

**FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD
AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 21ST MAY 2009
AT THE CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION HALL,
FINCHAMPSTEAD ROAD, BERKSHIRE**

PRESENT: Cllr R Cundy, Chairman, Cllr G Markham, Vice Chairman
Cllrs R Black, S Bromley, W Chapman, E Cox,
Cllrs Mrs Jennings Frisby, M Macey, K Mayne,
Cllrs Mrs Newcombe, A Pearce, S Weeks, R Woof.

Mrs Anna Kent, Clerk's Assistant

175/2009 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE -

Cllrs Mrs Driver, I Gordon, J May, G Veitch, Mrs Jane Holloway, Clerk

176/2009 - ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN FOR 2009-10

The Clerk's Assistant, Mrs Kent, asked for nominations for the Chairman

Cllr Roland Cundy was proposed as Chairman by Cllr Markham, seconded by Cllr Weeks and was elected unanimously. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed.

Cllr Markham as Vice Chairman was proposed by Cllr Cundy and seconded by Cllr Black and was elected unanimously. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed.

Cllr Cundy thanked the members for their continued support and for all their hard work during the past year. 2009-10 will be an important year with the start of the new Community Centre and opening of a new Parish Office. Cllr Cundy advised he was unlikely to seek re-election next year.

177/2009- MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Main Council meeting on 15th April 2009, were signed as a true record.

178/2009 - CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON THE MINUTES

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

Cllr Weeks reported he had received an email from Mrs Gan saying that works are being delayed by ongoing discussions with one landowner.

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. The Clerk emailed WBC on 7 May 2009 for an update and is informed they are contacting Thames Water for confirmation about the bollards but no further update received. Another instance of Fly tipping was reported at the pumping station on the other side of the road.

106/2009 - Newsletter

The members of the Editorial Group - Cllrs Mrs Newcombe, Roland Cundy, Kevin Mayne, and Roger Woof. Meeting arranged for 11 May had to be cancelled so a new date to be arranged. A meeting will be re-scheduled to distribute with the WBC Autumn Newsletter.

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

To be carried forward.

106/2009 - New Community Centre Update

A meeting will be sought to discuss the Parish Office and Management Committee for the new Centre. Jim Gallagher will attend the Main Council Meeting in June.

137/2009 - Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership - Reparations to B/way 49

Cllr Weeks advised that works have been completed at the cost of 30K.

138/2009 - WBC Litter Pick

Cllr Pearce reported on the Litter Pick held on Sunday 26th April. A total of 156 people from Finchampstead joined the event and collected 11 tons of rubbish.

179/2009 - COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLANNING - Cllr Mrs Newcombe reported on the meeting held on 22nd April (chaired by Cllr Veitch and minutes distributed) and gave a verbal report on last night's meeting, 20 May.

April 22nd Meeting

Applications

FPC had two objections, 20 Arnett Ave - out of keeping, and 280 NMR overdevelopment and out of keeping

New Appeals

331 Nine Mile Ride, proposed erection of first floor extension over existing garage dwelling . FPC had no objections

Rhododendrons, Warren Lane, demolition of existing rear extension and building orangery plus single storey front extension plus 1st floor accommodation above garage. FPC had no objections.

Appeal Decision

New Mill Restaurant Proposed retention of raised timber platform and erection of semi permanent functions marquee. Appeal dismissed.

Cllr Mayne reported that Trudos and its neighbour on Gorse Ride North have felled trees in their front garden which has started to change the street scene. ACTION Email John Matthews at WBC noting our concerns and asking if a blanket TPO could be made to protect trees and street scene.

Planning Application F/2008/2773 - The Paddocks, Longwater Lane (Alpaca Farm)

Cllr Weeks reported that WBC commissioned a second report which concluded there was no justification for a dwelling on the site as the Alpacas do not need constant attention; WBC has concluded that countryside laws are being breached. The applicants were given a copy of this report and, as no decision was made by WBC within 8 weeks, the applicants have referred the matter direct to the Planning Inspectorate, requesting a decision on the matter. A Planning Enquiry is due to be held in the next few months and WBC will write to all who write in connection with this application. In the meantime, an enforcement notice will be served to remove the mobile home from the site.

May Meeting

Several enforcement issues updates.

