

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD
AT 7.30 PM ON THURSDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2010
AT THE MEMORIAL HALL, THE VILLAGE
FINCHAMPSTEAD, BERKSHIRE

PRESENT: Cllr R Cundy, Chairman, Cllr G Markham, Vice Chairman
Cllrs Mrs Newcombe, Mrs Jennings Frisby, W Chapman,
Cllrs E Cox, J May, K Mayne, A Pearce, R Woof
Mrs Jane Holloway, Clerk.

58/2010 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Mrs Driver, R Black, S Bromley, M Macey, G Veitch, S Weeks

Cllr Gordon has tendered his resignation.

59/2010- MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Main Council meeting on 21ST January 2010 were signed as a true record.

60/2010 - CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON THE MINUTES

27/2010 - Finchampstead Sports Club - Leas Field - Public Right of Way

- The Clerk has received a reply stating '*Parish Council's original letter did not require a response other than requesting an informal discussion if the Club thought it appropriate.*' *The Sports Club - a meeting was not thought appropriate.* The letter also states the gates at top of the Leas Field and Scorebox are open virtually all the time to allow access but the field must remain a no dog area and, as a private ground, we must protect our asset and ensure no unauthorized use of the facilities. It is a fact that the area is in much better condition following the exclusion of dogs and unauthorised access, a fact that has been commented on by many people including a significant number of local parish residents. It was noted that a representative from the Hellenic League is due to inspect the Leas Field for its suitability for the League's requirements for football matches.

27/2010 - Noticeboards

John Fruin will complete the maintenance now the weather has improved.

27/2010 - FPC Response to Master Plan Options For Arborfield Area

Cllr Mayne studied the DVD supplied by WBC and his report was distributed. WBC has settled on an option which was not part of the original three displayed during the Consultation process. It was noted when the Parish Council submitted its comments, the preference was for Option 3. In Cllr Mayne's opinion, this new Option did not take enough account of the impact on the surrounding transport infrastructure. In particular, the proposals only allow £1million to improve the transport links which was agreed is insufficient and it is feared that the NMR will become a through road between the A327, Bracknell and M3.

- It was agreed that it is important to make residents aware of these latest proposals and decide on the Parish Council's own tactics to make its voice heard. The Working Group (Cllrs Mrs Newcombe, Mayne and May) will meet promptly and invite the local Ward Borough Councillors.
- Arborfield & Newland PC will hold a Public Meeting, 7.30pm, March 9th at the Royal British Legion Hall, and the Master Planner, Cris Lancaster is attending. Cllr Mrs Newcombe will attend.
- It was AGREED that, in view of the deadline of 23rd March, further communication between councillors will be by email in the first instance.
- Further correspondence and documents received from WBC - copy of the Adopted Core Strategy and Proposals Map for the Borough were passed to Cllr Mayne.

27/2010 - Playbuilders Funding - Gorse Ride Playing Fields

The Clerk has not yet been informed of a date for the next meeting

27/1010 - Halifax Bank Asset Reserve Account

Cllrs Cox and Markham visited Wokingham branch as no cheque was received. An electronic transfer of funds was made that day subject to a £25 arrangement fee. The Clerk was told by Clydesdale that £83716.60 has now been received. See Finance Statement of Accounts.

27/2010 - WBC Town/Parish Council Representative onto Boroughs' Strategic Partnership

The Clerk emailed the documents which contained the Candidates' interests. The FPC agreed its 1st choice is Chris Singleton and 2nd choice Dr John Halsall - the Clerk will advise WBC.

31/2010 - Rental Agreement

The Parish solicitors sent a draft lease, following agreement with the Baptist Community Centre this should be done which has been read by Cllrs Cundy and Markham. The Clerk has sent back comments and awaits the final draft to be submitted to the FBCC for their approval. Moving in date unlikely before end of March 2010.

32/2010 - Finance Meeting Recommendations For Approval Of The Precept 2010-2011 To Be Submitted To WBC

The Clerk submitted the information to WBC as instructed.

The meeting was closed 7.50pm to allow Claire Odds and June Auty of the Wokingham Area Housing Association to address the members. The Meeting re-opened at 8.10pm. Cllr Cundy thanked the representatives for the information which will be discussed on the Main Agenda later in the meeting.

61/2010 - COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLANNING - Cllr Mrs Newcombe reported on the meeting held on 27 January 2010 - Minutes distributed.

Enforcement Actions - the Enforcement Officer supplies regular updates to the Committee.

Applications

- 88a Reading Road - Objection: unacceptable development in the Countryside
- 89 Kiln Ride - Objection: Bulk, size and mass; out of keeping Woodlands,
- Lwr Wokingham Rd - Objection: Garage too large and in front of building line
- Bannisters Fleet Hill - Comments: FPC support neighbours comments on conditions to be applied to the permission

WBC Decisions.

