

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD
AT 7.30 PM ON THURSDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2009
AT THE MEMORIAL HALL, THE VILLAGE
FINCHAMPSTEAD, BERKSHIRE

PRESENT: Cllr R Cundy, Chairman, Cllr G Markham, Vice Chairman
Cllrs Mrs C Driver, Mrs L Newcombe, R Black, S Bromley, W Chapman
Cllrs E Cox, M Macey, A Pearce, G Veitch, S Weeks

Mrs Jane Holloway, Clerk.

430/2009 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Mrs Jennings Frisby, Ian Gordon, Jim May, Kevin Mayne, Roger Woof.

431/2009- MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Main Council meeting on 19th November 2009 were amended on page 149 to correct the name of Mr Mistry (not Mr Jat) and on page 153 to correct the sentence to read 'In view of the extended length of the path.....' (not extended area of the Park).
The Minutes were then signed as a true record.

432/2009 - CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON THE MINUTES

389/2009 - Correspondence - Flooding Park Lane/Reading Road

The Clerk has invited Eddie Napper to attend the January meeting so he can advise the members on WBC policy.

389/2009 - Thames Water Pumping Station, Longwater Road - fly tipping

Advised by Beverley Warman at WBC that barrier now in place - Clerk sent thanks to WBC and TW for pursuing this matter.

389/2009 - 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 and it was AGREED a reminder letter be sent to them.
- Following the decision at the Footpaths Committee meeting on 11 November, the Clerk contacted FIDO to request they liaise with those residents wanting to re-instate the public right of way across Leas Field. The Clerk passed copies of the DMMO form to FIDO.

389/2009 - Noticeboards

The Clerk has purchased oil for John Fruin to complete the maintenance of noticeboards.

389/2009 - New Baptist Community Centre - New Parish Office

- This matter will be discussed in full at the Finance Precept meeting on 12th January to read the Legal Agreement for recommendation to Main Council on 21st January.
- It was AGREED that the rent and service charges payable for the Parish Office and the hire charges for council meetings be verified. Cllrs Cundy and Markham will arrange a meeting with the Baptist Church prior to the Finance Precept meeting for this purpose.
- The Centre is due to be unofficially 'open' from mid January and we can plan to move the office when the furniture is delivered and the IT and telephone installed. Possible date the first week in February. A date will be arranged for Cllrs Mrs Driver, Mrs Newcombe, Roland Cundy and the Clerk to catalogue parish records.

389/2009 - FPC Response to Master Plan Options For Arborfield Area

It was agreed at the last Roads Committee meeting, that some councillors form a group to oversee future developments arising from the Core Strategy. The councillors should represent all committees and so be able to inform each of developments - Cllr Mrs Newcombe (Planning & Finance) Cllrs Ian Gordon (Roads & Planning), Jim May (Footpaths & Amenities), Kevin Mayne (Roads & Finance) volunteered. Cllr Cundy thanked the councillors.

389/2009 - JAT's Pharmacy - Letter to NHS

The Clerk wrote to the Pharmacy Contracts Officer to advise the FPC agreed by a majority vote that the Parish Council had concerns that the application by Finchampstead Road Surgery 100 hour pharmacy would have implications for other retail businesses in the area which already include a pharmacy.

390/2009 - Fuel Allotment (Cheque List NOV/09)

- The Clerk withdrew £600 as required for 20 donations of £30 each as per the list drawn up by the Fuel Allotment Working Group. Cllr Cundy has signed 20 cards and enclosed £30 in each envelope for distribution by the Group who will obtain a receipt for each donation to hand to the Clerk.
- SEE ITEM 6 on Agenda for this meeting.

392/2009 - Playbuilders Funding - Gorse Ride Playing Fields

The Clerk emailed Nick Christo for update after the consultation with pupils from Gorse Ride schools was arranged for 10 December. Results from these meetings are being reviewed and a further meeting of the Playbuilders Partnership Group will be arranged early in January.

