossroads and the Doctors surgery. SID sessions have taken place here in the early morning when speeding was recorded as being a problem, this has now improved but speeding during the day is increasing. Cllr Bromley has arranged a meeting with the Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) to discuss the next stage.

The stretch of the Nine Mile Ride (west) where the speed limit has been reduced from 40mph to 30mph is being regularly monitored. SID sessions have taken place and WBC has installed its VAS signs. Despite this speeding is now worse than when the 40mph limit was in place. Cllr Bromley has asked Thames Valley Police to carry out additional enforcement.

Cllr Weeks agreed to ask WBC to install signs advising of the change in speed limit.

The Bohunt School reported problems of speeding in its car park at drop off and pick up times. Cllr Bromley has advised the School to put up 10mph speed limit signs, and as a good will gesture visited the School with the SID and carried out sessions with teachers and pupils.

The publication of data collected from SID sessions was discussed and examples of information on the Shinfield Parish Council website and Facebook Page were circulated. This could be beneficial in raising awareness of the Council's activities and of speeding issues, but could be time consuming and may not be best use of resources. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask Shinfield Parish Council how their reports are generated and what feedback has been received.

It was agreed that an information board stating that a speed awareness session is taking place would be useful, for placing on the roadside for drivers to see after they have passed the SID.

It was noted that a risk assessment has been drafted for SID sessions and the assessment for SDR use has been updated. These are with the Risk Assessment Working Group for comment.

The Clerk received a query about air quality monitoring at the California Crossroads and has undertaken some research. The Crossroads is not monitored, only 3 locations in the Borough are – the M4, Twyford crossroads and Wokingham Town Centre which are all designated as Air Quality Management Zones. The closest monitoring to Finchampstead was on the A327 at Arborfield but this stopped in 2012 as levels were below the level where action needs to be taken.

WBC has said that it will collect air quality base data and noise level base data prior to any work commencing at the Crossroads, and then again after the work has been completed.

83/2018 POLE MOUNTED SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE (SID)/ DIGITAL CAMERA PURCHASE

The Finchampstead Neighbourhood Action Group submitted a grant application to the Public Protection Community Fund (PPCF) for a pole mounted SID, and the Parish Council submitted an application for a digital camera to assist with SID sessions. Neither application was successful.

A report was circulated prior to and at the meeting summarising the background and the potential benefits of the equipment.

It was agreed that the purchase of a digital camera should be deferred as the expense may not be justified for use only at one SID session per week. The camera could be utilised for longer periods but this would generate a lot more data and therefore additional work for Thames Valley Police, which may not have the resources to deal with this. Cllr Bromley will follow this up with the Police and will also contact Woodley Town Council which operates a similar camera.

The PPCF has advised that there will be another round of funding. A further application for a camera could be submitted at that time.

It was agreed that two pole mounted SID's should be purchased at a total cost of £6450 (net) including additional brackets and a data collection unit. The purchase is subject to approval at the next Main Council meeting.

84/2018 VILLAGE GATEWAYS PROJECT

The variation in the size of gateway signs has been raised with WBC and in future any new or replacement signs will be the smaller size. A number of the signs are damaged and this has been reported to WBC.

Future potential sites include Wellingtonia Avenue, the Nine Mile Ride extension and Park Lane.

The B3348 Fleet Hill is another potential site now that the speed limit has been reduced to 40mph. An option could be to install a 'Welcome to Finchampstead' without a speed limit reminder on the bridge, and a gateway on Fleet Hill.

85/2018 AVERY CORNER CAR PARK

A scheme to improve the layout of the car park and create a school drop off zone has now been agreed and WBC has been given the go ahead to implement this as soon as possible. This will be during a school holiday – the timing will be confirmed shortly. The project will be funded through the Community Infrastructure Levy.

WBC is not prepared to formalise the 'cut through' from the restaurant car park to the Avery Car Park. It may be possible to do some minor improvement works at the Crossroads tidy up session planned for 22 April 2018. This could include the removal of some of the old fencing and debris.

86/2018 MAJOR PROJECT CO-ORDINATION MEETINGS

A meeting was held in January 2018 but no further dates are planned.

87/2018 ROAD AND FOOTWAY CONDITION ISSUES

Leaf litter and other debris at kerbsides and on footways is an increasing issue, along with vegetation encroaching on footways and the highway and obscuring road signs. Many road signs are very dirty. The household consultation generated a large number of comments on these issues.

It was agreed that all Councillors would be allocated roads to survey, along with a standard form to report issues. Cllr Bromley and the Clerk will progress this.

The Clerk will arrange for Cllr Jukes to be added to the Whats App Group.

88/2018 INCIDENT REPORTS

- An incident took place on the Reading Road on 28 February 2018 but no details are known.

89/2018 CORRESPONDENCE

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

90/2018 FORUM

- Cllr Weeks advised that WBC is now pursuing fly tipping offenders.

91/2018 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 13 June 2018.

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