

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27 OCTOBER 2021 AT 7PM By MS Teams video conference

PRESENT: Cllr S. Bromley, Chair; Cllr R. Cundy, Vice Chair.
Cllrs S. Bowers; S. Gurney; and S. Weeks.

K. Dagnall, Clerk.

434/2021 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Bromley welcomed those present and advised that Cllr Gurney would like to join the Committee. This was unanimously approved.

Apologies were received from Cllrs R. Margetts and R. Marshallsay

435/2021 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

436/2021 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 June 2021 were agreed as a true record and will be signed as soon as circumstances permit this.

437/2021 MATTERS ARISING

284/2021 Street Lights / potential transfer to Wokingham Borough Council

Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) has previously 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 - WBC has recently indicated that they will consider a collective approach, and this is being followed up.

284/2021 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.

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, but the project is now on hold to prevent traffic disruption. It is likely that this work will be deferred until the California Crossroads improvement scheme is implemented. The bus shelter outside the Ratepayers Hall is due to be replaced as part of this scheme.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

No members of the public were present.

438/2021 SPEED WATCH

Speed Detection Radar Recorders (SDR)

- The SDR units have been out of use since December 2020 due to technical issues.

- In July 2021 the Council agreed a provisional allocation of £6000 from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds to enable the purchase of replacement units, Black Cat speed data recorders.
- It was agreed that Cllr Bromley should go ahead and purchase the units as soon as possible.

Post mounted Speed Indicator Devices (PSID's)

- The units continue to be used in rotation on the roads with the worst speeding problem and are left in each location for 3 weeks.

Speed indicator device (SID) sessions

- SID sessions restarted in June 2020 and are now taking place weekly subject to volunteer availability.
- A session took place on the Nine Mile Ride Extension near Weaver Drive recently following reports of excessive speeds. However, this was the first session ever when no vehicles were found to be speeding.
- A case has been purchased for the SID.
- Signs are needed to be displayed with the SID unit indicating that the sessions are approved by TVP and WBC.
- Advice and information are being provided to Swallowfield and Winnersh Parish Councils. It was agreed that equipment should not be loaned to other speed watch schemes.

Boundary Speed watch signs

- Permanent speed watch area signs approved by Thames Valley Police (TVP) and WBC have been installed at 7 locations on the entrances to the Parish.
- It is not possible to install a sign on the Finchampstead Road north of the junction with the Sandhurst Road. A location on an existing sign near Hart Dyke Close, within Wokingham Town, was suggested.
- A further potential future location is on the Nine Mile Ride Extension.

Thames Valley Police proposals for community speed watch

TVP is proposing a new community speed watch scheme. This has been piloted in Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire and is now being rolled out across the region although there is currently no deadline for this.

The changes are driven by the Police and Crime Commissioner and aim to place the emphasis on the community, so releasing police officers for front line duties.

The new system involves using a device which records data on speeding vehicles which can then be uploaded from an SD card to a central TVP system where the data is processed and letters to offenders are generated.

TVP is very specific about which equipment can be used, with the use of many devices not approved by TVP.

Community speed watch schemes have to register, undergo training and have locations and equipment approved by TVP. A service level agreement between the community scheme and TVP is then drawn up.

The new system moves away from a system where offending motorists can see they are exceeding the speed limit, to one where they will not get a visible warning at the time and will only get notification when they receive a warning letter.

It was agreed that:

- A Sentinel MK II digital camera traffic speed detection unit should be purchased at a cost of up to £3500 including accessories, subject to approval by the Council.
- This will be used as a replacement for the GO PRO camera currently used with the Speed Indicator Device for speed watch sessions. Other than this the sessions will be run exactly as they have been previously, for a trial period of 3 months or longer if possible. The data will continue to be processed in the same way, with reports being sent to TVP.
- The findings of the trial will then be considered, and a meeting will be arranged with TVP to discuss how Finchampstead speed watch will be aligned with the new TVP scheme.

439/2021 PARISH GATEWAYS

Gateway signs were installed at two additional locations in April 2021 as reported at the previous meeting.

Signs for a further two locations on the Reading Road have been agreed but will be installed when other traffic management works take place on the Reading Road.

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.

440/2020 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. The Clerk will continue to follow this up.

Park Lane / Reading Road junction safety study

WBC has advised that the number of injury accidents at this junction is not significant, and that a previous history of injury collisions was resolved by the measures currently in place such as the coloured surfacing, enhanced stop signs and advanced junction warnings.

Cllr Weeks advised that the flashing speed warning sign is not operating correctly and that this has been reported to WBC.

WBC has committed to remove illegal and redundant signage at the junction.

There has been no progress with the following:

- Potential crossing on Lower Wokingham Road
- Improvements to crossing on Finchampstead Road near Church Lane – it is uncertain if there is a solution to the poor sight lines at this location.

Biggs Lane pedestrian crossing

Both Finchampstead and Barkham Parish Councils feel that a pedestrian crossing is required adjacent to Hazebrouck Meadows but WBC disagrees. Barkham Parish Council is leading on discussions with WBC over this.

