

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FOOTPATHS COMMITTEE HELD AT 8.00PM ON TUESDAY 2nd DECEMBER 2008 AT 8.00PM IN THE CALIFORNIA RATEPAYERS HALL, FINCHAMPSTEAD ROAD, FINCHAMPSTEAD, BERKS

PRESENT:

Cllrs Wally Chapman, Chairman, Cllr S Weeks, Vice Chairman
Cllrs Mrs Chris Driver, Roger Black, Jim May, Kevin Mayne
Rebecca Walkley, WBC officer for Public Rights of Way

The Clerk – Mrs J Holloway

440/2008 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

441/2008 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on 16th September 2008 were signed as a true record.

442/2008 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Min No: /2008 – Footpath 5 – collapsed fence

The Litter Warden reports that the fence is still in a state of disrepair and the landowner has been informed.

Min. 226/2008 Footpath 10

In view of the lack of manpower at WBC, the Footpath Warden and Cllr Chapman will undertake the drainage improvement. Cllr Chapman will purchase the necessary land drains which will be installed in the coming weeks.

Min. 227/2008 – Cemex Public Rights Of Way Network

The Clerk now has copies of the Cemex plans in the office. Ms Walkley advised she is to arrange a meeting with Cemex to finalise the completion of the PROW network on the land East of Longwater Road.

Min.229/2008 – Footpath Maintenance – Footpath 51

Ms Walker noted that this footpath required inspection and will arrange.

Min. 367/2008 – Ramblers Association

The Clerk has received and acknowledgement of the subscription sent and the FPC membership number is 3093352.

443/2008 – PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY REPORT – REBECCA WALKLEY, WBC

Ms Walkley was pleased to accept the invitation to attend the meeting and would respond to the Agenda items

Wick Hill – change of designation to Bridleway

It is noted that this matter has been ongoing for many years and that latterly, new landowners objected to the proposal, mainly on the planned width for the PROW for two specific sections of verge outside two separate properties. After discussing the matter in full it was agreed that WBC will contact the Land Registry to ascertain the ownership of these verges and ask for sight of the landowner's deeds to confirm their title to the land. Matter to be carried forward.

Interpretative Footpath Panels

At the last meeting the committee agreed to fund the supply of panels in Simon's Wood (to replace the vandalised board) and at other points on the PROW system.

Ms Walkley advised that royalties have to be paid to the Ordnance Survey for using the WBC map which is based on OS material. It was agreed that this is an opportunity to review the ways the PROW is used and to provide a panel with more information and to show specific circular walks rather than the whole system. This could also be incorporated onto the revamped parish website which would offer the opportunity to download and print out specific routes for users. Cllr Mayne advised there are funds available for such promotion from the Rural Tourism Funds. The committee agreed to include a budget in its 2009-2010 which will be discussed later in the meeting.

Footpath 26 - flooding

Cllr Chapman reported to Ms Walkley that this footpath is continually flooded due to adjacent landowners allowing outflow from his property to enter the ditches which cannot cope. Currently, the section affected is 150 metres long and Ms Walkley advised the status of the path could be upgraded to a Recreational Route and further action taken accordingly. Although the landowner is responsible for ditch improvement Ms Walkley advised that the landowner is required to take action under the Land Drainage Act. Ms Walkley will investigate and advise the Clerk.

Footpath 34 – missing link to PROW system

It was agreed this is an important addition to the system and is to be included in the WBC Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP). As it is unclear if the FPC has already asked for this inclusion, Ms Walkley will contact the Clerk accordingly. If the request has not been included, the committee will hold a short meeting prior to the Roads & Road Safety meeting on 9th December to agree the response to be submitted.

F/P 36 - Drift Lane & F/P 24 - Heath Ride – Restricted Byways

The committee advised Ms Walkley that clearer signs need to be erected at entry points on these footpaths to prevent vehicular access.

Cllr Weeks asked Ms Walkley if the same restrictions on fence heights adjacent to highways apply to those next to PROWs. Ms Walkley advised she will check with the Legal Department for a correct definition.

Cllr Mrs Driver and Ms Walkley left the meeting at 9.05 pm.

444/2008 - FOOTPATH WARDEN'S REPORT

The warden reported that he continues to clear the paths and the equipment will be serviced during the coming months in readiness for the spring. Mr Alexander also reported there are some trees along Bridleway 4 with low hanging branches which could cause difficulty to riders; the fences alongside F/Ps 4, 6 & 8 are deteriorating.

445/2008 – EXPENDITURE FOR FINANCIAL YEAR TO END MARCH 2009

The committee discussed the expenditure so far this year and noted the Warden Costs to be 52% spent (includes extra payment for shrub clearance); no expenditure would be required for new or replacement equipment required this year; some expenditure due on maintenance; the contingency budget partly spent.

446/2008 – PRECEPT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR TO END MARCH 2010

The committee discussed the budgets for the next financial year and AGREED the following to be submitted to the Finance Precept Meeting in January.

Warden Costs to be increased by 4% in line with inflation	2600	(2400)
Equipment Purchases/replacement	500	(500)
Equipment maintenance	300	(750)
Interpretative Panels & contingency *	<u>4000</u>	<u>(500)</u>
TOTALS FOR 2009-2010	7400	(4250)

It was also AGREED that the cost of the panels* be shared with other FPC budgets as the artwork and preparation costs would be for the website, newsletter etc.

447/2008 - CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMITTEE FORUM

Correspondence

None.

Forum

Cllr Weeks advised that the Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership have raised £20K from the Aggregate Levy to improve the state of the Bridleway 49 which requires improved drainage and re-surfacing.

448/2008 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING

8 pm, Tuesday 10th March 2009 in the California Ratepayers Hall

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm