

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7 PM ON 20 OCTOBER 2021 By Teams Video Conference

PRESENT: Cllr S. Weeks; Chair. Cllr S. Bromley; Vice Chair.
Cllrs S. Bowers; R. Cundy; B. Eytley; S. Gurney; G. Jukes OBE; S. McDonald (part);
R. Margetts; R. Marshallsay; A. Pearce; G. Veitch & R. Woof.

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

418/2021 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors E. Biskup, C. Driver and D. Cornish.

419/2021 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Non-pecuniary declarations of interest were received as follows:

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

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

Cllr Gurney: Barkham Hookers.

Cllr Margetts: Nine Mile Ride Primary School.

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

420/2021 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 16 September 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.

421/2021 CHAIRS REPORT

- The current issues with local roads due to a mixture of planned works and unplanned emergency works is a concern, causing difficulties for both local people and those travelling through the Parish. Minor roads being used as diversion routes are being damaged due to the increased volume of traffic. In addition, further works are being planned without considering existing road closures or traffic restrictions.

Cllrs Margetts and Weeks will be meeting Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) to discuss the current position.

- The Parish Council had been approached by the Trustees of the Wokingham Area Housing Society (WAHS) regarding the potential transfer of its assets to the Council. It has now been agreed that it is not possible to find a way to transfer the assets to the Parish Council, and WAHS is now looking into the best way to transfer its assets on to other organisations in the district, before the organisation closes.
- The meeting schedule for 2022 has been circulated to all Councillors and published on the website.

422/2021 PROJECT AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Finchampstead Neighbourhood Development Plan (FNDP)

Cllr Marshallsay advised that the second Regulation 14 Statutory Consultation commenced on 18 October and will run to 19 November. This focuses on a new Topic Paper on Housing Allocations, but also includes updated versions of the draft FNDP and of the Topic Papers on Green Spaces and Key Gaps. Full details can be found at www.finchampsteadfuture.com

Information on the consultation will be distributed to all households in the Parish by 3 November.

The grant application to Locality was successful. The grant of £5060 awarded will cover most of the consultation costs.

Gorse Ride regeneration

- The Steering Group met on 12 October.
- The demolition of properties continues at Billing Avenue and Firs Close, part of phase 2 of the regeneration. The construction of phase 2 is likely to start in late spring 2022.
- The Steering Group will be invited to view the new flats at Arnett Avenue, phase 1 of the regeneration.

Arborfield Strategic Development Location (Arborfield Green and Finchwood Park)

- There were no updates to report. It is hoped that information on the District Centre, a key part of the development, will come forward soon.

423/2021 PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022

Plans and options for marking the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 2022 were discussed by the Amenities Committee at its meeting on 6 October. A report was circulated to all Councillors outlining the proposals and including estimated costs.

It was previously agreed that the trees to be planted at Burnmoor Meadow in the 2021/22 season would be used to mark the Jubilee. These will be registered under the national Queens Green Canopy scheme – ‘Plant a tree for the Jubilee’ www.queensgreencanopy.org

The following additional activities were agreed by the Council, subject to further information being provided where noted below.

- Additional tree planting opportunities at Warren Wood Country Park and near St. James’ Church will be investigated. Any planting is likely to be in November /December 2022.
- The potential for naming a road, walk or block of apartments on the Gorse Ride development will continue to be investigated. It was noted that local schools have been asked to be involved with suggestions for road and building names.
- There will be a picnic at the Memorial Park on the evening of 2 June with a band. Participants will then walk to St James’ Church.
- In line with National Celebrations on 2 June, a piper will play ‘Dui Regnare’ at 9.09pm at St. James’ Church, prior to the beacon being lit at the Church at 9.15pm.

The Church Choir will sing the song to be specially written for the event.
Refreshments including a cake will be provided at the event.

It was confirmed that much of the organisation for the 2 June events would be undertaken by the St. James’ Church Social Committee and other local groups.

