

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.00 PM ON 20 FEBRUARY 2020 AT THE MEMORIAL HALL, THE VILLAGE, 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 N. Jennings-Frisby, Mrs S. McDonald, R. Marshallsay, J. May, A. Pearce,
S. Weeks (part), R. Woof & G. Veitch.

Mrs K. Dagnall, Clerk.

76/2020 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs B. Eytel, Mrs R. Margetts and R. Rampton.

77/2020 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

78/2020 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 15 January 2020 were signed as a true and correct record.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

A representative from the Finchampstead Sports Club and two representatives from the Finchampstead Neighbourhood Development Plan Group attended part of the meeting.

79/2020 FINCHAMPSTEAD NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NDP)

The Council received a presentation from Cllr Cornish on the findings of the household survey undertaken in autumn 2019.

Over 1000 responses were received and the vision statement was supported by 85% of those who responded. Printed copies of the consultation survey results are available and the results have been published on the websites www.finchampstead-pc.org.uk and www.finchampsteadfuture.com

80/2020 FINCHAMPSTEAD SPORTS CLUB

The Sports Club is proposing to make improvements to the changing facilities, groundsman's store and sports bar at the Club which is based at the Memorial Park.

Detailed information including plans was circulated to all Councillors. Cllrs Bromley, Weeks and the Clerk met a representative from the Sports Club in December 2019 to discuss the proposals and a representative from the Club was present at the meeting to respond to additional queries.

It was agreed that the Council would respond to the consultation as follows:

- The Council is keen to support the provision of good quality sports facilities for our residents and as such is pleased to confirm its approval in principle of the proposals, subject to the proposals being granted formal approval through the development control process.
- The Council's preference is for a 25 year lease, but the Council cannot make any commitment to changes to the lease or related matters without legal advice. This includes arrangements for future rent reviews.

- The Council is pleased that all the toilet provision will be accessible to the public while the Club is open. However, the Council would like to see the disabled toilet provision made accessible to the public at all times through the use of a radar lock.

The Council understands the security concerns and maintenance implications of having all the toilets open to the public at all times but feels that this would be the ideal situation and so requests that this is kept under regular review.

- The Council would like the new facilities to be as energy efficient as possible.
- The Council acknowledges and accepts the Sports Club's commitment to cover the Council's legal costs relating to this matter, as is the norm in this type of situation.

The Sports Club has been asked to keep the Council informed about progress with the project.

81/2020 CHAIRMANS REPORT

- Wokingham Borough Council has invited the Local Councils to put forward bids for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel in 2020/21.

The Parish Council submitted a bid in 2018/19 relating to the poor condition of the roadsides. This was accepted by the Panel, but little improvement has been seen. It was suggested that this bid could be submitted again for 2020/21.

An alternative or additional topic suggested was the impact of opening new schools when existing schools are below capacity. It was agreed that this would not be submitted.

A further topic suggested was the impact of the Gorse Ride regeneration on the local community and school, with particular reference to the challenges arising from the use of vacant properties on the Estate for emergency or temporary housing. It was agreed that a Working Group should be formed to consider how this should be approached as a bid to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel may not be the most appropriate way to do this. The Group will include Cllrs Bowers, Cundy, Mrs Eytel, Mrs Driver and Mrs McDonald and the Clerk will arrange a meeting as soon as possible.

- As mentioned at the previous meeting the Social Value Portal who are working on behalf of Legal & General are keen to have a stakeholder's workshop to start a consultation process about community needs. An event was arranged for 6 February but so few people planned to attend it was cancelled. An alternative date is now being arranged.
- The Annual Gathering, the Parish Council's annual meeting for Parishioners, is being held on 11 March at 7pm. The event will include presentations from the Committee chairs and on the Neighbourhood Development Plan, followed by refreshments.

There will be a display from the Social Value Portal and another display inviting suggestions for projects to address climate change.

82/2020 COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Veitch advised that the Committee met on 5 February 2020. Minutes of the meeting have been circulated.

- The Public Inquiry relating to proposals for up to 117 dwellings on land north of Nine Mile Ride commenced on 4 February. Cllr Veitch attended and presented the Parish Council's

objections to the proposals.

