

**FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD**  
**AT 7.30 PM ON THURSDAY 19<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2009**  
**AT THE MEMORIAL HALL, THE VILLAGE,**  
**FINCHAMPSTEAD, BERKSHIRE**

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**PRESENT:** Cllr Roland Cundy, Chairman  
Cllrs Mrs N Jennings-Frisby, Mrs L Newcombe  
Cllrs R Black, S Bromley, E Cox, W Chapman, A Pearce  
Cllrs S Weeks, R Woof, Mrs C Driver (arr. 7.45pm), K Mayne (arr. 8.35pm)

5 members of the public (one arrived later)  
Mrs Jane Holloway, Clerk

**104/2009 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE -**

Cllrs G Markham, M Macey, G Veitch, I Gordon.

**105/2009- MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the Main Council meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2009, were amended on page 19 to remove the 's' from Cllr Cundy and then signed as a true record.

**106/2009 - CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON THE MINUTES**

53/2009 – Correspondence - Flooding Park Lane/Reading Road

The Clerk has still had no communication from Mrs Gan.

Cllr Weeks advised the members that approved works were scheduled for this month but some residents' concerns had delayed the start. A meeting is arranged for 23<sup>rd</sup> March to resolve the problems. The WBC have £150K in this year's budget to spend on this project and this will be lost if the work does not commence before the end of March.

53/2009 – Thames Water Pumping Station, Longwater Road – fly tipping

Discussed at Amenities meeting and WBC have met with Thames Water and agreed to remove the current rubbish providing that Thames Water install bollards to prevent further tipping.

53/2009 – Newsletter

The members of the Editorial Group - Cllrs Mrs Newcombe, Roland Cundy, Kevin Mayne, and Roger Woof and a date for their first meeting is still to be arranged.

53/2009 – Memorial Benches For Mollie Harle And Harry Long

The benches are due for delivery before the Summer Fete on 4<sup>th</sup> July and, as requested by the Amenities Committee, the Clerk wrote to inform Mrs Long and is trying to locate relatives of Mollie Harle to invite them to the occasion.

54/2009 – Finchampstead Sports Club - Leas Field

Cllr Cundy updated the members on this matter:-

i. Public Right of Way

The members of the DMMO Group (Cllrs Cundy, Markham, Chapman, Veitch and Woof) reported to the Footpaths meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> March and Cllr Weeks advised that he now has the necessary maps and documentation for any persons interested in submitting their evidence to support the application.

There were several routes generally used by the public across the field and the submitted evidence will demonstrate the most popular route. The members agreed this is likely to be a diagonal route between the two gates and further AGREED that they would support this but also keep options open.

It is noted that the FSC have agreed with FPMC that two gates onto Leas Field will be kept unlocked and open for public access, although no dogs are allowed.

ii. Use of Chemicals in the Park

The Clerk passed the Codes of Practice to the FPMC

iii. Duties of the Custodial Trustee of the Memorial Park

The Parish Council remain mindful of their duties to the original conditions for full access and enjoyment of the Park by Finchampstead residents.

Cllr Cundy brought forward the FPMC Report item on the Agenda as it was of interest to those members of the public present at the meeting. Cllr Cundy reported that the FPMC held an Extraordinary Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2009, attended by Cllr Markham as the FPC representative. Cllr Markham's report is distributed in his absence and Cllr Cundy read out in full.

The members discussed the matters raised in the report and AGREED that the Management Committee continue to experience difficulties. The Parish Council, as Custodial Trustee, can as a last resort, disband the FPMC but the members AGREED they must continue to assist the FPMC resolve the situation.

The members agreed that the original 1947 deed is not wholly compatible with the charitable status now held by the FPMC and it is noted that

- Individual FPMC members become Charity Trustees, with consequent responsibilities and liabilities. The FPMC should ensure their insurance covers these risks.
- A properly written Constitution would greatly assist the Management Committee carry out its duties. The FPMC should undertake this task promptly. It was noted that the CCB have model constitutions which can be used as a template.

The members also AGREED that as the Parish Council is the Custodial Trustee, they should qualify for two seats on the Committee each with voting rights and that individual councillors can deputise when necessary. It was noted that the Parish Insurance Policy would cover councillors' liabilities in this regard. The Clerk will write to the FPMC to propose two seats be allocated to the Committee at their next Annual Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> April.

Finchampstead Sports Club – Agency Agreement

It was agreed at the FPMC meeting that a Sub Committee be formed to review the Agency Agreement in view of the fact that the Sports Club were not fully complying with some of the clauses. Cllr Markham, Bev Kemp, Treasurer and Rhona Miccoli of the FPMC members will undertake the review with the assistance of Peter McBrien who drew up the original Agreement and holds relevant FPMC documents.

