

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 11 JUNE 2019 AT 7.30PM FBC CENTRE, GORSE RIDE NORTH FINCHAMPSTEAD, BERKSHIRE RG40 4ES

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

Mrs Dagnall, Clerk.

218/2019 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Cundy and Weeks.

219/2019 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

220/2019 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2019 were agreed and signed as a true record.

221/2019 MATTERS ARISING

68/2019 WBC Street Lighting Upgrade

Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) has declined the offer to take over the remaining 6 columns owned by the Parish Council but advised that a collective approach from several Local Councils may be considered. The Clerk will progress this in due course.

68/2019 California Crossroads Improvements

A public consultation was held in November / December 2018 and detailed comments were agreed by the Council and submitted to WBC in January 2019. The consultation outcome has not been published to date.

68/2018 Street light energy / Nine Mile Ride bus shelters

It was noted that the new bus shelters installed on Nine Mile Ride in August 2018 are due to become the responsibility of the Parish Council. Completion of the project has been delayed due to issues with the electricity connection to the shelters. It is uncertain if the shelters are now connected – Cllr Bromley agreed to check if they are illuminated.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

No members of the public were present.

222/2019 INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2019/20

The Committee has not incurred any expenditure to date although there is a commitment of £275 for parts ordered for speed watch equipment.

223/2019 DATA LOGGER (SDR), SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE (SID), POLE MOUNTED SID (PSID) AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

- One of the Data Logger (SDR) units appears to be faulty. Cllr Bromley is investigating repairs, if repair is not possible the unit will have to be replaced with a Black CAT Radar unit at a cost of £2600. This is the current equivalent of the SDR, but has been significantly improved.

- Advice and information on speed watch activities has been provided to Barkham Parish Council. As a result Barkham Parish Council is now considering purchasing a Black CAT Radar unit.
- Weekly SID sessions continue, targeted at priority areas identified through SDR monitoring and / or previous SID sessions. Nine Mile Ride (west) is still the road with the most significant speeding issue.
- Thames Valley Police attended the Finchampstead Neighbourhood Action Group meeting on 28 May. As a result of discussions at the meeting the Police have agreed to reschedule some of their enforcement sessions to Nine Mille Ride (west).

Post mounted SID's

- Additional locations are still being identified and extra brackets have been purchased for these locations. When all locations have been finalised a list will be forwarded to WBC.

It appears that WBC is no longer using its own SID's in Finchampstead so it will not be necessary to provide WBC with a schedule of where the Finchampstead SID's will be deployed.

Equipment and risk assessments

- A first aid kit has been purchased. This will be kept with the SID for use at SID sessions if required.
- 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.

224/2019 WAR MEMORIAL JUNCTION

A report on the background and current position was circulated prior to and at the meeting.

The Finchampstead Park Management Committee (FPMC) has agreed in principle to the relocation of the Memorial to the Memorial Park, if the proposal to move the Memorial is agreed. FPMC has formed a sub committee to look at potential locations in or adjacent to the Park – Cllrs Bromley and Cundy are members of the sub committee.

It was noted that professional advice may be appropriate to identify the best potential locations in terms of aesthetics and practicality. This would also enable visuals to be secured which would be helpful for consultation purposes. Cllr Bromley will suggest this to the sub committee.

The Clerk has contacted the War Memorials Trust, working on behalf of English Heritage, for advice and is waiting for a response. Once this is to hand WBC will be approached for advice on the planning aspects of relocating the Memorial.

It was agreed that public consultation will be essential should it be decided to go ahead with the project.

Cllr Weeks has met a WBC Highways Officer to discuss aspects of the proposals. If the relocation of the Memorial is agreed WBC will be asked to design a scheme for the junction. There may be scope to tie in the development of a footpath alongside Jubilee Road. Cllr May agreed to approach adjacent land owners / occupiers regarding land ownership.

225/2019 AVERY CORNER CAR PARK AND SCHOOL DROP OFF ZONE

A report on the background and current position was circulated prior to and at the meeting.

The school drop off zone was installed in the car park in April 2018 and at the same time changes were made to the layout of the parking bays to maximise the space available. WBC designed and

implemented the scheme on behalf of the Parish Council. The changes have been positively received by users, particularly Nine Mile Ride School.

WBC has now advised that the drop off zone can only be used as a drop off zone and cannot be used for parking outside of drop off / pick up times or during school holidays. The Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) states that all vehicles must be parked within a marked bay, and any vehicles parking elsewhere in the car park – including in the drop off zone – are liable to receive a parking ticket.

Cllrs Bromley and Weeks have discussed the issue with the WBC Parking Manager and several short and long term potential solutions were detailed in the report noted above.

The Committee agreed that the drop off zone and one adjacent parking bay should be removed and replaced with double yellow lines as soon as possible. It was noted that double yellow lines allow a maximum time of 6 minutes for alighting or picking up. It was also agreed that the 3 long bays in the centre of the car park should be removed and replaced with 8 new bays re-orientated by 90 degrees, giving a net gain of 4 spaces.

WBC has been asked for a quotation for this work and Cllr Bromley will now follow this up with a view to submitting a proposal to Main Council on 19 June 2019.

