

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.00 PM ON 22 OCTOBER 2020 by Zoom Video Conference

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

Mrs K. Dagnall, Clerk.

374/2020 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs B. Eytel.

375/2020 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Non pecuniary interests in relation to grants and donations were declared as follows:

Cllr Bromley: California Ratepayers Association; Finchampstead Park Management Committee.

Cllr Cundy: California Ratepayers Association; Finchampstead Primary School; Finchampstead Park Management Committee.

Cllr Mrs Jennings-Frisby: California Ratepayers Association.

Cllr Mrs Margetts: Nine Mile Ride Primary School.

Cllr Weeks: Finchampstead Park Management Committee; Friends of Finchampstead Ridges.

376/2020 CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Wokingham Borough representatives Cllr Gregor Murray and Rhian Hayes gave a presentation on the Climate Emergency Declaration, the importance of the contribution made by Town and Parish Councils and opportunities for partnership working.

377/2020 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 17 September 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.

378/2020 CHAIRS REPORT

- All Councillors had been made aware of the tragic death of a Gorse Ride School pupil earlier in the week. Cllr Weeks advised that condolences have been expressed to the Head Teacher and Chair of Governors on behalf of the Council.
- Greene King has advised that there are no plans to reopen the Greyhound Public House in the near future. Contact with Greene King will be maintained.
- Remembrance November 2020 – information about the St James' Church plans for two virtual services to be streamed on You Tube and social media have been circulated. A temporary Garden of Remembrance will be created on the green near the Church for individuals to pay their respects from 3pm on 2 November to 11 November. Cllr Weeks will be taking part in the virtual service, laying a wreath on behalf of the Council.
- Code of Conduct – information on a Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) consultation on potential changes to the Code of Conduct for Elected Councillors has been circulated. All

Cllrs were asked to take the opportunity to comment on this as the revised Code is likely to be adopted by the Parish Council.

379/2020 COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Veitch advised that the Committee met on 14 October 2020 - minutes of the meeting have been circulated.

- Objections have been submitted to the revised proposals for 140 dwellings at the Reading Football Club Ground in Barkham Parish, adjacent to Finchampstead Parish and the Arborfield Strategic Development Location.
- There were no objections to the proposal to create 3 flats above and behind the former Bathroom Concepts premises at the California Crossroads but comments were submitted in relation to access. *Post meeting note: the application has been refused by WBC.*
- A new appeal has been lodged in relation to proposals at Heartwood Lodge, Sandhurst Road.
- A joint response from all 17 Town and Parish Councils in Wokingham Borough has been submitted to the Government Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government in relation to the Planning for the Future 'Changes to the Planning System' consultation.

FINANCE & GENERAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Woof reported on the financial position of the Council, the meeting held on 7 October (minutes have been circulated) and current matters.

Financial position

- Unity Trust Bank £157,147.75
- CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund account £653,992.40
- CCLA Property Fund £25,000
- The above figures include £661,468.87 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts.

The schedule of payments totalling £27,248.77 was circulated to all Councillors.

The schedule included grants and donations to local organisations which were agreed by the Finance & General Management Committee at its meeting on 7 October. These were unanimously approved by the Council.

The payment schedule was approved, and Cllrs Bromley and Woof agreed to authorise the electronic payments.

Other matters

- The Committee had expected large numbers of grant applications but these have not come forward to date although the Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership and Keep Mobile are now expected to apply.

If further applications do not come forward the Committee will consider making further donations to the local schools.

- Work on the format and prioritisation of the Project List is continuing, while the implementation of various projects is progressing.

- The Deputy Clerk post is currently being advertised with a view to the post holder starting in the role in January 2021.
- Meetings will be taking place with two companies over the coming week to discuss IT support for the Council.

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

- Cllrs Mrs McDonald, Veitch and the Clerk visited the allotment site on 22 September. All plots are now let and the waiting list continues to grow. The Clerk has asked WBC for timescales for the provision of new allotment sites at Arborfield Green and Finchwood Park.
- Cllr Veitch advised that the pilot survey of 8 trees on 3 different properties on Wellingtonia Avenue is now complete and the findings have been shared with the respective landowners who have been very appreciative. The next stage will be to request a proposal from the Consultant for a survey of all the remaining trees. It was noted that two of the trees surveyed are infected with honey fungus, but as a result of the survey both property owners are now arranging treatment for the trees.

