

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD
AT 7.30 PM ON THURSDAY 18TH MARCH 2010
AT THE FBCENTRE, GORSE RIDE NORTH
FINCHAMPSTEAD, BERKSHIRE

PRESENT: Cllr R Cundy, Chairman, Cllr G Markham, Vice Chairman
Cllr Mrs Driver, Mrs Jennings-Frisby, Mrs Newcombe, R Black,
Cllrs S Bromley, M Macey, K Mayne, A Pearce, G Veitch, S Weeks

Louise Morris, Youth Project, Jim Gallagher, Finchampstead Baptist Church
Member of the Public

Mrs Jane Holloway, Clerk

88/2010 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs W Chapman, E Cox, J May, R Woof.

89/2010- MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Main Council meeting on 18 February 2010 were amended on page 26 to read '*Next meeting to be held at the new Finchampstead Baptist Centre*' and then signed as a true record.

90/2010 - CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON THE MINUTES

60/2010 - Finchampstead Sports Club - Leas Field - Public Right of Way

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.

The Clerk has been informed that the FIDO group are collecting DMMO forms for submission to WBC.

60/2010 - Playbuilders Funding - Gorse Ride Playing Fields

The Clerk has not yet been informed of a date for the next meeting but Cllr Weeks advised that this tops the WBC list for early completion.

61/2010 - February Cheque List - New bench for Finchampstead Road Bus Stop

The Clerk wrote to the landowner of the piece of land suitable for siting a bench but has received a refusal. It was AGREED this is a great pity and those residents who made the original request will be informed and it will be mentioned at the Annual Gathering on 25 March.

61/2010 - R&RS Report - Data Logger Unit

Unit on order and due for delivery next week to Cllr Macey's address by prior arrangement. Cllr Bromley will assist with installing the software and Cllrs Macey and Mayne are preparing a Schedule of Works.

62/2010 - Allotment Working Group Report

- Cllr Weeks advised that the Tree Officers at WBC are extremely busy and will not be able to inspect the trees on site quickly. To be discussed at Amenities on 30th March.
- Cllr Cundy replied to some residents expressing concerns about the proposed allotments and access to site to advise them of the current situation.
- SLCC 'Setting Up and Managing Allotments' Workshop cancelled and re-arranged for 12 April - Cllr Mrs Driver to attend.

62/2010 - Litter Pick - 20-21 March 2010

Cllr Weeks has received the tabards, badges etc., and volunteer councillors can either meet him on Sunday 21st at The Greyhound or at Cllr Pearce's home. Cllrs Cundy, Markham, Bromley, Mayne, Black, Mrs Driver, Mrs Jennings Frisby were thanked for their time on this valuable effort.

63/2010 - Discussion On Traffic Accidents At The War Memorial Junction

Cllr Mayne advised that he is preparing a Schedule of Works in agreement with WBC and the War Memorial junction will be a priority.

64/2010 - Wokingham Area Housing Society - Proposal To Nominate A Parish Council Representative To The Society's Board Of Members

This will be added to the list of organisations at the next Annual Meeting on May 20th 2010.

66/2010 - Proposal that the FPC donate the sum of £4000 to the Blackwater Valley Countryside Park in 2010-11

To be discussed at the next Finance meeting on 27 April when the General Reserves Fund will be agreed.

67/2010 - Annual Contribution To The Village Youth Project is Increased to £6000 For 2010-11

Cllr Cundy presented the cheque for the 4th Quarter to Louise Morris who is unable to attend the Annual Gathering next week.

Ms Morris thanked the members for their continued support of the Youth Project especially for the increase in funding for the next financial year. Work will continue with the Finchampstead Baptist Centre so that the local young people can be fully involved in all the facilities which will be available. The members congratulated Ms Morris on her excellent work with the local youth.

It was noted that there is a gap in provision for 6-8 year olds and Special Needs children and this matter will be monitored.

Cllr Cundy closed the meeting at 7.50 pm for PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT. The meeting re-opened at 8.10 pm.

Cllr Cundy brought forward item 5 on the Agenda so that Cllr Mayne could address the main points raised during the Adjournment.

91/2010 - WBC MASTER PLAN - SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENTS - COMMENTS DUE ON 23 MARCH

Cllr Mayne confirmed that the paper he emailed to all members yesterday was comprehensive and followed discussions of the Working Group with the local Ward Members and advised that there are three main points at issue.

