

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD AT 7.30 PM ON TUESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2019 AT THE FBC CENTRE, GORSE RIDE NORTH, FINCHAMPSTEAD RG40 4ES

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs C. Driver, Chair. Cllr S. Bowers, Vice Chair.
Cllrs Mrs B. Eytle, Mrs N. Jennings–Frisby, Mrs S. McDonald
and G. Veitch.

Mrs Dagnall, Clerk.

333/2019 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Cundy, Mrs Margetts and Pearce.

334/2019 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

335/2019 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 May 2019 were signed as a true record.

336/2019 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES AND OTHER ITEMS

177/2019 REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE

Cllrs Mrs Driver and Weeks have had two meetings with representatives from the local Scout and Guide Groups to discuss arrangements for the 2019 Parade. As Thames Valley Police are no longer able to assist with road closures it is likely that the event will be held at an alternative location, possibly the Memorial Park. A further meeting is being held on 10 September when a decision will be made on where the Parade will take place.

War Memorial

Scottish and Southern Electricity is currently undertaking work to repair a fault and has dug a trench across the War Memorial island. Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) is monitoring the work and has been asked to ensure that the reinstatement is carried out to a good standard.

California Country Park

WBC has advised that work to the former car park around the wishing well should be completed shortly and the next phase will be to work on the original driveway to turn this into a pedestrian route. The greenway bridge should be installed and the additional links to the California Greenway completed within a month.

WBC Arts and Culture strategy

The Clerk completed a questionnaire in May 2019 linked to this new strategy. The questionnaire response will be circulated. No further updates have been received but it is understood that WBC is planning a 'Year of Culture' in 2022.

Public Participation Session

No members of the public were present.

337/2019 INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2019/20

A report showing the current position was circulated with the agenda and at the meeting. No issues were raised.

338/2019 LITTER, WASTE AND RECYCLING MATTERS

Information on the work of the two Litter Wardens carried out from April 2019 to date is summarised below.

2019/20	HOURS	MILES	SACKS COLLECTED
APRIL	18	25	17
MAY	38	77	41
JUNE	26	42	27
JULY	36	72	36
AUGUST	9	23	12
TOTAL	127	239	133

WBC currently collects the mixed waste the Wardens put in a large bin at the California Ratepayers Hall. WBC has advised that it is not viable to collect litter and recyclable materials separately, even if the Wardens were able to collect in this way.

339/2019 CALIFORNIA CROSSROADS TIDY UP

A tidy up session was held on Sunday 19 May. It was agreed that there would not be an autumn tidy up but there should be a further session in Spring 2020.

The Clerk will contact WBC regarding the following:

- The blocked gullies (previously reported)
- The broken gully (previously reported)
- The possibility of labelling litter bins with a 'if this bin is full please report it to....' sticker or with QR codes which link directly to the WBC website reporting system.
- A request for leaf clearance this autumn / winter – with an offer from the Parish Council to contribute to the cost.

340/2019 COMMUNITY LITTER PICK 2020

The 2020 Keep Britain Tidy Great British Spring Clean takes place between 13 March and 20 April next year.

Cllr Mrs McDonald advised that WBC will be contacted in January 2020 to find out the dates of the Wokingham community litter pick, so that planning for the Finchampstead litter pick can start early. Arrangements were updated for the 2019 litter pick which should make planning the 2020 event more straightforward.

As part of the overall campaign Keep Britain Tidy run a 'Great British School Clean', but in 2019 WBC did not promote this to local schools. WBC will be asked if it plans to promote the initiative in 2020, and if not the Parish Council will take the lead in encouraging local schools to get involved.

341/2019 NOTICEBOARD AND SEAT REFURBISHMENT

The recent asset inspection has identified that the 3 hardwood noticeboards located at the Memorial Hall, near St James' Church and at the One Stop Shop on Barkham Ride need refurbishment.

It was noted that noticeboards are no longer a main form of communication for the Council, and most of the information held in them is static information. Very few event posters are received now. Five of the Council's noticeboards have been removed in the last 4 years for these reasons.

