

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD
AT 7.30 PM ON THURSDAY 15th OCTOBER 2009
AT THE MEMORIAL HALL, THE VILLAGE
FINCHAMPSTEAD, BERKSHIRE

PRESENT: Cllr R Cundy, Chairman, Cllr G Markham, Vice Chairman
Cllrs Mrs Newcombe, R Black, S Bromley, W Chapman,
Cllrs J May, A Pearce, G Veitch
Borough Cllr Angus Ross (arr. 7.30 pm – 8.05pm)
Member of the public (8.25 – 8.40pm)
Mrs Jane Holloway, Clerk.

345/2009 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Cox (attending WDALC meeting on behalf of FPC), Cllrs Mrs Driver, Mrs Jennings Frisby, I Gordon, M Macey, K Mayne, S Weeks and R Woof.

346/2009- MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Main Council meeting on 17th September 2009 were signed as a true record.

347/2009 - CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON THE MINUTES

328/2009 – Correspondence - Flooding Park Lane/Reading Road

Cllr Weeks advised at the September Main Council meeting that the scheme remains incomplete without the landowner's agreement and discussions continue. It was noted that flooding issues in the Borough will be discussed at the forthcoming District Parish Conference.

328/2009 – Thames Water Pumping Station, Longwater Road – fly tipping

Beverlie Warman's meeting for October has to be changed but the Clerk has been advised that Thames Water have been informed of latest fly tipping and they have promised to remove this. TW also have plans to extend fencing or install a barrier, WBC hope the matter will be concluded by end November.

328/2009 – 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.

328/2009 – Memorial Park – new benches

The Clerk will progress the work schedule with John Fruin.

330/2009 - New Baptist Community Centre – Advisory Board Terms Of Reference

The Terms will be finalised at its inaugural meeting in January 2010 and will include the amendments made by the Parish Council.

330/2009 - New Baptist Community Centre – New Parish Office

Andy Cheadle, newly appointed Manager for the Centre, is preparing an agreement for discussion with the Parish Council. Other implications of the office move will be discussed at Finance on 21st October 2009.

332/2009 – 1st Finchampstead Scouts – Donation Application For £2000 Towards Costs Of Replacing Camping Equipment

Cllr Markham has inspected the new fencing around the site and confirms the invoice can be paid. See cheque list.

333/2009 – Correspondence List – WBC – District/Parish Conference

22 October 2009 – also, 'are you proud of a project' 100 words submitted about new engraving on War Memorial – thanks to Cllr Mrs Driver. Cllrs Cox, Gordon and Woof will attend the meeting to represent the Parish Council.

333/2009 – Correspondence List – Becoming a Better Councillor

Cllrs Bromley & Gordon to attend on 5th November.

The meeting was closed at 7.35pm to allow Borough Cllr Ross to address the meeting on the Barkham Farms SANG (Strategic Area of Natural Greenspace). The meeting re-opened at 8.05pm.

It was agreed that the provision of a new Country Park on the boundary with Barkham Parish Council was to be welcomed but the Planning Committee will closely monitor planning applications that previously were adversely affected by the limitations of the Thames Basin Heath Special Protection Area.

348/2009 – COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLANNING – Cllr Mrs Newcombe report on the meeting held on 8th October, attended by WBC Officer Jeni Jackson and the committee agreed her attendance welcome and informative and that she attend regularly.

Enforcement Actions

Ms Jackson will continue to monitor on the outstanding issues

- Moor Farm, Park Lane - update from J Steepe, that only one section of land has not been cleared properly and WBC will be contacting them.
- Jovike/The Stables - An appeal against the enforcement notice has been lodged and will be dealt with by Public Enquiry on a date to be advised. The Clerk will send objections to the Inspector and apologise for late submission. Letter sent 14th July. A Public Enquiry will be held in December.
- 343 Finchampstead Road – High Fence – will be investigate by Ms Jackson
- Wheatlands Farm – under investigation at WBC
- Dell House and Dell Road (dumping soil) - WBC reported the owners have been informed and they will be doing the necessary works in the near future, planning application has been submitted.
- Rubec Cottage has been demolished

Applications

The committee objected to

- 67 NMR – out of keeping and urbanising impact on rural area
- 184 NMR – Thames Basin Heath and out of keeping with surroundings
- Hansom Cabin, Lwr Wokingham Road – overdevelopment of site
- Bannisters, Fleet Hill – concerns about road safety issues
- 81 Kiln Ride – Thames Basin Heath
- 117 Nash Grove Lane – inappropriate development, out of keeping with street scene
- 23 Manor Park Drive – out of keeping
- Summerlea, Park Lane – Thames Basin Heath
- Land, west of Wokingham Road – Consultation from Bracknell Forest for change of use of land to residential site for 3 caravans etc. Objected strongly as development in countryside and Thames Basin Heath

WBC Decisions.

Southfield, Park Lane – WBC refused as obtrusive and incongruous with urbanising effect in line with FPC objections.