- 9 Windsor Ride - FPC objections due to overdevelopment of site. Approved by WBC.

New Appeals

none

Appeal Decisions

- Middle Earth
- Lwr W'ham Road - Appeal allowed. FPC, no objections

- Jovike
- Lwr W'ham Road - Appeal dismissed and enforcement notice upheld with correction. WBC awarded costs.

- 2 Springdale - Appeal allowed. FPC, no objections

FINANCE

Cllr Markham reported the WBC 'Parish Precepts 2010-11' has been received and, despite the small increase to FPC's Precept, remains the second lowest in the Borough at £17.50 for Band D.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

- CLYDESDALE BANK £ 98063.10 (at 11 February 2010)
- HALIFAX ASSET RESERVE £0.00 (account now closed)
- CHEQUE LIST - FEB/2010 APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY
Includes estimated cost for Data Logger
- Donation £500 to Finchampstead & Barkham Relief in Sickness Fund APPROVED by a majority, 1 against, 1 abstained and Cllr Cox advised an interest.

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

- Finchampstead Library - results of WBC questionnaire awaited.
- Interpretive Panels - Cllr Woof has discussed the legal issues of using the WBC Ordnance Survey Map Licence and FPC now has permission, subject to signing an agreement for its use. This matter will be further discussed at the next Amenities meeting on 30th March.

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

- Footpath 6 - recent re-fencing of field causing concerns on reduction of width on footpath. Cllr Chapman has arranged a meeting this week between WBC, the landowner and a resident to discuss the issues. The matter will be discussed at the next Footpaths Meeting.
- Footpath 10 - Cllr Chapman has discussed flooding issues with two neighbouring landowners who will liaise to resolve the flooding by clearing ditches on their properties.
- B/way 4 - a recent incident involving a horse and rider resulted in personal injury to the rider caused by the barbed wire fence. Cllr Chapman has discussed this with BBONT who own the fence along this length of path and they have agreed to replace the fence in the next six months.

ROADS & ROAD SAFETY Cllr Mayne reported on meeting held on 9th February - Minutes distributed and Cllr Mayne highlighted the main points.

Data Logger Unit

Cllr Macey drew up a Risk Assessment which the Clerk submitted to the insurers who confirm extra cover is available and the Policy will be amended accordingly once the unit is purchased. Cllr Mayne will confirm to WBC that their list of operating conditions is met and the committee will draw up a Schedule of Sites in association with FinchNag. Cllrs Bromley and Macey will be responsible for the software analysis from data collection.

Cllr Mayne, with Borough Cllr Weeks' help, finally reached agreement with WBC to resolve two of the three items on the Wish List.

- 1 Nine Mile Ride 30mph -WBC carried out speed investigations and the results showed an average speed of 35.5 mph Eastbound traffic and 34.4mph Westbound. WBC concluded that it will be advantageous to place an additional VAS sign close to Kingsmere Lake for Westbound traffic.
- 2 Dell Road/The Ridges junction. WBC advise they only have two reported accidents at this site but it was agreed that far more accidents occur on a regular basis. WBC propose to change the signage and road markings, similar to those used along Fleet Hill.
- 3 The 'wish' for a Toucan crossing at NMR will be deferred to a more opportune time.

Gorse Ride School Travel Plan

Cllr Mayne has mapped out several safe walking routes to the school and, as many parents from the Waverley area already walk this route, this has been chosen as a pilot. It is a low cost scheme involving signage and way markings. Cllr Mayne holds the map showing the routes.

Flooding List

The committee agreed a list of the most problematic sites in Finchampstead and the Clerk will send this to Eddie Napper for his action. Cllr Cox advised WBC engineers have constructed a new ditch back to the small stream and this, together with a heavy duty pump, appears to have resolved the problems. Cllr Cundy noted that grips have been cut into the verge on Wellingtonia Road but these have not been reinforced.

Grit Bins

Cllr Pearce had asked the committee to investigate this issue as it is important the Parish Council is shown as being pro-active in resolving the recent problems experienced by residents. Main Council agreed with the R&RS Committee's conclusion that supplying a sufficient number of grit bins for a mostly urban area is too onerous.

Cllr Cundy thanked Cllr Mayne for the committee's efforts in pursuing these matters.

62/2010 - OTHER REPORTS

Allotment Working Group Report

Cllrs Mrs Driver, Markham, Veitch and Weeks met on site on 21st January to assess the Old Nursery land owned by WBC. Cllr Weeks' actions are to request the WBC's tree expert to visit the site as some trees look potentially dangerous and ask for WBC advice on setting up allotments.

