

## FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD AT 4 PM ON TUESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2020 BY ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING

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

Mrs Dagnall, Clerk.

#### **313/2020 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr R. Cundy.

#### **314/2020 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were received.

#### **315/2020 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2020 were approved as a true record and will be signed when circumstances allow. Minute 50/2020 was corrected to state that Cllr Mrs Driver would stand down as Chair of the Committee in May 2020.

It was noted that the May meeting of the Committee was cancelled but that an update on various matters was circulated at the time.

#### **316/2020 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES AND OTHER ITEMS**

##### **40/2020 California Country Park**

Several Parish Councillors and the Clerk met Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) Officers in June 2020 and raised various concerns about the Park. This was followed by a site meeting with a WBC Officer attended by Cllr Mrs McDonald and the Clerk.

WBC is addressing the concerns over planted areas and snagging issues relating to the major car park and café surrounds improvement project. WBC has committed to draw up plans for improvements to the lakefront and adjoining areas, to link these with the areas already improved. The Parish Council may be approached for a contribution in due course.

WBC issued a consultation on the proposed new play area and a supportive response was submitted by the Parish Council. The play area construction will commence this autumn for completion by Easter 2021.

The potential for purchasing land adjacent to the Park was discussed with WBC and WBC has been formally approached regarding this but has not responded to date. The Clerk will follow this up.

Contact is being maintained with WBC and a further meeting will be arranged for late September / early October. The Council's concerns over some of the signposting on the California Greenway will be raised at the meeting.

##### **King Henry VII signpost**

The signpost located on Longwater Lane was in poor condition and has been adopted by the Parish Council and refurbished. Information on the signpost has

been published on the Parish Council website.

### **Public Participation Session**

No members of the public were present.

### **317/2020 INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2020/21**

A report showing the current position was circulated. No issues were raised.

Information was circulated on a proposal to encourage local primary schools to participate in the national 'Walk to School Week' in October. Cllr Mrs Margetts and the Clerk have contacted the local schools and are awaiting a response.

The Committee approved expenditure of up to £550 on the initiative, to be covered by the Community Activities budget.

### **318/2020 LITTER, WASTE AND RECYCLING MATTERS**

Information on the work of the two part time Litter Wardens carried out from April 2020 to date is summarised below.

<b>2020/21</b>	<b>HOURS</b>	<b>MILES</b>	<b>SACKS COLLECTED</b>
APRIL	18	28	21
MAY	36.5	69	38
JUNE	33.5	57	33
JULY	36	50	33
<b>Total to date</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>125</b>

Adopt a Street volunteers are continuing to litter pick and the Clerk has delivered replacement equipment when required. Three new volunteers have signed up to the scheme.

The Great British Spring Clean and Community Litter Pick due to take place in March was deferred and Keep Britain Tidy is now promoting a Great British September Clean. This is encouraging people to litter pick themselves or in small groups, even for a short period of time. WBC has been asked if it is supporting the campaign but has not responded and this now seems unlikely.

It was agreed that the initiative should be promoted but that the Council would not offer to supply equipment to participants.

The California Crossroads tidy up planned for April 2020 was cancelled. A further session will be arranged as and when appropriate. It was noted that in discussions with WBC over the improvement scheme to be implemented in 2021 the Parish Council has raised the need for a full and regular maintenance regime to be put in place for the crossroads area.

The damaged railings alongside the Red Oak Stores car park have been reported to WBC but no action has been taken to date.

Cllr Veitch advised that the litter bin at Moor Green Lakes car park is frequently overflowing and does not appear to be being emptied by WBC as it was previously. The Clerk will follow this up.

Concerns were expressed about the level of parking on streets around the FBC Centre, thought to be linked to users of the California Country Park parking in these areas to avoid parking charges at the Park itself. The Clerk will advise the WBC Ward Councillors of these concerns.

### **319/2020 TELEPHONE BOX BOOK SWOP**

The book swop was closed in early August due to the level of misuse.

It was suggested that the telephone box could remain closed but be used to house an art feature of some form, or alternatively this could be incorporated in the glazed panels. An alternative use could be as a temporary exhibition space and / or for community information.

