

## FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7 PM ON 16 SEPTEMBER 2021 By Teams Video Conference

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**PRESENT:** Cllr S. Weeks; Chair. Cllr S. Bromley; Vice Chair.  
Cllrs E. Biskup (part); S. Bowers; D. Cornish; R. Cundy; C. Driver; B. Eytle (part);  
S. Gurney; G. Jukes OBE; J. May; S. McDonald; R. Marshallsay; A. Pearce  
& G. Veitch.

K. Dagnall, Clerk.  
C. Warke, Deputy Clerk.

#### **364/2021 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors R. Margetts and R. Woof.

#### **365/2021 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were received.

#### **366/2021 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 21 July 2021 were agreed as a true and correct record. The minutes will be signed retrospectively as soon as circumstances allow.

#### **367/2021 GORSE RIDE REGENERATION**

The Council received a presentation from representatives of the Wates Group regarding their proposals for community liaison and engagement.

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

No members of the public were present.

#### **368/2021 CHAIRS REPORT**

- Discussions continue with the Trustees of the Wokingham Area Housing Society and a report will be provided at the October meeting of the Council.
- Under current legislation a Councillor ceases to be a member of the Council if he or she does not attend a lawful meeting of the Council for 6 consecutive months, unless the absence is formally agreed by the Council. Virtual meetings were lawful between April 2020 and May 2021 but are not currently lawful. However, the Council is continuing to meet virtually to ensure the safety and wellbeing of Councillors and staff.

The Council Chair and Committee Chairs are meeting next week and will formulate a proposal to ensure compliance with the legislation.

#### **369/2021 PROJECT AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATES**

##### **Gorse Ride regeneration**

- The Steering Group met on 10 August and 14 September.
- The majority of the social housing and 'part rent part buy' flats at Arnett Avenue, the first phase of the regeneration, are now occupied or allocated.
- Properties at Billing Avenue and Firs Close, part of phase 2 of the regeneration, are due to be demolished soon. Construction of phase 2 is likely to start in late spring 2022.

- James Sunderland MP visited Gorse Ride on 3 September. The walk around the area was attended by Cllrs Bowers, Margetts and Weeks in addition to representatives from other organisations and the community.

### **Arborfield Strategic Development Location (Arborfield Green and Finchwood Park)**

- It has been confirmed that 85 homes at Finchwood Park are now occupied. 796 properties are occupied at Arborfield Green.

### **370/2021 FINCHAMPSTEAD WAR MEMORIAL RELOCATION PROJECT**

The consultation on the potential relocation closed on 31 July 2021. 5500 consultation documents were distributed and there was a high response of 10.8%, with 89% supporting the proposed relocation of the Memorial to the site adjacent to the Memorial Park, and 11% objecting to the relocation. Of those objecting, almost 40% supported the relocation of the Memorial, but not to the chosen site.

A report on the consultation was circulated. This will be published and distributed to all respondents who provided contact details.

A report on the current position with the project was also circulated, confirming the preparatory work undertaken and the potential timescale should the project proceed.

The Council agreed by a majority that the relocation of the Memorial to the verge adjacent to the Memorial Park should proceed.

Cllr May voted against proceeding with the project.

### **371/2021 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

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

#### **Financial position**

- Unity Trust Bank £22,390.99
- CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund account £739,322.79
- CCLA Property Fund £25,000
- The above figures include £678,160 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts.

The schedule of payments totalling £19,777.69 was circulated to all Councillors.

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

#### **Other matters:**

- The Council's Annual Governance and Accountability Return has received unqualified approval from the external auditor, PKF Littlejohn.
- The next Committee meeting is on 29 September. Several grant applications will be considered at the meeting in addition to other matters.
- The HR Sub Committee will be meeting on 22 September.

#### **AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

Cllr McDonald reported on current matters.

- WBC installed a CCTV camera at one of the fly tipping hotspots in the Parish in early August. WBC now has four cameras which it is using in rotation across the Borough, with a camera

remaining in a location for around 4 weeks.

- Cllr Driver and the Deputy Clerk will be meeting local group representatives on 23 September to discuss plans for the Remembrance Parade and Service. It is expected that this will be held at the Memorial Park as in 2019, subject to any Covid-19 related restrictions at the time.
- The Committee will be meeting on 6 October and a main discussion topic will be proposals to mark the 2022 Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. A report will be presented to the October Council meeting. The Committee will also be discussing the position with the new allotment sites to be created at Finchwood Park and Arborfield Green.

### **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Cllr Cundy advised that the Committee met on 18 August and on 15 September. Minutes of the meeting held on 18 August have been circulated and those from 15 September will follow shortly.

- The Committee is starting to include references to policies in the emerging Finchampstead Neighbourhood Development Plan (FNDP) in its response to planning consultations, and to refer to the Governments new 'Building Beautiful' guidance.
- 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. Due to timing a separate meeting was held to consider the application and objections to the proposals have been submitted, as they were to previous proposals for development on the site. It was noted that WBC has also objected to the application.
- At the August Committee meeting objections were submitted to several applications including in Warren Lane, and at The Stables, Lower Sandhurst Road.
- It was noted that the proposals for a Cricket Track at White Horse Lane have been approved by WBC.
- The Planning Committee Clerk has been updating the records on enforcement matters and a meeting was held on 25 August to review the current position.
- One of the applications considered at the meeting held on 15 September related to proposals to demolish the current dwelling at High Ground, Jubilee Hill, and to replace it with a significantly larger dwelling. Representatives attended the meeting to speak about the proposed development. There were no objections to the proposals.

### **RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE**

Cllr Cornish provided an update on current matters.

