

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD
AT 7.30 PM ON THURSDAY 16TH JULY 2009
AT THE MEMORIAL HALL, THE VILLAGE
FINCHAMPSTEAD, BERKSHIRE

PRESENT: Cllr G Markham, Vice Chairman, chairing the meeting.
Cllrs Mrs C Driver, Mrs Jennings Frisby, Mrs Newcombe
Cllrs R Black, S Bromley, W Chapman, E Cox,
Cllrs M Macey, K Mayne, A Pearce, G Veitch, S Weeks

Mrs Jane Holloway, Clerk.

261/2009 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Roland Cundy, I Gordon, R Woof. Cllr May not in attendance

262/2009- MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Main Council meeting on 21st May 2009, previously signed as a true record was amended on page 67 to show correct day and venue - Thursday 21st May 2009 at the Memorial Hall, Finchampstead. The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 18th June 2009 were signed as a true record.

263/2009 - CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON THE MINUTES

237/2009 - Correspondence - Flooding Park Lane/Reading Road

The new contact for residents is Alison Payne. Cllr Weeks advised that discussions with the landlord have concluded successfully and the requisite legal agreements are being drawn up.

237/2009 - Thames Water Pumping Station, Longwater Road - fly tipping

Beverlie Warman is arranging a meeting with the new site manager to discuss the situation. To be carried forward.

237/2009 - Finchampstead Sports Club - Leas Field - Public Right of Way

Cllr Weeks advised that there is no further progress to report - to be carried forward.

237/2009 - Parish Council Insurance

Insurance documents have been received and an electronic copy forwarded to Cllr Markham.

237/2009 - Summer Fete 4th July at Memorial Park

Cllr Markham thanked all those who helped on the day, Roger Black for the loan of his gazebo and laminator. Cllr Mrs Driver thanked Cllrs Cundy and May for the 'Splat the Rat' game they organised on the day; £5700 raised at the fete. Mrs Long and David Harle attended during the afternoon and appreciated the generosity of the Parish Council in dedicating benches in memory of Harry Long and Mollie Harle. Mr Harle's letter of thanks is on the Correspondence List.

240/2009 - New Baptist Community Centre - Advisory Board Terms of Reference

The matter was referred to the Finance Committee for further discussion. Any councillor is free to attend or comments to be submitted by 22 July for inclusion. It was generally agreed that there ought not to be named people but rather representatives of bodies e.g. Chairman of the Parish Council.

244/2009 - Annual Return

The Attachment 3(ii) - 'Notice of appointment of date for the exercise of electors' rights' has been completed by the Clerk and copies will be publicised on the Parish Noticeboards from 20 July to 14 August 2009.

245/2009 - Wokingham Volunteer Service - Hospital Transport Scheme

WVC advise that WBC has now authorised the use of Bus Passes for Medical Journeys which will cover this cost usually borne by the Parish Council. It was agreed that WBC pay for these journeys until such time as funding is withdrawn by them.

246/2009 - Future Training Needs For Councillors and Clerk

Questionnaire completed and sent to BALC. Cllrs Macey and Woof are to attend the conference on Financial Management at Wokefield Park on 27th July 2009.

247/2009 - WBC Armed Forces Day Celebrations 22nd June

Cllr Cox attended as the Parish Council representative and advised that although well organised, other organisations e.g. the British Legion, had not been involved which was an oversight.

264/2009 - COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLANNING - Cllr Mrs Newcombe reported on the meeting held on 15th July 2009. The minutes are not yet available and Cllr Mrs Newcombe gave an update.

Moor Farm Park Lane - Enforcement Action - The Enforcement Officer is monitoring the situation on a regular basis.

The Stables/Jovike - enforcement notice served, Appeal lodged with Inspector and letter sent from FPC in support of WBC.