Cllr Veitch will attend the SLCC 'Setting Up and Managing Allotments' Workshop on 1st March and his report to Main Council on 18th March will be emailed to the Allotment Waiting List applicants.

The matter will be further discussed at the next Amenities meeting on 30th March.

FPMC - Meeting held on 10 February and Cllr Markham's report is distributed

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

FinchNag - Cllr Pearce's report is distributed and he advised that the committee has a useful dialogue with two Emmbrook students who attended for the first time. Involvement by both Emmbrook and Gorse Ride school pupils will be a regular occurrence.

- The Litter Collection will be held on weekend of 20-21st March and Cllrs Cundy, Mrs Driver and Weeks have volunteered to help.
- The Wokingham Police SID has broken and a borrowed unit from Crowthorne has been used but funding is being sought for a new unit.

Clerk's Report

Will be on holiday from 1-18 March and office will be covered by Anna Kent in her absence.

63/2010 -DISCUSSION ON TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS AT THE WAR MEMORIAL JUNCTION

Cllr Macey received a police report on the accident at this junction: a Porsche Cayenne speeding up Jubilee Road, hit the high kerbs at the War Memorial junction, damaged the turf and demolished the metal fencing on the far side. Police investigations are under way. It is noted that more accidents are being recorded and WBC will be repairing the high corner kerbs at all three corners.

Cllr Cundy advised that traffic movements around the War Memorial need to be monitored and requested the Roads Committee to have this as its first priority for the Data Logger. Once the data has been analysed, it may be necessary to campaign for a change in traffic rights of way. AGREED.

64/2010 - WOKINGHAM AREA HOUSING SOCIETY - PROPOSAL TO NOMINATE A PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE SOCIETY'S BOARD OF MEMBERS

It was AGREED that the Parish Council concur with the Society's request for a Parish Councillor be nominated as a permanent member of the Board - this will be added to the list of organisations at the next Annual Meeting on May 20th 2010.

65/2010 - PROPOSAL FROM R&RS COMMITTEE THAT FPC PURCHASE 2 STREET LAMPS FOR THE FOOTWAY BETWEEN DRAKE CLOSE AND ARNETT AVENUE.

Cllr Mayne's report was distributed and the matter discussed fully. Expenditure up to £5000 for purchase and installation of two street lamps at the two locations shown on the map was AGREED, subject to negotiation with WBC and on the understanding that future maintenance and supply is their responsibility.

66/2010 - PROPOSAL THAT THE FPC DONATE THE SUM OF £4000 TO THE BVCP IN 2010-11

It was AGREED that a final decision be referred back to the next Finance meeting on 27 April when the General Reserves Fund will be decided.

67/2010 - PROPOSAL THAT THE ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE VILLAGE YOUTH PROJECT BE RAISED FROM £5000 TO £6000 FOR 2010-11

AGREED.

68/2010 - CORRESPONDENCE LIST - 18 FEBRUARY MEETING

- Berkshire Royal British Legion - Grant application form requesting a discretionary grant for this financial year if possible. Active in Finchampstead safeguarding the welfare and interest of serving and ex-Service personnel and their dependants. The RBL have an ever increasing demand for their services, especially for victims of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. It was AGREED to donate £300 and a cheque was raised and signed.
- Cllr Cundy invited to Charity functions by WBC Mayor - 10 April and 15 May - declined
- W'ham CAB advise their funding bid for 4 CAB kiosks has gone forward to the next stage.
- RAF - invitation all to attend 'An Audience with the RAF' - Blue Mountain Centre, Weds 10 March 2010. Free to attend - please register at <http://civicform.raf.mod.uk>
- WBC - Annual Community Conference 'Working together to transform Wokingham Borough' Friday 12 March 9.30 - 12.30 at Sindlesham Court Centre. Lunch provided. Workshop sessions to showcase the role and work of WB Strategic Partnership. Replies by 5 March to jane/Harvey@wokingham.gov.uk

- Wokingham Information Network (WIN) provides community with information about help, support and services in W'ham Borough. Would like a link to WIN on our website - AGREED.
- Wokingham Link - has been set up to '*make voices heard on Health and Social Care Issues*' - Asking FPC if they would like to nominate a representative to sit on the Steering Group. 10 hours per month to the role. Not agreed.
- Thank you letters for donations from:
Sue Ryder Care; Crowthorne Choral Soc; Berkshire MS Therapy Centre; Berkshire Blind Society; Relate; NT; St James Churchyard Trust; W'ham Job Support; WVC; W'ham Health Walks; Home Start. Cllr Cundy was pleased that all the organisations the Parish Council has selected are appreciative of this support and looks forward to seeing their representatives at the Annual Gathering on 25th March.

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

69/2010 - DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

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

Meeting closed at 9.42pm.