The Clerk will circulate the pilot survey report and example tree reports and will look into the cost of honey fungus treatment.

- Cllr Mrs Margetts advised that Walk to School Week resource packs and banners were provided to Nine Mile Primary School and the Gorse Ride Schools. The event ran from 5 – 9 October and to date positive feedback has been received from the Gorse Ride Schools. WBC promoted the scheme at a late stage but it is unclear what support was provided to the Schools. This will be followed up.

RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

Cllr Cornish reported on current matters.

- There have been various meetings and other communications with WBC, the Ramblers and local landowners.
- WBC has committed to come up with a proposal to improve the paths through Hazebrouck Meadows to provide an interim cycle route to Bohunt School.
- Rooks Nest – approval has been secured from WBC over making a new link to the Country Park from Booth Drive. The next stage will be to consult local residents.
- There has been mixed progress with plans for kissing gate installation. The installation of a gate on FP16 is going ahead and 4 stiles are to be replaced on FP7, but there are still issues with landowner permission in other areas.
- The next Committee meeting is on 4 November. A representative from the Neighbourhood Development Plan Group will be invited to attend.
- Cllr Bowers asked for a list of locations related to each footpath number. Cllr Woof advised this is available and will be forwarded to Cllr Cornish.

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 has been undertaken to establish any change in traffic movements in relation to the return to school but there is no evidence of a speeding problem. Park Lane has also been monitored and shows a significant speeding issue, particularly northbound.

The post mounted Speed Indicator Devices are also being used on various roads on a rotational basis.

- Thames Valley Police will still not permit roadside community speedwatch sessions, but is itself undertaking occasional enforcement sessions.
- WBC has recently provided an update on various longstanding and more recent projects following meetings in May and August 2020 and the development of an action plan. This will be discussed at the next Committee meeting on 28 October.
- Some progress has been made with looking at the potential for creating additional parking on the land adjacent to the Finchampstead Co-op. The landowner has now given approval in principle, so the Co-op has now been contacted for its views as the lessee.

380/2020 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES Borough Parish Liaison Forum

Cllrs Bromley, Cornish and Cundy attended the meeting on 19 October.

Cllr Cundy was re-elected Vice Chair of the Forum for 2020/21. Presentation topics included the Climate Emergency, proposed changes to the planning system and the COVID-19 response.

381/2020 FINCHAMPSTEAD VILLAGE CLUB

The Parish Council is now the sole Trustee of the Village Club and it was agreed by the Finance & General Management Committee that one or two Councillors should lead on monitoring the affairs of the Club and reporting back to the Council.

Cllrs Cundy and May agreed to take on the role.

382/2020 FINCHAMPSTEAD NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Cllr Cornish provided an update on the current position. The Plan is now at the stage where it requires the approval of the Qualifying Body, the Parish Council, in order that the Plan can be finalised for the first (Regulation 14) public consultation in late November 2020.

All Councillors had the opportunity to review and comment on the Plan and the Plan was considered by the Finance & General Management Committee at its meeting on 7 October 2020.

On behalf of the Committee Cllr Woof proposed that the Council approve the draft Finchampstead Neighbourhood Development Plan, and that the Steering Group be authorised to undertake final editorial amendments to the Plan. This was unanimously approved by the Council.

It was also agreed that the Parish Council would delegate authority to the Steering Group, the Chair of the Council and the Clerk to jointly approve the final draft Plan on behalf of the Council prior to the Regulation 14 consultation.

It was noted that the recent 'roadshow' type events held to raise awareness of the Plan have attracted significant interest.

On behalf of the Council Cllr Weeks thanked Cllrs Cornish, Cundy, Jukes, Marshallsay and Pearce and the volunteers on the Neighbourhood Development Plan Group for their work on the Plan.

383/2020 PROJECT AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Gorse Ride regeneration

- Cllrs Bowers and Weeks attended a ‘topping out’ event with the WBC Mayor on 16 October for Phase 1 of the regeneration on the site of the former Cockayne Court / Arnett Avenue.
- Cllr Bowers advised that he has been allocated a house on the new development.
- The Steering Group met on 13 October. The Project Group continues to meet and is currently considering service charges and broadband provision.
- It is hoped that the planning application for Phase 2 will be determined by the end of 2020. Subject to approval the development will be implemented in three phases.
- Drone footage of the Estate as it is now is being arranged.