394/2009 - Parish Council Decision on the Proposal to Consider a Regular Contribution to the Blackwater Valley Countryside Park in Their Work. Such Donation to Be Reviewed Annually At the FPC Precept Meeting

At November Main Council It was AGREED, in principle, to support a regular donation to BVCP and that Cllr Weeks will provide background data in readiness for the Finance Precept meeting on January 12th 2010 for the committee to be able to recommend the level of funding.

395/2009 - Council, Annual Gathering and Committees - Venues In 2010

The Clerk has confirmed with the Baptist Community Centre that the 2010 Annual Gathering will be held on Thursday 25 March in the Youth Loft. A revised Meetings Schedule is distributed to all councillors but it should be noted that venues may change if committees decide to use the new Centre. From April 2010 Main Council meetings will be held alternately in the Memorial Hall and the new Centre.

396/2009 - Correspondence from Wokingham Without Parish Council regarding possible changes to boundary between FPC and WWPC.

The Clerk responded to the WWPC that Finchampstead Parish Council do not agree with their proposal to change the common boundary in the 'triangle of land' on the east side of the railway, as this is historically located within Finchampstead Parish both in terms of local government and St James Church.

433 /2009 - COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLANNING - Cllr Mrs Newcombe reported on the meeting held on 3rd December - minutes distributed. Mrs Newcombe reported on the the recent Public Enquiry regarding Jovike's Appeal against the Enforcement Notice - Inspector's decision to be advised.

Applications

7 received - F/2009/2324 - Troodos, Gorse Ride North - Objection, out of keeping with street scene

WBC Decisions.

F/2009/1445 - Landmark, Jubilee Road - FPC no objections. REFUSED as unacceptable in countryside setting, detrimental impact on local trees

F/2009/1620 - 184 NMR - FPC objected on TBH. REFUSED as overdevelopment, cramped form of development, unsatisfactory living conditions for both dwellings.

F/2009/1964 - land to west of The Field House, Longwater Lane FPC strong objections. REFUSED on many grounds - erosion of open aspect, threat to Area of SLI, intrusion into Countryside, inappropriate and unacceptable location, adverse impact on BAP habitat, TBH, no satisfactory provision on services, amenities and infrastructure,

F/2009/1954 - Summerlea, Park Lane - FPC objected on TBH. APPROVED by WBC.

Appeal Decisions

F/2008/2773 - alpaca Stud, Longwater Lane

FPC objected. Appeal allowed for temporary agricultural workers dwelling on site - to be demolished after two years.

F/2009/1265 - 31 Pine Drive

FPC objected. Appeal dismissed.

Cllr Weeks advised that Meadowside won their Appeal for a third caravan.

New Appeals

None

Cllr Cundy thanked the Committee members for their hard work for the past year and their commitment to attending the monthly meetings.

FINANCE

Cllr Markham reported on

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| • CLYDESDALE BANK | £44667.88 |
| • HALIFAX ASSET RESERVE | £83716.14 |
| • CHEQUE LIST - DEC/09 | APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY |

The Clerk has been informed by Halifax that the account will be closed due to inactivity but the Bank require a letter signed by Cllr Cox (the Authorised Holder of the Account) requesting a cheque for the final balance. The Clerk has prepared a letter for signature by two authorised signatories on the account (Cllrs Cox and Mrs Driver) which will be sent to the bank.

AMENITIES - Cllr Mrs Driver reported on the meeting held on 9th December which she chaired in Cllr Markham's absence. Minutes distributed. The meeting was also attended by Wendy Crosson Smith from WBC and John Denis from the Finchampstead Society.

Ms Crosson Smith advised the committee:-

- The new Centre Library opening hours will be subject to responses from the Questionnaire which has been distributed to schools and also on WBC and FPC websites.
- Possibility of agreement with Finchampstead Society to use a small room in the Library as an Archive for their records and to form a local Museum. Material in the Parish Office will be catalogued for inclusion and the Clerk will contact Jeff Nelson about his collection of artifacts.
- Skate Park - postponed until next financial year following completion of the Playbuilders funded project.

