

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13 JUNE 2018 AT 7.30PM FBC CENTRE, GORSE RIDE NORTH FINCHAMPSTEAD, BERKSHIRE RG40 4ES

PRESENT: Cllr Bromley, Chair.
Cllr Bowers, Cllr Cundy, Cllr Marshallsay, Cllr Pittock, Cllr Rampton and Cllr Weeks.

Mrs Dagnall, Clerk.

228/2018 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr May.

229/2018 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

230/2018 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2018 were agreed and signed as a true record.

231/2018 MATTERS ARISING

79/2018 Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE)

Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) has agreed to progress the introduction of timed parking in the bays at the shop frontages at the California Crossroads and 6 bays in the Avery Corner Car Park. A formal request was submitted by the Parish Council in March 2018. When the Off Street Parking Order is confirmed the Parish Council will be able to request additional enforcement as required.

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

79/2018 WBC Street Lighting Upgrade

The Parish Council owned columns have now been replaced and WBC has adopted six columns on Nine Mile Ride which were previously owned by the Parish Council. The energy supplier has been advised.

There are still some outstanding works including a few issues with the new lamp columns in the Parish. Volker Highways will be working in the Borough for a further year, and their maintenance period continues until March 2020. The new lanterns have a 10 year warranty.

Cllr Pittock advised that there has been a complaint regarding the new columns in parts of Park Lane shining directly in to properties. The Clerk will report this to WBC.

WBC has declined the offer to take over the remaining 6 columns owned by the Parish Council but has advised that a formal collective approach from a number of Local Councils may be considered. The Clerk has contacted all of the Local Councils in Wokingham Borough and a number would consider transferring their columns to WBC – the Clerk will be progressing this.

79/2018 Parking in The Village

The Finchampstead Park Management Committee (FPMC) is still planning to extend the existing knee rail along the length of the verge to prevent parking. If the appointed contractor does not provide a start date within a month alternative quotations will be sought.

79/2018 War Memorial junction

WBC has confirmed it has no plans to undertake a study of the junction to look at potential safety improvements as the accident history does not justify this. WBC suggested that vehicle activated warning signs (VAS) could be installed at the junction but has now said that it will not supply the signs as the junction is not an accident blackspot. The Clerk has suggested that the Parish Council may cover the cost and is waiting for a response.

79/2018 Church Lane / White Horse Lane

The island bed has now been planted with shrubs and stepping stones have been installed to the noticeboard. The reflective discs have still not been installed.

WBC agreed to place a crossroads sign on White Horse Lane near the junction with Church Lane but this has not been installed to date.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

No members of the public were present.

232/2018 INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2018/19

A report showing the current position was circulated at the meeting.

233/2018 DATA LOGGER (SDR), SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE (SID), POLE MOUNTED SID AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

- Two new volunteers have offered to assist with SID sessions.
- The current system for recording SID session outcomes is labour intensive, requiring cross referencing with dash cam footage and sound recordings, and with several websites to check vehicle data.

The purchase of a Sentinel digital camera speed detection unit may provide more accurate recordings and therefore reduce the time taken to check session outcomes. A grant application for funds for a camera was unsuccessful.

Cllr Bromley has been liaising with Woodley Town Council which uses a camera and a SID session has been arranged where results from the usual recording methods and from the camera will be compared. Thames Valley Police will be represented at the session. The Police may have a resource issue with processing the additional data which would be generated through the use of a camera.

Comments / complaints about excessive speeds have been received from residents in a number of areas including Reading Road, Lower Wokingham Road, The Village, Longwater Road and The Ridges. The issues are being followed up with SDR sessions, SID sessions and / or the provision of information and evidence from monitoring over the last 8 years as appropriate.

- Reports from monitoring locations across the Parish since 2010 demonstrate that the speedwatch activities are effective as there has been a steady reduction in speed on the local roads. 39 roads, including two directions on some roads, have been ranked so that activities can be focused on those roads where there is an actual problem. There is still some scope for monitoring additional roads if required.
- A new SID rota is now in place with weekly sessions booked until the end of July.
- Finchampstead Road Service Road – residents have reported issues with abandoned vehicles and long term parking by contractors and have asked WBC to introduce restrictions allowing access only for residents, or to install double yellow lines.

- Park Lane – residents have reported concerns about the use of the Lane by heavy goods vehicles, and excessive vehicle speeds. A meeting took place recently involving Parish and Borough Councillors, Borough Officers, Thames Valley Police and residents.

Monitoring of the Lane has shown that there is not a speeding problem. A width restriction is not possible as this would restrict farm and emergency vehicles. It is proposed that when the Nine Mile Ride Extension is open a physical barrier is installed at the Nine Mile Ride end of the Lane to restrict access to vehicles over 6'6". These vehicles would have to access the Lane from the northern end.

Post mounted SID's

- The new units have been tested and are currently installed on Nine Mile Ride (west).
- Cllrs Bromley and Cundy will be identifying appropriate locations for the units and will be installing the brackets. Once locations are agreed volunteers will be needed to run the scheme including preparing schedules.
- WBC will be notified of the planned locations and schedules.

Equipment

- Installation of the post mounted SID's is a two person job. Cllrs Bromley and Cundy are considering a suitable ladder. This will also be used for installing and removing the SDR units when required.
- The Clerk will purchase a first aid kit for use with speed watch activities.
- Parish Council branded hi vis vests have been purchased and are now in use.
- A case is needed for the Simple SID - the Clerk has asked the original supplier but has not had a response. Cllr Bromley will check the dimensions of the SID so that options can be looked in to.
- The supplier of the SDR units (purchased in 2010 and 2011) and Simple SID (purchased in 2015) has advised that the units will not be repaired after 1/12/18. It was agreed that an ear marked reserve for future replacement should be included in the 2019/20 budget.

California Crossroads improvements

- WBC issued a survey in May 2018, the Clerk submitted a response on behalf of the Council.
- The junction was monitored with multiple cameras over a number of days in April to establish patterns of movement of all users – pedestrians, vehicles and cyclists.
- The Working Group has a meeting 25 June 2018. Cllrs Bromley and May are the Council's representatives on the Group.

WBC Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS)

- The VAS on Nine Mile Ride westbound is not working, this was reported to WBC in May 2018.
- WBC has agreed to look into whether the other VAS in the Parish could be recalibrated. This is outstanding.

234/2018 VILLAGE GATEWAYS PROJECT

The gateway signs on Finchampstead Road, Barkham Ride and Reading Road are all damaged. This has been reported to WBC.

The variation in the size of gateway signs has been raised with WBC and it has been agreed that in future any new or replacement signs will be the smaller size.

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

Cllr Bromley will arrange a site visit with WBC Officers to progress this.

235/2018 AVERY CORNER CAR PARK

The remarking of the car park and the creation of a school drop off zone was completed in early April 2018. 'School Drop Off Zone' banners have been installed.

There has been positive feedback about the changes, although the drop off zone is better used in the mornings than in the afternoons. Cllr Bromley has been in contact with Nine Mile Ride School over this and plans to attend an afternoon pick up session.

WBC is not prepared to formalise the 'cut through' from the restaurant car park to the Avery Car Park. Some minor improvement works are planned for the next tidy up session on 23 September 2018.

A further phase of improvements involving the widening of the access and a change in direction of flow of traffic may be implemented with the California Crossroads improvement scheme.

236/2018 MAJOR PROJECT CO-ORDINATION MEETINGS

The next meeting is on 20 June 2018.

The work programme includes full surface dressing (planing, resurfacing and relining) on the B3348 between the War Memorial and Longwater Road. The work is due to take place in September 2018. WBC will be undertaking small scale patching work on the B3016 between the War Memorial and the junction with Church Lane but the date has not been confirmed.

237/2018 ROAD AND FOOTWAY CONDITION ISSUES

WBC has undertaken some surface patching work at The Ridges and has written to residents about encroaching vegetation.

The footway at the Church Lane / Finchampstead Road junction is covered with debris obstructing the dropped crossing. The footway needs to be cleared and the hedge cut back to restore the safe crossing. Cllr May has asked the local farmer to assist.

Maintenance work to Lower Sandhurst Road is expected to take place this month.

WBC requested items to be included in its Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2018/19. A bid was submitted relating to the condition of footways, kerbsides and road signs – this has been accepted and will be discussed at a meeting on 18 June 2018. Cllrs Bromley and Cundy will be attending.

Cllr Bromley and the Clerk have collated a list and photographs of examples of obscured/missing/dirty road signs, blocked gullies and vegetation / debris encroaching on footways which has been submitted to WBC.

238/2018 INCIDENT REPORTS

- 22 April 2018 – incident at Barkham Ride / Nashgrove Lane following a police chase.

239/2018 CORRESPONDENCE

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

240/2018 FORUM

- Cllr Bowers advised that the recent delivery of a mobile home caused traffic chaos in Gorse Ride South.
- Cllr Pittock reported seeing a number of cars with missing front number plates, or with the number plate inside the car.

241/2018 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 24 October 2018.

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