The Parish Council AGREED that it is very important for the FPMC to assert its authority upon the Sports Club who currently act as the Committee's Agents. If the Agents are unable to fully comply with the Committee's requirements, it is the responsibility of the FPMC to consider putting out the Maintenance Agreement out to tender.

MEETING ADJOURNED FOR PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – 8.25 pm. The meeting re-opened at 8.45 pm.

It was AGREED the Clerk write to the Chairman of the FPMC to advise the committee of its decisions.

Cllr Cundy distributed the information on the 'Commons Act 2006' handed to him by a member of the public and the members discussed the possibility of using the legislation under Section 15, to apply to have the Leas Field status changed to that of 'Village Green'. The Parish Council AGREED that such action is not appropriate at this time.

#### 57/2009 – New Community Centre Update

The Parish Council are pleased that building has finally started on the new Centre and formally AGREED to a donation of £20,000.00 reserved for the General Building Fund including £5116.66 (being 10% of £50000/0.9772 should the Biffaward application be successful).

The members further AGREED to pay the other Reserve of £20,000.00 towards the costs of Library books and equipment provision in the proposed new Library. The Clerk will write a letter to the Church to request a written receipt and an undertaking that the funds be returned should the Library not go ahead as planned.

Both cheques will be handed to the Baptist Church at the Annual Gathering on 25 March 2009.

#### **107/2009 – COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**PLANNING** – Cllr Mrs Newcombe reported on the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2009, minutes distributed.

##### **Enforcement Issues**

##### Jovike/The Stables.

The site has been visited twice by enforcement officers in Feb, and WBC will be considering whether breaches of control exist. A further update is due.

##### **Applications**

Greenacres, Lower Sandhurst – objection – out of keeping inappropriate dev. Urbanising and objection as defined cartilage includes 2 areas of ag. Land

17 Billing Avenue – FPC fully supportive of this application to increase opening hours of Community House

##### **Decisions**

80 Reading Road FPC objection – WBC refused as proposed intensity of use conflicts with local planning policy, visual detriment to area, disturbance and loss of amenity to neighbours, adverse affect on road safety.

184 NMR - FPC objection – WBC refused as design does not integrate with host dwelling, and detrimental to visual amenity, TBH, parking provision unsuitable.

280 NMR FPC objection – WBC refused as use and scale of detriment to host dwelling and residential character

290a NMR FPC objection – WBC refused on scale, bulk, mass, design dominant and incongruous to street scene, overlooking 290b

Silverstock Farm – FPC objection if outside the cartilage – WBC refused as harmful impact on character of countryside due to re-siting of footprint, excessive hard standing in front Fleet Hill Farm, application by Cemex approved with conditions by FPC and approved by WBC.

369 Finchampstead Road - FPC objection – WBC refused as proposed garage is inappropriately sited, detrimental to visual amenity and to trees on site.



**FOOTPATHS** – Cllr Chapman reported on meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2009 – Minutes distributed:

- Wick Hill – change of right of way designation – legal issues are still ongoing
- Interpretative Panels – Cllr Chapman is to meet Rebecca Walkley
- Footpath 9 – WBC working party visited site this week to clear ditches, prune trees and lay scalping. It was agreed a good job has been done to prevent future flooding.
- Footpath 6 - Cllr Chapman met the Rectory Farm landowner to discuss a possible diversion for the route of Footpath 6 and Permissive Path. This will be discussed at the next Footpaths meeting

**ROADS & ROAD SAFETY** – Cllr Mayne apologised for his late arrival and reported on meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2009 – Minutes distributed:

- Cllr Macey was thanked for his hard work in sourcing SID & VAS units for possible purchase by the FPC. There may not be enough time to conclude the issue before the financial year ends.
- SID sessions – the number of speeding motorists was reducing and supports the efforts being made. The number of future sessions may reduce due to other duties required of the PCSOs.
- Gorse Ride/ new Community Centre – traffic issues were raised at the Public Meeting.
- ‘Wish List’ - WBC paperwork is still outstanding
- Flooding hotspots – Cllr Cundy is to prepare a letter for the Clerk to send to WBC.
- Cllr Mrs Driver reported an accident at the Ridges/Dell Road site and all members are reminded to add such information to the database on the website.

### **WBC Core Strategy – Transport Report**

Cllr Mayne’s final ‘Written Statement’ for submission to WBC was distributed to members prior to this meeting.

The submission was necessary following other Parish responses as subsequent research had revealed that the Transport Plan had only taken into account the initial proposal of 2500 houses. Revisions of 3500 and then 5000 dwellings were therefore not allowed for in the Transport Plan and Cllr Mayne’s report highlighted the resultant impact on the southern roads.

The Parish Council AGREED to its being sent and Cllr Mayne was thanked for all his hard work in liaising with Barkham and Arborfield Parish Councils in this matter. Cllr Weeks supported and endorsed Cllr Mayne’s Report and its conclusions.

