

## FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.00 PM ON 17 SEPTEMBER 2020 by Zoom Video Conference

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**PRESENT:** Cllr S. Weeks, Chair. Cllr S. Bromley, Vice Chair.  
Cllrs S. Bowers (part); D. Cornish (part); R. Cundy; Mrs C. Driver; Mrs B. Eytle;  
G. Jukes OBE; Mrs N. Jennings-Frisby; Mrs S. McDonald; Mrs R. Margetts; J. May;  
R. Marshallsay; A. Pearce; R. Rampton; G. Veitch and R. Woof.

Mrs K. Dagnall, Clerk.  
Mrs A. Kent, Assistant to the Clerk (part).

#### **338/2020 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

All members were present.

#### **339/2020 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No interests were declared.

#### **340/2020 GORSE RIDE REGENERATION**

Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) Officers gave a presentation on the second phase of the Gorse Ride Regeneration Project. The presentation focused mainly on the environmental and recreational aspects of the scheme.

The project involves the construction of 249 dwellings with associated green space and infrastructure, following the demolition of the existing 178 dwellings. It is hoped that the current planning application will be determined by the end of 2020. It is anticipated that, subject to planning consent, the development will be implemented in 3 phases over a 5 year period, but the start date is yet to be confirmed.

#### **341/2020 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 15 July 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.

#### **342/2020 CHAIRS REPORT**

Cllr Weeks advised that the Parish Council is now the Sole Trustee to the Finchampstead Village Club. This will be discussed further at the Finance & General Management Committee meeting on 7 October 2020.

Greene King has been approached regarding when the Greyhound Public House will re-open. It is hoped that this will be in early November.

A further meeting with the Chair, all Committee Chairs and the Clerk has taken place. This is proving a useful forum and will continue at 3 monthly intervals.

#### **343/2020 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Cllr Veitch advised that the Committee met on 19 August 2020 - minutes of the meeting have been circulated – and again on 16 September. Minutes of this meeting will be circulated in due course.

### **Current matters**

- A meeting took place on 14 September to discuss a response to the recent Government 'Planning for the Future' White Paper. A response has now been submitted.
- Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) has issued an advice note regarding recent changes to the development control process, including extending planning permissions, changes to permitted development rights and amendments to the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987.
- A meeting will be taking place on 18 September to agree a response to the Gorse Ride Regeneration planning application.
- The Appeal in relation to application no. 192855 for works at White Horse Farm, White Horse Lane, has been allowed. The Appeal relating to application no. 190286 for the development of up to 216 dwellings on land east of Finchampstead Road was dismissed.
- During August and September 9 enforcement cases were closed and 4 new cases opened.

### **FINANCE & GENERAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

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

#### **Financial position**

- Unity Trust Bank £85,580.37
- CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund account £653,918.10
- CCLA Property Fund £25,000
- The above figures include £661,468.87 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts.

The schedule of payments totalling £12,713 was circulated to all Councillors.

It was noted that the schedule included two provisional payments relating to the Council's insurance and a Royal Mail licence.

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

#### **Current matters**

- The Risk Management Sub Committee met on 29 July. The Terms of Reference were updated and business continuity actions discussed. The annual asset inspections are now mostly complete.
- Several meetings of the HR Sub Committee have taken place, primarily to progress plans to appoint a Deputy Clerk. It is hoped that the post will be advertised in October.
- The next Committee meeting is on 7 October. The agenda will include consideration of grant applications; the Finchampstead Village Club and discussion on progress and the next stages with items on the Council's Project List.

### **AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

Cllr Mrs McDonald reported on the meeting held on 8 September and current matters.

- Minutes of the meeting held on 8 September have been circulated.

- The Committee discussed the draft WBC Arts & Culture Strategy and has responded to the consultation.
- Remembrance Day events were discussed. St James' Church and the Uniformed Groups have been asked for their views but it looks unlikely that a Parade will take place this year.
- The Allotment site is thriving but unfortunately suffered a break in on 15 September. The sheds were badly damaged but little was taken. Cllrs Mrs McDonald and Veitch and the Clerk will be visiting the site next week.
- The Committee agreed to cover the cost of 'Walk to School' Week resources for local primary schools. The annual initiative is organised by Living Streets and generally takes place in May but was deferred due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Cllr Mrs Margetts advised that Nine Mile Ride Primary School and the Gorse Ride Schools have accepted the offer and the resource packs and banners will be purchased as soon as possible.

