

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2021 AT 4PM By Zoom Video Conference

PRESENT: Cllr Bromley, Chair; Cllr Cundy, Vice Chair.
Cllrs Bowers, Mrs Margetts, Marshallsay and Weeks.

Mrs Dagnall, Clerk.

67/2021 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All Committee members were present.

68/2021 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

69/2021 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 October 2020 were agreed as a true record and will be signed as soon as circumstances allow this.

70/2021 MATTERS ARISING

390/2020 Street Lights

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. To be carried forward.

390/2020 Nine Mile Ride bus shelters

The new bus shelters installed on Nine Mile Ride in August 2018 are still not illuminated. The Clerk referred this to the WBC Localities Officer in June 2020 and will continue to follow this up. It appears that the electricity supply is now in place but the connection is outstanding. When the electricity connections are in place the shelters are due to become the responsibility of the Parish Council. The shelters are very dirty and the Clerk has advised WBC that the Parish Council will not take them on in this condition.

The bus shelter due to be installed on the Finchampstead Road opposite the California Ratepayers Hall in August 2020 has not been installed as WBC found there was insufficient room. The proposal is therefore being reviewed.

390/2020 War Memorial Junction / relocation

As reported at Main Council meetings the Parochial Church Council has agreed that a location near St James' Church can be considered, and a feasibility study is now underway. A response from the Finchampstead Park Management Committee regarding the two potential locations in the Memorial Park is expected shortly.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

No members of the public were present.

71/2021 INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2020/21

The only Committee expenditure to date is for street light electricity which is within budget.

72/2021 SPEED WATCH

Speed Watch

- Thames Valley Police (TVP) installed ANPR signs on Nine Mile Ride in October 2020.
- Thames Valley Police and WBC have approved the use of permanent speed watch signs for the entrances to Barkham and Finchampstead Parishes.

Locations for 9 signs have been agreed and will be marked up on a map. A further potential location is on the Nine Mile Ride Extension. It was agreed that 12 signs should be ordered.

Speed Detection Radar Recorders (SDR)

- The SDR units have been out of use since December due to technical issues. It was agreed that if Cllr Bromley cannot resolve the issues consideration will be given to the purchase of replacement units.

Post mounted Speed Indicator Devices (PSID's)

- The list of locations where PSID's are used has been forwarded to WBC.
- The units are being used in rotation on the roads with the worst speeding problem.

Speed indicator device (SID)

- SID sessions have been on hold since March 2020 due to the pandemic, and Thames Valley Police will still not allow sessions to take place.

Equipment and risk assessments

- A case is needed for the SID - the supplier does not provide these.

73/2021 PARISH GATEWAYS

WBC has produced details for gateway signs for five locations and an order was placed with WBC on 18 November 2020. The deadline for installation has been missed and WBC is following this up with the contractor. The locations are as follows:

Wellingtonia Avenue – single gateway

Park Lane near the Reading Football Club Ground – double gateway

Reading Road near Park Lane – existing gateway to be replaced and relocated

Reading Road near The Rise – double gateway

Fleet Hill – double gateway

WBC has agreed to look into a potential gateway for Nine Mile Ride near the junction with Sandhurst Road and Lower Wokingham Road.

74/2020 ROAD SAFETY ISSUES

White Horse Lane / Church Lane junction – WBC has agreed to install a warning sign.

There has been no progress with the following:

- Park Lane / Reading Road junction safety study
- Potential crossing on Lower Wokingham Road
- Improvements to crossing on Finchampstead Road near Church Lane

A meeting with Barkham Parish Council representatives took place in November 2020 regarding the final link of the cycle route to Bohunt School. On 4 December 2020 a formal

request was submitted to WBC regarding the need for a pedestrian / cycle crossing on Biggs Lane near Hazebrouck Meadows. On 19 January 2021 WBC confirmed that it is looking into this.

The Clerk will arrange a further meeting with the WBC Traffic Management, Parking and Road Safety Team Manager to discuss progress with the various actions agreed and set out in the Action Plan. Cllrs Bromley and Weeks and the Clerk will attend.

A copy of the updated Action Plan will be circulated.

75/2021 ROAD CONDITION ISSUES

The poor condition of roadsides and footways is an ongoing concern and continues to be raised with WBC at every opportunity.

WBC has recently cleared footways on the Finchampstead Road from the Sandhurst Road junction to the California Crossroads, and some work has taken place on Barkham Ride. WBC has also cut back vegetation on the stretch of the B3348 The Ridges east of the War Memorial junction. It is hoped that similar work will be undertaken on other roads in the near future.

