

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD
AT 7.30 PM ON THURSDAY 21ST JANUARY 2010
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, Mrs N Jennings-Frisby
Cllrs R Black, S Bromley, W Chapman, E Cox, A Pearce,
Cllrs M Macey, J May, K Mayne, G Veitch, R Woof

Eddie Napper, WBC Drainage Maintenance Manager
Mrs Jane Holloway, Clerk.

25/2010 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs I Gordon, S Weeks

26/2010- MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

27/2010 - CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON THE MINUTES

432/2009 - Finchampstead Sports Club - Leas Field - Public Right of Way

- The Clerk sent a reminder letter to the Sports Club to request a response to letter sent to them in July 2009.
- Cllr Weeks emailed to ask the Clerk if the Parish Council were members of the Open Spaces Society. Mrs Holloway had confirmed the FPC subscribes to CPRE and the National Playing Fields Association but that the Finchampstead Society is a member of OSS.

432/2009 - Noticeboards

- John Fruin will complete the maintenance now the weather has improved.
- The doors have been mended and replaced at the Kiln Ride/Finchampstead Road board - invoice on the Cheque List

432/2009 - FPC Response to Master Plan Options For Arborfield Area

The Clerk continues to forward relevant emails to the Core Strategy Group (Cllrs Mrs Newcombe, Mayne, May and Gordon).

432/2009 - Playbuilders Funding - Gorse Ride Playing Fields

The Clerk has been informed that the Playbuilders Group will meet in the next few weeks to discuss the different options for the play equipment.

432/2009 - Fuel Allotment - 2009

One of the proposed recipients died and this sum of money will be re-banked.
Thank you letters received.

432/2009 - Parish Council Decision on the Proposal to Consider a Regular Contribution to the Blackwater Valley Countryside Park in Their Work

To be discussed under Finance Precept Report

432/2009 - Correspondence from Wokingham Without Parish Council regarding possible changes to boundary between FPC and WWPC.

The Clerk has not received any further correspondence in this matter and the matter will be closed.

433/2009 - Halifax Bank Asset Reserve Account

Cllr Cox and the Clerk contacted Halifax regarding the closure of the account and were informed the cheque will be sent within 7-10 days.

435/2009 - Purchase of Data Logger Unit

Estimated cost: £1894.00 - to be discussed under Roads report

437/2009 - British Telecom Data Recovery & Storage Facility at £15 per Month.

Cllr Bromley has set up the facility and backups are completed each day automatically.

438/2009 - WBC Town/Parish Council Representative onto Boroughs' Strategic Partnership

See WBC letter in correspondence.

Cllr Cundy closed the meeting at 7.40pm for Eddie Napper to address the members on WBC policy on Flooding and Drainage. The meeting re-opened at 8.27pm.

28/2010 - COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLANNING - Cllr Mrs Newcombe reported on the meeting held on 5th January 2010 - minutes distributed.

Enforcement Actions

- Jovike - the Inspector dismissed the Appeal and awarded costs against the Appellants.

Applications

- 1 Dodsells Well - the committee were unable to comment as unaware of Condition 4.
- 9 Windsor Ride - objection: overdevelopment of site
- Wild Acres Rest Home - objection: overdevelopment of site and parking concerns.
- 355 Nine Mile Ride - Objection; garage in front of building line
- Land west of Wokingham Road - strong objections: as development in the countryside and TBH.

WBC Decisions.

- Troodos, Gorse Ride North - WBC approved but FPC objected as out of keeping with street scene.

New Appeals

- Tintagel Farm - Certificate of Lawful Existing Use - FPC no objections, WBC refused.

Appeal Decisions

- 369 Finchampstead Road - Appeal dismissed. FPC objected.
- Meadowside, Park Lane - Appeal allowed and permission granted subject to conditions. FPC objected.
- Little Heath, Roman Ride - Appeal allowed. FPC no objections.

FINANCE

Cllr Markham reported on the Precept Meeting held on 12th January 2009 - Minutes distributed together with I&E Report for 3rd Quarter and Precept 2010-11 recommendations. The Finance Committee held a brief meeting just prior to Main Council to further discuss implications of proposed Major Projects - this will be discussed under the Main Council Agenda item.

Cllr Veitch queried the Land Purchase discussed at the Finance meeting and it was AGREED this matter will not be pursued.

At the Finance Meeting the Clerk was asked to contact WADE, WRVS and Age Concern to ask for their assistance for distribution of the fund in future years.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • CLYDESDALE BANK | £22913.99 (at 7 January 2010) |
| • HALIFAX ASSET RESERVE | £83716.14 (awaiting cheque) |
| • Donations (shown on Cheque List) | APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY |
| • CHEQUE LIST - JAN/2010 | APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY |

AMENITIES - Cllr Markham reported on matters arising since the last meeting

- Finchampstead Library - results of WBC questionnaire awaited.
- War Memorial - the Clerk reported the kerb damage to WBC and this item has been put on the Agenda for the next Roads Committee meeting on 9 February.
- Allotment Working Group - to meet on Friday 22 January at the WBC Old Nursery site

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

- Footpath 6 - a resident reported concerns on landowner's actions in installing new fencing and hedge which could reduce width of footpath. Cllrs Weeks and Chapman have spoken to the landowner as has Mark Morris of the Countryside Service. c/f to Footpaths meeting
- John Alexander and Cllr Chapman removed the branch obstructing the footway in Longwater Lane, outside the Old Village Club entrance.
- Cllr Cundy advised a fallen tree on F/P 33; Cllr Mrs Driver reported an obstruction on G/P 26 - Cllr Chapman will instruct the warden to remove.