Cllr Weeks expressed his disappointment that no other councillor was able to attend the recent meeting at WBC concerning the Arborfield day. It was agreed it is important that several councillors attend such meetings in the future. The Inspector has agreed to a personal presentation at the Examination and Cllr Mayne will attend to represent the parish. The exact date will be circulated so that other councillors can attend with him.

### **108/2009 – OTHER REPORTS**

**FPMC** – already discussed

**Gorse Ride MAG Report** – Cllr Mrs Jennings Frisby’s report distributed

**Youth Report** – Louise Morris’ report distributed

**FinchNAG REPORT** – Cllr Pearce reported on the last meeting and the Clerk will distribute his written report by email.

- Simon Price of WBC attended and advised that WBC will not meet government targets re housing stock condition; 42% of rents collected are passed back to the government; housing reparation schedule at Gorse Ride to be done.
- The FinchNag Survey will be completed during April/May 2009.
- Litter Pick Day – 26 April 2009 – the FinchNag continues to co-ordinate efforts and all councillors welcome. Cllr Cundy advised the Finchampstead C of E school would take part.
- Cllr Pearce also reported that there is an increased effort with Neighbourhood Watch.

### **CLERK'S REPORT**

- Thanks to Cllr Mrs Newcombe in completing the councillors section of Standards Board Questionnaire – both parts were submitted by the deadline.
- Cllr Woof confirmed that Sat 27 June is GR Ride summer fete
- The new Meetings List has been distributed for reference – Cllr Mayne is not able to attend the proposed Roads date of 13 May and this may be changed.

### **109/2009 – ANNUAL GATHERING**

The Clerk reported that 30+ acceptances have been received so far and with councillors etc. the numbers will be around 60. Cllr Mrs Driver offered to buy the food and Cllr Cundy will purchase other refreshments. The hall is available from 7pm to prepare for the start of the meeting at 8pm. Chairmen of committees and others are asked to submit their reports to the Clerk by Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

### **110/2009 – FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT – CHARGES FOR SUPPLYING DOCUMENTATION.**

The Clerk will respond to the enquiries in hand but It was AGREED that future requests will be subject to a £25 minimum charge which will be noted on the Parish Model Publication Scheme.

### **111/2009 – NEW PARISH WEBSITE**

Cllr Bromley purchased software and books for use to re-write the Parish Website and his re-imburement was approved by Amenities committee on 10 March – Cllr Bromley will submit his invoice to the Clerk. Cllr Bromley was thanked for his valuable contribution to the council.

Cllr Bromley will continue to update of the old website and, together with the Clerk, plans to re-write the new site during the August recess.

### **112/2009 – CORRESPONDENCE & FORUM**

- Lansdown Cricket & Sportsground Services – request under the FOI act for copies of all emails and letters making comments or complaints regarding the Park or Sports Club and its staff for any reason whatsoever that have been received by the PC since Jan 2006. The Clerk to respond with relevant documentation.
- Mr Perkin, resident – expressing concern on situation at the Memorial Park/Leas Field – the Clerk has sent copies of Jan & Feb MC Minutes and invited Mr Perkin to attend tonight.
- SLCC – Fresh Air and Exercise 6<sup>th</sup> April day course dealing with commonland, village greens, rights of way and open spaces - £65 per delegate

- WBC Community Conference - 20 March 2009 at Sindlesham Court 9.30 – 3.30
- WBC – D/P Conference 22 October 2009 – ideas for themes mooted as Devolution and Community empowerment; quality Council status; Partnership working; Community provision; projects to promote cultural diversity – please put forward ideas for discussion topics for the evening.
- BALC – 6-9pm 16<sup>th</sup> April at RBWM Town Hall – Evening Masterclass on Planning
- WDALC – next meeting Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2009 – Cllr Cox to attend
- Keep Mobile – AGM – Sat 25 April at 2pm – The Clerk will ask Cllr May to attend
- National Trust Finchampstead Ridges Cttee & NT Property Manager – thanks for £1000 donation
- Ramblers Association sent Complimentary tickets to Outdoors Show at NEC 27-29 February
- Thames Valley Police – Community Policing Awards 2009
- Commons Act 2006 – passed to Clerk from resident

Correspondence handed to committees

FINANCE –

- Grant application forms from SE Berks Gang Show & Eversley Sports Club
- Pensions - presentations

AMENITIES –

- JDB – new contract rates for grass cutting

ROADS

- WBC – Local Safety Scheme – Park Lane/Reading Road
- SEC Street Lights Schedule for 2009-2010

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** – no further items were raised

**110/2009 – DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Main Council 7.30 pm Thursday 19 March 2009 at the Memorial Hall, Finchampstead

**Main Council on Wednesday 15 April will be in the California Association Hall as there was a double booking in the Memorial Hall.**

Meeting closed at 10.45 pm.