

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30 PM ON 15 JULY 2020 by Zoom Video Conference

PRESENT: Cllr S. Weeks, Chair. Cllr S. Bromley, Vice Chair.
Cllrs S. Bowers; D. Cornish; Mrs C. Driver; Mrs B. Eytel; G. Jukes OBE;
Mrs S. McDonald; Mrs R. Margetts; R. Marshallsay (part); A. Pearce; R. Rampton;
G. Veitch and R. Woof.

Mrs K. Dagnall, Clerk.

276/2020 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs R. Cundy and Mrs N. Jennings-Frisby.

277/2020 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following nonpecuniary interests were declared in relation to grant awards:

Cllr Bowers – Gorse Ride Community.

Cllr Weeks – Berkshire MS Therapy Centre.

278/2020 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 18 June 2020 were agreed as a true and correct record. The minutes will be signed retrospectively as soon as circumstances allow.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

No members of the public were present.

279/2020 CHAIRS REPORT

Cllr Weeks advised that the FBC Centre café has opened for takeaways only, with no other facilities available to the public. The Loft and sports hall will be available for hire from August 3 on a trial basis.

There are currently no plans to open the Library, Children's Centre or the Parish Office.

280/2020 COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Veitch advised that the Committee met on 24 June 2020. Minutes of the meeting have been circulated.

Current matters

- There has been a new appeal lodged in relation to proposals for The Barn at Riverwood, New Mill Road (appln. no. 200819).
- Appeals relating to proposals at 7 Briarwood (appln. No. 193276) and 13 Gorse Ride North (appln. no. 192488) have been dismissed.
- An application for a certificate of existing lawful development at 12a Nine Mile Ride (appln. no. 201165) has been refused.
- An application by Wokingham Area Housing Society for the construction of four affordable dwellings on land adjacent to Wyse Hill Lodge (appln. no. 201566) will be considered by the Committee at its meeting on 22 July.

Cllr Weeks advised that Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) has successfully prosecuted a landowner for a breach of planning regulations at Pineridge, Nine Mile Ride.

FINANCE & GENERAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Woof reported on the financial position of the Council, current matters and the meeting held on 1 July 2020.

Financial position

- Unity Trust Bank £108,843.26
- CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund account £653,649.24
- CCLA Property Fund £25,000
- The above figures include £663,201.10 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts.

The schedule of payments totalling £12,468.54 was circulated to all Councillors.

Further to discussion at the previous meeting the HR Sub Committee has agreed that the payment list would continue to show only aggregated information on salaries to most Councillors as this is personal information. The Sub Committee is looking at some anomalies which currently exist in the budget setting and monitoring process over who sees the detailed information at certain times.

The Committee had considered grant applications from Citizens Advice Wokingham, the Berkshire MS Therapy Centre and from WBC for a Gorse Ride Community Project. The Committee agreed to award grants to the three organisations and these were included on the payment schedule, subject to approval by the Council. The grants were unanimously approved.

A payment for insurance for the Trustees of the Finchampstead Village Club was also included on the schedule. It was noted that a refund will be obtained if and when the insurance is no longer required.

The payments were unanimously approved, and Cllrs Bromley and Woof agreed to authorise the electronic payments.

Committee meeting held on 1 July

- Minutes of the meeting have been circulated.
- The main discussion was around the Council's Project List. This has now been circulated to all Councillors. The project evaluation method was also discussed and is now being tested. The next Committee meeting is being brought forward so that further progress can be made with prioritising and implementing the various projects.
- Grant applications were discussed as noted above.

The Human Resources Sub Committee met on 23 June and is meeting again on 28 July.

The Risk Management Working Group is meeting on 29 July.

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr Mrs McDonald reported on current matters.