- The Barkham Hookers crochet group will be asked to create appropriate bunting and post box covers.
- A letter of congratulation will be sent to Her Majesty the Queen. The possibility of including mention of changes to / events in the Parish during her reign will be investigated.

It was agreed that up to £600 would be allocated to cover the cost of the events to be held on 2 June.

The proposed Platinum Award to be presented at the Annual Gathering to celebrate the activities of members of the community and/ or local organisations, and potential gifts for local schools, were supported in principle. These will now be considered in more detail and a report will be presented at the November meeting of the Council.

424/2021 COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE & GENERAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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

Financial position

- Unity Trust Bank £96,959.58
- 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 £30,822.28 was circulated to all Councillors.

The schedule included several grants and donations discussed by the Finance & General Management Committee at its meeting on 29 September, and which were recommended for approval. The grants and donations were unanimously approved by the Council.

It was noted that the grant to the Friends of Finchampstead Ridges would be covered by Community Infrastructure Levy funds.

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

Other matters:

- The Committee met on 29 September and discussed grants and donations as noted above, and other matters as detailed in the minutes which have been circulated.

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

On behalf of Cllr McDonald, Cllr Weeks reported on the meeting held on 6 October.

- At the recent meeting Cllrs Biskup and Gurney were welcomed as new members of the Committee.
- The Platinum Jubilee was discussed as noted under agenda item 423/2021 above.
- The current position with allotments and the possibility of taking on the new site to be created at Finchwood Park were discussed. Further information is required before the Council can consider taking on the new site.
- Plans for Remembrance are in place. The Parade and Service will be held at the Memorial Park on Sunday 14 November at 3pm. Cllr Driver and the Deputy Clerk are liaising with representatives from the Parochial Church Council and the Uniformed Youth Groups over arrangements for the event.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Cundy advised that the Committee met on 13 October. Minutes of the meeting have been circulated.

- The Committee considered 15 applications and had no objections to the proposals except in relation to plans for 62 Foxcote where objections were submitted.
- One of the applications considered was for the temporary change of use of a residential bungalow at 20 Gorse Ride South to a community engagement and office space. There were no objections to the proposals.
- Four applications previously considered and objected to by the Committee have been approved by the Borough Council, but other WBC decisions have been in line with the views of the Committee.
- Records on enforcement matters have now been brought up to date and meetings will be held quarterly to review the position with the issues.

RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

Cllr Margetts confirmed that all Councillors had been updated on the current position with the proposed access improvements to Rooks Nest Woods. When the outstanding points have been clarified by Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) a discussion will take place with WBC on whether to proceed with the project.

ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Cllr Bromley reported on current matters.

- Roadside speed watch sessions are now taking place weekly, subject to volunteer availability. The first ever session when no vehicles were reported as speeding took place on 19 October. This was on the Nine Mile Ride Extension near Weaver Avenue.
- Thames Valley Police is proposing changes to arrangements for community speed watch activities. The implications of this will be discussed at the Committee meeting on 27 October.
- The Ridges – there is no further information on the plans and timescale for repair.
- Jubilee Road – the road is still closed due to a recent water pipe burst. It is now due to reopen on or by 23 October.
- Nine Mile Ride is due to reopen at its western end at the end of October, with temporary traffic lights in place.
- As noted under 421/2021 above, Cllrs Margetts and Weeks will be meeting WBC representatives to discuss the current widespread issues with roads in the Parish.

425/2021 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

FBC Advisory Board

Cllrs Cundy and Weeks attended a meeting held on 18 October.

All clubs and groups have returned to the Centre although most have fewer participants. Youth activities continue and now include sessions at Bohunt School. The café is doing well.

Keep Mobile: Cllr McDonald attended a recent meeting.

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. The Cllrs have offered to attend the first meeting of the proposed steering group to find out more about the proposals, and to establish the level of support from other parties. There is no

further progress to report.

