

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30 PM ON 15 JANUARY 2020 AT THE FBC CENTRE, GORSE RIDE NORTH, FINCHAMPSTEAD

PRESENT: Cllr Cundy, Chair. Cllr S. Bromley, Vice Chair.
Cllrs S. Bowers, D. Cornish, Mrs C. Driver, Mrs B. Eytel, G. Jukes OBE,
Mrs. R. Margetts, J. May, A. Pearce, R. Rampton, S. Weeks, R. Woof & G. Veitch.

Mrs K. Dagnall, Clerk.
Wokingham Borough Cllr J. Kaiser (part).

25/2020 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs N. Jennings-Frisby, Mrs S. McDonald and R. Marshallsay.

26/2020 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

27/2020 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 18 December 2019 were signed as a true and correct record.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

No members of the public were present.

28/2020 CHAIRMANS REPORT

- A message has been received from a resident recognising the commitment of the Councillors and thanking them for what they and the Council do for the community and to make Finchampstead a better place to live.
- Cllrs Cornish and Cundy and the Clerk met representatives from the Social Value Portal and Legal & General on 13 December 2019. The Portal is working on behalf of Legal and General to ensure that the Finchwood Park development brings benefits to the community over and above the provision of new homes and associated community facilities. The Portal is keen to hold a 'stakeholder workshop' in early February as the first stage of a consultation to identify community needs.

Cllr Cornish advised that there are concerns about potential confusion with other consultations including the recent Finchampstead Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) consultation, the forthcoming Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) Local Plan consultation and the Arborfield and Barkham NDP referendum.

Cllr Cornish and a NDP Group representative are meeting the Social Value Portal on 16 January to discuss the issue and with the intention of agreeing an appropriate way of working over the planned community consultation, so that this can assist both Legal & General and the NDP Group.

It was noted that Legal & General has already supported some community activities including practical work at Finchampstead School and sponsorship of the Village Fete.

29/2020 COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Veitch advised that the Committee met on 8 January 2020. Minutes of the meeting have been circulated.

- Several residents attended the meeting on 8 January in relation to an application at land to the rear of 78 Reading Road. The Parish Council has submitted objections to the application, which will be determined by WBC in due course.
- Cllr Veitch will be attending the Appeal Hearing on 4 February relating to proposals for up to 118 dwellings on land north of Nine Mile Ride.
- Cemex UK Ltd has submitted an application to amend the conditions relating to the restoration on Fleet Hill Farm. This includes amendments to the alignment of paths and the configuration of a pond, lake and woodland. A further application has been submitted to extend the period for mineral extraction and restoration on Manor Farm to 31/12/22 with a further 12 months to complete the restoration. Objections have been submitted to any extension of the current permission.
- WBC has produced a draft Local Plan and a public consultation will commence on 3 February. The proposed focus for housing development is at Grazeley and the existing Strategic Development Locations. Potential sites in Finchampstead are at Jovike, Lower Wokingham Road; Tintagel Farm and 166 Nine Mile Ride. The Reading Football Club site at Hogwood Farm is also proposed for development, this is within Barkham Parish but is adjacent to Finchampstead Parish.
- Cllr Cundy advised that tree works will be taking place at Sand Martins adjacent to the Finchampstead Road in early February. WBC has advised that the works have been approved and will be sending more details in due course. The work is bound to raise concerns with the public and efforts will be made to ensure the community is aware of the planned work.

FINANCE & GENERAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Woof reported on the financial position of the Council, the meeting held on 7 January and other matters.

Financial position

- Unity Trust Bank £22,437.18
- CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund account £557,080.91
- CCLA Property Fund £25,000
- The above figures include £498,906.39 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds

The schedule of payments totalling £10,782.88 was circulated to all Councillors and was unanimously approved.

Cllrs Bromley and Woof agreed to authorise the electronic payments.

Other matters

- The minutes of the meeting held on 7 January have been circulated.

- The draft budget and precept demand for 2020/21 were finalised and are covered by agenda item 30/2020 below.
- The Committee agreed that Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds should be used for the improvements to the Briarwood Path and to a section of Heath Ride, BW 24, at a total cost of £5750. This was approved by the Council.
- The next meeting of the Committee will focus on identifying projects which can be funded by CIL and which should be actively taken forward. The annual CIL Monitoring Report will also be considered.
- The Information Commissioners Office has provided information about the main issues facing the sector in terms of data protection. This includes the risks associated with holding personal data on personal laptops / mobiles, and of the use of non-council email addresses by Councillors. The importance of not holding on to (personal) information' just because it might be useful' has also been stressed.