It was agreed that this would be reviewed again in January 2021 when consideration would be given to re-opening the book swop, potentially for books on a specific topic or of a certain type.

As agreed in January 2020 a request was submitted to WBC for one of the decommissioned boxes from elsewhere in the Borough, with a view to locating one in The Village. The request has been acknowledged.

### **320/2020 ALLOTMENT SITE**

An update on the allotment site was circulated.

The site is running smoothly with several plots let during July and August. There is now a waiting list for plots.

The Clerk and the Allotment Association are looking into the potential for bee hives on site. The Clerk will also be seeking a cost for the construction of a passing bay on the allotment track.

The site and several tenants were filmed by WBC and featured on social media for National Allotment Week in August 2020.

Information on the timing and specification for the new sites to be created on the Arborfield Green / Finchwood Park development is being sought as these sites could cater for some on the waiting list.

### **321/2020 WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL DRAFT ARTS & CULTURE STRATEGY**

The draft Strategy was circulated along with consultation questions from WBC.

The Committee acknowledged the importance of arts and culture in today's society and supported the principle of the Strategy. However, it was felt that the Strategy was vague in terms of detail and local evidence of existing cultural organisations and activities which could be strengthened and enhanced.

The Strategy does not appear to take into account the Covid-19 situation and the impact this has had, and is likely to continue to have, on organisations within the sector.

It was agreed that the Clerk would submit a response to WBC.

### **322/2020 POPPY APPEAL AND REMEMBRANCE EVENTS 2020**

The Group Scout Leader and the Brownie Leader have contacted the Clerk and Cllr Mrs Driver respectively asking for the Council's thoughts on a remembrance parade or event this year.

It was agreed that as the Parish Council is not the organiser of the event, it should be the uniformed groups who decide what could or should take place.

It was noted that there is not currently any national guidance in place, not least due to the ongoing changes in restrictions linked to the coronavirus pandemic.

It was agreed that Cllr Mrs Driver and the Clerk would contact the uniformed groups.

### 323/2020 CORRESPONDENCE

- Cllrs Jukes, Veitch, the Clerk, and a member of the Friends of Finchampstead Ridges, submitted a response to the England Tree Strategy consultation on behalf of the Parish Council.

### 324/2020 FORUM

- Cllr Veitch advised that following discussion by the Planning Committee the Clerk had contacted Greene King to establish if and when the Greyhound Public House may re-open. Greene King has advised that at present it is not financially viable to re-open the Public House, but it is hoped that it can re-open in November 2020.

### 325/2020 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)
316/2020	California Country Park – maintain contact with WBC over improvements. Arrange further meeting.	Clerk
317/2020	Walk to School week – progress with initiative	Clerk / RJM
318/2020	Great September Clean – low key promotion	Clerk
318/2020	Moor Green Lakes bins	Clerk
318/2020	WBC Cllrs reference parking around FBC	Clerk
319+/2020	Telephone box book swop – January agenda	Clerk
319/2020	Telephone box book swop – alternative uses	All
320/2020	Information on SDL allotment sites	Clerk
320/2020	Allotments – potential bee hives / potential passing bay	Clerk
321/2020	WBC draft arts and cultural strategy – draft and submit response	Clerk
322/2020	2020 Remembrance Day arrangements – contact uniformed groups	Clerk / CD
	<b>DEFERRED / ONGOING PROJECTS</b>	
318/2020	California Crossroads tidy up – rearrange if / when appropriate	Clerk / AP
Under review	Defibrillator training session 9 November	Asst to the Clerk
Deferred	New noticeboard for St James Church	Clerk
Ongoing	Wellingtonia Avenue project	GV/Clerk
Ongoing	Woodland Management project	Clerk / GV
Deferred	Street tree planting / Arborfield Green and Finchwood Park new planting / Adopt a tree/ tree strategy	Clerk / GV
Ongoing	Install remaining commemorative tree labels	Clerk
In hand	Tree planting 2020/21 season	Clerk / GV