166 NMR - Public Hearing advised as 18th August but yet to be confirmed in writing.

S106 Monies

Cllrs Veitch and Pearce to attend S106 Day at WBC on 4th August

Electricity Substation Barkham Ride

The Assistant Clerk will contact SEB about their proposed visit.

New Housing Event

Cllr Mrs Newcombe attended the New Housing event on 20th June which was run by the WBC's Planning Consultants. The aim was to involve those attending to make suggestions for possible layouts on the land including open space, housing, schools, community centres, retail and extending Hogwood Lane. The consultants will use the ideas submitted to draft plans for future presentation and consultation. Photographs of 3 possible layouts were shown to the committee.

Rubec Cottage

WBC Enforcement will ensure the owner completes the demolition of the old dwelling in line with planning conditions and the committee will keep this under review.

SE RSS - Planning for Gypsies

Cllr Mrs Newcombe advised these plans include 21 more pitches designated for Wokingham. The committee discussed the possibility that most of these could be sited in Commonfield Lane and Park Lane. It was agreed that any new sites must be subject to the ordinary planning application process.

Wheatlands Farm

Still under review by WBC Enforcement Officer

Dell House

WBC Planning to be asked to confirm permission includes dumping waste soil in scrub woodland.

Applications

Appx A - no objections to any applications.

WBC Decisions

Parish comments in line with WBC except for

Warren Lodge, Warren Lane - refused as being inappropriate in principle, unacceptable cumulative impact leading to a spread of development on the site.

Hansom Cabin - refused as being out of scale and detrimental to visual amenity and awkward appearance.

New Appeals

Meadowside, Park Lane

to allow additional mobile home (retrospective). Letter sent to Inspector objecting on grounds of overdevelopment, TBH, exceeding 50% of original application.

The Paddock, Longwater Lane (Alpaca Farm)

11th/12th August - Enquiry at WBC Shute End - Cllr Mrs Newcombe to attend.

Appeal Decisions

331 NMR - first floor extn over garage - Allowed, FPC had no objections.

FINANCE

Cllr Markham reported on matters since the last meeting.

Village Club Trustees Cllr Markham, as Parish Council representative on the Village Club Trustees (with Cllr Chapman) submitted a Grant Application form for the renewal insurance premium - up to a maximum of £250. Cllr Mayne proposed and Cllr Weeks seconded AGREED UNANIMOUSLY (Cllrs Markham and Chapman abstained from the vote).

Baptist Community Centre - draft Terms of Reference on Finance Agenda for 22nd July - any comments to be submitted to prior to meeting. This will then be further discussed with Jim Gallagher on Cllr Cundy's return and brought before Main Council on 17th September for approval.

1st Finchampstead Scouts - Grant Application (distributed) for £4K donation towards costs of replacing camping equipment. The matter was discussed but referred to the Finance Meeting for their recommendation to September Main Council. The Clerk will prepare a report showing comparative grant expenditure in previous years.

St James Heritage Project

Cllr Chapman advised the members that the Church is instructing the builder to commence work following the legal agreement to be signed off on 25th July. The donation of £15K was agreed at the Main Council held in March 2008 on the conditions that the Church would receive donation upon commencement of work and that the monies to be spent in accordance the agreed limits. Cllr Chapman will ask the Church to write formally to the Finance Committee for its meeting on 22nd July. The committee will then make a final decision to release the monies.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| • CLYDESDALE BANK (at 10 July 09) | £33575.50 |
| • HALIFAX ASSET RESERVE (at 1 July 09) | £83652.83 |
| • CHEQUE LIST - JUL/09 | APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY |

AMENITIES - Cllr Markham reported on the meeting held on 3rd June - minutes distributed.