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

- Cllr Mrs Driver advised that St. James' Church is arranging a street party to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day on 8 May 2020. The Church bells will be rung at 7pm as part of the national commemorative event.
- Cllr Veitch advised that 3 english oak trees have been planted at Burnmoor Meadow, and a Tibetan Cherry tree at the California Country Park.
- Cllr Cundy advised that information has been circulated about tree works in the California Country Park alongside the lake outlet. The WBC Countryside Service are undertaking this work during January ahead of a project to upgrade the outlet and auxiliary spillway which will begin later in 2020. 10 larger trees and some smaller areas of scrub will be removed. WBC has put up signs up explaining the reasons for the works.
- The improvements to the California Country Park and the final works on the green ways were due to be completed in December but are still outstanding. This is being followed up with WBC.
- A planning application has been submitted for the new toilet block at the California Country Park, the Planning Committee considered this on 8 January and had no objections to the proposals.

RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

Cllr Woof reported on current matters.

- Loddon Valley Ramblers is looking for locations where stiles could be replaced with kissing gates to improve accessibility. Suggested locations should be forwarded to the Clerk. The Parish Council is likely to make a contribution to the project.
- The improvements to the Briarwood Path and BW24 are due to be completed this month. The next project to be taken forward is improvements to BP26 where there are significant drainage

problems.

- An enquiry has been received regarding the cycle route to Bohunt School. While part of the route uses the greenway, a further section involves having to cycle through Hazebrouk Meadows open space where the paths were not intended to be used for cycling. It is understood that Crest Nicholson is to construct a final section of the cycle route to the school and this is being followed up with WBC.
- There has been some debate over the length of rights of way in Finchampstead Parish. This was thought to be 26 miles, but the figure in the WBC draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan is 13 miles. It is now understood that the true figure is 21 miles and it was agreed this should be used in future.

ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Cllr Bromley reported on current matters.

- The faulty portable speed indicator device (PSID) has been repaired and is being tested.
- Barkham Parish Council has researched and secured permission from Thames Valley Police for signs to be used during speedwatch sessions, and permanent signs for the Parish entrances indicating it is a 'speedwatch area'. It is intended that similar signage will be used for Finchampstead.
- Cllr Weeks advised that the Reading Buses shuttle bus service operating on Nine Mile Ride during the road closure for the South East Water works has temporarily ceased due to an issue over non payment. The service will be reinstated in early February as an hourly service catering for residents living on either side of the Nine Mile Ride closure, currently the section closed is between the California Country Park and Park Lane. In the interim Keep Mobile may be offering a service.
- The Leopard 3b service to Bracknell is to be discontinued due to a low level of use.

30/2020 BUDGET AND PRECEPT DEMAND FOR 2020/2021

Cllr Woof advised that the proposed budget for 2020/21 is £172,800 and the precept demand £163,600. This equates to a Band D figure of £26.96, an increase of £1.06 from the current year.

The budget and precept demand were unanimously approved and the precept demand will be submitted to WBC by the deadline of 3 February 2020.

Cllr Woof advised that Ear Marked Reserves (EMR) for 2020/21 have also been agreed and include provisional sums for allotment maintenance, footpath equipment, the land near the War Memorial and election costs. Several EMR have been removed as CIL funds can be used for the projects.

31/2020 PROJECT AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NDP)

Cllr Cornish provided an update on progress with the Plan.

- Steering Group representatives met WBC Planning Officers in December to update WBC on progress with the NDP, and to discuss the WBC Local Plan update.

- The analysis of the household consultation responses is now complete and a representative of the NDP Group will be invited to give a presentation to the Council at its next meeting on 20 February.
- The referendum on the Arborfield and Barkham NDP will take place on 6 February.

GORSE RIDE REGENERATION

- WBC Cllr Kaiser, the Executive Member for Finance and Housing, gave an update on the regeneration project. Measures are being put in place to ensure a co-ordinated approach to the project and to addressing the various issues and challenges which have arisen.
- Cllr Weeks and WBC Cllr Clark, the Executive Member for Children's Services, met the Head Teacher and Governors of the Gorse Ride Schools on 13 January to discuss the current issues the Schools are experiencing.
- Cllr Kaiser and Cllr Weeks are meeting WBC Officers on 16 January to discuss the next stages with the project.
- Cllr Mrs Eyle is having a further meeting with the Community Development Worker and FB Church Community Care Team volunteers on 16 January to discuss some of the challenges facing the changing community and the issues encountered by the new residents moving into the Estate.

