

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD AT 7 PM ON WEDNESDAY 26 JANUARY BY MICROSOFT TEAMS VIDEO CONFERENCING

PRESENT: Cllr S. McDonald, Chair. Cllr S. Bowers, Vice Chair.
Cllrs E. Biskup; C. Driver; S. Gurney; A. Pearce & G Veitch.

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

553/2022 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr B. Eyle.

554/2022 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

555/2022 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2021 were approved as a true record and will be signed when circumstances allow.

556/2022 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- **391/2021 Income & Expenditure / Union Flag**
A replacement union flag was purchased for the California Ratepayers Hall.
- **395/2021 Remembrance 2021**
The Remembrance Parade and service on 14 November ran smoothly. The Parish Council covered the cost of the Bugler, and the poppies created by the Barkham Hookers and displayed at the California Crossroads.

Public Participation Session

No members of the public were present.

557/2022 INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2021/22

A report showing the current position was circulated. No issues were raised.

558/2022 PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022

Information was circulated on the current position with plans to mark the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 2022.

Events on 2 June

- The Finchampstead Society will promote and organise a picnic at the Memorial Park, with a band.
- Participants may then walk or drive to St. James' Church.
- In line with National Celebrations, a piper will play 'Dui Regnare' at 9.35pm at St. James' Church, prior to the beacon being lit at the Church at 9.45pm.
- The Church Choir will sing the song specially written for the event.
- The Church Society will arrange refreshments including a glass of prosecco and cake to be provided at the event.

The Parish Council has agreed a budget of up to £600 towards these events. Cllr Driver confirmed that the St. James' Church Social Committee and the Finchampstead Society are undertaking the organisation for the events but requested that the Parish Council assists with promotion. Cllr Driver will discuss the timings of the events with the Church Social Committee to ensure they are in line with national beacon lighting events across the nation.

Bunting

The Barkham Hookers crochet group will be asked to create appropriate bunting for the California Crossroads. The group will be encouraged to submit a grant application.

Letter of congratulations

A brief letter will be sent to Her Majesty the Queen.

Historical Account of Finchampstead during Her Majesty's 70-year reign

Cllr Driver has agreed to take on initial research into local events over the past 70 years.

Platinum Jubilee Awards

The Parish Council's Platinum Jubilee Awards have been widely promoted. To date there have been 8 nominations.

The Committee agreed this will be a one-off award to mark the Platinum Jubilee.

The Awards were due to be presented at the Annual Gathering on 9 March. This event has now been deferred to late May and it was agreed that the nomination period should be extended to the end of April.

It was agreed that the awards would take the form of a glass trophy and a certificate.

Platinum Jubilee Road Naming

It was previously discussed that a road on the Gorse Ride development could be named to mark the Jubilee. This is now being progressed through the local schools.

Gift for children of the Parish

The Council previously agreed that one gift should be presented to a community facility such as a play area which is available for use by local children.

The Clerk is in discussion with Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) over the refurbishment of the play area at the FBC Playing Fields which is due to take place this year. It was agreed that a contribution towards this project would be an appropriate gift. This will be discussed further when the details of the project are available.

Tree planting

Three trees were planted at Burnmoor Meadow on 5 January and have been labelled to mark the Jubilee. These trees will be registered under the national Queen's Green Canopy scheme – 'Plant a tree for the Jubilee' www.queensgreencanopy.org

559/2022 LITTER, WASTE AND RECYCLING

Information on the work of the two part time Litter Wardens carried out from April 2021 to date and previous years is summarised below.

	HOURS	MILES	SACKS COLLECTED
2019/20 TOTAL	326	572	323
2020/21 TOTAL	483	773	485
2021/22 TO DATE	411.5	621	386

Adopt a Street

Promotional material has been updated and the scheme is being widely promoted.

Supporting information / guidance has been revised and circulated to participants. Supplies have been restocked and litter pickers, bags and hi vis vests are available from the Parish Office.

WBC has been contacted with the aim of streamlining respective schemes. Several Finchampstead residents have signed up to the WBC scheme, and these residents may prefer to collect supplies locally. WBC have agreed to inform the Parish Council which roads in the Parish are being covered. WBC have also agreed to redirect any future enquiries from Finchampstead residents to the Parish Council.

Great British Spring Clean and Community Litter Pick 2022

Keep Britain Tidy is promoting a Great British Spring Clean and a Great British School Clean from 25 March to 10 April 2022. Full details are not available yet.

WBC is currently discussing its plans for a 2022 Community Litter Pick.

The Committee agreed to support a community litter pick if WBC can provide the equipment.

560/2022 TREE PLANTING AND RELATED INITIATIVES

- **Burnmoor Meadow**

Three trees have been planted for the Jubilee as noted above. They will be recorded under the Queens Green Canopy scheme.

All trees planted by the Parish Council at Burnmoor Meadow are now labelled.

- **FBC Centre**

A tree will be planted in a prominent location in the car park to replace one which was removed.

- **Future tree planting plans**

There has been no further progress with WBC in relation to suggested tree planting at Warren Wood, or street tree planting.

There is no scope for further planting at Burnmoor Meadow. Other opportunities will be looked into.

- **Wellingtonia Avenue project**

The full report on the surveys is nearing completion and is expected to be finalised before the end of February 2022.

- **Commemorative trees at St James' Church**

Although the trees on the green and surrounding area near St. James' Church are not the responsibility of the Parish Council, these are inspected annually as part of the asset inspection.

The trees are all considered to be in good condition and well cared for by the Church, the owner of the land.