- Adult Outdoor Gym area - Ms Crosson-Smith to check for any outstanding S106 monies which have been used elsewhere in the Borough.

The Clerk advised that Mr Chaloner, who gave copy of War Memorial records to the office, has given permission for information to be put on our website and will provide a CD for this purpose.

War Memorial - the Clerk reported the damage to WBC and this will be actioned by them. The Roads Committee to discuss in further detail at their next meeting.

Allotment Working Group will meet early in January to follow up on Cllr Cundy and the Clerk's meeting with Clive Williamson. An agreement was reached that a small community project is set up for 10/12 volunteers from the Waiting List to develop a small area of land for a 2 year period under Licence from Cemex. If this project is successful, the land can be further developed for more allotments. Cllr Weeks advised that the WBC's Old Nursery land has now been cleared and might prove a more suitable site anyway. The Working Group will meet Cllr Weeks on site and discuss further.

Cllr Weeks asked about the trees collected by the Sports Club and the Clerk advised this collection was on behalf of the FPMC for trees to be used to replace dying trees in the Park and for hedging alongside Footpath 9. Cllr Weeks will liaise with Bev Kemp, FPMC.

Bench for bus stop, Finchampstead Road - Cllr Mrs Newcombe advised that after the Amenities meeting she checked with the residents who made the initial request, that there is still a requirement. The Clerk also received a letter from another resident making the same request. It was AGREED to purchase a recycled bench and the Clerk will obtain permission from WBC to place it on their verge close to the bus stop.

Finchampstead Street Map - Cllr Mrs Driver advised that the map will be due for revision and reprint in 2010.

California Park Paddling Pool - Committee recommend £4200 as a donation towards the costs for this year because income is now derived from sales of armbands. AGREED.

Cllr Cundy thanked the Committee members for their hard work for the past year as the Amenities Committee handle many issues on behalf of the Parish Council. The Clerk will pass the new sweatshirts to Roger Long for his use.

FOOTPATHS - Cllr Chapman reported on matters since the last meeting on 11 November.

- The Footpath Warden continues hedge cutting and trimming; drainage installed on Footpath 10 and a tree cleared from Footpath 33.
- The Clerk has received the embroidered sweatshirts for the Warden and Cllr Chapman will pass to John Alexander.

Cllr Cundy thanked the Committee members for their hard work for the past year.

ROADS & ROAD SAFETY In Cllr Mayne's absence, Cllr Macey reported on the meeting held on 25th November - minutes distributed.

Cllr Macey advised of Cllr Mayne and the committee's frustration with the lack of real progress with WBC on many outstanding issues. It is hoped that following a meeting with Cllr Weeks and Mark Moon at WBC these issues have been aired and a positive outcome will be reached. Cllr Macey thanked Cllr Weeks for his efforts.

Sandhurst Road footway - now confirmed as not going ahead by WBC and Cllr Cox.

Flooding Hotspots - the committee noted that while most have been dealt with there are still problems on Sandhurst Road, Wellingtonia Avenue and Church Lane. The Clerk will email Eddie Napper at WBC and ask him to include an update for his visit next month.

Cllr Cundy thanked the Committee members for their hard work for the past year, especially in pursuing intractable problems.

Item 5 on Main Council Agenda - Proposal to spend £1500 on purchase of SID/VAS unit

434/2009 - OTHER REPORTS

FPMC - Cllr Markham reported on the last meeting 16 December 2009 - minutes distributed. There are £45K reserves in the bank and expenditure is required for new dishwasher, cooker etc. The Chairman advised the Sports Club that the disputes procedure may be invoked if the issues about the gaps in the football field enclosure is not resolved. Cllr Cundy thanked Cllr Markham for attending the FPMC meetings on behalf of the Parish Council.

