

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7 PM ON 21 JULY 2021 By Teams Video Conference

PRESENT: Cllr S. Weeks; Chair. Cllr S. Bromley; Vice Chair.
Cllrs E. Biskup; S. Bowers; D. Cornish; R. Cundy; C. Driver; S. Gurney;
G. Jukes OBE; R. Margetts; J. May; A. Pearce; G. Veitch & R. Woof.

K. Dagnall, Clerk.
A. Gibson, Guest (part).

316/2021 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs B. Eytley; S. McDonald and R. Marshallsay.

317/2021 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

318/2021 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 17 June 2021 and the Extraordinary Meeting held on 18 June 2021 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.

319/2021 CHAIRS REPORT

- The position of Deputy Clerk has been offered to a candidate subject to final checks. It is hoped that they will start in post in September.
- Information on the Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) Mental Health Strategy and a proposed health and wellbeing pilot in Finchampstead has been circulated. Cllrs Eytley and Pearce have volunteered to represent the Parish Council on the project.
- The installation of Reverend Leonard Onugha as the Rector of the Parish of Finchampstead and California took place at St. James' Church on 19 July. Cllr Weeks represented the Parish Council at the event which was also attended by Cllr Driver.

320/2021 PROJECT AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Gorse Ride regeneration

- The Steering Group met on 13 July. Phase 1 of the regeneration is slightly behind schedule but the new homes at Arnett Avenue are gradually being completed and occupied. The decanting of residents from the area forming Phase 2 of the project continues and further properties are due to be demolished soon.

Arborfield Strategic Development Location (Arborfield Green and Finchwood Park)

- The Community Liaison Group met on 30 June. Cllr Pearce attended, and notes have been circulated.
- The Clerk has contacted WBC regarding arranging a meeting of the Steering Group which has not met for some time. It is hoped that a meeting will be convened in the autumn.

- Crest Nicholson has confirmed that 796 properties are now occupied at Arborfield Green. At Finchwood Park, where development only commenced in 2019, less than 100 properties are occupied.

321/2021 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) FUND EXPENDITURE

A report was circulated detailing proposals for Community Infrastructure Levy fund expenditure.

The following commitments were agreed:

- Two replacement Speed Detection Radar Recorders: A provisional sum of £6000.
- Hazebrouck Meadows path improvements: £7375 plus a further contingency of £1500. It was noted that Barkham Parish Council is contributing the same amount to the project.
- War Memorial relocation project: A provisional sum of £60,000.

322/2021 FINCHAMPSTEAD WAR MEMORIAL – APPOINTMENT OF A CONSULTANT

A report was circulated detailing the proposal to appoint a landscape consultant to manage the project through all stages from planning application preparation and submission and contract management to completion.

The report noted relevant Financial Regulations and the process undertaken in selecting a consultant.

It was agreed that Goodger Design Associates should be appointed on the basis of their fee proposal of £7755, including estimated costs for surveys and searches. The cost will be covered by CIL funds as agreed under 321/2021 above.

It was noted that the consultation on the proposed relocation of the Memorial runs to 31 July and the decision on whether to proceed will not be taken until after this date. However, it is proposed that the consultant be appointed immediately to undertake initial preparatory work in relation to the project.

323/2021 FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The legislation formally permitting Local Councils to hold virtual meetings ended in May 2021 and to date there is no decision on whether or when new legislation will be put in place. However, given the ongoing pandemic, concerns remain about the safety of Councillors, staff and members of the public if meetings are held in person.

It was agreed that Main Council would continue to meet virtually up to and including November 2021, with the position to be reviewed at the November meeting.

It was agreed that the decision on whether Committees should meet virtually or in person should be delegated to the respective Committee Chairs in consultation with Committee members.

324/2021 COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE & GENERAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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

Financial position

- Unity Trust Bank £26,032.63
- CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund account £754,288.44
- CCLA Property Fund £25,000
- The above figures include £697,361 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts.

The schedule of payments totalling £14,249.17 was circulated to all Councillors.

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

Other matters:

- The Committee met on 7 July; minutes of the meeting have been circulated.
- The Project List was considered in detail at the meeting and an updated version has been circulated.
- The asset inspections for 2021 are underway.
- A report on the youth activities undertaken through the FBC Centre and part funded by the Parish Council was circulated.
- The HR Sub Committee has met to discuss staffing matters including the potential phased return of staff to the Office.

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllrs Veitch and Weeks and the Clerk joined a representative from Cala Homes Ltd. and representatives from the Wokingham District Veteran Tree Association (WDVTA) to view a tree at the West Court Park on 24 July. The oak tree is the 8000th tree to be recorded by the WDVTA and will be known as the Finchwood Oak. Cala Homes Ltd. has agreed to fund a plaque for the tree.

Cllr Bowers advised that a report on proposals to mark the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will be brought to the Council in October.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Cundy advised that the Committee met on 23 June and on 19 July. Minutes of the meeting held on 23 June have been circulated and those from 19 July will follow shortly.

- 21 applications were considered on 19 July. This included a revised application relating to 31 Barkham Ride – the Committee lodged objections to the application as it has for previous applications on the site.
- An application has been submitted to Bracknell Forest Council for development on land west of Lower Wokingham Road and east of Lower Church Road, Sandhurst. This adjoins Finchampstead Parish, and the Parish Council has submitted objections to previous proposals for development on the site. Comments will be submitted in relation to the current application.
- New Appeals have been submitted in relation to 142 Nashgrove Lane and Riverwood Bungalow, New Mill Road.
- Proposals for further development at Twin Oaks, Longwater Road, have been refused by WBC.

RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

Cllr Cornish provided an update on current matters.

- Four kissing gates have now been installed on Footpath 7 to replace stiles. An event took place on site with representatives from the Ramblers and the landowner on 21 July.
- Cycle route to Bohunt School: The planned improvements to the paths at Hazebrouck Meadows have been covered under item 321/2021 above, as funding is now agreed the works should take place during August. WBC has now undertaken a safety audit on Biggs Lane adjacent to Hazebrouck Meadows and has confirmed that there are no safety concerns, and a crossing is not required. This will be discussed further with WBC.
- The no cycling / no horse signs have been well received by some path users, but some have been damaged. These are being repaired or replaced as required.
- The next Committee meeting is on 30 July.

ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Cllr Bromley reported on current matters.

- The Committee met on 30 June – minutes of the meeting have been circulated.
- Roadside speed watch sessions resumed on 15 June and are now taking place weekly, subject to volunteer availability.
- Details of locations for the proposed speed watch area signs have been forwarded to WBC and it is hoped that the signs will be installed in the near future.

325/2021 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Borough Parish Liaison Forum – 21 June. Cllr Cundy attended the Forum. The minutes have been circulated.

Keep Mobile – 14 July. Cllr McDonald attended the meeting and will report back at the next Council meeting.

326/2021 CORRESPONDENCE.

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

327/2021 FORUM

- Cllr Cornish raised concerns over Bohunt pupils walking on the section of Barkham Ride where there are no footways. Cllr Weeks will raise this and concerns over the pupil's cycling behaviour with the Head Teacher.
- Cllr May and Cllr Margetts will discuss concerns over the Gigaclear works in the Church Lane area.
- Cllr Gurney noted the drainage issues on the path from Barkham Church to Rooks Nest Woods. Cllr Margetts confirmed that WBC is aware of the issues.
- Cllr Jukes advised that the California Park Run starts again on 24 July. The refurbishment of the Greyhound appears to be progressing well and the pub is due to reopen in mid-August.
- Cllr Driver advised that the St James' Church Patronal Festival takes place on 24 / 25 July. <https://www.finchampstead-pc.gov.uk/st-james-church-patronal-festival-25-july>

328/2021 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 16 September 2021.

Under the Local Government Act 1972 & Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it was resolved that as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed the press and public would be excluded from this meeting for the following item.

329/2021 FINCHAMPSTEAD NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Cllr Cornish provided an update on the current position with the draft Plan. Potential sites to meet the need to include provision for additional housing in the Plan were discussed and agreed. The revised draft Plan including these proposals will be subject to public consultation in due course.

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

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL - PAYMENT LIST 21 JULY 2021

UNITY TRUST BANK ACCOUNT 10/07/21			£26,032.63
CCLA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 30/06/21			£754,288.44
CCLA PROPERTY FUND 31/03/21			£25,000.00
INCLUDING CIL RECEIPTS TOTAL £697,361			
TOTAL FUNDS			£805,321.07

	NET	VAT	TOTAL
Outstanding payments not yet cleared			
None			
Total payments outstanding			£0.00
Payments already approved and paid			
SSE STREET LIGHT ENERGY	26.26	1.30	27.56
BRITISH TELECOM	48.24	9.64	57.88
A.J. HARLAND - ACCOUNTANT	250.00	0.00	250.00
JAY PRINTERS - WAR MEMORIAL CONS	398.00	0.00	398.00
PAYMENTS JULY 2021			
Staff costs			£6,587.76
Other costs			
ASAP COMPUTER SERVICES	234.80	46.96	281.76
WEB MARKETING MATTERS	157.55	0.00	157.55
WEB MARKETING MATTERS (MEDIA LIBRARY)	39.00	0.00	39.00
IBS OFFICE SOLUTIONS - OFFICE PRINTER	113.92	22.78	136.70
FBC CENTRE OFFICE SERVICE CHARGE	1082.75	0.00	1082.75
FBC CENTRE OFFICE RENTAL	1221.25	0.00	1221.25
MCVEIGH PARKER - KISSING GATE FP7	527.00	105.40	632.40
CCB MEMBERSHIP	40.00	0.00	40.00
C. CONNELL - INTERNAL AUDITOR	350.00	0.00	350.00
Allotment costs			
SMALLWOOD - WATER TROUGH	600.00	120.00	720.00
Neighbourhood Development Plan costs			
None			
Grants and contributions - subject to final approval by Council where required			
FBC YOUTH WORK APRIL - JUNE	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00
TOTAL JULY PAYMENTS		£295.14	£14,249.17
TOTAL REMAINING			£791,071.90
JULY PETTY CASH / CARD PAYMENTS	Net	VAT	Total
Total petty cash payments	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Card payments (Clerk)	24.99	5.00	29.99
Total Card payments (Footpath Warden)	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	£24.99	£5.00	£29.99
CARD PAYMENTS DETAIL	Net	VAT	Total
OFFICE SUNDRIES	24.99	5.00	29.99
	£24.99	£5.00	£29.99