Moor Farm - clearing continues to be monitored. A planning application which was submitted for the site has been withdrawn.

Jovike - enforcement order comes into effect on 24th May with six month compliance period.

Applications

The committee submitted objections to

80 Barkham Ride & 347 Nine Mile Ride - due to development in front of building line

Silverstock Farm - proposed erection of two storey extension to enlarge existing accommodation. FPC objected as permission on this site is only for a mobile home. Cllr Cox reported that there are gaps in WBC's filing on this site. ACTION Cllr Cox should send a copy of his files to WBC.

New Appeals

166 NMR - proposed change of use for the siting of two mobile homes for residential purposes, a public hearing will be held.

Appeal Decision

140 Nashgrove Lane, proposed conversion of the existing double garage into granny annexe and construction of a new attached double garage. Appeal dismissed

Cllr Mrs Newcombe also advised that she and Cllr Weeks will attend the WBC meeting on 20 June about new housing in the Borough; the Assistant Clerk will write to the SEB about our safety concerns at the Substation on Barkham; Mr M Cupit will be invited to a planning meeting to discuss S106 monies; Rubec Cottage owners have until end of May to demolish the cottage.

FINANCE

Cllr Markham reported on matters arising since the last meeting.

Alan Harland is to finalise figures at the Parish Office on 28th May in readiness for the Finance Meeting will be held on 17th June having changed dates with Footpaths now on 10th June

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)	£83000.00
• CHEQUE LIST - MAY/09	APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Next meeting to be held on Wednesday 17th June to prepare the Audit Return for approval at the June Main Council meeting.

AMENITIES - Cllr Markham reported on matters since the last meeting

- Allotments. A meeting has taken place with Cemex and two possible fields have been viewed. One has marsh grass in the middle of the field, the other is next to the road. Cemex are will carry out soil samples on the fields.
- Notice boards -Either Cllr Cundy or Markham will discuss the site for the new board with the manager at Blubeckers.

The next meeting will be held on Weds 3rd June 2009

FOOTPATHS

Cllr Chapman reported on matters arising since the last meeting:

- Wick Hill Lane deeds are being requested on Ridge Farm.
- Rectory Farm - discussion with owner still ongoing

The next meeting will be held on Weds 10th June 2009

ROADS & ROAD SAFETY

Cllr Mayne reported on the meeting held on 6th May.

- The approved final Wish List was submitted to WBC and a response is awaited.
- The committee is disappointed by the terms of the Vehicle Activated Sign scheme as officered by WBC and will be writing to them to say that we will not be participating unless we can have the equipment that FPC & FinchNag prefer.
- There has been a decline in the number of volunteers for the Speed Check sessions and councillors were asked to help in future sessions.
- Flooding around Cresswells - it was agreed the Clerk write to Borough Cllr Cockroft
- There has been limited progress on the Gorse Ride Healthy Streets Initiative due to the work on the WBC Core Strategy. The work will now get started again as Cllr Mayne has been invited to help Gorse Ride Schools review their school travel plans.

180/2009 - OTHER REPORTS

FPMC

Annual meeting held on 20 April 2009 - Cllr Cundy reported that Sue Napper was re-elected as Chairman, Bev Kemp as Treasurer & Secretary. Cllr Markham will remain as the Parish Council representative and Cllrs Cundy and May were elected as Parish Representatives.

FPMC Meeting on 13th May attended by Cllr Markham who reported overall income was reduced in the last financial year due to expenditure on the playground refurbishment. Discussions by the Agency Agreement Working Group continue with the Sports Club and will be reported on at the next Main Council meeting.

It was noted that a cricket match played recently for which entry charges were made and the field used for car parking. Action - Clerk to write to FPMC Chairman to ask for the club's expenses, if any, under the Lease and Agreement with the Sports Club

WBC CORE STRATEGY - EXAMINATION IN PUBLIC SESSIONS (EIP)

Housing EIP sessions held late April - Decision expected in Aug 09

FinchNag

Cllr Andrew Pearce reported that 900 residents in the borough went litter picking. The members discussed the matter concerning some questionnaires that appeared to have been partially completed and the NAG will investigate further. All questionnaires will be analysed by FinchNag and WBC and the results prepared for the AGM (date to be determined) and the newly appointed Police Inspector, Denise Blackburn will be invited to speak.

