

## FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD AT 8.00 PM ON WEDNESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2009 AT THE CALIFORNIA RATEPAYERS HALL FINCHAMPSTEAD, BERKS

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#### **PRESENT:**

Cllr Mrs Driver, Chairing in the absence of Cllr Markham  
Cllrs Mrs L Newcombe, Mrs N Jennings-Frisby  
Cllrs S Bromley, W Chapman, R Cundy, J May, G Veitch  
Wendy Crosson-Smith, Neighbourhood Services Manager  
Mr Denton, Finchampstead Society  
The Clerk – Mrs Jane Holloway

#### **417/2009 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Markham.

#### **418/2009 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on 2 September 2009 were signed as a true record.

#### **419/2009 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

##### 295/2009 – Litter Campaign for Finchampstead

Cllr Mrs Driver has not received an invitation and this will be carried forward to 2010

##### 295/2009 – Noticeboards

The Clerk asked John Fruin to revarnish all boards before the winter – work in progress.

##### 295/2009 – Fly Tipping at Thames Water pumping station, Longwater Road

TW due to install bollards by end November – Cllr Mrs Driver will check the site.

##### 295/2009 – Refuse Vehicle Collection Service

Cllr Bromley will check the next service at Averys to see if there has been any re-occurrence of late arrival by the contractor and advise the Clerk of any problems.

##### 295/2009 – Flower Baskets – Summer 2009 Season

To be on March 2010 Agenda. General agreement that the quantity of baskets should be increased. This will require permission from WBC to use their lampposts – Ms Crosson Smith confirmed this should not be a problem. Clerk to progress in readiness for the next Amenities meeting.

##### 295/2009 – Website

Cllr Bromley continues to update the current site and plans to launch the new version after the Parish Office move to the Community Centre in Gorse Ride. To be carried forward

##### 295/2009 – War Memorial

###### Recording Names

The Clerk has received the list of names from the Church and a copy of Mr Chaloner's document which gives a brief history of some of those names. His research will continue and the Parish Council will receive updates. It was agreed that this information be shown on the Parish website and the Clerk will ask for Mr Chaloner's permission. It was AGREED that a photograph be taken to record the name of Capt. Hicks and added to the website.

###### Providing Disabled Access

It was AGREED that this would not be suitable at this location.

### Maintenance

Cllr Cundy reported that he carried out repairs to the turf after a lorry had driven over. It was AGREED that the matter be passed to the Roads committee for action to be taken to install high kerbs on all corners to prevent such damage. Also, the Roads Committee to request the road sign located on the turf to be removed to another location. It was noted the Jubilee Road sign has also been damaged and needs replacing.

### 208/2009 – Interpretative Panels Working Group Report

Cllrs Mrs Driver, W Chapman G Veitch and R Woof form the Group.

Cllr Veitch has spoken to the Blackwater Valley Countryside Park and to a supplier, Fitzpatrick Woolmer about the panels. The difficulties on map copyright are a problem. Cllr Woof has studied the WBC's Rights of Way Improvement Plan and the current Borough footpath maps require updating at a probable cost of £5000. Cllr Woof will ask for an update from Cllr Weeks who recently met Bor. Cllr Baker about the ROWIP and will update Main Council on 17 December. Ms Crosson-Smith offered to help and the Working Group will liaise with her and arrange a meeting early in 2010.

### 211/209 – Wellingtonia Avenue Redwood Trees 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2013

Agenda item Autumn 2012 (precept 2013-14). It was agreed to keep this item open on Matters Arising as a reminder for action.

### 299/2009 Allotments

- Cllr Cundy and the Clerk met the Cemex Land Agent, Clive Williamson, earlier this afternoon to progress the proposed lease of land, west of Longwater Road. Mr Williamson also offered an alternative plot behind the Golden Pot in Eversley.
- This land is within the Eversley Parish boundary and under planning control of Hampshire CC and therefore Finchampstead Parish would not easily be able to control any allotments. It was agreed with Mr Williamson that this land could be offered to Eversley for their own use as allotments and Finchampstead residents allowed to apply should they wish.
- It was agreed with Mr Williamson that there are problems with the other land on offer as there is a substantial layer of clay about 30cms below the surface; further agreed that the best way forward is a small scale community project. This project would be to select 10 of the applicants to develop the land for a 2 year period and then review opening the rest of the land for approximately 50 allotments. The 2 years would be covered under a simple Licence granted by Cemex at no cost. A longer lease to rent the land at approx. £250 p.a. would then be negotiated.
- The Working Group will meet early in January to agree details for the next stage. Ms Crosson Smith advised that Bernie Pitch will assist with the other arrangements to open the WBC Old Nursery Land for access, parking etc.

### 299/2009 Allotment Regeneration Initiative

ARI has emailed the minutes of the inaugural meeting in November and advised that the next will be mid 2010 in a more central location.

### 300/2009 Footprint Trust – Adopt A Garden Scheme

Ms Crosson Smith emailed information to the Clerk but it was AGREED this scheme will not be investigated further at this stage.

### 301/2009 Bench for Bus Passengers, Finchampstead Road

Cllr Mrs Driver distributed information on a variety of benches and the committee agreed on a recycled material type. Cllr Mrs Newcombe will check with the residents who made the request are still of the same mind.