- The Committee met on 28 July and Cllr Biskup was welcomed as a member of the Committee. Minutes of the meeting have been circulated.
- Cycle route to Bohunt School
  - The improvements to the paths at Hazebrouck Meadows were completed on 27 August. Positive feedback has been received.
  - Road markings to indicate the end of the California greenway and the start of the highway at the greenway / Commonfield Lane junction are now in place.
  - The proposed crossing on Biggs Lane adjacent to Hazebrouck Meadows is now being taken forward by the Roads & Road Safety Committee, in partnership with Barkham Parish Council. WBC do not consider that a crossing is required.
- Cllrs Bromley, Cornish and Jukes and the Clerk met on 19 August and agreed comments on the draft network plans drawn up in relation to the WBC Local Cycling and Walking Improvement Plan (LCWIP). A response to the consultation has been submitted.

- The Committee agreed to trial the use of QR code signs on one of the circular walks, linking to directions and information on features of interest at points on the route. Cllr Gurney and the Clerk are working on this and will be walking the route on 18 September to check various aspects so that the project can be progressed to the next stage.

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

Cllr Bromley reported on current matters.

- Roadside speed watch sessions resumed on 15 June and are now taking place weekly, subject to volunteer availability. 304 vehicles have been reported to Thames Valley Police since 15 June, an average of 23 vehicles per session.
- Thames Valley Police is proposing changes to arrangements for community speed watch activities, and this is being looked in to.
- An order has been placed with WBC for 7 speed watch area signs to be placed at entrances to the Parish.
- The Ridges – geophysical surveys have been completed and it is expected that information on the plans and timescale for repair will be available soon.
- The California Crossroads improvement scheme is currently on hold and the timescale for implementation will be reviewed when more information on The Ridges repair programme is available.
- Cllrs Bromley and Cundy and the Clerk met on 24 August to discuss the WBC Bus Service Improvement Plan. A response to the consultation has been submitted. At present it is unclear whether there will be any funding to support improvements identified in the Plan.
- Road safety issues at Arnett Avenue are being looked in to.

### **372/2021 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

**Keep Mobile:** Cllr McDonald joined the Management Committee as a representative of the Council in July and attended meetings on 14 July and 8 September.

Keep Mobile is hoping to purchase a replacement bus and is launching a crowd funding appeal.

**WBC Mental Health Strategy:** Cllrs Eyle and Pearce met a consultant working on behalf of WBC on 3 September to discuss the Strategy and the proposed pilot to be run in Finchampstead and Swallowfield. A report will be provided at the next meeting.

### **373/2021 FORUM**

- Cllr Jukes asked about a return to physical meetings. The Council had agreed it would review the position in November 2021, and in the interim arrangements to ensure compliance with the '6-month rule' will be considered as noted under item 368/2021 above.
- The Greyhound pub / restaurant opened in mid- August and a small shop has now opened on the premises.

### **374/2021 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 20 October 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.*

### 375/2021 FINCHAMPSTEAD NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN (FNDP)

At the July meeting of the Council potential sites to meet the need to include provision for additional housing in the Plan were discussed and agreed by the Council.

Cllr Cornish advised that discussions have now taken place with Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) and provided an update on the current position. Amendments to the previously agreed list of potential development sites were considered and approved by the Council.

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 16 SEPTEMBER 2021

<b>UNITY TRUST BANK ACCOUNT 10/09/21</b>			£22,390.99
<b>CCLA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 31/08/21</b>			£739,322.79
<b>CCLA PROPERTY FUND 31/03/21</b>			£25,000.00
INCLUDING CIL RECEIPTS TOTAL £678,160.52			
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<b>£786,713.78</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>			
SSE STREET LIGHT ENERGY	29.17	1.45	30.62
BRITISH TELECOM	48.24	9.64	57.88
<b>PAYMENTS SEPTEMBER 2021</b>			
<b>Staff costs</b>			<b>£7,463.36</b>
<b>Other costs</b>			
ASAP COMPUTER SERVICES-SUPPORT	244.20	48.84	293.04
ASAP COMPUTER SERVICES - EQUIPMENT	348.20	69.64	417.84
MICROSHADE SET UP / REMOTE HOSTING	90.70	18.14	108.84
WEB MARKETING MATTERS	157.55	0.00	157.55
RIALTAS - ALPHA LICENCE/SUPPORT	172.00	34.40	206.40
GALLAGHER - FPC INSURANCE	1270.86	0.00	1270.86
PKF LITTLEJOHN - EXTERNAL AUDIT FEE	800.00	160.00	960.00
NALC - LCR SUBSCRIPTION	17.00	0.00	17.00
WBC - PRINTING	28.00	0.00	28.00
WBC - HAZEBROUCK PATHS	8,800.00	0.00	8800.00
OFFICE DEPOT - STATIONERY	13.85	2.77	16.62
OFFICE DEPOT - STATIONERY	2.90	0.58	3.48

FBC CAFÉ ACCOUNT	33.05	1.65	34.70
<b>Allotment costs</b>			
None			
<b>Neighbourhood Development Plan costs</b>			
None			
<b>Grants and contributions - subject to final approval by Council where required</b>			
None.			
<b>TOTAL SEPTEMBER PAYMENTS</b>		<b>£336.02</b>	<b>£19,777.69</b>
<b>TOTAL REMAINING</b>			<b>£766,936.09</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER PETTY CASH / CARD PAYMENTS</b>	Net	VAT	Total
Total petty cash payments	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Card payments (Clerk)	32.31	3.67	35.98
Total Card payments (Footpath Warden)	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£32.31</b>	<b>£3.67</b>	<b>£35.98</b>

<b>CARD PAYMENTS DETAIL</b>	Net	VAT	Total
OFFICE KEYS	14.00	0.00	14
OFFICE SUPPLIES	18.31	3.67	21.98
	<b>£32.31</b>	<b>£3.67</b>	<b>£35.98</b>