In 2016 the Parish Council arranged work to and around the Red Oak planted to mark the 1977 Silver Jubilee. This included removing the old fencing around the tree, refurbishing the plaque and pruning of the tree. Cllr Veitch and the Clerk will discuss if any further work is needed.

At present oak trees are not available due to invasive pests. If oak trees are available later this year it is hoped that one can be planted near the Church to mark the Platinum Jubilee, subject to the permission of the Parochial Church Council.

- **Finchwood Oak at the West Court SANG (Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace)**
A plaque has been secured for the 451-year-old Oak, the 8000th tree surveyed by the Wokingham District Veteran Tree Association. The Clerk is arranging installation with Cala Homes Ltd. which has agreed to cover the cost of the plaque.
- **Cemex Woodland**
There is no further news on the clearance of old guards and derelict fencing from the woodland adjacent to Longwater Road. Cemex UK Ltd has expressed interest in this but is yet to implement the work.
- **WBC tree related projects**
The Clerk is expecting an update from WBC in February on its recent tree strategy consultation, and the Garden Forest initiative.

561/2022 ALLOTMENTS

Finchampstead Allotments

The site is running smoothly. There is now only a small waiting list of residents wanting a plot.

The 10th anniversary of the site is in September 2022. The Allotment Association is running a series of features about the first 10 years in its monthly e newsletter. An article by the Parish Council was included in the January edition. The Association will be celebrating the anniversary as part of its usual September event for Tenants.

Future sites

- The Clerk has 12 residents on a waiting list for the Finchwood Park site. A meeting will be arranged with the Barkham Parish Clerk and the Arborfield Community Development Worker to collate waiting lists held by the three organisations.
- The latest planning application for Finchwood Park includes two parcels of housing and the allotment site and sports facilities.
- The Parish Council has made no commitment to taking on the new Finchwood Park allotment site.
- The WBC Officer dealing with the new allotment sites on the various development locations is keen to visit Finchampstead Allotments – a date will be arranged in Spring 2022.
- Barkham Parish Council may take on the new sites to be created at Arborfield Green, within Barkham Parish. Parish Council representatives would like to visit the Finchampstead Allotments at an appropriate stage.
- A new site will be created on the part of Arborfield Green which lies in Swallowfield Parish. At present there is no indication as to who may take this site on.

562/2022 UPDATES ON OTHER MATTERS

California Country Park

Potential land purchase

Further to discussions and meetings in 2020, WBC has indicated its support in principle for purchasing land adjacent to the Park and is most interested in securing the part of the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which lies outside the park and in providing a buffer for the entire SSSI, with no additional public access. Cllr Veitch and the Clerk aim to produce a map showing options for further discussion, but professional assistance may be needed with this. There is no further progress to report.

Improvements to the Park

As previously reported, WBC has committed to draw up an outline scheme for the lakefront / wishing well / ice cream hut area and to arrange a joint meeting of Town and Parish Councils to discuss the scheme and funding. The intention is that WBC will then approach Town and Parish Councils for CIL funds in Spring 2022. The Clerk is awaiting an update from WBC.

Hanging baskets

- As the California Crossroads improvement scheme is now likely to be implemented in 2023, baskets have been ordered for summer and winter 2022.
- The potential installation of baskets around the Barkham Ride roundabout will be followed up.

Noticeboards

- The replacement board for near St. James' Church will be installed on 28 January.

Defibrillators and first aid training

- The units are all in good order and continue to be checked regularly by Cllr Pearce.
- Cllr Pearce and the Clerk will discuss alternative locations for the FBC to allow the defibrillator to be accessible when the centre is closed.
- First aid / defibrillator training has been on hold due to the pandemic, but enquiries will be made about a potential session in late spring / early summer.
- Future locations for defibrillators were noted, including the Gorse Ride area post regeneration and the future Finchwood Park School and new Community Centre.

Telephone box

As agreed at the previous meeting, the proposed use of the box is as an information feature with photos and text about features in the Parish. Cllr Driver has researched some suitable information. This will be progressed when resources are available.

563/2022 FORUM

No matters were raised.

564/2022 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be held on 22 June 2022.

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

SUMMARY OF AMENITIES COMMITTEE ACTIONS 26 JANUARY 2022

MINUTE REFERENCE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)
558/2022	Platinum jubilee proposals – continue to progress items as minuted	Deputy Clerk / CD
558/2022	Align timings for the beacon lighting events with national timings	CD
558/2022	Promotion of Platinum Jubilee events	Deputy Clerk/CD
558/2022	Initial research into documenting local events over past 75 years	CD
559/2022	Adopt a Street – liaise with WBC to align schemes	Deputy Clerk
559/2022	Great British Spring Clean / WBC Community Litter Pick	Deputy Clerk
560/2022	Register trees for the Queens Green Canopy scheme	Clerk
560/2022	Look into opportunities for tree planting / continue to liaise with WBC over planting of street trees and at Warren Wood	Clerk
560/2022	Update from WBC on proposed Tree Strategy	Clerk
560/2022	Plant oak at St James Church for the Jubilee, subject to availability and permission from the PCC	Clerk
560/2022	Assess whether any further work is needed re Silver Jubilee Oak	GV/Clerk
561/2022	Finchwood Park / Arborfield Green future allotments Collate waiting lists Maintain contact with WBC over F / Park site	Clerk
562/2022	California Country Park – potential land purchase	Clerk/GV
562/2022	California Country Park improvements	Clerk/ SM
562/2022	California Country Park mounds	Clerk
562/2022	First aid / defibrillator training session	Clerk
562/2022	Future provision of defibrillator at Gorse Ride	SFB
562/2022	Telephone box – progress plans when resources allow	Clerk