Councillors expressed their concerns over the impact of the project on the community and the delays with delivering the second and larger phase of the project, and asked to be kept fully updated.

ARBORFIELD STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT LOCATION (SDL)

The Arborfield Green development includes the provision of a new primary school on a site off Biggs Lane, with the school due to open in September 2021. WBC has provided information on options for the management of the new school.

It was noted that the information provided omits any mention Finchampstead either in terms of the potential impact on the existing Finchampstead Schools, or of the new dwellings in Arborfield Green which lie in Finchampstead. It was noted that 30 children from Arborfield Green currently attend the Gorse Ride Schools.

It was agreed that the Council should support the proposal to move Farley Hill School to the new site, provided that measures are put in place to protect the roll and therefore viability of the remaining local schools, including those in Finchampstead. This will include restricting the roll and catchment area of the new school. The Clerk will respond to WBC, also pointing out the omissions in the options appraisal report.

- Cllr Weeks has visited the West Court SANG (Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace) which is now partly open, with the remainder to open when ground conditions improve. The paths and furniture are high quality and links are in place to connect the paths with the future SANG to be created adjacent to the site.

32/2020 WOKINGHAM BOROUGH CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Due to time constraints it was agreed that this item would be deferred to a future meeting. In the interim it will be discussed by the Amenities Committee at its meeting on 22 January.

Cllr Cundy attended a meeting of the WBC Climate Emergency Working Group on 10 January but little progress has been made.

33/2020 CORRESPONDENCE.

Correspondence has been circulated by email and / or noted under agenda items above.

34/2020 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- The agenda for the February meeting will include consideration of proposals to improve facilities at the Finchampstead Sports Club and a presentation on the NDP consultation response.
- Councillors are invited to put forward suggestions for future agendas.

35/2020 FORUM

- Cllr Rampton advised that Keep Mobile is very short of drivers.

36/2020 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 20 February 2020 at the Memorial Hall, commencing at 7.30pm.

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

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL - PAYMENT LIST 15 JANUARY 2020

UNITY TRUST BANK ACCOUNT 10/01/20			£22,437.18	
CCLA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 30/11/19			£557,080.91	
CCLA PROPERTY FUND 31/03/18			£25,000.00	
INCLUDING CIL RECEIPTS TOTAL £498,906.39				
TOTAL FUNDS			£604,518.09	
	NET	VAT	TOTAL	
Outstanding payments yet to be cleared				
FINCHAMPSTEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL	904.00	0.00	904.00	CH300272
TOTAL PAYMENTS OUTSTANDING			£904.00	
Payments already approved and paid				
BRITISH TELECOM	76.68	15.33	92.01	
PAYMENTS JANUARY 2020				
Staff costs			£5,864.85	
Other costs				
SSE STREET LIGHT ENERGY SEP-DEC	75.23	3.76	78.79	247366525
WEBMARKETING-WEB HOSTING/SUPPORT	164.00	0.00	164.00	522225057
HEARTWOOD - TREE PLANTING	1545.00	309.00	1854.00	59219516
HEARTWOOD - TREE MAINTENANCE	720.00	144.00	864.00	"
WINDOWFLOWERS - FLORAL DISPLAYS	472.50	94.50	567.00	44822265
Allotment costs				

FISHER GERMAN - CEMEX LEASE	1000.00	0.00	1000.00	365259577
Neighbourhood Development Plan costs				
BELL CORNWELL - CONSULTANCY	309.40	61.88	371.28	623901689
ROYAL MAIL RESPONSE PLUS	15.80	3.16	18.96	855434634
Grants and contributions - subject to final approval by Council where required				
None				
TOTAL JANUARY 2020 PAYMENTS		£616.30	£10,782.88	
TOTAL REMAINING			£592,831.21	
JANUARY PETTY CASH / CARD PAYMENTS				
Total petty cash payments	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Card payments (Clerk)	128.27	7.17	135.44	
Total Card payments (Footpath Warden)	0.00	0.00	0.00	
TOTAL	£128.27	£7.17	£135.44	