

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7 PM ON 17 NOVEMBER 2021 By Teams Video Conference

PRESENT: Cllr S. Weeks; Chair. Cllr S. Bromley; Vice Chair.
Cllrs S. Bowers; C. Driver; D. Cornish; S. Gurney; G. Jukes OBE; S. McDonald;
G. Veitch & R. Woof.

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

459/2021 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors E. Biskup, R. Cundy, B. Eytley, R. Margetts, R. Marshallsay and A. Pearce and from Mr J. May.

460/2021 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

461/2021 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 20 October 2021 and the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 21 October 2021 were agreed as a true and correct record. The minutes will be signed retrospectively as soon as circumstances allow.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

A member of the public attended to observe the meeting.

462/2021 CHAIRS REPORT

- The Remembrance Parade and Service were held at the Memorial Park on 14 November. The event ran smoothly and was well attended. Cllr Weeks laid a wreath on behalf of the Council.
- The sad loss of Pat Cox was noted. Mrs Cox was an active member of the local community and the wife of a former Parish Councillor the late Eric Cox.
- Cllr Weeks advised that Jim May has advised of his resignation from the Council, to take effect from 1 February 2022.

463/2021 PROJECT AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Finchampstead Neighbourhood Development Plan (FNDP)

Cllr Cornish advised that the second Regulation 14 Statutory Consultation commenced on 18 October and will run to 29 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 The consultation expenses have been covered by the grant received from Locality.

The initial outcomes of the consultation will be reported at the December meeting of the Council.

Cllr Cornish was thanked for the significant amount of work he has undertaken on the draft Plan, and was asked to pass on the thanks of the Council to other members of the FNDP Team for their considerable contribution and support.

Cllr Jukes advised that all the nominations for green space designation in the Parish have been included in the Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) Local Plan Update consultation maps and documentation.

WBC is holding an exhibition on the Local Plan Update on 30 November at Arborfield Green Leisure Centre from 7.30 to 9.30pm. Places must be booked – details of the event have been circulated.

Gorse Ride regeneration

- Cllr Bowers advised that the Steering Group met on 9 November. One of the points discussed was ways of promoting the use of public transport and sustainable means of travel rather than car use.
- Steering Group members were invited to visit the Redlands House shared ownership flats at Arnett Avenue on 3 November.
- The demolition of properties continues at Billing Avenue and Firs Close, part of phase 2 of the regeneration. It is expected that 50% of the properties will be demolished by Christmas 2021. The construction of phase 2 is likely to start in late spring 2022 with the first occupation potentially early 2023.
- Measures to address vandalism and fly tipping are in hand, including the installation of CCTV.

Arborfield Strategic Development Location (Arborfield Green and Finchwood Park)

- A recent Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) newsletter with updates on the development has been circulated. Plans for the District Centre, a key part of the development, are due to come forward during 2022.

464/2021 PLATINUM JUBILEE AWARD 2022

Cllr McDonald advised that at the previous meeting outline proposals for a Platinum Award to mark the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 2022 were agreed in principle.

A report was circulated including further details of the proposed Award. This will be to celebrate the activities of members of the community and/ or local organisations, and will be presented at the Annual Gathering in March 2022.

The proposals were agreed with a maximum budget of £250. It was confirmed that promotion of the Award and requests for nominations would commence as soon as possible.

It was noted that the Award will be a one off, but this will be reviewed at the appropriate stage and consideration will be given to continuing it as an annual award. The Council was reminded that the Finchampstead Society presents the Jones Trophy for contribution to the community on an annual basis.

465/2021 FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS

Cllr Weeks advised that there is still no news on the Government bringing forward permanent legislation to permit virtual or hybrid meetings. The legislation put in place in April 2020 permitting virtual meetings during the pandemic was withdrawn in May 2021.

The Council has continued to meet virtually, with in person meetings being held as required to ratify decisions. The availability of rooms with sufficient space and appropriate technical support is currently limited.

It was agreed that Main Council meetings from January 2022 should be held as hybrid meetings with Councillors having the option to attend in person or via video conferencing. It was noted that only those present in person would be able to vote on matters discussed at the meeting.