Gorse Ride Residents Assoc. / MAG Report - Meeting cancelled

Youth Report - Louise Morris. No report submitted.

Police Town and Parish Councillors Meeting 19th May.

Cllr Mrs Newcombe attended the meeting on behalf of the Council and reported the key targets and performance for the police in 2009/10 is to focus on anti-social behavior. The police perceive the need for more inter-generational work e.g. Finchampstead youngsters visiting care homes. Stable thefts and burglaries on commercial properties have increased. Policing pledge - copies will come to parishes shortly for noticeboards.

PCSOs nearly up to budget there is a high turnover as many decide to train as police officers. Another 75 PCs to be recruited for Thames Valley.

The resumption of Police liaison meetings was requested, although NAGs supposed to be the link. Finchampstead was praised on all the efforts and activity they put into road safety.

Cllr Mrs Newcombe advised these meetings are likely to be repeated three times a year and Clerks will be welcome to attend.

Older Peoples Forum

Cllr Cox reported on the meeting held on 28th April attended by 25 and addressed by Andy Glencross, WBC Biodiversity Officer on enhancing Wokingham's wildlife. Cllr Cox proposed a letter of thanks to Rose Green the WBC Officer who organises these events.

Skate Park

Main issue remains the location, California Country Park was originally ruled out because of the lottery fund application, which proved unsuccessful. It was agreed that Waverley site is more suitable as it already has hard standing and is in a more urban location.

181/2009 - NOMINATIONS TO COMMITTEES AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS

THE Clerk distributed the Draft list of committee members and Cllr Markham withdrew from the Footpaths Committee as it was over subscribed.

Representatives of outside Organisations are also listed and councillors thanked for their work for these bodies. Cllr Macey volunteered to become a School Governor at Gorse Ride Junior and the Clerk will contact Sarah Phillips, the Head Teacher. Cllr Mrs Driver previously advised she is willing to attend Keep Mobile meetings on behalf of the Council.

Each committee will hold a short meeting after close of business tonight to elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman

182/2009 - PARISH COUNCIL INSURANCE

The Clerk obtained quotations from Aon and Norwich Union to compare with the existing policy with Zurich Municipal and Cllr Markham advised that his recommendation would be to accept the quotation from Norwich Union as providing better cover for a reduced premium. His analysis was distributed - AGREED

183/2009 - PARISH COUNCIL PENSION FUND - RBWM SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

To be signed off - AGREED

184/2009 - SUMMER FETE 4TH JULY AT MEMORIAL PARK

The Clerk has progressed the order for the two memorial benches with Harry Stebbing Workshops who are due to deliver by end of June.

Both Mrs Long and Mr David Harle have accepted the invitation to attend but would like to know a time to arrive for the 'inauguration'.

A rota of volunteers for the day will be organised by the Clerk to include Cllrs Cundy, Black, Bromley and Mayne.

Cllr Black was thanked for loan of his gazebo and for supplying laminated graphics. The Clerk will check for prices of display boards and invite the Press to attend.

185/2009 - CORRESPONDENCE & FORUM

- Blackwater Valley Countryside Park - Thank you letter for donation of £500
- Samaritans - thank you letter for donation of £200
- Eversley Sports Ass. - thank you letter for donation of £2000 *-elated to receive your generous donation towards the completion costs of the Indoor Training Facility. Date to be advised re Opening Ceremony in September 09 with invitation to attend.'*
- Equality & Human Rights Commission - Public Sector duties
- Email from Mr James Millett, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for Drake Close reported concerns about vandalism - Cllr Pearce has informed local officers.
- Greyhound Pub - the office has been told that there will be several public meetings held in June to publicise the re-opening
- WBC - Bus Stop, Park Lane
- SLCC - Playground Safety course on Tues. 9 June at Sandhurst Town Council - £40
- Renewal notice from Zurich for £1,607.64 due 1st June 09.

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

Cllr Bromley advised that the new web hosting package has been implemented
Cllr Weeks reported that he is no longer on the WBC Planning Committee and is now the Chairman of the WBC Strategic Partnership.

186/2009 - DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Main Council 7.30 pm Thursday 18 June 2009 at the Memorial Hall, Finchampstead

Meeting closed at 9.55pm.