ROADS & ROAD SAFETY Cllr Mayne reported on matters since the last meeting.

- All outstanding issues with WBC are now progressing better following meetings between Cllrs Mayne, Weeks and Mark Moon at WBC.
- Cllr Macey is working on a Risk Assessment evaluation on the proposed Data Logger.
- The recent bad weather has caused many potholes to appear and all members should report promptly to WBC for action. The next meeting will discuss the possibility of installing grit bins at suitable sites in the Parish.

Cllr Mayne advised that the WBC Local Transport Plan Questionnaire does not require a Parish Council response but any councillor wishing to submit individual comments can do so via the WBC website.

29/2010 - OTHER REPORTS

FPMC no meeting to report

WDALC

Cllr Cox attended the meeting on 14 January and his notes are distributed. It was noted that WBC reported to the meeting that there is £11 million in the S106 fund.

Gorse Ride Residents Assoc. / MAG Report - Cllr Mrs Jennings-Frisby advised that the last meeting was cancelled and will be re-scheduled.

FinchNag - Cllr Pearce advised that the last meeting was cancelled.

Clerk's Report

NEW PARISH OFFICE - the anticipated opening date of 1st February is likely to be delayed by one month due to inclement weather and other building difficulties.

Mrs Holloway has asked Andy Cheadle the Centre Manager if our office can be furnished as a priority to enable office move to take place before her holiday (1-16 March)

30/2010 - FLOODING ISSUES IN FINCHAMPSTEAD - Eddie Napper, WBC

Cllr Cundy thanked Mr Napper for attending and giving a thorough and comprehensive talk - it was AGREED that the next Roads & Road Safety Committee meeting will discuss this further and recommend to Main Council ways to improve communication between Parish and Borough.

31/2010 - RECOMMENDATION FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE THAT THE FBCC/PARISH OFFICE RENTAL AGREEMENT BE AMENDED TO A COMMERCIAL TENANCY AGREEMENT, FOLLOWING ADVICE FROM THE COUNCIL'S SOLICITOR.

It was AGREED this wording to be changed to

RECOMMENDATION FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE THAT THE FBCC/PARISH OFFICE RENTAL AGREEMENT BE PASSED TO OUR SOLICITOR FOR HIS ADVICE

AGREED. The Clerk will send the document to Clifton Ingram.

32/2010 - FINANCE MEETING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL OF THE PRECEPT 2010-2011 TO BE SUBMITTED TO WBC

Cllr Markham advised that the totals agreed at the Finance meeting had been incorrect and, if Main Council agreed to approve all the Major Project recommendations, the Precept (£97K for past 4 years) would have to be raised or Reserves (currently £83K) reduced considerably.

Parish running costs of approximately £100K are met by the annual Precept but Contingency Funds and Major Projects proposed for 2010-2011 total £49K.

Contingency - FPC	1000
Gorse Ride School Travel Plan	5250
Interpretive panels	4000
Gorse Ride Safety zone	5250
Blackwater Valley CP	4000
Parish Newsletter	2500
Contingency - environment	2000
Skate park	10000
Outdoor games area	5000
Allotment project	5000
Street map reprint	1000
Road safety improvements	<u>5000</u>
	49000

If these were all spent in 2010-2011 then Reserves would reduce to £34K - Cllr Markham could not recommend this to the Council. The matter was discussed fully by the Council and it was AGREED that Reserves be maintained at £50K and therefore the Major Projects must be reduced by £15K - this will be discussed at the next Finance meeting.

It was further AGREED by a majority vote to increase the Precept by 2.5% in line with inflation and will therefore be £100117.00 - the Clerk will submit the figures to WBC by 4 February as required.

33/2010 - CORRESPONDENCE LIST - 21 JANUARY MEETING

- Residents' letter thanking FPC for action on new signage on Fleet Hill which should improve road safety.
- Various thank you letters from Fuel Allotment recipients - circulated.
- Wokingham Borough Community Safety Conference 2010 - 10 February 2010 at Salvation Hall, Lower Earley 9.15 - 3pm
- WBC - Election of Town/Parish Councillor representatives to WBC Strategic Partnership - election closes 8 March 2010. Papers distributed and councillors to indicate their choice at the February Main Council meeting on 18th Feb.

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, Agendas etc.

ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Forum

- Cllr Mayne advised the WBC Strategic Development Meeting was attended by Cllr Weeks and Gordon.
- Cllr Cox requested the next Finance Meeting to discuss more profitable ways to invest the Council Reserves - this will be on the Agenda.
- Cllr Bromley advised that a late advice was received regarding the renewal of the Council's website but he has re-instated the Domain Name successfully.
- Cllr May reported that staff and parents cleared the snow from Averys car park to allow access to the school and it was noted that all local schools worked hard to keep the schools open.

34/2010 - DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Main Council 7.30 pm Thursday 18 February 2010 at Memorial Hall, Finchampstead

Meeting closed at 9.55 pm.