This would be subject to the appropriate technology being in place at that time – the Clerk will progress this.

It was also agreed that Committee Chairpersons should agree the format of their meetings with Committee members.

466/2021 COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE & GENERAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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

Financial position

- Unity Trust Bank £50,099.71
- CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund account £779,351.50
- CCLA Property Fund £25,000
- The above figures include £695,916 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts.

The schedule of payments totalling £17,687.34 was circulated to all Councillors. All payments were approved unanimously. Cllrs Bromley and Woof agreed to authorise the electronic payments.

Other matters:

- Work has commenced on the draft budget for 2022/23 and this will be discussed at the Committee meeting on 24 November.
- Other matters to be discussed are the current position with Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds and additional project bids; consideration of a new Code of Conduct and an update on the current position with Council policies.

War Memorial relocation project

Cllr Jukes advised that all surveys have been completed and the Finchampstead Park Management Committee has approved the layout plans. The drawings are currently being finalised along with required documents, and planning applications are due to be submitted by the end of November.

Work on the contract specifications and tender documents will continue while the planning applications are under consideration.

Discussions are taking place with WBC over formalising the use of the highway verge as the new location for the Memorial, and over future plans for the current War Memorial junction.

The Working Group will be discussing plans for the rededication of the Memorial in its new location and will report back to the Council in due course.

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr McDonald reported on current matters.

- The Remembrance events and proposals for the Platinum Jubilee are noted under earlier agenda items.
- A new Union Flag has been provided for the California Ratepayers Hall.
- The Clerk has met a new WBC Officer dealing with tree related projects and it is hoped that this will lead to closer working with WBC on this topic. A survey on the WBC Tree Project has been circulated for Councillors to complete if they wish.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Veitch advised that the Committee met on 10 November. Minutes of the meeting have been circulated.

- The Committee considered 12 applications and submitted objections to two development proposals including those at land to the rear of 59 Nine Mile Ride.
- Objections were previously submitted to proposals at 23A Nine Mile Ride and land adjoining Garden Cottage, The Ridges. WBC has refused both applications. However, WBC has approved proposals at 348A Nine Mile Ride which the Parish Council had submitted objections to.
- WBC has revoked the approval granted for a proposed cricket facility at Lynfield House, White Horse Lane. WBC will be reconsidering the proposals and will make a decision in due course on whether to grant or refuse.
- A meeting will be taking place on 18 November to discuss current enforcement matters

RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

Cllr Cornish advised that the Committee will be meeting on 1 December and will be discussing the proposed access improvements to Rooks Nest along with other matters. An update on the various projects and activities will be provided at the December meeting of the Council.

ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Cllr Bromley reported on the meeting held on 27 October (minutes have been circulated) and other matters.

- The main topic discussed at the meeting held on 27 October was changes Thames Valley Police is making to arrangements for community speed watch schemes. New equipment will be required in order to comply with the new requirements, and this will be discussed at the meeting of the Finance & General Management Committee on 24 November.
- Roadside speed watch sessions continue weekly, subject to volunteer availability. Two sessions have been held recently following reports of speeding at school run times for Bohunt and Waverley Schools. No speeding was recorded during either session.

Sessions in other areas continue to record high levels of speeding.

- Speed watch area signs have been installed at entrances to the Parish, and a crossroads warning sign at the White Horse Lane / Church Lane junction has finally been installed.
- The Ridges – WBC has identified a solution to the subsidence problem which has led to the closure of the road and is now drawing up a detailed design. Construction work is due to start in winter 2021 / spring 2022 but there is no date for completion.
- The Park Lane / Nine Mile Ride junction re-opened on 30 October. This forms part of the Nine Mile Ride Extension project which is due to be completed in Spring 2022. Traffic lights will remain in place until the project is completed.

Concerns were expressed in relation to pupils cycling to and from Bohunt School, particularly the lack of high-vis clothing and cycle lights. The school has been contacted previously and is known to regularly remind parents and pupils about these matters. The Clerk will contact the school again.

Byway 18 near Hogwood Industrial Estate is part of the approved cycle route to the school, and concerns were expressed about the lack of signs to alert vehicle drivers of the presence of cyclists. The Clerk will follow this up.

Cllr Weeks agreed to speak to Thames Valley Police to request their informal presence at Hogwood / Nine Mile Ride / Biggs Lane / Commonfield Lane at appropriate times as a reminder to the young cyclists about road safety.

467/2021 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr McDonald continues to attend regular meetings as a member of the Keep Mobile Management Committee.

Cllrs Weeks and Woof will be attending the Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership meeting on 26 November.

468/2021 CORRESPONDENCE

Letters and emails of thanks for grants or donations have been received from:

- California Ratepayers Association
- Citizens Advice Wokingham
- Finchampstead Park Management Committee
- Friends of Finchampstead Ridges
- Gorse Ride Schools
- Helen Taylor Churchyard Trust
- Involve Cancer Support
- Me2 Club
- Nine Mile Ride Primary School
- Wokingham Job Support Centre

469/2021 FORUM

- Cllr Cornish suggested an item for the next e newsletter reminding residents to be particularly conscious of security when having building works undertaken, with supplies and equipment present on site as well as skips for waste material.
- Cllr McDonald praised the support received from ASAP Computers and advised that the sound issues experienced at the October Council meeting were due to a firmware update.
- Cllr Jukes queried the reasons for WBC bringing the Public Protection Partnership service back in house. Cllr Weeks advised that WBC was not getting the service or value for money from the Partnership, particularly in relation to the out of hours service. Cllr Weeks agreed to provide Cllr Jukes with additional information.

470/2021 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 15 December 2021. This will be held in person at the Finchampstead Library at the FBC Centre, with the option to attend virtually if this can be arranged.

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

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL - PAYMENT LIST 17 NOVEMBER 2021

UNITY TRUST BANK ACCOUNT 10/11/21			£50,099.71
CCLA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 11/10/21			£779,351.50
CCLA PROPERTY FUND 31/03/21			£25,000.00
INCLUDING CIL RECEIPTS TOTAL £695,916.38			
TOTAL FUNDS			£854,451.21

	NET	VAT	TOTAL
Outstanding payments not yet cleared			
Total payments outstanding			£0.00
Payments already approved and paid			
SSE STREET LIGHT ENERGY	27.55	1.37	28.92
BRITISH TELECOM	48.24	9.64	57.88
H WILBY - FNDP DESIGN WORK	520.00	0.00	520.00
JAY PRINTERS - FNDP PRINTING	3113.00	117.60	3230.60
PAYMENTS NOVEMBER 2021			
Staff costs			£8,057.17
Other costs			
ASAP COMPUTER SERVICES-SUPPORT	244.20	48.84	293.04
MICROSHADE REMOTE HOSTING	77.20	15.44	92.64
WEB MARKETING MATTERS	157.55	0.00	157.55
RIALTAS LTD - TRAINING CW	95.00	19.00	114.00
FBC OFFICE RENT OCT - DEC	1,221.25	0.00	1221.25
FBC OFFICE SERVICE CHARGE OCT-DEC	1082.75	0.00	1082.75
GOODGER DESIGN-WAR MEMORIAL FEES	2,186.95	437.39	2624.34
GREENBARNES - NOTICEBOARD PARTS	95.00	19.00	114.00
FBC CAFÉ	9.43	1.17	10.60
Allotment costs			
ALLOTMENT ASSOcn SUBS X 92	920.00	0.00	920.00
Neighbourhood Development Plan costs			
H WILBY - DESIGN WORK AS ABOVE			
JAY PRINTERS - PRINTING AS ABOVE			
Grants and contributions - subject to final approval by Council where required			
FBC YOUTH WORK JULY-SEPT	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00
TOTAL NOVEMBER PAYMENTS		£540.84	£17,687.34
TOTAL REMAINING			£836,763.87
NOVEMBER PETTY CASH / CARD PAYMENTS	Net	VAT	Total
Total petty cash payments	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Card payments (Clerk)	49.00	9.80	58.80
Total Card payments (Footpath Warden)	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	£49.00	£9.80	£58.80
CARD PAYMENTS DETAIL	Net	VAT	Total
UNION FLAG	49.00	9.80	58.80
	£49.00	£9.80	£58.80