

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD
AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 15TH APRIL 2009
AT THE CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION HALL,
FINCHAMPSTEAD ROAD, 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, W Chapman, I Gordon, M Macey, K Mayne,
Cllrs A Pearce, S Weeks, R Woof.

Mrs Jane Holloway, Clerk

134/2009 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE -

Cllrs S Bromley, E Cox, J May, G Veitch

135/2009- MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Main Council meeting on 19th March 2009, were signed as a true record.

136/2009 - CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON THE MINUTES

106/2009 – Correspondence - Flooding Park Lane/Reading Road

The Clerk has still had no communication from Mrs Gan. This matter to be kept under review. Cllr Weeks advised the members that the approved works have been delayed by ongoing talks with one landowner. WBC funding has been carried forward to the current year.

106/2009 – 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. This matter to be kept under review.

106/2009 – 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.

106/2009 – Memorial Benches For Mollie Harle And Harry Long

The Clerk wrote to inform Mrs Long and Cllr Weeks has sent Mr Harle's address to the Clerk by email so that the letter can be sent direct to him.

106/2009 – Finchampstead Sports Club - Leas Field - Public Right of Way

Cllr Weeks confirmed that the forms will be collected in the next few weeks for submission to WBC. Cllrs Cundy and Markham will assist.

106/2009 – New Community Centre Update

The cheques were given to the Baptist Church at the Annual Gathering on 25 March 2009 and building is progressing well. Cllr Weeks reported that WBC planners were concerned about the steel roof to be fitted but the matter is now resolved and the roof will be powder coated a mid grey colour. The Clerk wrote to the Baptist Church to confirm the second donation of £20000.00 was subject to the successful opening of the Library facility at the Centre. A meeting will be sought to discuss the Parish Office and Management Committee for the new Centre.

109/2009 – Annual Gathering

Cllr Cundy reported that the event continues to be very successful and all members agreed many positive comments have been received and all who attend enjoy the event.

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.

112/2009 – Correspondence - Lansdown Cricket & Sportsground Services

The Clerk has received a letter thanking the FPC for the details sent.

112/2009 - WBC – D/P Conference 22 October 2009

The following was submitted for inclusion at the conference

'with the objective of improving road safety, greater speed awareness, reducing the current ambiguity of road speeds, reducing the costs of varying road speeds etc. we should limit the maximum road speed to 40mph on all non A roads throughout Wokingham Borough. In addition, following recent changes in government policy we should limit the maximum speed of all new residential roads to 20mph as adopted in places such as Portsmouth'

Cllr Mayne advised that this had been submitted by Cllr Cox as a point of discussion at the conference rather than being an approved policy of the R&RS committee.

137/2009 – COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLANNING – Cllr Mrs Newcombe reported on the meeting held on 23rd March 2009, minutes distributed. The enforcement issues are still being monitored by the committee.

Applications

The committee submitted no objections or comments.

Decisions

166 Nine Mile Ride – FPC objections and refused by WBC as insufficient evidence that applicant is a gypsy; Thames Basin Heath; inadequate provision of services; Backland development.

Greenacres, Lwr Sandhurst Road – FPC objections as inappropriate development but approved by WBC.

Several applications were refused but the Planning Committee had no objections.

19 Little Fryth – Directly overlooking neighbouring dwelling.

5 Shenstone Close

Hunters Wood, The Ridges – Poor design, contrary to development plan policy

FINANCE

Cllr Markham reported on the meeting held on 8th April 2009 (minutes yet to be distributed).

The Clydesdale Bank account is now open and the Financial Regulations will be amended to take into account the procedural changes particularly with the Internet facility. The Clerk will ask the Internal Auditor for guidance.

The Year End figures were in line as expected and the committee AGREED that some funds be carried forward as Reserves into 2009-10. £5K for Skate Park; £15K for St James Church Restoration; £2K for Parish Office Capital expenditure. Cllr Mayne requested that £5K also be carried forward for the SID Project – AGREED. Cllr Chapman advised the meeting that the Church Restoration should now start by the end of June 2009 as the new heating system has been approved.

Donations

The committee discussed three new applications and made recommendations as follows:

Samaritans - £200 – AGREED

Eversley Sports Association - £2000 for Phase 2 of development. FPC donated £2000 to the first phase and recognise that substantial benefits will be put in place for Finchampstead residents. AGREED.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| • NATIONAL SAVINGS ACCOUNT | closed and transferred to Halifax |
| • CLYDESDALE BANK | £9761.80 (10% Precept) |
| • HALIFAX ASSET RESERVE (at 1 st March 09) | £90958.32 |
| • CHEQUE LIST – APR/09 | APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY |

Next meeting 10th June 2009 – to discuss the Year End Audit for recommendation to Main Council for approval.

AMENITIES – Cllr Markham reported on matters since the last meeting

- Allotments – A meeting is still to be arranged with Cemex to discuss future arrangements and terms for the land they propose to lease adjacent to the Old Nursery land owned by WBC.
- Notice boards – Bramley Grove and Dillons boards erected. Either Cllr Cundy or Markham will discuss the site for the new board with the manager at Blubeckers. These three new boards are lockable and it was agreed notices should be sent to the Parish Office for inclusion on the board and a notice to be put into each board to this effect.