303/2009 – Memorial Benches, Memorial Park – re-varnishing  
Job completed

#### **420/2009 NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE & LIBRARY RESOURCES**

Ms Crosson Smith advised the committee the building will be handed over by the contractors in mid January and officially opened to the public at the end of February. This gives all partners a period of time to set up their own offices and facilities.

#### Library Opening hours

Ms Crosson Smith advised the committee that a questionnaire is being circulated for residents' comments on proposed Library opening hours – the Parish preferences were noted. The questionnaire is also on the WBC website and Cllr Bromley will add to the Parish site. The Clerk will distribute copies to the local shops and schools.

#### Finchampstead Museum

WBC has discussed the possibility of setting up a small museum within the Library with the Finchampstead Society and will check the exact measurements of the room.

Mr Denton of the Society agreed this is a great opportunity for their archives to be housed properly and available to a much wider audience. The Society will need to find money for suitable storage as there is no WBC funding available.

Cllr May will loan his copy of the Finchampstead Video to the Society to enable them to make a copy.

The committee agreed that other material in the Parish Office needs to be catalogued and Cllrs Mrs Driver, Mrs Newcombe and Cllr Cundy will assist the Clerk. This can be added to the Museum for the collection or sent to the Berkshire Archives. The Clerk will also contact Jeff Nelson about his collection of artefacts shown at the last Annual Gathering.

#### **421/2009 PLAYBUILDERS FUNDING – CALIFORNIA PARK & ASSOCIATED SKATE PARK**

WBC officers will be visiting GR and NMR schools for further consultations on the possible equipment for the 8-13 Play area. This play park will be completed by March 2010.

The Skate Park project will be postponed until next financial year as it requires planning permission and WBC need to undertake more consultations.

The Multi Games Area will remain on hold as there is no funding available.

#### **422/2009 ADULT OUTDOOR GYM AREA**

Projects of this type are becoming more popular and the committee discussed the merits of promoting an area in Finchampstead in the next financial year. Ms Crosson Smith confirmed there are three new areas located at Shinfield, Woodley and Winnersh on parish land and jointly funded. It was agreed that councillors visit the Winnersh site to assess the possibilities of a Finchampstead project. Ms Crosson Smith will check S106 monies available for Finchampstead.

#### **423/2009 – FINCHAMPSTEAD STREET MAP – REVISION**

It was AGREED this will require funding in the next financial year – stock is low but there are minimal amendments. This will be on the next Agenda.

#### **424/2009 – CALIFORNIA PARK PADDLING POOL 2009 SEASON**

Cllr Woof has checked the I&E report supplied by WBC Countryside Office and it was AGREED that this year's grant go towards the shortfall between sale of armbands and the total expenditure. The grant of £4200 will be recommended for approval at the December Main Council meeting.

#### **425/2009 – I & E REPORT FOR 2009-2010**

The Clerk distributed the Report and it is noted that most Cost Centres are within budget. Keep Mobile Grant for 2009-10 for £3500 be recommended to Main Council. AGREED. Cllr Mrs Driver confirmed she will be attending their meetings from January 2010 in place of Mrs Hughes.

Fuel Allotment Grant – the Working Group have compiled the list of recipients for the 2009 grant and this will be distributed to the 20 residents before Christmas.

However, the Group agreed that the future of the grant be reviewed. The Proposal that the '*Fuel Allotment Working Group's recommendation is that the Fuel Allotment Grant cease and that consideration is given by the Finance Precept meeting on January 13<sup>th</sup> 2010 to decide a possible suitable alternative.* This will be on Main Council's December agenda. AGREED.

Dog Bins – no expenditure now required since WBC decided to cease the service.

#### **426/2009 – PRECEPT FOR 2010 – 2011**

The committee discussed their proposals to go to Finance Precept for consideration

	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>(2009-10)</b>	
Flowering Baskets	£1000	(£1000)	more baskets next year
Noticeboards	£500	(£500)	
Refuse Vehicles	£4000	(£5000)	reduced cost for lorry service
Litter Warden		(£6000)	salaries to be reviewed
WVC hospital trips	£500	£500	
Thursday bus	£2200	(£2200)	
Keep Mobile Grant	£4000	(£3500)	subject to Cllr Mrs Driver's report
Parish Newsletter	£2500	(£2500)	
Paddling Pool	£5000	(£5000)	
California Park	£1000	(£1000)	
Library Museum	£1600	£1600	
Contingency	£2000	(£2000)	
Skate Park	£5000	(£5000)*	carried forward as earmarked reserve*
Outdoor Games areas	£5000	(£0)	
Allotment Project	£5000	(£0)	
Street Map revision		(£0)	to be added

## **427/2009 – LITTER WARDEN'S REPORTS**

The warden's latest reports were presented.

Sept 09	41 hrs & 208 miles 42 bags, 34 signs cleaned £ 431.85 paid
Oct 09	43 hrs & 208 miles 48 bags, 34 signs cleaned £ 448.35 paid
Nov 09	43 hrs & 183 miles 41 bags, 24 signs cleaned £ 437.10 paid

## **428/2009 - CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMITTEE FORUM**

### **Correspondence**

None

### **Forum**

Cllr Cundy advised that the new system for collecting the Litter Warden's bags from California Hall is working very well. The Clerk will contact Peter Baveystock to advise.

## **429/2009 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 30 March 2010

The meeting closed at 10 pm