- The Appeal relating to proposals at Greenacres, Lower Sandhurst Road was dismissed.
- A Public Inquiry into the Appeal by Gladman Developments Ltd relating to proposals for development on land at Woodcray off the Finchampstead Road starts on 10 March and is expected to run for 7 days. The site lies within Wokingham Town, adjacent to Finchampstead Parish.
- At the January meeting of the Committee proposals for development at 78 Reading Road were discussed and several residents attended to express their objections to the proposals. The Committee submitted objections to the application. The Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) Planning Committee considered the application on 12 February but deferred a decision to allow a visit to the site to take place.
- Cemex UK Ltd has submitted applications to amend the conditions relating to the restoration on Fleet Hill Farm and to extend the period for mineral extraction and restoration on Manor Farm. Cllrs Veitch and Woof and the Clerk met to discuss the proposals and have submitted detailed comments to the WBC Rights of Way Manager, suggesting that some rights of way and a car park could and should be put in place on those parts of the Manor Farm site where restoration is otherwise complete. The comments have also been submitted as a response to the planning applications.
- Cllrs Cornish, Pearce, Marshallsay and Veitch and the Assistant to the Clerk will be meeting on 26 February to discuss the response to the WBC Local Plan consultation.

FINANCE & GENERAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Woof reported on the financial position of the Council and other matters.

Financial position

- Unity Trust Bank £41,498.09
- CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund account £552,769.18
- CCLA Property Fund £25,000
- The above figures include £498,906.39 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds

The schedule of payments totalling £11,917 was circulated to all Councillors and was unanimously approved.

Cllrs Bromley and Woof agreed to authorise the electronic payments.

Other matters

- The precept demand has been submitted to WBC.
- The Finchampstead Emergency Response Working Group met on 28 January for a general update. A meeting is being planned for the volunteers in September.
- The new Climate Change Working Group had its first meeting on 13 February. Cllr Mrs Margetts was appointed chair of the group and Cllr Cornish the vice chair. An update will be provided at the next Main Council meeting in March.
- The Communications and Consultation Working Group met on 19 February. The updated action plan will be circulated to all councillors.

- Cllrs Bromley, Cundy, Woof and the Clerk have met to discuss options for additional IT support.

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr Mrs Driver advised that the Committee met on 22 January. Minutes of the meeting have been circulated.

- Cllr Mrs McDonald and the Clerk are working on arrangements for the Community Litter Pick which will take place on 29 March.
- A California Crossroads tidy up session is planned for 26 April
- WBC has started to use Community Payback teams and may extend the opportunity to the Local Councils. The Clerk has asked WBC if the Parish Council could commission work on WBC land such as highways and is awaiting a response. Subject to this it was agreed that this was a good idea and that projects could be found for the workers. It was noted that the Roads & Road Safety Committee is also supportive of the proposal.
- At the January Main Council meeting it was agreed that initial discussions on climate change should be delegated to the Amenities Committee. This was discussed at the meeting held on 22 January and is now being taken forward by the new Working Group as noted above.

RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

Cllr Woof reported on current matters.

- Improvements to a section of BW24 leading to Wellingtonia Avenue have been completed by WBC. The Parish Council is contributing to the cost of the works.
- Improvements to the path running from Briarwood to the FBC playing fields is underway and due to be completed on 21 February. The Parish Council has arranged and is funding the works.
- The Ridges Ramble – a new route created at the Finchampstead Ridges - will be officially opened by Cllr Woof on 11 March. Cllr Cornish and the Clerk will be attending, and other Cllrs are also welcome. The Parish Council contributed funds towards boardwalks for the route.
- The new footpath map is progressing well but is delayed pending the publication of the new definitive rights of way map by WBC.
- The bridge on the greenway linking the California greenway to Nine Mile Ride is finally complete but the links to the California greenway are still not in place. The Clerk is following this up.

ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Cllr Bromley advised that the Committee met on 12 February. Minutes of the meeting have been circulated.

- Last week marked the 200th Speed Indicator Device session since Cllr Bromley joined the sessions in 2016. An average of 22.4 vehicles have been reported per session since then, amounting to a total of around 4500 vehicles.
- Purchase of traffic monitoring equipment
One of the Council's Speed Data Recorder (SDR) units has failed. The units are a key part of the Finchampstead speed watch activities, being used to monitor traffic volumes and speeds in various locations over 7-day periods. Both units are of a similar age (9-10 years) and are

no longer supported by the manufacturer.

Cllr Bromley proposed that two Black CAT Radar units which are the modern equivalent to the SDR units are purchased. The approximate cost for a unit including battery, charger, Bluetooth kit, straps and locks is £2200.

The Council agreed to approve the purchase of two units at a cost of up to £4500, to be covered by Community Infrastructure Levy funds.

83/2020 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES ON RECENT MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Finchampstead Park Management Committee – 20 January

Cllrs Bromley, Cundy and Weeks attended the meeting.

An extraordinary meeting of the Committee will take place on 21 February to consider the Sports Club proposals for improvements to the facilities.

Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Design your Neighbourhood event – 22 January

Cllr Jukes attended the event which focused on how groups and organisations can work together better to address local issues such as social isolation and inequalities. A report is being produced and will be circulated in due course.