### **RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE**

Cllr Cornish reported on current matters.

- A meeting took place on 4 September specifically to agree priorities and to discuss progress with various projects, some of which are now moving forward.
- There have been various meetings and communications with WBC Officers, the Ramblers, British Horse Society and landowners in connection with the projects.
- The issue of the incomplete cycle route to Bohunt School is not resolved, with the only option for the final section now appearing to be to use Hazebrouck Meadows. Barkham Parish Council is keen to work in partnership with Finchampstead to resolve this issue. This and other matters will be discussed at a meeting being arranged with WBC.

### **ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Cllr Bromley reported on current matters.

- Monitoring of traffic volume and speed continues, primarily on Nine Mile Ride, Finchampstead Road and Longwater Road. Monitoring of Commonfield Lane will be undertaken to establish any change in traffic movements in relation to the return to school. There are still concerns over a need for a crossing on the Lane.

The post mounted Speed Indicator Devices are also being used on various roads on a rotational basis. The use of the devices continues to receive positive feedback from members of the public.

- Thames Valley Police will still not permit roadside community speedwatch sessions, but is itself undertaking occasional enforcement sessions. Cllr Bromley will be contacting the Police again to request that the roadside sessions are allowed to resume.
- A further meeting has taken place with WBC Officers but there was no progress to report on any of the projects discussed in May. Site meetings took place on 9 September and it is hoped that progress will now start to be made on the priority projects.
- Cllrs Bromley and Weeks and the Clerk met WBC Officers on 4 September to review the latest plans for the California Crossroads improvement scheme. Most of the Council's previous comments and concerns have now been addressed but a small number of outstanding and additional comments have been raised.

- Some progress has been made with looking at the potential for creating additional parking on the land adjacent to the Finchampstead Co-op.

### **344/2020 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Cllr Bromley advised that the California Ratepayers Hall has experienced a major water leak and problems with the heating system. The repairs are now in hand and use of the Hall will resume shortly.

It was noted that the 3 local community halls have received Government funding to alleviate the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic.

### **345/2020 POTENTIAL RELOCATION OF THE WAR MEMORIAL**

A Landscape Consultant was asked to assess the Memorial Park and identify possible locations for the Memorial. Details of four potential locations along with supporting information were circulated.

Cllr Weeks advised that the reasons for looking into the potential relocation were the safety of the Memorial; road safety at the junction where the Memorial is located; the lack of safe access to the Memorial including for Remembrance Day events; and the problem with maintaining the Memorial and its surrounds due to its location.

Two of the four locations will now be considered in more detail. The project will be discussed further at the Finance & General Management Committee meeting on 7 October.

It was noted that any proposal to move the Memorial will be subject to planning consent, and to public consultation.

### **346/2020 PROJECT AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATES**

#### **Gorse Ride regeneration**

- The presentation earlier in the meeting was noted.
- The Steering Group continues to meet regularly and is attended by Cllrs Bowers, Cundy, Mrs Eyle and Weeks. Minutes are circulated to all Councillors.
- The first phase of the regeneration on the site of the former Cockayne Court and part of Arnett Avenue is progressing well. Cllr Weeks will seek to arrange an informal visit to the site.
- Cllr Bowers advised that weekly visits are being undertaken to assess the condition of the remaining part of the estate which will form the second phase of the development, with works being arranged to keep it clean and tidy pending the redevelopment.

#### **Neighbourhood Development Plan**

Cllr Cornish advised that the current focus is on collating the work completed to date into a document suitable for consultation. The latest draft has been circulated to the Finance & General Management Committee for comments and will be circulated to all Councillors.

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.

Road show type events are being planned to raise awareness of the Plan, prior to a public consultation exercise.

