

## FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2019 AT 7.30PM FBC CENTRE, GORSE RIDE NORTH FINCHAMPSTEAD, BERKSHIRE RG40 4ES

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PRESENT: Cllr Bromley, Chair.  
Cllrs Bowers, Mrs Margetts, Rampton (part) and Weeks.  
  
Mrs Dagnall, Clerk.

#### **65/2019 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Cundy, Marshallsay and May.

#### **66/2019 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were received.

#### **67/2019 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 October 2018 were agreed and signed as a true record.

#### **68/2019 MATTERS ARISING**

##### **403/2018 Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE)**

In March 2018 Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) agreed to progress the introduction of one hour timed parking in the bays at the shop frontages at the California Crossroads and two hour timed parking in 6 bays in the Avery Corner Car Park. There is no progress with this and it is unlikely this will be progressed until the California Crossroads improvement scheme is implemented.

It was noted that in the interim WBC has installed signs stating a two hour parking limit for the bays at the shop frontages.

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

At the previous meeting it was suggested that WBC be asked to undertake parking enforcement in The Village at weekends. It was agreed that this was not required.

##### **409/2019 California Crossroads Improvements**

A public consultation was held in November /December 2018. Detailed comments were agreed by the Council and submitted to WBC in January 2019.

##### **403/2018 WBC Street Lighting Upgrade**

WBC has declined the offer to take over the remaining 6 columns owned by the Parish Council but advised that a formal collective approach from a number of Local Councils may be considered. The Clerk is progressing this.

##### **404/2018 Street light energy**

The contract has been renegotiated and charges are now at a reasonable level.

It was noted that the new bus shelters on Nine Mile Ride will be illuminated but the electricity connection was not in place at the end of November 2018. Responsibility for the shelters and the electricity supply will pass to the Parish Council when the project is complete.

### **403/2018 Parking in The Village**

A knee rail was installed on the verge outside the Memorial Park in January 2019.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

No members of the public were present.

### **69/2019 INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2018/19**

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

- Cllr Bromley has contacted WBC over signs previously agreed and which may be able to be supplied and installed before the end of the financial year and could therefore be funded from the current budget.
- The only other expected expenditure within the current financial year is for street light electricity.

### **70/2019 DATA LOGGER (SDR), SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE (SID), POLE MOUNTED SID (PSID) AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT**

- Additional brackets for the SDR and PSID have been purchased and installed.
- Calibration of the SDR units was discussed and it was suggested the two units could be mounted together for a short period to check the consistency of the figures recorded.
- A camera has been purchased for use during SID sessions and is proving very helpful in clearly recording number plates.
- Weekly SID sessions continue, targeted at priority areas identified through SDR monitoring and / or previous SID sessions.
- Cllr Weeks agreed to speak to Thames Valley Police in relation to the lack of acknowledgement from or interaction with the Police over the data supplied from SID sessions and the suggestions for priority areas for enforcement activity.

### **Post mounted SID's**

- Cllr Bromley or the Clerk will notify WBC of the locations to be used for the units and the planned schedule.
- Positive feedback has been received about the units.
- To date the units have resulted in a 2mph reduction in speed over the period when the units are in situ.

### **Equipment and risk assessments**

- The Clerk will purchase a first aid kit for use with speed watch activities.
- A case is needed for the Simple SID - the supplier does not provide these. Cllr Bromley and the Clerk will progress this.
- A risk assessment is in place for speed watch activities. Cllr Bromley and the Clerk will review this to ensure all potential risks are addressed.

### **Sharing information about speedwatch**

The potential for publishing information from speedwatch activities was discussed but it was agreed not to proceed. It was agreed that the road safety information sheet produced in 2018 should be circulated at regular intervals, together with occasional newsletter items.

It was noted that Swallowfield Parish Council may be in contact for advice and information on the speedwatch scheme.

### **71/2019 VILLAGE GATEWAYS PROJECT**

Cllr Bromley met a WBC Highways Officer in early September 2018 to discuss the existing and potential gateways.

WBC has now replaced the five damaged gateway signs but no progress has been made with additional signs for new locations including Wellingtonia Avenue, Park Lane near the Reading Football Club Ground, the Nine Mile Ride Extension and potentially the Eversley border near the Tally Ho. Cllr

Bromley has contacted WBC again over this.

Cllr Weeks suggested that gateway signs for the Lower Sandhurst Road could be considered.

## **72/2019 ROAD SAFETY ISSUES**

### **War Memorial junction**

WBC has provided proposals for changes to the junction and these will be considered at the February Main Council meeting.

WBC had previously agreed to consider Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) for the junction and this has been followed up again.

### **Church Lane / Whitehorse Lane**

Following a site meeting in September 2018 WBC agreed to install a crossroads sign at the junction. This has not been progressed and WBC has been contacted again.

### **Gorse Ride North / South**

Complaints about motorcycles using the path between the two roads were referred to WBC in September 2018 although it is unlikely that the issue can be resolved. A barrier was installed but had to be modified to allow access by large mobility scooters, therefore it also allows access by motorcycles. Thames Valley Police is aware of the problem. There has been no feedback from WBC.