- A meeting was held on 25 June to discuss the possibility of acquiring land adjacent to the California Country Park to be used as an extension to the Park. WBC has been contacted for their views on the proposal.
- WBC has appointed a contractor for the California Country Park play area project. There will be a community engagement event starting on 20 July involving a virtual exhibition and inviting comments on the proposals. The Clerk will circulate the information and collate any comments so that a response can be submitted by the Parish Council.
- Outstanding issues with the car park and associated works are in hand. WBC has requested a meeting in September to discuss proposals for the lake front and adjoining areas

- King Henry VII signpost – a meeting was held on 14 July to discuss the wording on the plaque. It was agreed that the plaque should not be changed, and that subject to the approval of the Amenities Committee information should be published on the heritage section of the website. The possibility of a QR code linking to this information will be looked in to.
- Allotment plots are now being let again and three plots have been let to date. The waiting list continues to grow.
- The Community Litter Pick planned for March 2020 was deferred to September, but Keep Britain Tidy has now announced a 'Great British September Clean' encouraging groups of up to 6 or individuals to pledge to pick up litter. Potential involvement is being discussed and WBC has been contacted to see if it plans to get involved.

RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

Cllr Cornish reported on the meeting held on 8 July and current matters.

- Minutes of the meeting have been circulated.
- A member of the public attended the meeting in relation to the condition of Roman Ride, a Byway.
- Various meetings and communications have taken place and are ongoing with WBC Officers, the Ramblers and the British Horse Society.
- The Rights of Way Project List has been cross referenced with the WBC Rights of Way Improvement Plan and Ramblers plans to ensure these are aligned, along with proposals from the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Group. The Project List has been reviewed and is now in the same format as the Council's Project List. It will be circulated in due course with a simplified version available to the public and interested groups.
- It was agreed that the new footpath map will be produced without path numbers, but that a further version with numbers will be produced at a later stage when various numbering issues have been resolved.
- The issue with poor visibility when crossing Finchampstead Road near Church Lane has been referred to the Roads & Road Safety Committee.
- A potential 'Friends of Rights of Way' Group is being considered.

ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Cllr Bromley reported on current matters.

- Speed Data Recorders (SDR) are being used to monitor the most problematic roads – Nine Mile Ride, Finchampstead Road and Longwater Road. Reports are being forwarded to WBC and to Thames Valley Police.
- The Police will still not allow community speedwatch sessions to take place.
- The portable Speed Indicator Devices are also in use again, initially on the most problematic roads as noted above.
- A response has been submitted to the WBC speed limit review on A and B roads.

Cllr Mrs Driver reported poor visibility for drivers when turning right into Church Lane from the Finchampstead Road, due to an overgrown verge / hedge. It was agreed that WBC would be asked to undertake a highway safety assessment of the junction.

281/2020 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

WBC Climate Emergency Working Group – 14 July

Cllr Cundy was unable to attend the meeting. Minutes will be circulated when available.

It was agreed that the WBC Officer overseeing the work on Climate Change should be invited to the September Main Council meeting.

Cllr Weeks advised that the Finchampstead Park Management Committee had not met since the March lockdown.

282/2020 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2019/20

Cllr Woof advised that the Annual Governance Statement for 2019/20 had been circulated, along with the Internal Auditor's report for information.

The Council confirmed its approval of the Annual Governance statement for 2019/20.

283/2020 ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS 2019/20

Cllr Woof advised that the Accounting Statements for 2019/20 had been circulated.

The Council confirmed its approval of the Accounting Statements for 2019/20.

The Clerk will submit the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2019/20 to the external auditor and will publish the document on the website in accordance with regulations.

284/2020 PROJECT AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Gorse Ride regeneration

Minutes of the Steering Group meeting held on 10 June were circulated. A further meeting took place on 14 July, attended by Cllrs Bowers, Bromley and Weeks.

- The phase 2 development will include 249 dwellings including 117 social housing properties. The remainder will be part rent / part buy or for private sale.
- The proposed timescale for completion has been reduced to 4 – 5 years.
- Environmental aspects of the development are under discussion. Infrastructure is being installed for electric car charging points but other matters relating to energy and sustainability are to be confirmed. There will be a net gain in the number of trees on the development.
- Individual consultation with residents is ongoing.
- Changes to road names will be discussed.

It was agreed that the WBC project lead would be invited to attend the September Main Council meeting.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

Cllr Cornish gave a presentation on progress with the Plan. The presentation will be circulated.