#### **Arborfield Strategic Development Location (SDL)**

- An update from the Community Liaison Team was circulated in late July. This covered the current situation with the District Centre, horse sculptures, recreational and community facilities. There are still no plans for a Steering Group meeting.
- The Community Liaison Group meeting met on 26 August. Cllr Pearce attended and notes have been circulated.

- Some senior staff members are leaving Legal & General Homes and the Bracknell office is closing. Finchwood Park (and Bucklers Park, Crowthorne) are being transferred to Cala Homes, the sister company to Legal & General Homes, who will manage the sites from their Staines Office. The Legal & General brand will still be used.

### 347/2020 CORRESPONDENCE.

Correspondence has been circulated by email and / or noted under agenda items above. Additional items are as follows:

- The Citizens Advice Bureau and the MS Therapy Centre have expressed thanks for the grants awarded by the Council.
- A response received to a letter sent to the owners of the former Park View Motors and Shop thanking them for their contribution to the community has been circulated.
- A holding response has been received from James Sunderland MP to a letter requesting Government support for Local Councils impacted by the pandemic.

### 348/2020 FORUM

- Cllr Weeks will invite James Sunderland MP to a future meeting of the Council.
- Cllr Mrs Driver noted congestion at the California Crossroads due to the increased use of Cresswells Garage following the closure of other local fuel stations.

### 349/2020 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 22 October 2020 at 7pm.

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

### FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL - PAYMENT LIST 17 SEPTEMBER 2020

<b>UNITY TRUST BANK ACCOUNT 10/09/20</b>			£85,580.37	
<b>CCLA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 31/08/20</b>			£653,918.10	
<b>CCLA PROPERTY FUND 31/03/20</b>			£25,000.00	
INCLUDING CIL RECEIPTS TOTAL £661,468.87				
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<b>£764,498.47</b>	
	<b>NET</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	
<b>Outstanding payments not yet cleared</b>				
None.				
<b>Total payments outstanding</b>			<b>£0.00</b>	
<b>Payments already approved and paid</b>				
BRITISH TELECOM	47.49	9.49	56.98	BT DD6
GREENHAM - WARDEN KIT / MATERIALS	157.40	31.48	188.88	20336408
HAMILTON CLASSIC - NDP PROMOTIONS	1,160.00	232.00	1392.00	481203480
<b>PAYMENTS SEPTEMBER 2020</b>				
<b>Staff costs</b>			<b>£6,434.19</b>	
<b>Other costs</b>				
WBC - NEW FOOTPATH MAP	510.50	0.00	510.50	30464631
CLIFTON INGRAM LLP - VILLAGE CLUB	1,470.00	290.00	1760.00	865426591

FBC CENTRE - OFFICE S/CHARGE JUL-SEP	1,080.00	0.00	1080.00	18813809
WEB MARKETING MATTERS	164.00	0.00	164.00	94059179
RIALTAS - ALPHA SUPPORT	124.00	24.80	148.80	696647649
NALC DIS SUBSCRIPTION	135.00	27.00	162.00	929764795
NALC LCR SUBSCRIPTION	40.00	0.00	40.00	973873319
SLCC VIRTUAL CONFERENCE - KD	25.00	5.00	30.00	809840175
SPB - LAPTOP	622.67	124.53	747.20	437455985
CAME & COMPANY - INSURANCE	1235.30	0.00	1235.30	
<b>Allotment costs</b>				
CASTLE WATER	234.67	46.94	281.61	317620341
<b>Neighbourhood Development Plan costs</b>				
HAMILTON CLASSIC - AS ABOVE				
ROYAL MAIL RESPONSE PLUS LICENCE	99.50	19.90	119.40	
<b>Grants and contributions - subject to final approval by Council where required</b>				
None				
<b>TOTAL SEPTEMBER 2020 PAYMENTS</b>		<b>£538.17</b>	<b>£12,713.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL REMAINING</b>			<b>£751,785.47</b>	
<b>SEPTEMBER PETTY CASH / CARD PAYMENTS</b>				
Total petty cash payments	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Card payments (Clerk)	61.07	12.22	73.29	
Total Card payments (Footpath Warden)	9.00	3.00	12.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£70.07</b>	<b>£15.22</b>	<b>£85.29</b>	