Commonfield Lane / California Greenway

Warning signs were installed on Commonfield Lane in early summer to alert motorists of the presence of horses and cyclists. Road markings are now in place.

Arnett Avenue / Gorse Ride North

A request has been submitted to WBC to extend the double yellow lines at the junction. Parking close to the junction is obscuring sight lines for those turning in and out of the junction, and those leaving their driveways on Arnett Avenue.

441/2021 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.

Any person is able to remove old posters, surplus development signs or flyposting from the roadsides if it is safe to do so.

The possibility of the Parish Council contributing to works to improve the condition of the roadsides, and to allow a higher standard of maintenance after this, has been raised with WBC on several occasions. WBC does not appear to be interested in taking up this offer but the Clerk will raise it again.

Cllr Cundy agreed to look into companies who may be able to undertake work on the roadsides on behalf of the Parish Council. Any contractor working on the roadsides must comply with the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 (NRSWA) and relevant Regulations and Codes of Practice set out the legislative framework for works on roads. Contractors must also have a minimum of £10million public liability insurance cover.

- **The Ridges B3348**

WBC has advised that a design option has been selected. Detailed designs are now being drawn up and construction work should start in winter 2021 or spring 2022.

The redesign of the War Memorial junction is being discussed with WBC. It is hoped that any works could be tied in with the works to The Ridges.

- **Jubilee Road B3348**

The road reopened on 22 October after a week's closure due to a major water pipe burst.

- **Nine Mile Ride**

The Nine Mile Ride is due to reopen at its western end in late October although traffic light control is likely to be in place.

Road improvements and other works

- **Recent emergency works**

A327 Reading Road / B3348 Fleet Hill – traffic light control was in place until 22 October due to Thames Water emergency works.

- **Planned works**

- Annual drainage programme (Grip clearance works). Short term closures to various roads from 9 November 2021 to 31 March 2022. These are indicative dates and if there are clashes with other roadworks then the drainage works will be deferred.
- Park Lane – full resurfacing due December 2021.
- Barkham Ride – Carolina Place to nos. 59/26 – full resurfacing due December 2021/

- Fleet Hill Banisters Farm to Rectory Farm – full resurfacing deferred to 2022/23.
- Reading Rd – Park Lane to Hants boundary – full resurfacing deferred to 2022/23
- Barkham Rd and Bearwood Rd – full resurfacing deferred to 2022/23
- **Gigaclear programme**
Barkham Street – works were originally programmed for 1 November to 3 December but have now been rearranged to 15 November to 17 December to avoid a potential clash with the closure of Nine Mile Ride if the reopening of this is delayed.

Concerns were noted about the impact of the closure on local bus services. The Clerk will look into this.

442/2021 LARGE PROJECT UPDATES

The latest version of the WBC Core Strategy Highway Infrastructure Summary will be circulated with the minutes of the meeting.

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

California Crossroads: The improvement scheme was due to be implemented from July to December 2021 but is expected to be deferred until at least 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. Cllr Bromley will also look into the rights of access to the rear of the shops and businesses.

WBC is putting a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) in place to put a one-hour limit on parking in the bays in front of the shops, and a restriction to prevent commercial vehicles from parking in the Avery Corner Car Park.

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.

443/2021 INCIDENT REPORTS

- There were no incidents to report.

444/2021 INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2021/22 AND BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2022/23

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

It was agreed that proposals for 2022/23 would be in line with those for 2021/22, with a small increase to the budget for street light energy.

445/2021 CORRESPONDENCE

- There was no correspondence to report.

446/2021 FORUM

- Cllr Bowers advised that the contractors for phase I of the Gorse Ride regeneration will be leaving site on 2 November and there may be some traffic disruption on Arnett Avenue and Gorse Ride North.

447/2021 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is 9 February 2022.

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

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

MINUTE REFERENCE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)
437/2021	Liaise with Twyford PC over potential lamp column transfer	Clerk
437/2021	New bus shelters on Nine Mile Ride – continue to follow up lighting issue	Clerk
437/2021	Continue to follow up on planned installation of bus shelter opposite California Ratepayers Hall	Clerk
438/2021	Purchase new SDR units	SPB
438/2021	Signs to display with SID during Speed watch session	Clerk / SPB
438/2021	Speed watch area signage – check with WBC re spare signs	Clerk
438/2021	TVP changes to speed watch – bid to Council for £3500 CIL funds for a sentinel device	Clerk
439/2021	Maintain contact with WBC over outstanding gateways ref Reading Road traffic management works	Clerk
440/2021	Follow up sign for White Horse Lane / Church Lane	Clerk
441/2021	Continue to encourage WBC to improve roadside condition, and report issues.	Clerk / All
441/2021	Look into contractors for roadside maintenance works	RC
442/2021	California Crossroads improvements – maintain contact with WBC	Clerk
442/2021	Potential parking at the Co-op – look into rights of access. Arrange meeting with Co-op and property owner.	SPB