Village Youth Committee Report

Cllr Cox's report distributed. All smaller local youth committees are now grouped together and the meeting was better attended so a useful forum. It is noted that the Finchampstead Youth Group will have much higher costs due to the cost of hiring the Youth Loft at the new Centre. Louise Morris' has submitted a grant request and the Clerk has asked for more information to be given to the Finance Precept Meeting on 12 January.

Gorse Ride Residents Assoc. / MAG Report - Cllr Mrs Jennings-Frisby's report distributed.

Cllr Black advised he attended the GRRA meeting which is now attended by fewer residents. It may be replaced by a Community Association in 2010.

FinchNag - Cllr Pearce advised his notes will be emailed shortly. The problems of inconsiderate parking around Gorse Ride were noted during the Community Carols event. Cllr Weeks advised that clamping has started. Cllr Weeks also advised that Thames Valley Police are to increase the number of full time police officers, one of whom will be allocated to Finchampstead permanently.

Clerk's Report

First Aid Courses £10 with VAWB - Cllrs Bromley, May and Veitch on waiting list. It was AGREED that such training was useful and in line with the training policy.

Cllr Cox has taken the damaged noticeboard doors to a local joiner for repair and re-hanging.

435/2009 - PROPOSAL TO APPROVE PURCHASE OF SID/VAS UNIT FOR FINCHAMPSTEAD - £1500 AS PER ESTIMATE

It was AGREED this proposal should be amended to APPROVAL OF A DATA LOGGER FOR FINCHAMPSTEAD.

This was discussed in full and finally AGREED that purchase of the unit proceed as this would provide invaluable data to fully assess current and future traffic flow, particularly in view of the impact of the SDL in the coming years.

436/2009 - PROPOSAL TO ACCEPT THE FUEL ALLOTMENT WORKING GROUP'S RECOMMENDATION 'That the fuel allotment grant ceases and that consideration is given by the Finance Precept meeting on January 12th 2010 to decide a possible suitable alternative.'
AGREED.

It was noted that any councillor can attend the Finance Committee, or advise the Clerk of their opinion to be taken into account at that meeting.

437/2009 - PROPOSAL TO APPROVE EXPENDITURE ON BRITISH TELECOM DATA RECOVERY & STORAGE FACILITY AT £15 PER MONTH.

AGREED. Cllr Bromley will take the required action.

438/2009 - WBC TOWN/PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE ONTO BOROUGH'S STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Any FPC nomination to be submitted by 4 January 2010 - to be carried forward to the December meeting.

Cllr Cox is willing for his name to be put forward.

439/2009 - CORRESPONDENCE LIST - 17 December meeting

Funding requests received from

- Village Youth Project - 2010-2011 costs - **passed to Finance Committee**
- Home Start charity - to provide volunteer support to young families in the Parish - **passed to Finance Committee**
- Wokingham Volunteer Centre - assistance with costs of the Community Transport Scheme (volunteer drivers help clients with medical appointments and unable to use public transport) - **passed to Finance Committee**
- Crowthorne Choral Society (also covering Finchampstead) - to improve quality and variety of cultural activity for residents. - **passed to Finance Committee**

All applications to be considered at the Finance Precept meeting on 12 January

Thank you letters for donations from NMR, GR Infants, Baptist Church, Scouts, Cruse Bereavement,
Christmas cards from David Lee, WBC, WVC, JDB, SEC, and Keep Mobile

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

ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Forum

Cllr Chapman confirmed that the skip delivered to the Scout Hut, Longwater Lane, is for use by the Scouts following their refurbishment of the hut.

Cllr Cundy wished all members a Happy Christmas and invited all to join him in festive refreshments after close of business.

440/2009 - DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Main Council 7.30 pm Thursday 21st January 2010 at Memorial Hall, Finchampstead

Meeting closed at 9.05 pm