

**FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD**  
**AT 7.30 PM ON THURSDAY 17<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009**  
**AT THE MEMORIAL HALL, THE VILLAGE**  
**FINCHAMPSTEAD, BERKSHIRE**

---

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

Mrs Jane Holloway, Clerk.

**326/2009 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs I Gordon, R Woof

**327/2009- MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the Main Council meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2009 were signed as a true record.

**328/2009 - CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON THE MINUTES**

263/2009 - Correspondence - Flooding Park Lane/Reading Road

Cllr Weeks advised the scheme remains incomplete without the landowner's agreement and discussions continue.

263/2009 - Thames Water Pumping Station, Longwater Road - fly tipping

Beverlie Warman is to arrange a meeting with the new site manager to discuss the situation.

263/2009 - Finchampstead Sports Club - Leas Field - Public Right of Way

The Clerk has yet to receive a response to the letter sent to the Sports Club in July. The matter will be discussed after the FPMC Report by Cllr Markham.

263/2009 - Memorial Park - new benches

Asset check in summer revealed surface degraded. Clerk has contacted supplier who has apologized (change in their oil supplier) and John Fruin has been instructed to treat both benches and noticeboards during the Autumn.

264/2009 - Finance Committee Meeting - St James Heritage Project

The Clerk sent the £15K donation to the Church as agreed by the Finance Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2009. Letter of thanks received.

**326/2009 - COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**PLANNING** - Cllr Mrs Newcombe report on the meeting held on 12 August & Cllr Veitch for meeting on 9 September 2009.

**Applications**

**12<sup>th</sup> August 2009**

31 Pine Drive - new detached garage - Objection as in front of building line - WBC Refused  
Troodos, Gorse Ride North - proposed wall & gates - objection as height 2m and not in keeping with street scene. - Refused by WBC

The Greyhound, Longwater Road - new extension - Objection, would result in a loss of 6 car parking spaces. Out of keeping with the character of the property. Cllr Weeks advised that application has been withdrawn.

Silverstock Farm, Sandhurst Road - erection of 2 storey extn - Objection as inappropriate development in countryside. Approved with conditions by WBC.

**9<sup>th</sup> September 2009**

290a NMR - new garage - objection, in front of building line, too close to boundary

White Lodge, The Ridges - meeting attended by property owners. No objections to proposed extension.

### Appeal Decisions

32 Wild Briar - Appeal dismissed - FPC no objections

Rhododendrons, Warren Lane - Appeal allowed for new pitched roof; dismissed for new orangery and new first floor over existing building. FPC no objections.

166 NMR - Appeal allowed

The Paddock, Longwater Lane (Alpaca Farm) - Enquiry at WBC Shute End to continue in October.

Meadowside - Enquiry deferred to October at Shute End

### FINANCE

Cllr Markham reported on meeting held on 22 July 2009, minutes distributed.

#### Donations

The committee declined the request for £200 from the SE Berks Gang Show as a substantial request had also been received from the 1<sup>st</sup> Finchampstead Scouts (to be discussed as separate Agenda item)

The Finance Committee discussed the procedure for distributing S137 grants and Cllr Markham brought the matter before Main Council. It was agreed that the final closing date for any applications for this Financial Year be 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009. This date will be publicised on the Parish Website, Finchampstead Magazine, Noticeboards and Wokingham Times together with details on how to obtain the application form and guidelines. The usual recipients will be informed by letter of the new procedure.

#### STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

• CLYDESDALE BANK (at 10 July 09)	£11381.00
• 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of Precept due early Oct (£48.5K)	
• HALIFAX ASSET RESERVE (at 1 July 09)	£83652.83
• CHEQUE LIST - SEP/09	APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

AMENITIES - Cllr Markham reported on the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, minutes distributed.

- Allotments. Cllr Markham thanked the Clerk for her efforts in liaising with Dr. Warren of Reading University Soil Laboratory to carry out analyses of two fields. The cost is estimated to be £400 - AGREED. Cllr Markham will arrange a suitable date with Dr Warren.
- Allotments Regeneration Initiative - South East Allotments meeting - Dover on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2009 - it was agreed to request the minutes of the meeting as it is too far to attend.
- Library Hours at the new Library, Baptist Community Centre. The Amenities Committee met with Wendy Crosson-Smith who advised 22 hours would be paid for by WBC. The committee agreed to recommend to Main Council a mix of mornings and afternoons, a late evening on Thursdays and Saturday morning. Mondays 2-6; Tuesdays 9.30-1; Thursdays 2-8; Fridays 2-6; Saturdays 9.30-1. This mix would enable as many residents as possible to gain benefit but will be reviewed after 3 months from opening.
- Flowering Baskets - the 6 baskets have been very successful this year and the committee recommended that more be hung next season. AGREED.