Issues with dirty or broken road signs, encroaching vegetation or footway condition should continue to be reported to WBC using its online reporting system.

There have been several reports of contractors leaving signs, sandbags and food waste on site after the completion of works. This has been reported to WBC.

The section of the B3016 Jubilee Road from Spring Gardens to the War Memorial junction is in very poor condition and there are a number of problems showing on the WBC reporting system for this stretch of road. The Clerk has reported the extremely narrow footway on the B3348 Rectory Hill running south from the War Memorial junction. This has been reported previously.

Road improvements and other works

WBC has completed improvements to the Finchampstead Road (Russley Green to Think Ford), Tickenor Drive, Challenor Close, Radical Ride, McCarthy Way, Longwater Road and two sections of Nine Mile Ride.

It was noted that not all of the 30mph roundels have been re-marked on Longwater Road. Cllr Weeks will follow this up with WBC.

Forthcoming work

- The WBC schedule indicates there will be work on Barkham Ride and Barkham Street although there is no information on what this involves
- Lower Sandhurst Road will be closed from 22-26 February for South East Water works
- White Horse Lane will be closed between its junctions with Nine Mile Ride and Church Lane from 15 – 19 March for South East Water Works.
- Gigaclear is working on Nine Mile Ride until 1 March and will be moving on to work on the Sandhurst Road, Lower Sandhurst Road and Dell Road.

76/2021 LARGE PROJECT UPDATES

The latest version of the WBC Core Strategy Highway Infrastructure Summary was circulated.

Arborfield Relief Road: The Road was officially opened on 9 November.

Barkham Bridge: Work is ongoing and is due to be completed in February 2021.

California crossroads: The improvement scheme is due to be implemented from July to December 2021. The Clerk will continue to seek confirmation from WBC that the Parish Council's specific requests are incorporated in the scheme. It was noted that the Council has agreed to contribute £100,000 from its Community Infrastructure Levy funds towards the scheme.

The potential for creating additional parking on land adjacent to the land by the Co-op is being looked in to. The property owner has given approval in principle and a site meeting will be arranged with the Co-op, the lessee, when circumstances permit. In the interim Cllr Bromley will look into the rights of access to the rear of the shops and businesses.

Nine Mile Ride Extension: Works are due to start in March 2021 with completion in June 2022.

South Wokingham Distributor Road: A planning application for a roundabout at the junction of the Finchampstead Road and Molly Millars Lane was discussed by the Planning Committee on 3 February. A detailed response was submitted to WBC. While supporting the scheme in principle there are concerns that there is insufficient provision for cyclists and pedestrians, and that no works are planned to the railway bridge. The bridge restricts the flow of traffic due to the limitations for high sided vehicles, and cannot accommodate a pedestrian / cycle path.

Cllr Weeks advised of the complex issues and constraints associated with any works to the rail network.

77/2021 INCIDENT REPORTS

- Longwater Road – an injury accident involving two cars.
- Warren Close – a car partly in a ditch. No injuries.

78/2021 CORRESPONDENCE

- There was no correspondence to report.

79/2021 FORUM

- No matters were raised.

80/2021 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is 30 June 2021 at 4pm.

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

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

| MINUTE REFERENCE | ACTION | RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S) |
|------------------|--|-----------------------|
| 70/2021 | Liaise with Twyford PC over potential lamp column transfer | Clerk |
| 70/2021 | New bus shelters on Nine Mile Ride – continue to follow up lighting issue | Clerk |
| 70/2021 | Continue to follow up on planned installation of bus shelter opposite California Ratepayers Hall | Clerk |

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| 72/2021 | Speed watch signage for Parish boundaries – map locations | SPB/RC/Clerk |
| 72/2020 | SDR units – progress with repair /proposal for replacement | SPB |
| 72/2021 | Secure a case for Simple SID | SPB/RC |
| 73/2021 74/2021 | Arrange further meeting with WBC re progress on Action Plan and new items incl post for PSID in Park Lane and Gorse Ride 20mph zone | Clerk/SPB |
| 74/2021 | Circulate Action Plan | Clerk |
| 75/2021 | Continue to press WBC to address the roadside condition and report issues. Report contractor debris issues to the Clerk. | Clerk / All |
| 75/2021 | Longwater Road missing roundel(s) | SW |
| 76/2021 | California Crossroads improvements – maintain contact with WBC | Clerk |
| 76/2021 | Potential parking at the Co-op – look into rights of access. Arrange meeting with Co-op and property owner when restrictions lift. | SPB |