Arborfield Strategic Development Location (SDL)

- Finchwood Park – Cala Homes is expected to submit a reserved matters application for a second phase of 235 homes before the end of 2020. A presentation will be made to the Planning Committee at its November meeting.
- Discussions continue over plans for the new community facilities at Arborfield Green. The Finchampstead Baptist Church is leading on this.

384/2020 CORRESPONDENCE.

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

385/2020 FORUM

- Cllr Weeks reminded Councillors to check their Disclosures of Interests if they have not done so recently.
- Cllr Pearce asked about the financial position of the FBC Centre. Cllr Weeks advised that the Centre has received Government support during the pandemic as have the other community halls. The 5 year rent review for the Parish Council and other lessees has been undertaken and increases agreed.

386/2020 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 18 November 2020 at 7pm.

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

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL - PAYMENT LIST 22 OCTOBER 2020

UNITY TRUST BANK ACCOUNT 09/10/20			£157,147.75	
CCLA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 30/09/20			£653,992.40	
CCLA PROPERTY FUND 31/03/20			£25,000.00	
INCLUDING CIL RECEIPTS TOTAL £661,468.87				
TOTAL FUNDS			£836,140.15	
	NET	VAT	TOTAL	
Outstanding payments not yet cleared				
None.				

Total payments outstanding			£0.00	
Payments already approved and paid				
BRITISH TELECOM	47.49	9.49	56.98	BT DD7
ALLOTMENT TENANT REFUND	71.50	0.00	71.50	947105964
JAY PRINTERS (NDP)	318.00	0.00	318.00	905678027
JDB TREE SERVICES (ALLOTMENTS)	170.00	34.00	204.00	853800845
OFFICE DEPOT (PAPER / STAMPS)	36.10	5.66	41.76	266468532
LIVING STREETS(WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK)	432.50	86.50	519.00	171556663
PAYMENTS OCTOBER 2020				
Staff costs			£6,171.30	
Other costs				
IBS OFFICE SOLUTIONS (PRINTER)	83.05	16.61	99.66	820235752
WEB MARKETING MATTERS	164.00	0.00	164.00	497263146
FBC OFFICE SERVICE CHARGE OCT- DEC	1,080.00	0.00	1080.00	65068112
WINDOWFLOWERS (FLORAL DISPLAYS)	498.00	99.60	597.60	756849987
SOUTHERN ELECTRIC (STREET LIGHTS)	61.16	3.05	64.21	141842197
Allotment costs				
JDB TREE SERVICES (AS ABOVE)				
Neighbourhood Development Plan costs				
M FOUR PROMOTIONS (PENS)	120.00	24.00	144.00	785038901
JAY PRINTERS (AS ABOVE)				
Grants and contributions - subject to final approval by Council where required				
FB CHURCH YOUTH WORK APRIL-SEPT	6,000.00	0.00	6,000.00	805775718
FRIENDS OF FINCHAMPSTEAD RIDGES	2,300.00	0.00	2,300.00	21560981
ME 2 CLUB	500.00	0.00	500.00	297657947
WOKINGHAM JOB SUPPORT CENTRE	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	769562128
CALIFORNIA RATEPAYERS HALL	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	832618367
MEMORIAL HALL	400.00	0.00	400.00	586708960
ST JAMES' CHURCHYARD	800.00	0.00	800.00	967391981
NINE MILE RIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL	2,800.00	0.00	2,800.00	16041635
GORSE RIDE INFANTS SCHOOL	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	
GORSE RIDE JUNIOR SCHOOL	1,816.00	0.00	1,816.00	
FINCHAMPSTEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL	912.00	0.00	912.00	193295289
TOTAL OCTOBER PAYMENTS		£143.26	£27,248.77	
TOTAL REMAINING			£808,891.38	
OCTOBER PETTY CASH / CARD PAYMENTS				
Total petty cash payments	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Card payments (Clerk)	5.82	1.17	6.99	

Total Card payments (Footpath Warden)	0.00	0.00	0.00	
TOTAL	£5.82	£1.17	£6.99	