**FOOTPATHS** - Cllr Chapman reported on the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> September, minutes distributed.

Footpath 9 Diversion through St James Churchyard - the six month diversion will cost the Church £1200, signs advising walkers of the changes have been erected.

### **ROADS & ROAD SAFETY**

Cllr Mayne reported on the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> September, minutes distributed.

SID Sessions - currently use signage that shows drivers' speeds but last week the police supplied a 'face' image which changed from smiling when speed exceeded. It was agreed this is a poor substitute - Cllr Weeks is due to meet the Chief Constable and will also speak to the local commander about reverting to the original signs. It was also agreed the matter be raised at the FinchNag AGM.

Gorse Ride Safety Zone Project - Cllr Mayne accompanied the WBC Officer around the area and the committee awaits her report on actions to be taken.

Parish Council Wish List - submitted to WBC - response has returned as 'To be Investigated'. The Committee wants to invite a WBC officer to attend a future R&RS meeting to discuss further.

Fleet Hill & The Ridges - Individual Executive Member's Decisions - both WBC proposals were accepted by the committee without objections but commented that neither should impact on Parish Wish List.

Baptist Community Centre - Access - WBC advised that the layout determined by the Safety Audit has been amended but will be reviewed in due course.

VAS Units - Cllr Mayne thanked Cllr Macey for his research into these units which the committee wishes to purchase for use in the Parish. It was noted that it may be possible to purchase old police equipment but its legal use on the public highway must be clarified.

Footway, Sandhurst Road - Cllr Cox advised that WBC plans to put in the footway are being contested by adjoining properties' owners who own the land.

Inconsiderate Parking in Gorse Ride and area - problems are occurring at weekends due the informal use of the fields by a local adult team. The matter has been referred to WBC who own the land.

### **329/2009 - OTHER REPORTS**

**FPMC** - Cllr Markham attended last meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> September and his report is distributed.

Cllr Mayne proposed '*The Finchampstead Parish Council will continue to support local residents who want to re-instate the unrestricted access across Leas Field, as previously enjoyed*'. AGREED. It was noted that the Parish Council are members of the Ramblers Association and CPRE; further noted that at least six residents must complete DMMO forms for submission to WBC.

#### **Agency Agreement Working Group**

Cllr Cundy thanked Cllr Markham for chairing a difficult FPMC meeting where the new Agreement was discussed. The Agreement was finally approved at FPMC by five votes to four, with four abstentions. The Sports Club adherence to its terms will be monitored.

Hellenic League advice is being sought on whether the Leas Field can be used for its games instead of the Park.

**FinchNag** - Cllr Pearce attended and his report distributed, items of note are

- AGM to be held at 7.30pm on Monday 12 October 2009 at Gorse Ride Junior School.
- WBC announced they will start using clamps on illegally parked vehicles in Billing Avenue if offenders continue to park inconsiderately.

**Gorse Ride Residents Assoc. / MAG Report** - Minutes not received - next meeting in October.

### **Clerk's Report**

The Clerk continues to clear the office in readiness for the move to the Baptist Centre and official documents will be sent to the Berkshire Record Office; arrangements have been made with WBC for document shredding; the Clerk has asked for the official postal address and postcode for the new Parish Office to be confirmed.

### **330/2009 - NEW BAPTIST COMMUNITY CENTRE - ADVISORY BOARD TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Clerk distributed the amendments to the original draft and these were AGREED. The Clerk will confirm to Jim Gallagher and ask for a final document to be prepared for signature.

In view of the substantial parish donations towards the cost of the Centre, the Parish Office will be rent free although an estimated Service Charge of £3500 p.a. will be payable. This charge will include waste disposal, office cleaning, heating, lighting etc., but will be reviewed as the Centre becomes self financing. This will require a further legal agreement and will include terms associated with partial use of the office by PCSOs. A meeting with the police will also be arranged to discuss office access etc.

### **331/2009 - PLAYBUILDERS FUNDING - GORSE RIDE & CALIFORNIA PARK**

WBC will issue a Press Release next week outlining the £1million to be spent on 44 projects over two financial years, for Play areas primarily for 8-13 year olds, using a natural environment.

Of the four Parish submissions for projects to be considered, two have been successful as sites that qualify for this Funding and to follow a 4 stage process - Consultation, Design, Procurement and Build. Partnerships to be set up locally for Finchampstead - WBC, FPC, FBC, Schools, Police etc

### **GORSE RIDE PLAYING FIELDS - FUNDING TO BE SPENT BY APRIL 2010 -**

#### **Consultation & Design**

- Regarded by WBC as a high priority to follow on from opening of the new Community Centre and to work closely with FPC & Church
- To include initial Skate Park facility (which could be extended in future by petitioners). It was noted that the Parish Council budgeted £5K towards the local Skate Park project for 2009-10.
- To identify potential problems e.g. access, car parking, project not to monopolise total area and exclude other requirements e.g. MUGA, football, walking etc.
- Preliminary meeting between WBC & FPC (early Oct)
- Public Meeting (late Oct/early Nov and likely to be held in GR Junior School Hall. Options to be presented for comments from residents. Decision on final plan mid Nov.