- Allotments. Cllr Markham continues to discuss the issues with Clive Williamson and it was agreed that pressure must be continued to be applied to Cemex to get the land identified and released as early as possible. Their concerns over mixed use access to the site need to be overcome. The matter will be progressed with Cemex and the Parish will undertake the soil sampling.
- Notice boards - the last new board has been installed at Bluebeckers. Cllr Veitch asked for a notice to go on the old board on Reading Road to advise of the new location. The Clerk will write to Mr Asteraki to thank him for his help in the past.
- Bus Stop outside California Hall. Minimal damage on bench - Cllr Markham thanked Cllr Bromley for repairing the bench.
- Flowering baskets - Cllr Bromley was thanked for his hard work in watering them regularly and it was agreed that the number of baskets be increased next summer. To be on the next Amenities agenda.

The next meeting will be held on Weds 2nd September 2009.

FOOTPATHS

Cllr Chapman reported on matters arising since the last meeting.

- Footpath 8 - hedging planted on both sides of the path is not often pruned back by the owners and this continues to cause obstruction. WBC is in discussion with the landowners.
- Footpath 10 - WBC will carry out work to improve the muddy section.
- Cllrs Chapman and Weeks attended the re-opening of Bridleway 49 following the surface improvements by BVCP, supported with a donation from the Parish Council.
- The Parish Council were sorry to hear of the death of John Alexander's father and Cllr Chapman advised he will now be able to resume normal work.

- Cllr Weeks advised that talks continue with Cemex on the routes of the PROW in the Manor Farm section.

The clerk reminded the committee that it was agreed at the last committee meeting that the little used paths (F/p 4, 5, 8, 18, 41, 51. - need checking during the summer.

The next meeting will be held on Weds 16th September 2009.

ROADS & ROAD SAFETY

Cllr Mayne reported on matters arising since the last meeting.

- Gorse Ride Healthy Streets Initiative - During discussions with Matt Davey, WBC, it was agreed he would visit Gorse Ride estate and area to assess possibilities for pedestrians, cyclists, street lighting and prepare a feasibility study for a School Travel Plan and to promote the Initiative.
- VAS PARTNERSHIP - Also discussed with Matt Davey the Parish Council preference for an alternative SID unit other than that offered by WBC. This will be carried forward.
- SID Sessions - Finchampstead - Still suffer from a lack of volunteers and it was agreed it would be a good idea to set up a database of interested people from NAG members and those who responded to the recent NAG questionnaire and email them regularly with dates. Steve Eddy could then be able to co-ordinate the effort. The Wokingham Times attended the last session when three drivers were caught speeding at 60mph in a 30mph limit. Cllr Mrs Driver will 'advertise' for more volunteers in her article for the Finchampstead Magazine.
- NMR School signs - The Clerk will inform Julia Tredwell that the Parish Council agrees with Cllr Weeks to withdraw the objections to the proposal.
- Cllr Mayne advised that there are occasional parking problems at Gorse Ride schools mostly caused by contractors' vehicles and this may continue to be a problem when schools return in September.

265/2009 - OTHER REPORTS

WBC Housing Event

Cllr Mrs Newcombe and Cllr Weeks attended the New Housing event on 20th June which was run by the WBC's Planning Consultants. The aim was to involve those attending to make suggestions for possible layouts on the land including open space, housing, schools, community centres, retail and extending Hogwood Lane. The consultants will use the ideas submitted to draft plans for future presentation and consultation.

WDALC Meeting

Cllr Cox attended and his report is distributed. The meeting was better attended and the talk on Planning Enforcement interesting. The next meeting in October would highlight S106 monies.

FPMC - Cllr Markham attended and his report is distributed

Agency Agreement Working Group

The Sports Club raised the issue that their letter dated February had not been answered.

The Clerk has now confirmed to the Club in writing that the Parish Council are still opposed to the fencing around Lease Field and requested an informal meeting to discuss returning to the status quo before the closure of the field.

FinchNag - Cllr Pearce attended and reported that the Gorse Ride residents are very concerned that a more coordinated and proactive approach from police/community wardens/tenant services is required.

Following the results of the recent Questionnaire, FNAG have now set up three groups to concentrate on; Speeding/dangerous driving; Inconsiderate Parking; Anti Social Behaviour.

Village Youth Report - Louise Morris

Louise Morris attended the meeting and advised the members that the group has more attendees with 10 regulars. All are looking forward to the new Centre and its facilities and its positive impact on their own lives. Discussions continue with the Church on youth involvement and how to work together for success. WBC have organised youth events during the summer which have been well publicised. Cllr Cox remarked that the other village partners do not attend the Youth Group meetings often and Ms Morris agreed that a real objective for the Group needs to be properly identified. Cllr Weeks queried the future of the Community House after the Centre opens as it would be an opportunity to extend it for a new purpose. There is plenty of funding available for a skate park but a site still needs to be identified. Cllr Markham thanked Ms Morris for attending and all agreed that the Youth Group is flourishing with her involvement.

Gorse Ride Residents Assoc. / MAG Report - Cllr Mrs Jennings Frisby attended and her report is distributed. It was noted that attendance at these meetings is waning but Cllr Markham thanked Cllr Mrs Jennings Frisby for her willingness to continue to attend and report to Main Council.

Clerk's Report

- Amended plaques for the memorial benches were placed on benches by Roger Holloway.
- All benches and noticeboards now in place - John Fruin instructed to varnish older ones before winter season.

266/2009 - S106 MONIES EXPENDITURE ON FOOTWAY, SANDHURST ROAD

S106 Monies - Sandhurst Road footway.

It was agreed that the choice before the Parish Council was regrettable, due to the fact that the original S106 agreement had been poorly worded. It did not allow for any room for manoeuvre to use the £8K on a more beneficial project for Finchampstead. It was agreed that the Parish Council would not object to the WBC proposal as the least worse option.

267/2009 - WORKING GROUP DATES TO BE ARRANGED

Interpretative Panels Working Group

Newsletter Editorial Group

Risk Assessment Working Group - Annual Inspection.

Group members will convene after the meeting to arrange dates during the August recess.

268/2009 - APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURE FOR NEW BENCH AT FINCHAMPSTEAD ROAD BUS STOP

It was agreed to refer this matter to the Amenities committee for their recommendations to be put to Main Council in September.

269/2009 - CORRESPONDENCE LIST - JULY 16TH MEETING

1. HMRC - VAT information - for Clerk
2. HM Government - Vetting & Barring Scheme - Working to protect vulnerable people. Noted.
3. WBC - Statement of Account 2008-09. Noted.
4. WBC - Community Cohesion Conference - Monday 20th July at 3.30-8.30, Woodley Baptist Church. Noted.
5. NHS Litigation Authority - Appeal against Berkshire West PCT determination of Rurality in Finchampstead - representations to be made by 7th August 2009. Noted.
6. BALC - Power of Wellbeing - new wide ranging power for T&P Councils to enable parishes to undertake any action to promote or improve social, environmental and economic well being of their area. Briefing at Shute End on Tuesday 28th July at Bracknell TC offices 7-9pm. £15 per person. Noted.
7. GRR - Agenda for meeting of 21 July 2009. Noted.
8. David Harle - thank you letter for providing the Memorial Bench for his mother, Mollie Harle. Noted.
9. Mrs Gan - advising she is no longer the contact for residents affected by flooding issues in Park Lane/New Mill Road. Noted.
10. Wokingham Job Support - 17th AGM - Thursday 23rd July at 8pm, The Cornerstone. Noted.

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 Veitch reported the poor state of the Moulsham Bridge and the missing Interpretive Panel - Cllr Weeks advised that he would raise these concerns with BVCP and that the Panel is already under repair.

Cllr Mayne reported the recent ram raid on the Dillons store in Barkham Ride.

270/2009 - DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Main Council 7.30 pm Thursday 17 September 2009 at Memorial Hall, Finchampstead
Meeting closed at 9.57pm