Cllr Bromley has approached the Co-op Store and other local businesses regarding the potential use of the land at the side and rear of the Co-op for additional parking, potentially for staff working at the various businesses. The businesses are in principle supportive of the idea, and Cllr Bromley will now be submitting a written proposal to the Co-op. Cllrs Bromley, May and the Clerk will review the Land Registry documents in relation to land ownership and rights of access.

The potential for utilising the various parcels of private land for additional parking was noted in the Parish Council's response to the WBC consultation on the California Crossroads improvement scheme noted in agenda item 221/2019 above. If additional land is made available this could widen the scope of the scheme.

226/2019 VILLAGE GATEWAYS PROJECT

There has been no progress with plans for gateway 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.

A gateway sign for Lower Sandhurst Road has been suggested. It was agreed that gateways are only appropriate for B roads.

A meeting will be arranged with the WBC Traffic Management Officer to discuss the delay with the previously agreed new gateway signs, which will be funded by the Parish Council. Outstanding and new matters from agenda item 227/2019 below will also be raised at this meeting.

227/2019 ROAD SAFETY ISSUES

Church Lane / Whitehorse Lane

WBC agreed to install a crossroads sign at the junction in 2017 but this has not been implemented to date.

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 to date. WBC will be asked if 'no motorcycle' signs could be installed.

A resident has expressed concerns about the extent of parking in Gorse Ride South, blocking access for emergency vehicles and causing issues for local residents. Similar concerns have previously been raised about Gorse Ride North.

This will be raised with WBC. The Clerk will contact the Gorse Ride Schools and the FBC Centre requesting that they remind users of the need to park safely and so as not to obstruct emergency vehicles.

Lower Wokingham Road / Wellingtonia Avenue

The Clerk has recently contacted WBC regarding the possibility of installing traffic islands or another form of crossing 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. WBC has agreed to investigate the need for a crossing at this location.

Nine Mile Ride / Kiln Ride

WBC has looked into a potential pedestrian crossing at the junction following a request from a WBC Councillor. WBC has assessed the need and has concluded that the road is a non-hazardous walking route and that there are an adequate number of gaps in the traffic for pedestrians to cross at the location.

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. This will be raised with WBC and in the interim Cllrs Bromley and May will make a site visit to assess what may be feasible to improve the situation.

Park Lane/ Reading Road junction

In view of the number of accidents at this location Cllr Weeks asked WBC (in January 2019) to review the safety of the junction and consider if any improvements are feasible. There is no progress to report.

South East Water work

Major works are due to start on Gorse Ride South / Billing Avenue / Finchampstead Road in July or August 2019, moving to Nine Mile Ride in September. Diversions will be put in place but there is concern over the use of inappropriate local roads as 'rat runs'. Cllr Bromley is undertaking baseline monitoring of White Horse Lane and Commonfield Lane with the SDR units and will continue to monitor the Lanes during the works. Any increase in traffic will be followed up with WBC and South East Water.

228/2019 ROAD AND FOOTWAY CONDITION ISSUES

The WBC Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2018/19 included 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.

Unfortunately there has been little improvement. Issues continue to be reported to WBC and it is hoped that the new WBC highways contracts in place from 1 April 2019 will result in improvements to the standard of maintenance. The WBC Localities Officers are undertaking spot checks on contractor performance.

229/2019 MAJOR PROJECT CO-ORDINATION MEETINGS

The meetings have been discontinued. Information on roadworks can be found at www.roadworks.org and on the WBC Traffic and Travel Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/WokinghamRoadworks/>

230/2019 INCIDENT REPORTS

- Incident at the War Memorial Junction on 30 May. A vehicle dislodged two of the large kerb stones around the Memorial.

231/2019 CORRESPONDENCE

- There was no correspondence to report.

232/2019 FORUM

- No matters were raised.

233/2019 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 2 October 2019.

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

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

MINUTE REFERENCE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)
221/2019	Approach WBC regarding taking over lamp columns in Finchampstead and other Parishes	Clerk
221/2019	Confirm if the new bus shelters on Nine Mile Ride are now illuminated	SPB/Clerk
223/2019	SDR – investigate repairs. If not possible put proposal for purchase of new unit to Main Council.	SPB/Clerk
223/2019	Notify WBC of the locations used for PSIDs – when all locations finalised	SPB/Clerk
223/2019	Secure a case for Simple SID	SPB/Clerk
223/2019	Review the Speed Watch risk assessment	SPB/Clerk
224/2019	War Memorial junction Progress options for locations for the Memorial in the Memorial Park – through the FPMC sub committee. Seek approval for professional advice on this. Continue to seek professional advice on permission and grants for relocation of the Memorial Contact landowners re potential land for a footpath alongside Jubilee Road.	SPB Clerk JM
225/2019	Avery Corner Car Park / Drop Off Zone Seek quotation for removal of drop off zone and associated changes to lining and parking bays – aim for Main Council approval 19 June. Continue to liaise with local businesses over potential additional parking to the side and rear of the Co-op Review Land Registry documents.	SPB SPB SPB/JM/Clerk
226/227/2019	Arrange meeting with WBC to discuss lack of progress with gateway signs and outstanding and new road safety matters.	SPB
227/2019	Contact Gorse Ride Schools and FBC Centre regarding parking.	Clerk
227/2019	Site visit to Finchampstead Road / Church Lane crossing	SPB/JM