### Procurement & Build

- WBC will use services from ESBO, a central buying organisation to link to all relevant suppliers for tenders.
- Building to commence in February 2010

### Funding 2 to be spent by April 2011 - California Park

The same process as Funding 1 above to commence Spring 2010

It was AGREED these two projects will be of immense benefit to the Parish residents and a Working Party consisting of Cllrs Markham (deputy Mrs Driver), Eric Cox plus one of the councillors who also represent FinchNag (Cllrs Macey, Pearce, Woof) and will liaise with WBC. It is noted that tight deadlines apply for the Gorse Ride Project and the Clerk will liaise with Ms Crosson Smith about the first date.

### **332/2009 - 1<sup>st</sup> FINCHAMPSTEAD SCOUTS - DONATION APPLICATION FOR £2000 TOWARDS COSTS OF REPLACING CAMPING EQUIPMENT**

At the Finance Meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> July the committee discussed the request for a grant of £2000 donation to 1<sup>st</sup> Finchampstead Scouts towards £8000 expenditure for replacement camping equipment. The original recommendation to Main Council for approval has been reviewed by information provided by the Village Club Trustees. The fence surrounding the land is in poor repair and a quotation for £420 is to be taken into account. It was AGREED that the donation to the Scouts be reduced to £1600 and the Parish Council will pay the invoice for the fencing repair.

### **ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

#### **333/2009 - CORRESPONDENCE LIST - 17<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER MEETING**

- WBC - Extraordinary Meeting re Car Parking Scrutiny Review - 13.8.09
- WBC - Master Plan guidance for proposed housing development sites - Exhibitions from 7<sup>th</sup> September 2009 for 6 weeks. Cllr Weeks advised that the options for Core Strategy, currently with the Inspector, are likely to be approved. The public should respond individually and he recommended Option 3 for Arborfield as being the best for Finchampstead. All Councillors should submit their individual comments to WBC before 19<sup>th</sup> October 2009. Cllr Mrs Newcombe will prepare the wording of a proposal for the Main Council Agenda in October for a formal response from the Parish Council.
- WBC - District/Parish Conference - 22 October 2009 - also, 'are you proud of a project' 100 words to be submitted by 5 October - thanks to Cllr Mrs Driver. 3 free places - Cllr Cox is due to attend and newer members invited (Cllrs Gordon and Woof)
- St James Church - Letter of thanks for attending Summer Fete - funds raised £5700
- Local Government Assoc - Local Democracy Week - 12-18 BALC Training 5<sup>th</sup> November - Becoming a Better Councillor (£17.50 then £35) October. Cllrs Bromley, Gordon and Woof to confirm if they wish to attend.
- VAWB Training Making Successful Finding Applications - 22 Sept 7-9 pm  
Being a Better Trustee - 13 October 9.30 - 14.30pm
- Thames V Police Town & Parish Council Meeting, 13 October 7-9, topics Anti Social Behaviour, police performance, current joint agency working. NAG Cllrs. Cllrs Mrs Newcombe and Pearce will attend.
- Keep Mobile leaflets for distribution
- Home Start AGM - 28 Sept at 10 am
- Relate AGM - 17 Sept

- W'ham Volunteers AGM - 17 Sept
- Finchampstead Sports Club - copy of letter sent to FPMC regarding Leas Field and Football regulations. No response to our letter sent in July regarding re-instating access as before the new fence.

**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. Items include WBC Minutes of meetings

#### **Forum**

Cllr Bromley advised that BT will charge £36 p.a. if paperless billing is not adopted. AGREED. Also, unless monthly direct debits are not set up billing will cost a further £36. The Clerk will check with Clydesdale Bank.

Cllr Black asked if the Parish owned the triangular piece of land by the substation located at junction of Longwater Road with Jubilee Road. Confirmed.

Cllr Mayne, following Asset Check, advised that the Water Trough is placed in a potentially dangerous location - Amenities Committee to investigate.

Cllr Weeks advised a serious accident at Dell Road/The Ridges when young driver drove into 'New Place' wall after rainstorm.

Cllr Weeks, as Borough Councillor, is investigating concerns of residents to the planning permission being sought by the owners of Banisters to alter the road access into their property. Meetings with both Planning and Highways Officers will be arranged.

#### **334/2009 - DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Main Council 7.30 pm Thursday 15<sup>TH</sup> October 2009 at Memorial Hall, Finchampstead

Meeting closed at 9.45 pm