

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2020 AT 7.30PM FBC CENTRE, GORSE RIDE NORTH FINCHAMPSTEAD, BERKSHIRE RG40 4ES

PRESENT: Cllr Bromley, Chair.
Cllrs Cundy & Marshallsay.

Mrs Dagnall, Clerk.

64/2020 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Bowers, Rampton and Weeks.

65/2020 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

66/2020 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2019 were agreed and signed as a true record.

67/2020 MATTERS ARISING

375/2019 WBC Street Lighting Upgrade

Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) has declined the offer to take over the remaining 6 columns owned by the Parish Council. The Clerk to Twyford Parish Council is now progressing this and will be putting a collective bid to WBC on behalf of several Local Councils who wish to transfer their columns.

375/2019 California Crossroads improvements

An update on the project was presented to Main Council in December 2019. Implementation is due to start in July 2021.

A letter has been sent to the Finchampstead Co-op regarding the possibility of using the land around the Co-op for additional parking.

375/2019 Street light energy / Nine Mile Ride bus shelters

The new bus shelters installed on Nine Mile Ride in August 2018 are still not illuminated. When the electricity connections are in place the shelters are due to become the responsibility of the Parish Council.

In December 2019 WBC advised that it plans to install a new shelter opposite the California Ratepayers Hall on the Finchampstead Road. The Parish Council had no objections and the shelter is due to be installed by the end of March 2020. WBC has confirmed that the Parish Council owned shelter outside the Ratepayers Hall will be replaced in 2021 as part of the California Crossroads improvement scheme.

375/2019 War Memorial Junction / relocation

As reported to Main Council this is currently with the Finchampstead Park Management Committee to identify potential locations for the Memorial within the Memorial Park. There is no progress to report at present.

375/2019 Village Gateways

WBC has not yet progressed the actions agreed in 2018. The Clerk is following this up.

375/2019 WBC draft Local Transport Plan

Comments on the draft Plan were submitted to WBC. This was followed up by a meeting with WBC Officers in December 2019.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

No members of the public were present.

68/2020 INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2019/20

Expenditure to date is well within budget.

69/2020 SPEED WATCH

Speed Watch

- Cllr Bromley attended a meeting on 16 October 2019 with Thames Valley Police (TVP) and representatives from the Barkham Parish Council Speed Watch group.
- TVP has approved the use of permanent speed watch signs for the entrances to Barkham and Finchampstead Parishes. Barkham Parish Council is leading on this and is currently waiting for approval from WBC.

Signs are also proposed for use at SID (Speed Indicator Device) sessions.

- WBC Cllr Margetts has recently asked TVP to undertake enforcement sessions on Nine Mile Ride. It was noted that this is one of the priority areas for the Finchampstead Speed Watch with regular sessions taking place, and is also a current location for TVP enforcement sessions.
- Cllr Bromley has provided advice and information on speed watch to Swallowfield Parish Council.
- Cllr Bromley will be giving a presentation on speed watch to the Wokingham Clerks Forum on 1 April.

Speed Detection Radar Recorders (SDR)

- One of the two units failed but has been repaired locally and appears to be working. The units were purchased in 2010 and 2011 and are no longer available from or supported by the manufacturer.

The repaired unit will be tested in the coming days but it was agreed that approval should be sought from Main Council for the purchase of two Black CAT Radar units at a total cost of approximately £4500.

- The SDR units continue to be used to monitor roads impacted by the closure of Nine Mile Ride, and information is sent to WBC. The data collected on White Horse Lane showed that the traffic volume had tripled and this resulted in White Horse Lane being closed to through traffic. Commonfield Lane, Park Lane (south) and The Village continue to be monitored.
- Monitoring has taken place at Chaucer Grove on Kingsley Park at the Arborfield Green development but the results showed that there is not a speeding issue at this location. The section of the Nine Mile Ride Extension leading to the Kingsley Park development will be monitored to establish if there is an issue there.

Speed indicator devices (SID)

- One of the post mounted SID's developed a fault but has been repaired by the manufacturer.
- When all PSID locations have been finalised a list will be forwarded to WBC.
- SID sessions continue on a regular basis.