It is proposed that the referendum will take place in Autumn 2021, and subject to the outcome the Plan will be adopted by the Parish Council in late 2021. In order to meet this timeframe, the Parish Council will need to sign off the Plan in Autumn 2020.

It was agreed that all Councillors should see the draft Plan as soon as possible. The Finance & General Management Committee will collate and feed back comments, with a view to it recommending approval of the Plan by the Council at the appropriate stage.

Arborfield Strategic Development Location (SDL)

- Several Councillors and members of staff visited the West Court open space on 9 July along with a representative of Legal & General Homes.
- Legal & General has sold 16 homes on Finchwood Park to date.
- A Community Liaison Group meeting is being planned. Cllrs Pearce and / or May will attend the meeting.
- There has not been a Steering Group meeting for some time. The Clerk will contact WBC to see if a meeting is planned, and to request an update on the District or Village Centre.

285/2020 CORRESPONDENCE.

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

286/2020 FORUM

- Cllr Weeks asked all Councillors to check that their Disclosure forms are up to date and to submit an amended or new form to the Clerk, or to confirm that the current details are correct.
- Cllr Weeks noted the Government guidance allowing a relaxation of working hours on construction sites due to the Coronavirus situation.
- Cllr Cornish noted the reports of anti-social behaviour at the FBC playing fields and Waverley Way open space.
- Cllr Bowers advised of his son's involvement with the Gorse Ride Schools sports day.
- Cllr Mrs Driver advised that the Finchampstead Magazine is now being published again and that a report on the Council meeting will be submitted for the August edition.
- Cllr Weeks advised that Park View Village Motors and Shop has been closed since April but will close permanently at the end of July.
- Cllr Bromley was thanked for his IT support.

287/2020 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 17 September 2020 at 7.00pm.

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

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL - PAYMENT LIST 15 JULY 2020

UNITY TRUST BANK ACCOUNT 10/07/20			£108,843.26	
CCLA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 30/06/20			£653,649.24	
CCLA PROPERTY FUND 31/03/20			£25,000.00	
INCLUDING CIL RECEIPTS TOTAL £663,201.10				
TOTAL FUNDS			£787,492.50	
	NET	VAT	TOTAL	
Outstanding payments yet to be cleared				
None.				
TOTAL PAYMENTS OUTSTANDING			£0.00	
Payments already approved and paid				
BRITISH TELECOM	47.49	9.49	56.98	BT DD4
A. HARLAND - ACCOUNTANT	200.00	0.00	200.00	418619872
PAYMENTS JULY 2020				
Staff costs			£5,551.69	
Other costs				
IBS - OFFICE PRINTER	83.00	16.60	99.60	49831132
WEB MARKETING MATTERS	164.00	0.00	164.00	147394023
MORTIMER GARDEN SERVICES - FOOTPATH EQUIPMENT SERVICING	136.25	0.00	136.25	860931107
GOODGER DESIGN ASSOC- WAR MEMORIAL RELOCATION PLANS	1,092.23	218.45	1310.68	765125021
CCB MEMBERSHIP	35.00	0.00	35.00	774125605
Allotment costs				

None				
Neighbourhood Development Plan costs				
None.				
Grants and contributions - subject to final approval by Council where required				
CAME & COMPANY - VILLAGE CLUB TRUSTEE INSURANCE	371.32	0.00	371.32	13744468
BERKSHIRE MS THERAPY - GRANT	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	35677580
CITIZENS ADVICE WOKINGHAM - GRANT	3,300.00	0.00	3,300.00	833660452
WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL - GORSE RIDE PICNIC PROJECT GRANT	500.00	0.00	500.00	514513188
TOTAL JULY 2020 PAYMENTS		£235.05	£12,468.54	
TOTAL REMAINING			£775,026.96	
JUNE PETTY CASH / CARD PAYMENTS				
Total petty cash payments	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Card payments (Clerk)	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Card payments (Footpath Warden)	9.16	1.84	11.00	
TOTAL	£9.16	£1.84	£11.00	