

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 30 JUNE 2021 AT 7PM By MS Teams video conference

PRESENT: Cllr S. Bromley, Chair (part); Cllr R. Cundy, Vice Chair.
Cllrs S. Gurney, R. Margetts, R. Marshallsay and S. Weeks.

K. Dagnall, Clerk.

281/2021 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr S. Bowers.

282/2021 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

283/2021 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2021 were agreed as a true record and will be signed as soon as circumstances permit this.

284/2021 MATTERS ARISING

70/2021 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 on behalf of several of the Town and Parish Councils and WBC has indicated that it would accept the columns with a substantial sum of money. This is being followed up.

It was agreed that unless WBC makes a reasonable offer, the Parish Council will cease efforts to transfer its lamp columns and will retain the responsibility for the assets.

70/2021 Nine Mile Ride bus shelters

The new bus shelters installed on Nine Mile Ride in August 2018 are still not illuminated. It appears that the electricity supply was put in place during 2020 but the connection is outstanding, it is understood that an order was placed with the WBC contractor in January 2021. The Clerk will continue to follow this up.

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 their current 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. WBC advised in November 2020 that the design was being reviewed.

70/2021 War Memorial Junction / relocation

The current position was reported to the Council on 17 June 2021.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

No members of the public were present.

285/2021 INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2020/21

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

286/2021 SPEED WATCH

Speed Watch

- Thames Valley Police and WBC have approved the use of permanent speed watch signs for the entrances to Barkham and Finchampstead Parishes. Signs have already been installed in Barkham Parish.

Locations for 9 signs in Finchampstead have been agreed and the Clerk is now liaising with WBC over the installation details. It was agreed that the signs should be added to existing gateway signs where possible, or added to other appropriate signage, and that the installation of new posts for the signs should be avoided.

A further potential future location is on the Nine Mile Ride Extension.

Speed indicator device (SID)

SID sessions restarted in June 2020 having been on hold since March 2020 due to the pandemic. A programme is now in place for weekly sessions for 10 weeks.

Additional volunteers will be invited to join the team in due course.

Speed Detection Radar Recorders (SDR)

- The SDR units have been out of use since December 2020 due to technical issues. It was agreed that if Cllr Bromley cannot resolve the issues by the end of July 2021 two new units should be purchased.

A proposal will be put to the Council at its meeting on 21 July 2021 for approval of expenditure of up to £4500 from Community Infrastructure Funds.

Post mounted Speed Indicator Devices (PSID's)

- The units are being used in rotation on the roads with the worst speeding problem.

Equipment and risk assessments

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

287/2021 PARISH GATEWAYS

An order for gateway signs for 5 locations was placed with WBC in November 2020. The current position is as follows:

- Wellingtonia Avenue – the proposed single gateway is not feasible due to lack of room.
- Park Lane near the Reading Football Club Ground – a double gateway was installed in April.
- Reading Road near Park Lane – the proposed replacement and relocation of the existing gateway is on hold pending plans for improving road markings, with the work to be implemented at the same time.
- Reading Road near The Rise – the proposed double gateway is on hold pending plans to extend the 30mph zone which will allow better positioning of the gateway.
- Fleet Hill – a double gateway was proposed but due to space restrictions only one gateway sign is possible, and this was installed in April.

WBC agreed to look into a potential gateway for Nine Mile Ride near the junction with Sandhurst Road and Lower Wokingham Road but there is no progress to report.

288/2020 ROAD SAFETY ISSUES

White Horse Lane / Church Lane junction – WBC agreed to install a warning sign and an order was placed in November 2020 but the sign has not been installed. WBC is following this up.

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. In December 2020 a formal request was submitted to WBC regarding the need for a pedestrian / cycle crossing on Biggs Lane near Hazebrouck Meadows. In January 2021 WBC confirmed that it was looking into this but in April advised that a crossing in a different location on Biggs Lane was being progressed. This is being followed up with WBC.

Warning signs have been installed on Commonfield Lane to alert motorists of the presence of horses and cyclists. WBC has been asked to make improvements to the markings where the greenway meets Commonfield Lane to clearly identify where the greenway meets the highway.

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.

E scooters

The scooters are known to be being used illegally on the highway in the Parish but this is not currently a significant problem. E scooters may only be used on private land, unless there is a recognised hire scheme in place such as the trials currently underway in some towns and cities.

289/2021 ROAD CONDITION ISSUES

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

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

WBC has a programme in place to clear footways and some work has taken place in the Parish. The narrow footway alongside B3348 Rectory Hill to Longwater Road has been cleared this week.

The section of the B3016 Jubilee Road from Spring Gardens to the War Memorial junction is still in very poor condition. Traffic light control will be needed during any improvement works and it is accepted that this would compound the traffic flow issues caused by the current closure of The Ridges.

Road improvements and other works

WBC has completed improvements to the Finchampstead Road from Evendons Lane to Russley Green. Surface dressing has taken place on the Sandhurst Road, Wellingtonia Avenue and The Village.

Current works:

- Overnight resurfacing work is underway to several sections of Nine Mile Ride (east).
- A section of Nine Mile Ride (east) has been closed for the last week due to urgent repair works being required.
- Emergency works by utility companies have taken place on Barkham Ride and Nine Mile Ride recently, with further works on Barkham Ride this week.

Forthcoming work:

- Barkham Ride from Carolina Place to nos. 59/76.
- Park Lane from Commonfield Lane to Hogwood Lane.
- The Ridges B3348 – as reported at the Council meeting on 17 June WBC has commissioned geotechnical surveys to establish the cause of the problem and what remedial work is needed.
- Gigaclear has completed work in Dell Road. The next installation will be on Church Lane and White Horse Lane.

290/2021 LARGE PROJECT UPDATES

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

Barkham Bridge: Work was completed in February 2021.

Nine Mile Ride Extension: Works started in June 2021 with completion due in June 2022.

California Crossroads: The improvement scheme was due to be implemented from July to December 2021 but is expected to be deferred until 2022 due to the closure of The Ridges and the impact on traffic on other parts of Finchampstead.

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.

South Wokingham Distributor Road: The planning application has been approved by WBC and the project is now at detail design stage. The timescale for implementation is unknown.

291/2021 INCIDENT REPORTS

- There were no incidents to report.

292/2021 CORRESPONDENCE

- There was no correspondence to report.

293/2021 FORUM

- Cllr Weeks advised that commercial vehicles had been seen parking in the Avery Corner car park, with the vehicles too large for the marked bays. Cllrs Bromley and Cundy will monitor the situation and follow this up.

294/2021 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is 27 October 2021.

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

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

MINUTE REFERENCE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)
284/2021	Liaise with Twyford PC over potential lamp column transfer	Clerk
284/2021	New bus shelters on Nine Mile Ride – continue to follow up lighting issue	Clerk
284/2021	Continue to follow up on planned installation of bus shelter opposite California Ratepayers Hall	Clerk
286/2021	Speed watch signage for Parish boundaries – plans for locations / liaise with WBC over installation	Clerk
286/2020	SDR units – progress with repair SDR units – bid to Council for funds for replacement	SPB Clerk
286/2021	Secure a case for Simple SID	SPB/RC
288/2021	Arrange further meeting with WBC re progress on Action Plan	Clerk/SPB/SW
289/2021	Continue to encourage WBC to improve roadside condition, and report issues.	Clerk / All
290/2021	California Crossroads improvements – maintain contact with WBC	Clerk
290/2021	Potential parking at the Co-op – look into rights of access. Arrange meeting with Co-op and property owner.	SPB
293/2021	Follow up commercial vehicle parking at Avery Corner Car Park	SPB/RC