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

- Footpath 9 – WBC working party cleared ditches, pruned trees and lay scalplings. 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 matter is ongoing.

Cllr Weeks advised that the Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership have now secured sufficient funding to renew the surface on Bridleway 49, which included £500 from the Footpaths Committee. This will necessitate that both the bridleway and adjacent footpath to close during the 2 weeks work as well as the car park. Notices will be put on the boards and the Clerk will notify the Finchampstead Magazine.

ROADS & ROAD SAFETY – Cllr Mayne advised that there is nothing of significance to report, other than the EIP sessions for the Core Strategy and the Lighting Trial which are separately listed on the Agenda. He apologised for the necessity of changing the date of the next R&RS meeting to 6th May – 7.30pm at California Association Hall.

138/2009 – OTHER REPORTS

FPMC

The Clerk wrote to the FPMC to propose two seats be allocated to the Committee at their next Annual Meeting on 20th April. Cllrs Cundy and Markham were nominated and the FPMC will be asked to agree that other councillors can deputise when necessary. Cllr Cundy will attend on 20 April in Cllr Markham's absence.

Finchampstead Sports Club – Agency Agreement

The Clerk wrote to the Chairman of FPMC of the Parish Council's concerns that this matter be resolved without delay. Cllr Markham advised that the first meeting is scheduled for late April, after the FPMC AGM.

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

Youth Report – Louise Morris’ report distributed

FNAG REPORT – Cllr Pearce reported on the last meeting and his report will be distributed by the Clerk. Louise Morris attended the last meeting and the Community House is now open for extra evenings for the coming year. A Street Games Co-ordinator has been appointed and Ms Morris is arranging moped training courses.

The FNAG questionnaire forms are being distributed by volunteers. The group are investigating a device which records number plate recognition.

The Litter Pick will take place on Sunday 26th April between 9-midday but only on quiet side roads – volunteers are most welcome.

SLCC – Fresh Air and Exercise

Cllr Woof attended the workshop on 6th April and found it to be informative and interesting. Points raised regarding Health & Safety for footpaths and public parks will be passed to the Footpaths and Amenities committees. Village Green status was discussed and the Leas Field is covered by most criteria apart from the fact that it is predominantly used for organized sport. Other courses are arranged and Cllr Woof will pass the information to the Clerk.

WDALC

Cllr Cox’s report distributed

CLERK’S REPORT

- Thanks to Cllr Bromley for installing the new printer/fax/copier/scanner machine at the Parish Office. The new spare telephone line is being used as the fax number (05603 115996). The Epson printer will be stored as a spare machine and the Photocopier is to be donated to the FPMC.
- Both WBC and HMRC (VAT dept) have been advised of the new Bank details.

139/2009 – WBC CORE STRATEGY – EXAMINATION IN PUBLIC SESSIONS (EIP)

Cllrs Mrs Newcombe and Mayne attended several sessions and various reports have been circulated by email. Cllr Mayne advised the members on the recent session on Transportation and the impact on local roads of the Arborfield site. Now that the developers are proposing 5000 houses, the WBC evidence, based on far fewer dwellings, does not correlate with this increase. The proposed Arborfield relief road would cost around £20 million and this could lead the Inspector to conclude the site is not sustainable or viable. Cllr Mayne advised that if this site is rejected, it would be the best outcome for Finchampstead residents.

Cllr Weeks advised there are further weaknesses with the Arborfield Consortium’s proposals as the Army is not yet decided on a date to leave the Garrison site and the land options are uncertain. The other ‘Strategic Development’ sites are Barkham Square, SW Development area and Grazeley none of which would impact directly on Finchampstead.

The members agreed that the proposals are ill conceived and ill researched but, as WBC are not involved in the decision, there is no point in writing to the Chief Executive. Cllr Cundy thanked Cllr Mayne for all his hard work and effort in covering this issue in depth and noted that other councillors will attend the next sessions on Housing. Cllr Mrs Newcombe will liaise and arranged attendance and representation from FPC.

140/2009 – WBC PROPOSALS FOR A PART NIGHT LIGHTING TRIAL

The written proposal has been distributed and the members noted that WBC propose to switch off street lighting, in appropriate places, between midnight and 5 am. Cllr Weeks advised that police have evidence that crime is reduced in unlit areas. The Parish Council has no objections to the proposal.

141/2009 – CORRESPONDENCE & FORUM

- WBC – Parish & Town Charter – Copy to be signed by Chairman and returned to Borough Council.
- Information Commissioner's Office – FOI dvd for Clerk's information
- WBC Mayor's invitation to Stanlake Park for Charity Event - £10 per ticket on 3 May 2009

Correspondence handed to committees

FINANCE

- Thank you letter from Thames Valley Air Ambulance

FOOTPATHS

- Residents Letter regarding Footpath 5 and litter

ROADS

- WBC – Installation of Cycle Counters
- Proposed Bus Shelter in Finchampstead Road
- Proposed Bus Stop in Park Lane

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.

MEETING ADJOURNED FOR PUBLIC QUESTION TIME.

Forum – no further items were raised

142/2009 – DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Main Council 7.30 pm Thursday 21 May 2009 at the Memorial Hall, Finchampstead

Meeting closed at 9.10pm.