8 Columbia Court – WBC refused, but no FPC objections

69 Vermont Woods – WBC refused, but no FPC objections

290a NMR – WBC approved but FPC objections as too close to boundary

31 Little Fryth – WBC approved but FPC objections as overdevelopment and overbearing to neighbouring property

Appeal Decisions

F/2008/2353 Land Adjacent to No 166 Nine Mile Ride, Finchampstead, change of use of land to accommodate two residential caravans for two Gypsy families. Appeal allowed.

New Appeals

Warren Lodge, Warren Lane, F/2009/0680, Proposed part single storey and part two storey extension to care home to create extra bedrooms and amenity facilities;

FPC had no objection to the application

Meadowside Park Lane - VAR 2008/2376. Proposed variation to condition 4 of consent VAR/2005/6482 to allow an additional mobile home to be stationed on Plot 2 retrospective. The meeting was postponed on 10.9.09 at Shute End till 7th October, Cllr Bromley attended and updated the planning committee.

It was noted that two oak trees were felled in the Village due to disease

FINANCE

Cllr Markham reported that Halifax Bank has advised the Parish Council that its Asset Reserve Account will be closed and a cheque for the balance sent. When received these monies will be transferred to the Clydesdale Account. The Finance Committee meets next week on Wednesday 21 October.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

- CLYDESDALE BANK (at 31.10. 09) £52432.25
 - HALIFAX ASSET RESERVE (at 1.10. 09) £83684.50
 - CHEQUE LIST – OCT/09 APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY
- With the additional cheque to M Macey for £29.40

PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT

A local resident arrived at 8.25pm and Cllr Cundy closed the meeting for the resident to express her concerns to the Council. The meeting re-opened at 8.40pm. Cllr Cundy advised the resident that the Parish Council has no powers in matters of noise pollution and her actions in alerting the Noise Pollution Officer at WBC is the correct course of action. The apparent lack of action from the police was noted and it was agreed that Cllr Pearce, as a FinchNag member would pass her concerns to the local Police officers. Cllr Cundy thanked Cllr Pearce for undertaking this matter through FinchNag. The meeting re-opened at 8.40pm

AMENITIES – Cllr Markham reported matters arising since last meeting

- Allotments. Dr Warren's Soil Analysis Report received and passed to the Allotments Working Group. A meeting will be arranged with Cemex a.s.a.p. to discuss the land lease; Ms Vaughan Morgan advised the Clerk that she has no suitable land available; 'Growing in the Community' pack received from LGA – passed to Working Group

The Clerk has been informed of a 'Community Involvement Initiative' by Wyevale Garden Centre, Heathlands Road, where land will be made available for use as allotments. The Clerk has registered an interest in 50 of the 100 plots (40ft x 20ft) which will be available sometime in 2010, subject to final agreement of the Wyevale Board of Directors. The Clerk and Cllr Veitch will visit the Centre Manager to discuss further.

- Library Hours at the new Library

The Clerk has been advised that precise opening hours cannot be agreed until the end of the year but Saturday morning and one late evening will be included.

- Over 60's Playground – it was noted that several such facilities have been installed in the Borough and in Reading and that funding is available. This will be on the next Amenities Agenda.

FOOTPATHS - Cllr Chapman reported that WBC has agreed to reduce the charge to St James Church to approx £640 for the temporary closure of Footpath 9 through the churchyard.

It was AGREED the DMMO for a footpath across Leas Field be discussed at the next meeting on 11 November 2009.

ROADS & ROAD SAFETY

Cllr Mayne' written report is distributed in his absence.

Speed

Cllr Macey's report following his visit to West Berkshire shows that the necessary equipment is available at an affordable price. Cllr Mayne will contact Keith Baker at WBC to how this project can be moved forward. Cllr Macey's report will be circulated to all members and the purchase of a suitable unit on next month's Main Council Agenda.

SID Sessions

The NAG have published a calendar for the next round of SID speed checks, thanks to those who have volunteered. Cllr Black reported that the police have recorded a reduction in the number of speeding motorists and the public continue to support these efforts.

Schemes

- The footpath on Sandhurst Road has been postponed by yet another month as the land ownership issues have not been resolved.
- Residents on Fleet Hill are going to wait to see what effect the new works have on speed before considering a petition for further changes.
- No particular adverse feedback on the Gorse Ride entrances at the moment.
- WBC has agreed to open contact with The Rides Football Club about Sunday parking complaints in Gorse Ride.

349/2009 – OTHER REPORTS

FPMC – Cllr Markham attended the meeting on 14 October and reported that FPMC are breaking even despite large expenditure on the new playground equipment.

The issue of the railings around the football pitch was deferred until their next meeting as the Football representatives were not able to attend last night. It was noted in the FPMC 27 April 1998 Minutes '*.....there will be an opening in each of the sides when the matches are not taking place*'

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

FinchNag – Cllr Pearce reported on the AGM held on 12th October and the FinchNag meeting held on 14 October 2009. Cllr Pearce expressed his disappointment that no Parish Councillors were able to attend the AGM. Cllr Cundy remarked that this is more likely due to their prior commitments, quite often in attending other community meetings. The matter was discussed and it was agreed that, in future, a FPC representative be selected when any important meeting requires attendance.