Traffic Infrastructure and Mitigation

The revised proposals subsequent to the original three options in effect means a fourth option not previously consulted on. The proposed expenditure of £1 million on 22 miles of roads was woefully inadequate and there is also a lack of provision for HGV journeys, pedestrians and school journeys. The likely impact on Nine Mile Ride has not been acknowledged and it is Cllr Mayne's recommendation that speed reduction and other mitigation is taken to prevent the route becoming a major thoroughfare.

Housing Development

The new 'clump' of housing development is also likely to cause local problems

Green Spaces and SANGs

The lack of new provision and the subsequent impact on California Country Park has not been addressed fully.

Cllr Veitch queried why the proposed SANG off Barkham Ride (on Finchampstead parish boundary with Barkham PC) is named 'Barkham Park'. It was agreed that the locally recognised name of 'Rooks Nest' is more suitable and Cllr Weeks will raise this at WBC.

Cllr Mrs Newcombe attended the recent Arborfield Public Meeting and her notes distributed.

Cllr Cundy thanked all those involved in preparing this report for all their efforts.

It was agreed that the lack of notification by WBC to local residents on these revised plans was regrettable but noted that the Council are required in law to have a Plan but it should be remembered that matters are dependent on Army decisions, possible changes in Government and developers willing to make the necessary investments.

It was AGREED that any councillor wanting to make amendments to Cllr Mayne's draft response should email him over the weekend, the final draft will then be distributed for approval so that the Clerk can submit the comments by Tuesday 23 March 2010.

92/2010 - COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLANNING - Cllr Mrs Newcombe reported on the meeting held on 24 February 2010 - Minutes distributed.

Enforcement Actions -

Progress remains slow on all outstanding items.

Applications

The committee sent objections and comments regarding

88a Reading Road & Little Moor, Park Lane - both regarded as unacceptable development in the countryside

153 NMR - not in keeping with street scene, overdevelopment of site

355 NMR - garage in front of building line (2nd application)

Groves, Wick Hill Lane - no objections but the development not to be sold as a separate dwelling.

WBC Decisions.

355 NMR - Refused as adverse impact on protected trees on site, FPC obj.

There were several refusals by WBC on applications to which the parish council did not object:-

19 NMR - Height and mass inappropriate; unbalanced, detrimental to semi rural location

10 Shepherds Way - not demonstrated proposal would not cause harm to protected trees.

32 Kelsey Avenue - gable extension does not respect style of dwelling & surrounding street scene.

14 Fir Cottage Road - Excessive width, inappropriate to character of street scene, height, mass, overbearing impact, significant loss of light to No 16 Luckmore Drive.

New Appeals

Land to west of Field House, Longwater Lane - a retrospective application for one long stay gypsy pitch. FPC objections submitted to Inspector.

81 Kiln Ride - Outline Consent for erection of one dwelling. FPC objections sent to the Inspector.

Appeal Decisions

None received

FINANCE

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

- CLYDESDALE BANK £93966.86
- HALIFAX ASSET RESERVE £0.00 (account now closed)
- CHEQUE LIST - MAR/2010 APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

In view of the refusal regarding the new Bench at the Finchampstead Road bus stop, the previously approved expenditure was rescinded. Cllr Markham will meet with the Clerk to discuss the Clydesdale instructions received from Clydesdale bank in her absence.

Financial Regulations - Amendment

Cllr Markham proposed the amendments as distributed

5 Banking Arrangements and cheques

5.1 The council's banking arrangements shall be made by the RFO to maximise income but retaining required flexibility and be approved by the Finance Committee.

5.2 A schedule of payments shall be prepared by the RFO and presented to the Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Finance Committee. If the schedule is in order it shall be presented and authorised by a resolution of the council at its next monthly meeting.

5.3 Instructions to the Bank including direct debits, standing orders and cheques shall be signed by two authorised councillors.

5.4 The RFO shall prepare an instruction the Bank for payment of monthly salaries. This instruction shall be sent by fax to the Bank after signature by two authorised councillors.

AGREED - The Clerk will distribute the revised document.

AMENITIES - There has been no recent meeting and Cllr Markham advised no further matters to report on following earlier discussions on the new bench, allotments and Playbuilders funding.