426/2021 FORUM

- Cllr Weeks reminded Cllrs of the Extraordinary Meeting to take place at 1pm on 21 October at the California Ratepayers Hall.
- Cllr Gurney sits on the WBC Standards Committee and provided an update from the recent meeting. WBC adopted a new Code of Conduct in July 2021, the Clerk confirmed that this will be tabled for discussion at the November meeting of the Finance & General Management Committee.

427/2021 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 17 November 2021.

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

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL - PAYMENT LIST 20 OCTOBER 2021

UNITY TRUST BANK ACCOUNT 10/10/21			£96,959.58
CCLA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 30/09/21			£739,338.06
CCLA PROPERTY FUND 31/03/21			£25,000.00
INCLUDING CIL RECEIPTS TOTAL £678,160.52			
TOTAL FUNDS			£861,297.64
	NET	VAT	TOTAL
Outstanding payments not yet cleared			
WBC - HAZEBROUCK PATHS	8,800.00	0.00	8800.00
Total payments outstanding			£8,800.00
Payments already approved and paid			
SSE STREET LIGHT ENERGY	27.55	1.37	28.92
BRITISH TELECOM	48.24	9.64	57.88
CASTLE WATER (ALLOTMENTS)	522.40	104.48	626.88
PAYMENTS OCTOBER 2021			
Staff costs			£8,725.86
Other costs			
ASAP COMPUTER SERVICES-SUPPORT	216.00	43.20	259.20
ASAP COMPUTER SERVICES-EQUIPMENT	75.00	15.00	90.00
MICROSHADE REMOTE HOSTING	77.20	15.44	92.64
WEB MARKETING MATTERS	157.55	0.00	157.55
IBS - OFFICE PRINTER	90.66	18.14	108.80
IBS - OFFICE FURNITURE	1371.05	274.21	1645.26
FBC CENTRE CAFÉ	7.38	0.37	7.75
BARKHAM HOOKERS - POPPIES	50.00	0.00	50.00

Allotment costs			
CASTLE WATER - as above			
Neighbourhood Development Plan costs			
KARE GROUP - DISTRIBUTION	1029.35	205.87	1235.22
Grants and contributions - subject to final approval by Council where required			
CITIZENS ADVICE WOKINGHAM	3,300.00	0.00	3,300.00
INVOLVE - CANCER SUPPORT	250.00	0.00	250.00
FRIENDS OF FINCHAMPSTEAD RIDGES	2,620.00	0.00	2,620.00
ME2 CLUB	750.00	0.00	750.00
SUE RYDER	1,050.00	0.00	1,050.00
WOKINGHAM JOB SUPPORT CENTRE	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
CALIFORNIA RATEPAYERS HALL	1,100.00	0.00	1,100.00
FPMC - MEMORIAL HALL	440.00	0.00	440.00
ST JAMES' CHURCHYARD	800.00	0.00	800.00
NINE MILE RIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL	3,043.00	0.00	3,043.00
GORSE RIDE INFANTS SCHOOL	1,283.50	0.00	1,283.50
GORSE RIDE JUNIOR SCHOOL	1,861.50	0.00	1,861.50
FINCHAMPSTEAD CE PRIMARY SCHOOL	952.00	0.00	952.00
TOTAL OCTOBER PAYMENTS		£572.23	£30,822.28
TOTAL REMAINING			£821,675.36
OCTOBER PETTY CASH / CARD PAYMENTS	Net	VAT	Total
Total petty cash payments	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Card payments (Clerk)	119.94	14.87	132.41
Total Card payments (Footpath Warden)	10.00	2.00	12.00
TOTAL	£129.94	£16.87	£144.41

CARD PAYMENTS DETAIL	Net	VAT	Total
STAMPS	7.92	0.00	7.92
PARKING	1.20	0.20	1.00
CARD	3.75	0.00	3.75
OFFICE STORAGE	24.90	0.00	24.90
OFFICE STORAGE	8.85	0.00	8.85
IT EQUIPMENT	73.32	14.67	87.99
FUEL	10.00	2.00	10.00
	£129.94	£16.87	£144.41