At the FinchNag AGM the Acting Chief Inspector announced that the Finchampstead is regarded as the best NAG in the entire Thames Valley Police region. Cllr Cundy congratulated all councillors who participate in the NAG for their hard work for the community. 60 residents attended the AGM and their appreciation of the improved communications with the police was noted.

At the 14 October meeting the police advised they will monitor Hallowe'en activities closely and patrols will be in force; the Youth Group are in talks with the Baptist Church on the future use of the Youth Loft; the 'Smiley' face SID unit is proving more successful than first thought; under the Community Speed Watch members of the public can be trained in the use of a Speed Gun.

Gorse Ride Residents Assoc. / MAG Report

None received. Cllr Black voiced concerns that some of the Gorse Ride residents feel excluded from the new Centre and efforts will continue to improve this perception.

Town & Parish Council Meeting/Thames Valley Police – 13 October 2009

Cllrs Mrs Newcombe attended this meeting and her notes distributed.

CPRE - Wokingham District AGM

Cllr Mrs Newcombe attended and an interesting talk was given by Veolia Environmental Services on Waste and Disposal.

Clerk's Report

Thanks to Anna Kent for manning the office in Clerk's absence.

Mrs Holloway has tried to contact the Job Manager of Options Utilities who recently completed the works on behalf of SSEB which involved digging up the grass area around the War Memorial. Despite promises to reinstate the grass in readiness for the Remembrance Day Service, turf has not been relaid. Cllr May offered to progress this matter with the company and alternatively, arrange a separate contractor to lay turf by beginning of November.

350/2009 – FPC RESPONSE TO MASTER PLAN OPTIONS FOR ARBORFIELD AREA

Cllr Mayne's comments are distributed; the matter was also discussed at the last Planning Committee meeting and it was AGREED that the document ('Additional Written Statement to Examination in Public by FPC in relation to CP19 - prepared by Cllr Mayne) and originally sent to the Inspector, be submitted as the Parish Council's official response to the Consultation.

351/2009 – PLAYBUILDERS FUNDING – GORSE RIDE & CALIFORNIA PARK

Meeting held on 9th October between representatives of WBC – Nick Christo, Wendy Crosson Smith, Jane Stevens, two Gorse Ride Community Wardens, Borough Cllr Mike Gore; FPC Cllrs Mrs Newcombe, Mrs Driver, E. Cox and the Clerk; Nicola Bateman, FNag; Jim Gallagher and Andy Cheadle, Baptist Community Centre. Clerk's notes from the meeting distributed as basis for discussion.

Design of Natural Play area to incorporate Skateboard facility and it was agreed at the meeting that the Public Consultation be held on Sat 7th November to allow comments from children, youth and parents. The Clerk is trying to book a suitable venue at either NMR or GR schools.

The Clerk contacted Reading BC who have already installed several Natural Play areas and visits to the Robert Hewitt Park, Tilehurst Road and King's Meadow Park will show the type of equipment.

352/2009 – CORRESPONDENCE LIST – 15TH OCTOBER MEETING

- WBC – Sustainable Community Strategy 2010-2020 – long term vision for borough. Consultation from 18 Nov for 7 weeks. Also will be discussed at Annual T/P Conference (EC, IG, RW attending). See Cllr Cox's notes on document. FPC response required by 18th November. In view of the deadline and that the matter will be raised at the District/Parish Conference, Cllrs Cox, Macey and Woof (who are attending Conference) be delegated to make the official FPC response.
- Veteran Tree Association – BBC Tree O'Clock Initiative Sat 5th December 11-midday. Idea to plant 1,000,000 trees in this hour of National Tree Week. It was AGREED to participate and the matter will be on the November Main Council Agenda.
- Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service – 5 Year Integrated Risk Management Plan – invitation to engage in formal consultation process on how manage Risk. Comments by 4 January 2010. **Noted**
- Business Link – information held on FPC will be passed to SEEDA (advised in accordance with Data Protection Act). **Noted**
- NHS Litigation Authority – Appeal against Berkshire West PCT decision with regard to the Rurality of Finchampstead. Decision: Appeal dismissed. **Noted**
- WBC – Sports Award Ceremony 2009 – 20 November 2009. **Noted**
- FPMC – updated documents received 'Information for new Committee Members'; Regulations; Agency Agreement dated 14 September 2009. **Noted**
- Email from WBC Peter Baveystock regarding 2010 Litter Pick – the Clerk will notify Les Ansted of FinchNag who co-ordinated the 2009 Pick. Cllr Pearce will advise his email address.

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

The Clerk advised that the deadline for the WBC Newsletter distribution is end October – Cllr Cundy and Committee Chairmen will meet to discuss FPC's own Newsletter

The Clerk will send the parish contribution to the Finchampstead Magazine in the absence of Cllr Mrs Driver.

353/2009 – DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Remembrance Day Service – Sunday 8th November. St James' Church service in their Centre at 10.50 am and 3pm at the Memorial.

Main Council 7.30 pm Thursday 19th November 2009 at Memorial Hall, Finchampstead

Meeting closed at 10.05 pm