

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7 PM ON 15 DECEMBER 2021 By Teams Video Conference

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

K. Dagnall, Clerk; C. Warke, Deputy Clerk.
One member of the public.

507/2021 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All Councillors were present.

508/2021 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Non-pecuniary declarations of interest were received as follows:
Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership: Cllrs Weeks and Woof.
Keep Mobile: Cllr McDonald.

509/2021 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 17 November 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.

510/2021 CHAIRS REPORT

- Cllr Weeks advised that the sector continues to push for permanent legislation to be put in place to permit Councils to hold virtual and hybrid meetings. The Parish Council has recently written to James Sunderland MP and to the Minister for Levelling Up Communities asking them for their assistance in bringing forward the appropriate legislation. A joint letter from all of the Wokingham Town and Parish Councils was sent to local MP's and Government ministers earlier in 2021 regarding this, but there has been no response.
- Farley Hill School consultation
Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) is currently consulting on proposals to increase the catchment area and intake for Farley Hill School, which relocated to the new school at Arborfield Green in 2021.

There are concerns about the impact of this on the schools in Finchampstead. It was agreed that Cllrs Cundy, Eytley and Margetts would liaise with the Clerk to collate a response to the consultation. The closing date is 17 January.

- At the previous meeting it was noted that Jim May will be resigning from the Council at the end of January 2022. At the recent Finance & General Management Committee meeting it was agreed that subject to the approval of the Council, the honour of the Freedom of the Parish should be awarded to Jim May. This was unanimously approved, and it was agreed that the Clerk would make the necessary arrangements.

511/2021 PROJECT AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Finchampstead Neighbourhood Development Plan (FNDP)

Cllr Cornish advised that the second Regulation 14 Statutory Consultation closed on 29 November. Around 250 responses were received, these are currently being considered and a consultation report will be produced. This and certain statutory documents will then be forwarded to WBC for consideration.

Gorse Ride regeneration

- Cllr Bowers advised that the Steering Group met on 14 December.
- A meeting has taken place regarding future bus services and a presentation will be given at the next Steering Group meeting.
- Consideration is being given to how local school children can be involved with the naming of roads and buildings on the new development.
- The Community House has been relocated to Gorse Ride South and will be opening in January.
- 32 properties have now been demolished on the area forming the second phase of the regeneration.

Arborfield Strategic Development Location (Arborfield Green and Finchwood Park)

- In their capacity as WBC Cllrs, Cllrs Margetts and Weeks will be meeting representatives from Crest Nicholson regarding the delivery of the community facilities on the development.

512/2021 WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN UPDATE

The current consultation on the Local Plan Update: Revised Growth Strategy runs to 24 January. The Council will be responding to the consultation.

It was agreed that the timescale for responding to the consultation was too short and that the Clerk should request that the consultation period is extended to allow all parties time to collate meaningful responses, and to allow time for further promotion to encourage people to respond.

It was agreed that the Planning Committee should formulate a response to the consultation on behalf of the Council. This will then be circulated to all Councillors for approval at the Main Council meeting on 19 January 2022.

It was agreed that the Council would submit a formal objection to the inclusion of Rooks Nest Farm in the Local Plan as a potential development site. The Planning Committee will formulate comments on this which will form part of the Council's overall response to the consultation.

Cllr Jukes advised that only eight of the fourteen sites nominated for Local Green Space designation in the Parish have been included in the Local Plan Update consultation maps and documentation.

Comments are being drafted challenging the decision over four of the six sites rejected as this appears to be contrary to guidance on Local Green Spaces, and inconsistent with WBC policies. One of the proposed sites was Simon's Wood and The Ridges, and this has been rejected due to the size of the area. This will now be put forward for designation as two separate sites.

The comments on the Local Green Spaces will form part of the overall response to the consultation, again for approval by the Council at its January meeting.

It was agreed that ways of promoting the consultation and encouraging local people to respond should be considered. Cllr Cornish will discuss this with Cllr Cundy.

513/2021 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) FUND EXPENDITURE

Cllr Woof advised that the Finance & General Management Committee discussed the current position with CIL expenditure, commitments and new proposals at its recent meeting.

Two projects are recommended for CIL funding and information on these was circulated to Councillors:

- Sentinel digital camera traffic speed detection unit plus tripod and case. £3500.
- Allotment ditch works to alleviate drainage issues. £2000.

The expenditure was approved.

It was noted that several other projects have now come forward and will be discussed by the Committee at its January meeting.

514/2021 CODE OF CONDUCT

A model Code of Conduct produced by the Local Government Association, and which has now been adopted by WBC was circulated.

Cllr Woof advised that the Finance & General Management Committee considered the new Code at its recent meeting and recommended that the Council adopts the Code. This was unanimously approved.

Cllr Woof and the Clerk will review the Code to identify whether the Council should take any further action to ensure compliance.

It was noted that the lack of sanctions for breaches of the Code is an ongoing concern within the sector and continues to be looked into. The WBC Monitoring Officer has been asked to outline the process and stages involved in processing a potential breach of the Code.

515/2021 COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE & GENERAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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

Financial position

- Unity Trust Bank £28,784.28
- CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund account £779,367.80
- CCLA Property Fund £25,000
- The above figures include £693,729.43 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts.

The schedule of payments totalling £24,204.39 was circulated to all Councillors. This included provisional grant payments as listed below and recommended for approval by the Council:

Blackwater Valley Partnership	£4000
Home Start	£1000
Wokingham Poppy Appeal	£300
Keep Mobile	£4000
Wokingham Volunteer Centre	£1500

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

Other matters:

- The Committee met on 24 November; minutes of the meeting have been circulated. Grants, CIL funds and the draft Code of Conduct were discussed as noted above.
- The draft budget for 2022/23 was considered. A further draft will be discussed at the January meeting of the Committee and will then be presented to the Council for potential approval.

- The Council's support for youth activities provided through the FBC Centre was discussed and detailed information on activities and future plans has now been requested.

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr McDonald reported on current matters.

- The Platinum Jubilee Award is being widely promoted. One nomination has been received to date.
- The poll regarding gifts for local children to mark the Jubilee indicated that the majority of Councillors support a potential gift for a community facility such as a play area which would benefit all local children. This is now being looked into and proposals will be brought to the Council in due course.
- The allotment ditch works are almost complete but unfortunately the ground conditions are now too wet to continue and the contractor has had to cease work until conditions improve.
- Cllr Veitch and the Clerk attended the recent Allotment Association Annual General Meeting, and the Clerk has attended a meeting of the Association Committee.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Cundy advised that the Committee met on 8 December. Minutes of the meeting have been circulated.

- The Committee considered 16 applications and submitted objections to five development proposals.
- There are new Appeals at Alyeska, Sandhurst Road and 11 The Rise.
- Enforcement matters include an Appeal relating to Land to the rear of 6 Johnson Drive, and the issue of Enforcement Notices relating to Land to the rear of Twin Oaks, Longwater Lane.
- New plans have been submitted to vary conditions to the original plans for Xenuk Restaurant, Finchampstead Road. The proposed changes are significant and will be discussed at the next meeting of the Committee.
- Bloor Homes has lodged an Appeal with Bracknell Forest Council against non-determination of an application for development including 150 dwellings at Land West of Wokingham Road and East of Lower Church Rd, Sandhurst. This adjoins Finchampstead Parish and objections have previously been submitted against the proposals.

Cllrs Cundy and Veitch will be considering how the Council should comment on the Appeal.

War Memorial relocation

A planning application has been submitted in relation to the proposed relocation of the War Memorial. Due to timing this was not included on the list of applications considered by the Planning Committee at its meeting on 8 December. However, the Committee considered and approved a draft comment which has now been circulated to all Councillors. The draft comment is as follows:

“The Parish Council fully supports the proposal to relocate the War Memorial as detailed in this application. This will safeguard the Memorial and it will be continue to be highly visible, maintaining the context of the original location for the Memorial, which is also known as the ‘Wayside Cross’. The new location will allow safe and easy access by visitors for quiet contemplation or for larger events such as Remembrance services. The relocation is also supported by a majority of the people of Finchampstead, evidenced by a public consultation undertaken by the Parish Council in early summer 2021“.

The comment was approved by the Council and will be submitted to WBC.

RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

Cllr Cornish advised that the Committee met on 1 December. Minutes of the meeting have been circulated.

- The proposed access improvements to Rooks Nest were discussed and a meeting is now being arranged with WBC so that a joint decision can be made on whether to proceed with the project.
- The circular walks maps are being redrawn in the same style as the new map produced earlier in 2021. One map has been completed and work on the remaining two maps is expected to be completed soon.
- Additional signs advising where paths should not be used by horse riders or cyclists have been ordered and will be installed in appropriate locations. The circular route way markers will be checked to ensure they are still present and in good condition, and will be replaced as required.
- The Loddon Valley Ramblers have been in contact regarding joint working to create a footpath link on the B3348 Fleet Hill between Footpath 29 and the Tally Ho. This would be a valuable addition to the network and the project will be progressed with the Ramblers and WBC.

ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Cllr Bromley reported on current matters.

- Roadside speed watch sessions continue weekly, subject to volunteer availability.
- Following the approval by the Council under agenda item 513/2021 above, a Sentinel Camera will now be purchased so that speed watch sessions comply with the new Thames Valley Police requirements.
- Complaints have been received from residents unable to find space at the Avery Corner Car Park. The car park is under particular pressure at present with the Xenuk restaurant undergoing development, and the Chinese restaurant reducing the spaces available for parking during the day.

Nine Mile Ride School has been approached and has agreed to do what it can to maximise use of its own car park, and to encourage considerate parking in the Avery Corner Car Park.

WBC has also been approached regarding the bottle banks. WBC has agreed to realign the banks in the short term to release one parking space and will then consider removing at least one bank to release further spaces.

- There are no further updates on the timescale for works at The Ridges.

516/2021 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Berkshire Association of Local Councils (BALC)

Cllr Cundy attended the Annual General Meeting on 17 November. Only a small proportion of the Town and Parish Councils were represented, reflecting the general view on BALC and the services provided by it through the Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC).

Cllr Cundy joined the Executive Committee in 2020 and is working with other Committee members on plans to bring positive changes to the organisation.

Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership

Cllrs Weeks and Woof attended the Annual General Meeting on 26 November. The Annual Report will be circulated.

It was noted that the usage of the path remains high. It peaked at 125,000 in the first quarter of 2020, more than double the number of users in the first quarter of 2019. Numbers have now reduced but still remain higher than in 2019.

517/2021 FORUM

No matters were raised.

518/2021 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 19 January 2022.

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

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL - PAYMENT LIST 15 DECEMBER 2021

UNITY TRUST BANK ACCOUNT 10/12/21			£28,784.28
CCLA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 30/11/21			£779,367.80
CCLA PROPERTY FUND 31/03/21			£25,000.00
INCLUDING CIL RECEIPTS TOTAL £693,729.43			
TOTAL FUNDS			£833,152.08
	NET	VAT	TOTAL
Outstanding payments not yet cleared			
Total payments outstanding			£0.00
Payments already approved and paid			
SSE STREET LIGHT ENERGY	28.19	1.40	29.59
BRITISH TELECOM	48.24	9.64	57.88
GFT FENCING	80.00	16.00	96.00
FINCHAMPSTEAD PCC - BUGLER	90.00	0.00	90.00
WBC - ELECTION COSTS	225.00	0.00	225.00
WBC - SPEEDWATCH SIGNS	511.00	0.00	511.00
GOODGER - WAR MEMORIAL FEES	2199.33	393.67	2593.00
PAYMENTS DECEMBER 2021			
Staff costs			
Total staff costs			£8,023.67
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
SLCC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP K DAGNALL	436.00	0.00	436.00
OFFICE DEPOT - OFFICE STATIONERY	37.46	7.49	44.95
OFFICE DEPOT - OFFICE STATIONERY	14.29	2.86	17.15
IBS - OFFICE PRINTER	105.20	21.04	126.24
FBC - Café ACCOUNT	11.69	1.46	13.15
Allotment costs			

J. STONEMAN - ALLOTMENT DRAINAGE	3500.00	700.00	4200.00
Neighbourhood Development Plan costs			
NONE			
Grants and contributions - subject to final approval by Council where required			
HOMESTART	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
WOKINGHAM VOLUNTARY CENTRE	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00
KEEP MOBILE	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - POPPY APPEAL	300.00	0.00	300.00
BLACK WATER VALLEY	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00
TOTAL DECEMBER PAYMENTS		£797.13	£24,204.39
TOTAL REMAINING			£808,947.69
DECEMBER PETTY CASH / CARD PAYMENTS	Net	VAT	Total
Total petty cash payments	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Card payments (Clerk)	282.85	55.88	338.73
Total Card payments (Footpath Warden)	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	£282.85	£55.88	£338.73

CARD PAYMENTS DETAIL	Net	VAT	Total
BRUNEL ENGRAVING	179.45	35.89	215.34
MAYTHER - STATIONERY	3.45	0.00	3.45
TSOHOST - WEBSITE DOMAIN RENEWAL	99.95	19.99	119.94
	282.85	55.88	338.73