Equipment and risk assessments

- A case is needed for the Simple SID - the supplier does not provide these. The Clerk has provided information on cases which may be suitable. Cllrs Bromley and Cundy will progress this.
- Risk assessments are in place for speed watch activities. Cllrs Bromley, Cundy and the Clerk will review these to ensure that all potential risks are covered.

70/2020 ROAD SAFETY ISSUES

Church Lane / Whitehorse Lane

WBC agreed to install a crossroads sign at the junction in 2017 but this has not been implemented to date. The Clerk is following this up.

Finchampstead School

The School is modifying its entrance to improve safety. The work was delayed as permission and advice from WBC was required but is now nearly complete.

Gorse Ride North / South

Complaints about motorcycles using the path between the two roads were referred to WBC in September 2018 although it is unlikely that the issue can be resolved. A barrier was installed but had to be modified to allow access by large mobility scooters, therefore it also allows access by motorcycles. Thames Valley Police is aware of the problem. There has been no feedback from WBC to date but there have been no further reports of misuse.

Lower Wokingham Road / Wellingtonia Avenue

The Clerk contacted WBC in June 2019 regarding the possibility of installing traffic islands or another form of crossing near the roundabout at the junction of the two roads to make a safer crossing for pedestrians and cyclists, particularly those walking from Wellingtonia Avenue towards Crowthorne Station. WBC agreed to investigate the need for a crossing at this location but there is no feedback to date. The Clerk is following this up.

Finchampstead Road crossing near Church Lane

WBC has undertaken some work to clear the footway and the Landowner has cut back the hedge but sight lines for pedestrians are still very poor. This has been raised again with WBC.

Park Lane/ Reading Road junction

In January 2019 in view of the number of accidents at this location Cllr Weeks asked WBC to review the safety of the junction and consider if any improvements are feasible. There is no progress to report.

Road and footway condition issues

There has been no improvement in the condition of roadsides and footways despite the report accepted by WBC in 2018 and the action agreed by WBC. This has been raised with the WBC Chief Executive and other WBC officers and councillors at every opportunity.

The Clerk has recently raised this with the Interim Assistant Director, Customer and Localities, who has requested information on a specific problem area which could be used as an example of how to deal with the problem. It was agreed that the area around the Barkham Ride roundabout and Barkham Ride should be put forward as there are many issues in this area.

WBC has recently asked for topics to be considered by its Executive in 2020/21. It was agreed that the same bid should be put forward again. Other potential bids will be discussed at the Main Council meeting on 20 February.

71/2020 COMMUNITY PAYBACK

Wokingham Borough Council has entered into a contract to utilise Community Pay Back teams and may offer their services to the Parish Council. This would be through a Service Level Agreement with a commitment to at least one day a month @ £100 per day over a 12 month period.

The Clerk has asked WBC if the Parish Council would be able to request work on WBC owned land, for example on highways, and is waiting for a response.

All of the Parish Council's Committees are being asked for comments and potential tasks before the Council decides whether to progress with this. The Amenities Committee is very supportive of the proposal and other committees will be asked for their views in due course.

The Committee agreed it would support the proposal.

72/2020 INCIDENT REPORTS

- There has been a non fatal accident involving a cyclist at the junction of Longwater Road and Rectory Hill.

73/2020 CORRESPONDENCE

- There was no correspondence to report.

74/2020 FORUM

- No matters were raised.

75/2020 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 3 June 2020.

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

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

MINUTE REFERENCE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)
375/2019	Liaise with Twyford PC over potential lamp column transfer	Clerk
375/2019	War Memorial relocation – follow up with FPMC	RC/SPB
375/2020	New bus shelters on Nine Mile Ride - follow up lighting	Clerk
69/2020	Speedwatch signage	SPB
69/2020	New data recorders – seek permission from Main Council	Clerk
69/2020	Notify WBC of the locations used for PSIDs – when all locations finalised	SPB/Clerk
69/2020	Consider if PSID locations could be used for speed watch sessions	SPB
69/2020	Secure a case for Simple SID	SPB/RC
69/2020	Review the Speed Watch risk assessment	SPB/Clerk
375/2020 70/2020	Continue to press WBC to address the roadside condition and discuss lack of progress with gateway signs and outstanding and new road safety matters including Lower Wokingham Road, Park Lane etc.	Clerk
70/2020	Resubmit bid to WBC Scrutiny and provide example area	Clerk