Borough Parish Liaison Forum – 10 February

Steve Bromley attended the Forum. Minutes of the meeting have been circulated. Matters discussed included reporting highway issues, climate change, waste and recycling and fly tipping.

84/2020 PROJECT AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NDP)

- Refer to agenda item 79/2020 above.
- It was noted that the referendum on the Arborfield and Barkham NDP took place on 6 February and the Plan was approved by the residents.

GORSE RIDE REGENERATION

- Interviews have taken place for a new Project Manager and it is understood the position has been offered to one of the candidates.
- Cllr Bowers advised that he will be meeting the WBC Head of Strategic Housing on 27 February.
- Cllr Mrs Eytel, Cllr Mrs Driver, the WBC Community Development Worker, and Finchampstead Baptist Church volunteers have been discussing how to better co-ordinate support for new and existing residents.

Cllr Mrs Eytel is developing a pack of information for new residents.

- Cllr Weeks and the WBC Executive Member for Children's Services met the Headteacher and Governors of the Gorse Ride Schools on 13 January. Cllr Weeks will be asked for an update on the current position.

- As noted under agenda item 81/2020 above a Working Group has been formed to consider what action the Parish Council can take to address the current issues facing the Gorse Ride community and the Gorse Ride Schools.

ARBORFIELD STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT LOCATION (SDL)

- Cllr Pearce will attend the next Community Liaison Forum on 12 March.
- At the previous meeting the options for the management of the new Arborfield Green Primary School were discussed and a response was forwarded to WBC.

A further consultation has opened on the potential move of the existing Farley Hill School to the new premises.

It was agreed that the previous comments submitted to WBC should be submitted again as a response to this second consultation.

85/2020 CORRESPONDENCE.

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

86/2020 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- The agenda for the February meeting will include an update on the WBC Localities programme and a report from the Climate Change Working Group.
- Councillors are invited to put forward suggestions for future agendas.

87/2020 FORUM

- Cllr Cundy advised that the next Parish Council lunch will be held on 2 April.
- Cllr Pearce advised that a Wokingham Area Housing Society (WAHS) survey was taking place. The WAHS requires information on local housing needs in connection with its proposal to develop social housing in The Village.

88/2020 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 18 March 2020 at the FBC Centre, commencing at 7.30pm.

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

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL - PAYMENT LIST 20 FEBRUARY 2020

UNITY TRUST BANK ACCOUNT 17/02/20			£41,898.09	
CCLA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 14/02/20			£522,769.18	
CCLA PROPERTY FUND 31/03/18			£25,000.00	
INCLUDING CIL RECEIPTS TOTAL £498,906.39				
TOTAL FUNDS			£589,667.27	
	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	84.70	16.94	101.64	BT DD 10
GREENBARNES - NOTICEBOARD	1,176.29	235.26	1411.55	15299
JDB CONTRACTORS - ALLOTMENT TREES	4,180.00	836.00	5016.00	677294360
JAY PRINTERS - NDP PRINTING	637.50	0.00	637.50	777490095
PAYMENTS FEBRUARY 2020				
Staff costs			£5,572.03	
Other costs				
OFFICE DEPOT	35.25	7.05	42.30	367482721
LGRC STAFFING REVIEW - FINAL PAYMENT	621.60	124.32	745.92	568135402
RBS - SOFTWARE SUPPORT	242.00	48.40	290.40	144075216
WEBMARKETING-WEB HOSTING/SUPPORT	164.00	0.00	164.00	121944546
FBC CENTRE - OFFICE RENT/SERVICE CH	1559.00	0.00	1559.00	613538366
FBC CENTRE - CAFÉ CHARGES	50.46	10.08	60.54	618539658
SLCC CONFERENCE - KD	424.00	40.00	464.00	909652171
Allotment costs				
GREENHAM - LOCKS	12.95	2.58	15.53	199510481
JDB - TREE WORKS AS ABOVE				
Neighbourhood Development Plan costs				
JAY PRINTERS - AS ABOVE				
ROYAL MAIL RESPONSE PLUS	2.73	0.55	3.28	238521768
Grants and contributions - subject to final approval by Council where required				
FB CHURCH YOUTH WORK OCT-DEC	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00	349636808
READIBUS - COMM TRIPS 9/1, 22/1, 5/2	278.00	0.00	278.00	607232928
TOTAL FEBRUARY 2020 PAYMENTS		£232.98	£11,917.00	
TOTAL REMAINING			£576,846.27	
FEBRUARY PETTY CASH / CARD PAYMENTS				
Total petty cash payments	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Card payments (Clerk)	227.27	34.40	261.67	
Total Card payments (Footpath Warden)	0.00	0.00	0.00	
TOTAL	£227.27	£34.40	£261.67	