

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD
AT 7.30 PM ON THURSDAY 20th NOVEMBER 2008
AT THE MEMORIAL HALL, THE VILLAGE, FINCHAMPSTEAD, BERKSHIRE

PRESENT: Cllr Roland Cundy, Chairman, Cllr Geoff Markham, Vice Chairman
Cllrs Mrs C Driver, Mrs L Newcombe, Mrs N Jennings-Frisby,
Cllrs R Black, S Bromley, W Chapman, E Cox, M Macey, K Mayne,
Cllrs A Pearce, G Veitch, S Weeks, R Woof, I Gordon (arr. 7.40pm)
Borough Cllr Rob Stanton
Mr S Eddy, member of FinchNAG committee
Louise Morris and member of the Village Youth Group
Mrs Jane Holloway, Clerk & Mrs Anna Kent, Assistant Clerk

417/2008 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE -

Cllr J May

418/2008 - MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Main Council meeting on 16th October 2008, were amended on page 28 to read '*to assist in the investigations of the problem with the Office laptop*' (not **repair**) and on page 131 to show Cllr Roger Woof as a member of the Fuel Allotment Committee (not Cllr Roger Black). The minutes were then signed as a true record.

419/2008- CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON THE MINUTES

402/2008 – Memorials for Mollie Harle and Harry Long –

Cllr Markham has confirmed with the FPMC and identified 2 trees between the two pitches that are suitable. Rather than having plaques inserted into the ground, the Amenities Committee will agree wording to be engraved onto the benches.

402/2008 – War Memorial – Report by Working Group

ON MAIN AGENDA

402/2008 – Correspondence - Flooding Park Lane/Reading Road

The Clerk is still waiting for the contact details from the Action Group but Cllr Weeks reported that WBC held a meeting with the residents to advise the detailed improvement scheme. WBC has also had meetings with the adjacent landowners about the necessary work to be done at the site.

404/2008 – District/Parish Conference October 2008

WBC Parish Liaison Officer, Wendy Crosson-Smith will now attend the January Main Council meeting.

407/2008 - Dept of Communities & Local Govt – Consultation on Byelaws – passed to Cllr Cundy at Oct Meeting who will report at the December meeting.

420/2008 – COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLANNING

Cllr Veitch reported on Planning meeting held on 6 November 2008 (minutes distributed)

- 15 planning applications were considered and the committee had only objected to 2
- F/2008/2155, Arnett Drive No 2, on the grounds it was out of keeping
- F/2008/2155 Land adjacent to Post Office, 420 Finch Rd. This application was to replace the telephone kiosk with a type to include an ATM service. The committee objected as the proposal is out of keeping, a potential target for vandalism, and would increase the parking problems outside the shops.
- The committee has invited Jeni Jackson, Team Leader Development Management WBC Planning to our January meeting to discuss a number of topics with her including the new permitted development rules and a number of planning enforcement matters.

- The Parish Office received a letter from the applicants for the Alpaca Stud asking for clarification on the Planning Minutes which did not show their comments to the Planning Committee (on 12 September) in full. The Assistant Clerk wrote to advise that minutes are not recorded when the meeting is closed for public comment. Their other observation was the fact that FPC Planning committee did not object to the application was not recorded on the WBC website. It was noted this is the usual practice at WBC but it was agreed that important parish comments, good or bad, are recorded and this matter will be raised at the meeting with Ms Jackson.
- Cllr Cundy reported to the committee that the land next to the playground at Finchampstead Memorial Park has been cleared of trees. Cllr Weeks advised the plot has recently been purchased by a developer whose intentions are unknown at present.

FINANCE

- Audit 2008-09 – Mr Alan Harland has agreed to his appointment as Internal Auditor for 2008-09 and is due to visit the Parish Office on 27th January 2008.
- New Bank Account Signatories – Alliance & Leicester
Cllr Cundy received a letter from A&L requiring additional information to be sent and the Clerk will action.
- Standing Orders and Financial Regulations – Review – reminder to all councillors to send comments and proposals to Cllr Mrs Newcombe (SOs) and Geoff Markham (FRs) so that the list can be published on December Main Council Agenda.
- Website Hosting - The payment for Webfusion is on the cheque list for approval because, following Cllr Bromley's investigations, BT cannot host .gov addresses. This matter will be further discussed under Item 7 of the Agenda.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

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|---|--------------------------|
| • NATIONAL SAVINGS ACCOUNT | £103009.01 earning 4.9% |
| • HALIFAX ASSET RESERVE (at 1 st Nov 08) | £76,433.28 earning 2.10% |
| • CHEQUE LIST – NOV/08 | APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY |

Next Finance Meeting on Weds 21st January 2009 – Precept Meeting at **small committee room, Memorial Hall, Finchampstead.**

AMENITIES – Cllr Markham reported on matters arising since the last meeting

- Scrub removal – by the War Memorial – dealt with by John Alexander – cheque for £50 in cheque list
- Allotments – Cllr Weeks advised that Cemex have agreed in principle to lease the section of land next to the WBC Old Nursery site, subject to further clarification. WBC officers are broadly in agreement for the use of their site for parking and ancillary uses but the length of the lease and annual costs are to be determined together with any planning permission for change of use. Cllr Weeks and Cllr Markham will progress the matter further.
- Notice boards have been delivered to Cllr Cox and the Clerk has spoken to John Fruin about their installation – to be discussed at the Amenities meeting.

Next Amenities meeting is 8.00pm, Wednesday 26th November 2008

FOOTPATHS – Cllr Chapman reported on matters arising since the last meeting.

- The Footpath Warden and Cllr Chapman have undertaken tree debris clearance work as WBC was unable to do the work in a timely manner.
- The proposed bridleway for Wick Hill is still delayed due to objections by local residents.

The next meeting is 8 pm Tuesday 2nd December 2008

ROADS & ROAD SAFETY – Cllr Mayne reported on matters arising since the last meeting.

- The SID sessions continue and it was agreed that having a regular presence on the parish roads acts as a deterrent to speeding motorists. There is now a good liaison with the police and the FinchNag and the programme will continue. The police are in agreement with using the mobile unit at times when the SID cannot be deployed e.g. evenings.
- Park Lane/Reading Road Scheme – the committee discussed the WBC proposals by email exchange and their response agreed. This will be formalized at the next meeting.
- Speeding is a major concern for most residents but it is recognised that most of those ‘caught’ by the SID are local drivers. The committee will investigate how to publicise the importance of keeping to speed limits in a more effective way, perhaps by using the Parish Newsletter.

The next meeting is 7.30pm Tuesday 9th December 2008

MEETING ADJOURNED FOR PUBLIC QUESTION TIME.

The meeting closed at 8.15 and re-opened at 8.45 to allow Mr Eddy from FinchNAG, Louise Morris, WBC Youth Worker and Borough Cllr Stanton to address the meeting. Cllr Cundy thanked all for attending to inform the councillors of their activities.

421/2008 – OTHER REPORTS

FPMC – last meeting on 29th October – minutes distributed.

Cllr Markham reported that Dennis Maynard of the Sports Club resigned from FPMC at the September meeting following complaints about the grounds staff. Subsequently, the Sports Club made a decision to fence off a section of the park beyond the beech hedge to prevent public access. It was AGREED that a meeting be arranged between Cllrs Cundy and Weeks with the Sports Club Chairman to discuss the matter further as it has been customary for full access to be allowed on the Memorial Park, even the section separately owned by the Club. Next meeting Wednesday 10th December 2008.

VILLAGE YOUTH REPORT - Louise Morris reported on the recent activities of the group which continue but are restricted due to the lack of suitable halls. She thanked Cllr Weeks for his assistance in re-wording the application to allow use of the Community House on more evenings per week. It was agreed that a permanent home is necessary and that this would be available once the new Baptist Community Centre is completed.

FinchNAG REPORT – Cllr Pearce reported on the new set up now that Barkham have re-grouped with Arborfield and that the new constitution was agreed. About 20 people attended the last meeting and four new resident members were selected, Cllr Stanton is the Chairman and Cllr Pearce the Secretary/Treasurer. Rose Green of the Multi Agency Group will be asked to attend to discuss mutual issues and perhaps amalgamation. WBC Officer, Wendy Crosson-Smith will also attend a future meeting.

MULTI AGENCY GROUP & GORSE RIDE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION – minutes distributed. Cllr Black attended the meeting and reported that the ideas for a Vision Statement are to be translated into an Action Plan. Funding for the wardens could perhaps be covered by local business sponsorship. It was agreed that those tenants on the estate who contravene their tenancy agreement should be taken seriously by WBC.

BLACKWATER VALLEY COUNTRY PARK – VIST BY CLLRS CHAPMAN & VEITCH

Cllr Veitch's notes are distributed and he advised the visit included the new Eversley sports complex which will eventually be an impressive addition to the sports facilities in the area. The work includes landscaping and a match fishery. At the new gravel extraction site, west of Longwater Road, archaeological surveying work has recently commenced. The S106 agreement has still to be agreed with WBC before full planning approval can be considered to be in place.

