

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD AT
8.00 PM ON TUESDAY 30 MARCH 2010 AT THE
CALIFORNIA RATEPAYERS HALL FINCHAMPSTEAD, BERKS**

PRESENT:

Cllrs G Markham, Mrs Driver, Mrs N Jennings-Frisby
Cllrs G Veitch, J May, R Cundy.
Cllr S Bromley (arr 8.15pm)

The Clerk – Mrs Jane Holloway

112/2010 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Woof, Mrs Newcombe

113/2010 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

114/2010 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

419/2009 – Litter Campaign for Finchampstead

Cllr Mrs Driver has not yet received an invitation from GR School – to be carried forward.

419/2009 – Noticeboards - Work now completed.

419/2009 – Fly Tipping at Thames Water pumping station, Longwater Road - Work now completed.

419/2009 – Refuse Vehicle Collection Service - There have been no further reports of poor service.

419/2009 – 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. The Clerk has been advised that the BT fibre optic lines are unlikely to be installed before 26 April.

419/2009 – War Memorial

Recording Names

It was AGREED that a photograph be taken to record the name of Capt. Hicks and added to the website. Cllr Veitch will forward a photo to the Clerk and to Mr Challenor for his records.

Maintenance

Being handled by R&RS committee

419/209 – Wellingtonia Avenue Redwood Trees 150th 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.

419/2009 - Bench for Bus Passengers, Finchampstead Road

As reported at March Main Council, the land thought to be owned by WBC was in fact private and the landowner has refused permission to site the bench. The matter cannot now be progressed any further.

420/2009 New Community Centre Library Resources

Library Opening hours

Ms Crosson Smith has advised that the opening hours from end of April will be:-

Monday afternoons: 2-5pm
Tuesday afternoons: 2-5pm
Wednesday mornings: 9.30 – 12.30 am
Thursday late opening: 2-7pm
Friday mornings: 9.30 – 12.30 am
Saturday mornings: 9.30 – 12.30 am

It was noted that once the new Library is opened, WBC will cease providing the Container Library Service outside the California Hall. The Clerk will confirm with WBC when this will take place and advise them that the electricity supply installed by them should now be terminated.

Finchampstead Museum

Cllr Mrs Driver, as a member of Finchampstead Society, advised that the Society will be using the small room off the main Library at the Centre as a Local History Museum.

421/2009 Playbuilders Funding – California Park & Associated Skate Park

- Plans for the playpark are still under consideration by WBC.
- The Skate Park project has been 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

It was agreed that, in view of all other ongoing projects, this cannot be considered for the next financial year.

423/2009 – Finchampstead Street Map – Revision

This will be on the next Amenities Agenda.

424/2009 – California Park Paddling Pool 2009 Season

The grant of £4200 was approved at the December Main Council meeting and the Clerk has received a letter of thanks for continuing to support the Pool. Cllr Veitch reported that the path from the California Park car park to the Scout Hut is extremely muddy. The Clerk will contact the Countryside Service to request both the footpath and the car park surface are refurbished.

425/2009 – I & E Report For 2009-2010

The Clerk distributed the Report and it is noted that most Cost Centres are within budget.

115/2010 – FLOWERING BASKETS SUMMER 2010

The Clerk has been advised by Pudding Lane Nursery that the 6 baskets are in store and recommend planting up late March so that they are ready for May. Cllr Bromley was thanked for his offer to continue to water the baskets to be assisted by Cllrs Mrs Jennings Frisby and Gordon Veitch. The committee AGREED that a further 3 baskets be installed, subject to WBC's permission to use their posts.

116/2010 – INTERPRETATIVE PANELS

Cllrs Mrs Driver, W Chapman G Veitch and R Woof form the Group and Cllr Woof has ascertained that the copyright issues have been resolved. The Group will next meet in May to progress the matter.

117/2010 – ALLOTMENTS PROJECT

It was AGREED that there are two possible sites worth pursuing:-

WBC Old Nursery Lane to the West of Longwater Road

Cllr Weeks has advised that WBC Officers are currently unavailable to inspect the trees on site. The Clerk will write to Bernie Pich at WBC to formally request release of the land and to request an officer is assigned to liaise with the Parish Council and to meet at the earliest opportunity (cc to Cllr Weeks). Points of discussion would be:-

- Soil analysis
- Access to water supply
- Tree inspection
- Exact site to be determined and measured
- Fencing off the complete site
- Car access and parking on site
- Provision of sheds and storage
- Legal agreement to lease the land at a peppercorn rent
- Planning permission

The committee recognise that there will be substantial costs involved and that £5000 has been earmarked for the project for 2010-11.

Cemex land to the West of Longwater Road

The Clerk will also write to Cemex to formally request release of the land under the terms verbally agreed i.e. a small scale community project to select approx. 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. A Planning Application would need to be prepared and permission sought from WBC for access to the Cemex land.

Cllr Mrs Driver is due to attend an SLCC Allotment Workshop on 12th April 2010 and will report to the next meeting.

118/2010 – LITTER WARDEN'S REPORTS

The warden's latest reports were presented.

Dec 09	42 hrs & 209 miles 46 bags, 47 signs cleaned
Jan 10	16 hrs & 80 miles (time reduced due to snow) 14 bags, 0 signs cleaned
Feb 10	50 hrs & 220 miles 81 bags, 0 signs cleaned
Mar 10	41 hrs & 197 miles 56 bags, 0 signs cleaned

119/2010 - CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMITTEE FORUM

Correspondence

- Email from WBC advising the cost of Refuse Vehicles per visit for 2010-11 will be £160 plus vat – noted.
- WBC's contractor TakeOne Media can distribute leaflets around the borough – this may be useful for any future publication – noted.

- Keep Mobile – Development Plan 2010-2012 – passed to Cllr Mrs Driver
- Air Ambulance Recycling Project – BAGITUP – noted.

Forum

Barkham SANG – access routes/ impact on California Park

Cllrs Bromley and Chapman attended a meeting at WBC and, although the proposed park is within the Barkham parish, it is very close to the Finchampstead boundary and will be of considerable interest to residents. The proposed access footway will be on the north side of Barkham Ride but there are no current plans for this to also be a cycleway.

FBCentre official opening – 24&25 April 2010

Cllr Cundy is unable to attend officially and it was agreed that Cllr Markham deputise.

Finchampstead Society AGM – 9th April 2010 in the Memorial Hall

Jones Trophy Cllr Mrs Driver, as a Society Member advised that nominations should be submitted a.s.a.p. The trophy is awarded annually to those who have worked hard for residents in the community.

May Day Walk will take place on Bank Holiday Monday 3rd May

FinchNag Website

It was agreed that the Nag should set up its own site rather than added to the Parish site – Cllr Bromley is advising their committee.

St James' Church Service – Sunday 18 July 2010

All councillors are invited to attend this special service to recognise all those who have helped the church through the Restoration process.

Welcome Packs

Cllr Veitch asked the Clerk to provide a notice for the Cedar House Surgery dispenser to state where packs can also be obtained.

Blog Site

Cllr Veitch suggested the possibility of such a blog would be a useful addition to the Finchampstead Magazine, noticeboards and the website to communicate with residents.

120/2010 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7.30 pm, Tuesday 22 June 2010 at the California Association Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.