### **Lower Wokingham Road / Wellingtonia Avenue**

A resident has suggested installing traffic islands near the roundabout at the junction of the two roads to make a safer crossing for pedestrians, particularly those walking from Wellingtonia Avenue towards Crowthorne Station. It was agreed that the Clerk would refer this to WBC for comments.

### **Finchampstead Road crossing near Church Lane**

WBC has undertaken some work to clear the footway and the Landowner has cut back the hedge but sight lines for pedestrians are still very poor. The Clerk will contact WBC to request further improvements.

### **Park Lane/ Reading Road junction**

In view of the number of accidents Cllr Weeks has asked WBC to review the safety of the junction and consider if any improvements are feasible.

## **73/2019 ROAD AND FOOTWAY CONDITION ISSUES**

The WBC Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2018/19 includes a review of the condition of footways, kerbsides and road signs in Finchampstead. The Parish Council submitted the bid due to the deteriorating condition of these areas and the lack of action on issues reported to WBC. The desired outcomes are as follows:

- Improvements to highway safety and the quality of the local environment through
  - Clear and visible road signs
  - Footways safe and useable for pedestrians, and cyclists where appropriate
  - Gullies cleared so reducing roadside flooding
  - Removal of unnecessary signs and posts reducing streetscape clutter
- Efficient use of WBC resources through contractors complying with contract specifications and conditions
- An option for Local Councils to buy in to a higher level of service for their area – when areas are brought up to standard and routine maintenance is being carried out in accordance with contracts.

A number of examples of the problems were provided to WBC and site visits have taken place. The current position is that very few issues have been resolved. Issues will continue to be reported to WBC through [www.wokingham.gov.uk](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk) or the My Council app.

One of many issues is the encroaching debris / vegetation on the footway on the B3348 past the War Memorial. This has been reported to WBC on several occasions but has not been cleared. Cllr Weeks agreed to follow this up.

The review was discussed at the meeting of the Borough Parish Liaison Forum held on 4 February.

WBC Officers are apparently undertaking spot checks on highway contractor works during February 2019.

Cllr Bromley and the Clerk will be attending a WBC presentation on 18 March 2019 on the new highway contracts to be in place from 1 April 2019.

#### **74/2019 MAJOR PROJECT CO-ORDINATION MEETINGS**

These meetings are now less regular and are arranged at short notice and Cllr Bromley has therefore been unable to attend recent meetings.

Cllrs Bromley and Weeks will be attending a meeting on 26 February 2019 about the forthcoming South East Water Board works on Nine Mile Ride.

Barkham Street will be closed between Church Lane and Barkham Road from 4 to 31 March to allow footway improvements to take place.

Park Lane has been closed since 7 February due to a collapsed sewer.

#### **75/2019 INCIDENT REPORTS**

- An incident occurred on Reading Road near the Park Lane junction on 9 February.

#### **76/2019 CORRESPONDENCE**

- No correspondence has been received that has not already been noted.
- It was noted that WBC has a new facebook page specifically for travel and transport <https://www.facebook.com/WokinghamRoadworks/>
- [www.roadworks.org](http://www.roadworks.org) provides information on local roadworks.

#### **77/2019 FORUM**

- Cllr Weeks advised that extensive road works are taking place in The Village in connection with water getting in to the gas supply pipework.

#### **78/2019 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was agreed as 11 June, a change from the planned date of 6 June.

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

### **SUMMARY OF ACTIONS**

MINUTE REFERENCE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)
68/2019	Speak to Jats Pharmacy regarding use of its car park by Tooth Booth staff	SW
68/2019	Approach WBC regarding taking over lamp columns in Finchampstead and other Parishes	Clerk
68/2019	Confirm if the new bus shelters on Nine Mile Ride are now illuminated (not illuminated at end November 2018 due to connection issues).	Clerk/SW
69/71/72/2019	Maintain contact with WBC over Outstanding gateway signs VAS for Memorial Junction White Horse Lane / Church Lane crossroads sign	SPB/SW/Clerk

	Park Lane junction signage / other improvements Gorse Ride North / South access	
70/2019	Speak to Thames Valley Police in relation to the lack of acknowledgement from or interaction with the Police over the data supplied from SID sessions and the suggestions for priority areas for enforcement activity.	SW
70/2019	Notify WBC of the locations used for PSIDs and the planned schedule.	SPB/Clerk
70/2019	Purchase a first aid kit for Speed Watch sessions	Clerk
70/2019	Secure a case for Simple SID	SPB/Clerk
70/2019	Review the Speed Watch risk assessment	SPB/Clerk
70/2019	Circulate road safety information sheet at regular intervals plus occasional e newsletter items.	Clerk
72/2019	Contact WBC regarding potential installation of traffic islands on Lower Wokingham Road near Wellingtonia Avenue	Clerk
72/2019	Contact WBC over further improvements to the Finchampstead Road crossing by Church Lane	Clerk
73/2019	Raise the issue of the narrow footway along the B3348 past the War Memorial with WBC and potentially a local landowner.	SW