One of the main points of interest relates to the Thames Basin Heaths SPA. There is an initiative from local planning officers to designate the whole of the Blackwater Valley as a Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG), as a mitigating area for future development which meets with the approval of Natural England.

OLDER PERSON'S FORUM – Cllr Cox advised this group is to be re-named FINE (Finchampstead Information Network for the Elderly)

CLERK'S REPORT

- Many thanks to Anna Kent for manning the office so well during the Clerk's absence.
- Mrs Hughes has given us maps originally held by Major Shone.
- The Clerk and Assistant are becoming concerned about the poor state of the office which is in urgent need of redecoration and new carpet etc. It was agreed this is a matter of some urgency particularly as the office is visited by the public.
- My apologies for having to close the office on Friday 21 November at short notice as I have to attend a funeral and Mrs Kent is unable to cover.

422/2008 – NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE UPDATE

The Clerk received replies from both the Chief Executive and Deputy at WBC – copies distributed. Cllr Cundy reported that Jim Gallagher of the Baptist Church has confirmed that the agreements are nearing completion for final signature and that an early January 2009 start is expected.

423/2008 – REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

Cllr Cundy reported on the Service held on Sunday 9th November 2009 and thanked Cllr Cox for laying the Parish Council's wreath. He also thanked the War Memorial Working Group and the Clerk for their successful work in getting the new engraving done for Capt. Hicks in time. The service was very well attended by some 250 and it was agreed it is good to see so many younger people there. Cllr Cundy thanked those who spoke on the day and to the Reverend Warden who took the service. The BBC covered the event which was shown on the national news. It was agreed the Clerk write to thank the police for their attendance to stop the traffic during the two minute silence and to ask for their continued support.

424/2008 – PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

Cllr Bromley is due to meet Ian Milne to discuss the website maintenance issues and the Amenities Committee will report in due course.

425/2008 – FUEL ALLOTMENT

Members of the sub committee are Cllrs Wally Chapman, Mrs Driver, Mrs Jennings-Frisby, Steve Bromley and Roger Woof. The list of recipients has been prepared and approval for the expenditure of £600 is on the cheque list. The Clerk will obtain cards for Cllr Cundy to sign and hand the cards and donation envelopes to the sub committee.

426/2008 – CORRESPONDENCE & FORUM

Correspondence

- Dept of Local Government – Consultation on Code of Conduct
- FPMC – Land Registry document – lodged with Clifton Ingram for safe keeping.
- HM Revenue & Customs – return of Dispensation Notice
- Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service – Consultation for 2009-10 Action Plan
- WBC – Parish & Town Council Charter and Minutes of D/P Conference
- WBC – Children’s Services – Adoption & Fostering – duties on Local Authorities
- Thank you letters from CAB, British Legion, Home Start, Relate, Berks County Blind Society, WADE, Salvation Army, Job Support, Relief in Sickness Fund.
- Stop the Drop Litter and Fly-tipping – Pass to Cllr Gordon Veitch
- Older People’s Forum Invitation 9th Dec
- Invitation to LINKs Events
- Invitations to Wellington College, Rossini Concert 29 November at 7.30pm

Correspondence handed to committees

FINANCE

- MS Therapy Centre – Grant Application
- Keep Mobile – Grant Application
- RBS Software Solutions, Structure of Changes April 2009
- Letter from Zurich Insurance, correction to previous correspondence.

AMENITIES

- Park View Motors – sale of business
- Review of Concessionary Travel Support in the Borough

FOOTPATHS

- Longwater Rd, Pumping Station

FOLDER CONTENTS – The folder is available from 7.30 pm on the night of the meeting and will be held in the Parish Office for the month following. If any councillor wishes to take an item, please advise the Clerk.

Forum

- Cllr Cundy proposed changing the date and venue for the December meeting to Tuesday 16TH December at the St James Church Centre. AGREED. It was also agreed the Clerk send invitations to retired councillors – Miss Vaughan-Morgan, Mrs Hughes and Mr Dewhurst. Cllr Cundy also extended the invitation to the drinks reception to the councillors’ spouses and partners.
- The Clerk to instruct Roger Long, Litter Warden to place the refuse sacks into the skip at California Hall which is now emptied by WBC on Fridays.
- Cllr Black advised he has put up notices for the new refuse lorry service at Dart & Billing Avenues and will replace the notice for Averys Car Park.

427/2008 – DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Main Council 7.30pm Tuesday 16TH December at the St James Church Centre

7.30pm Thursday 15TH January 2009 at the Memorial Hall

Meeting closed at 10.05pm.