Cllr Weeks advised that the Library opening hours are scheduled to be mornings on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, Tuesday afternoons and Thursday afternoon & evenings. It was agreed this is a wonderful new facility for the local residents and further agreed that the Parish Council will have a long term plan to have more opening times in the future.

FOOTPATHS - in the absence of Cllr Chapman, Cllr Weeks reported on the meeting held on 10th March, minutes to be distributed. The meeting had been brief and Cllr Weeks will request WBC funding for the flooding problems on F/p 26.

ROADS & ROAD

Cllr Mayne reported on matters arising since the last meeting.

The Ridges/Dell Road

It was agreed at the last meeting that the WBC proposals were adequate and had been one of the three wishes submitted.

Gorse Ride School Travel Count

Cllrs Mayne, Black and Bromley recently carried out a monitoring exercise and the data will be processed and results passed to WBC.

Local Transport Plan

Attended by Cllr Mayne and professional presentation and the next meeting on 23rd April would also be useful for a Roads Committee member to attend. Cllr Mayne asked that a further meeting involving all the Southern Parishes would be very useful and this was agreed by the officers.

Flooding List - The Clerk sent the list to Eddie Napper for his action and awaits his comments.

93/2010 - OTHER REPORTS

FPMC - Neither Cllrs Cundy nor Cllr Markham was able to attend last night's meeting.

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

FinchNag - Cllr Pearce's report is distributed and further advised that the contributions from the Emmbrook and Junior school pupils is appreciated and their suggestions will be put forward to WBC by Cllr Weeks.

Clerk's Report

- Thank you to Anna Kent for manning the office.
- Wellingtonia Avenue - Clerk has received information that the avenue of Sequoia sempervirens was planted in 1869 soon after the death of the Duke of Wellington as a commemoration. Therefore 150th anniversary would be 2019. NB: the road was constructed over the Ridges in 1863 by John Walters MP of Bearwood Estate.

94/2010 - PROPOSAL TO AGREE TO SIGN THE RENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE FBC FOR THE NEW PARISH OFFICE

Amended draft sent to FBC and awaiting their comments - the Clerk will email the draft to all councillors. It was AGREED that Cllrs Cundy and Markham are authorised to sign the agreement on behalf of the Council.

95/2010 - CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR

Public Notices to go up on boards. One applicant has stated an interest. All applicants will be invited to attend the next Main Council meeting for interview.

96/2010 - PROPOSAL FROM R&RS COMMITTEE THAT FPC PURCHASE 2 STREET LAMPS FOR THE FOOTWAY BETWEEN DRAKE CLOSE AND ARNETT AVENUE.

Cllr Mayne to confirm his negotiations with WBC undertaking the future maintenance and supply is their responsibility. It is hoped this can be completed before the end of the current financial year.

97/2010 - ANNUAL GATHERING - 25 MARCH 2020

The Clerk is preparing for the Gathering and requested all Reports to be emailed by early next week; Cllr Bromley is compiling a Slide Show for the evening; Cllr Cundy will buy refreshments.

98/2010 - ARMED FORCES DAY - 26 JUNE 2010

It was agreed not to arrange a specific event in Finchampstead but to join in with WBC events.

99/2010 - CORRESPONDENCE LIST - 18 MARCH MEETING

- NT; Royal British Legion and the Finchampstead & Barkham Relief in Sickness Fund - thank you letters. Noted.
- Crowthorne Choral Soc - 7.30 pm Sun 21st March at Newsome Sports Hall Wellington College - Cllr Cundy will attend
- Thames Valley Community Policing Awards - nominations by 16 April. Noted
- Keep Mobile AGM - 2pm Sat 24 April. Noted.

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.

Forum

- The Clerk will investigate the possibility of arranging Main Council meetings on alternative days of the week so that clashes with WBC are avoided as much as possible.
- Cllr Mrs Driver reported on the deplorable state of Finchampstead Road following frost damage and it was agreed this is prevalent on many local roads. Mrs Driver is also dismayed at the disregard of the speed limit of 30 mph and the new data logger will be useful in collecting information to present to WBC.
- Cllr Mayne reminded all committees to consider Risk Assessments brought forward from the last Review.

100/2010 - DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Main Council 7.30 pm Thursday 15 April 2010 at **Memorial Hall, Finchampstead**

Meeting closed at 10.15 pm.