It was agreed that a notice would be put in each of the 3 noticeboards stating that they may be removed and asking for any objections.

The seat near St James' Church which was installed for the 2012 Jubilee requires refurbishment. The estimated cost is £120 plus materials. It was agreed that an order should be placed for the work.

342/2019 ALLOTMENT SITE

A report on the allotment site was circulated with the agenda.

- The new 30 year leases have now been signed.
- The site is in good condition. Several plots have been let recently but a small number are vacant. There is a waiting list for non parish residents.
- Invoices for the annual rent have been sent out this week.
- The Clerk is arranging tree works for the autumn / winter period.

Cllr Veitch noted the long term aspiration to secure additional adjacent land for use as more allotments or a community orchard.

343/2019 VE DAY ANNIVERSARY

VE Day 75 is being organised to celebrate and commemorate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day. Events will take place over the weekend of 8 - 10 May 2020. Information was circulated with the agenda.

Cllr Mrs Driver has contacted St James' Church regarding its plans for the event, which could include a service and the ringing of the Church bells in line with the national celebrations. It was agreed that the Council would not arrange an event itself but would encourage the Church and possibly the Queens Oak Public House to mark the event in some way.

344/2019 TREE PLANTING AND PROTECTION

- A hornbeam tree was been planted in the St. James' Churchyard extension to mark the centenary of the end of World War I. A dedication ceremony will be held on 15 September at 12.45pm. All are welcome to attend.
- Burnmoor Meadow – 3 further trees will be planted this winter. The Clerk is looking into replacement plaques for the commemorative trees on the open space.
- The 'christmas tree' on the Finchampstead Road has died. The Clerk has asked the former 'Focus on Finch' Group if it has plans to replace the oak tree, which is dedicated to Mary Marshall. (*Post meeting note – the Group has confirmed it will be replacing the tree*).

- Wellingtonia Avenue project
A provisional sum of £10,000 was agreed by the Council in July 2019 to cover a potential survey of the trees. The next stage in the project is to send a letter to the residents – from the Parish Council, WBC and the Wokingham District Veteran Trees Association (WDVTA). The intention is to engage with the residents to raise awareness of the importance of the Avenue and of caring for the trees.
- The WDVTA is planning to use Finchampstead as a pilot for a Parish Tree Survey, eventually to be rolled out across the Borough. It is understood that WBC is now paying closer attention to trees following its declaration of a Climate Emergency.
- WDVTA has met WBC Members to discuss various concerns around trees, including lack of maintenance of new trees planted on new roads and in new developments. The Clerk and Cllr Veitch plan to meet the Arborfield Green Property Management Company to discuss the maintenance of the planting on the development, and responsibilities for the replacement of trees.

345/2019 CORRESPONDENCE

- There was no correspondence to report.

346/2019 FORUM

- Cllr Bowers advised that there will be a walkabout on Gorse Ride to look at the deteriorating condition of the front gardens of vacant properties and means of addressing the problem.

347/2019 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Committee meeting will be confirmed in due course.

These minutes are subject to confirmation at the next meeting of the Committee.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

MINUTE REFERENCE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)
	Arrange defibrillator training session autumn 2019	Clerk / Asst to the Clerk
336/2019	Circulate Arts and Culture Strategy response	Clerk
339/2019	Contact WBC re California Crossroads	Clerk
340.2019	Contact WBC January 2020 re 2020 litter pick	SM/Clerk
341/2019	Put posters in 3 noticeboards re potential removal	Clerk
341/2019	Place order for refurbishment of Jubilee Seat	Clerk
342/2019	Arrange allotment site tree works for Autumn 2019	Clerk
343/2019	Seek response from St James Church re VE Day 75	CD
344/2019	Arrange tree planting at Burnmoor Meadow	GV/Clerk
344/2019	Source replacement plaques or plaque for commemorative trees	Clerk
344/2019	Progress Wellingtonia Avenue tree project.	GV/Clerk
344/2019	Progress tree strategy project	GV/Clerk
347/2019	Confirm date of next meeting	Clerk