

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2022 AT 4PM By MS Teams video conference

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

K. Dagnall, Clerk.

574/2022 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs S. Gurney and R. Margetts.

575/2022 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

576/2022 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 October 2021 were agreed as a true record and will be signed as soon as circumstances permit this.

577/2022 MATTERS ARISING

437/2021 Street Lights / potential transfer to Wokingham Borough Council

The Parish Council has 6 lamp columns across the Parish. A joint letter has now been sent to Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) requesting that the Borough take over up to 650 lamp columns currently owned by 13 Town and Parish Councils. WBC has indicated that there is unlikely to be a decision made on this until 2023.

437/2021 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 is now unlikely to be installed until the California Crossroads improvement scheme is implemented, possibly in 2023. The Parish Council owned 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.

578/2022 INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2021/22

The only expenditure from the Committee budget is £252 for the street light energy supply. The current contract is at a fixed rate until 31 December 2022.

579/2022 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 that £6000 from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds should be used to purchase replacement units, Black Cat speed data recorders.
- Cllr Bromley will confirm the requirements and the Clerk will order 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 were taking place weekly, subject to volunteer availability, until 18 January 2022. Sessions are currently on hold due to new Thames Valley Police requirements (see agenda item 570/2022 below).

Boundary Speed watch signs

- Permanent speed watch area signs approved by Thames Valley Police (TVP) were installed at 7 locations on the entrances to the Parish in summer 2021.
- A further potential future location is on the Nine Mile Ride Extension, due to open in 2022.

580/2022 SPEEDWATCH SESSIONS FEBRUARY 2022 ONWARDS

Thames Valley Police (TVP) proposals for community speed watch were discussed at the previous meeting in October 2021. The Committee and the Council subsequently agreed that a Sentinel camera should be purchased with the cost of £3500 to be met from Community Infrastructure Levy funds. Cllr Bromley placed an order for the camera on 31 January 2022.

It is intended that the new camera is used with the existing Speed Indicator Device and TVP is in agreement with this approach.

The camera will record data on speeding vehicles which can then be uploaded from an SD card to a central TVP system where the data will be processed and letters to offenders are generated. Some data will still need to be recorded manually, including the make of vehicle and registration number, and then manually uploaded to the TVP system.

Community speed watch schemes have to register, undergo training and have locations approved by TVP. A service level agreement between the community scheme and TVP is then drawn up. The Finchampstead scheme is now registered, and Cllrs Bromley, Cornish, Cundy and Weeks and one resident volunteer have completed the training with other Councillors and volunteers to follow.

Cllr Bromley has uploaded details of some of the proposed locations to the TVP system and these are awaiting TVP approval.

Free standing signs to a TVP approved design are required to be displayed when sessions are taking place. Cllr Bromley and the Clerk will follow this up.

The risk assessment will need to be reviewed.

Full sessions cannot be run until the Sentinel camera is available, which may not be until late March. It was noted that the new requirement for additional signage, and for volunteers to stand by the roadside, makes it likely that significantly fewer speeding vehicles will be recorded.

It was agreed that in the interim roadside sessions should continue, to provide visible information on vehicle speeds and so promote awareness. No data will be recorded as TVP are no longer able to process information from sessions run in the previous way.

581/2022 PARISH GATEWAYS

Signs for 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.

582/2022 ROAD SAFETY ISSUES

White Horse Lane / Church Lane junction

A warning sign was installed in November 2021.

Biggs Lane pedestrian crossing

Barkham Parish Council is now leading on the project to install a crossing by Hazebrouck Meadows and will seek further support and involvement from Finchampstead Parish Council when required.

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.

583/2022 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.

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 is continuing to look for 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.

Commonfield Lane

The condition of the Lane is a concern, particularly the informal passing points. Cllr Weeks advised that WBC is concerned that improvements will encourage more traffic to use the Lane.

Cllr Bromley will take some images for forwarding to WBC.

Lower Sandhurst Road and Dell Road

The roads are being heavily used due to the closure of The Ridges and significant reinstatement will be needed at the appropriate stage.

The Ridges B3348

The latest update from WBC indicates that design work will be completed at the end of March /early April 2022. There is no start date for implementation of the remedial works.

Road improvements and other 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.
- 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

The latest programme indicates that works were due to take place at The Ridges / Nine Mile Ride / Church Lane / Little Fryth and Ashdale Park at the end of January / early February.

584/2022 LARGE PROJECT UPDATES

Nine Mile Ride Extension

An update was circulated recently. The Nine Mile Ride / Park Lane junction will be closed from 21 February to late April. At certain times within this period there will be overnight closures of Hogwood Lane and of the Park Lane / Nine Mile Ride Extension / Hogwood Lane junction. The new road is due to open in late April or early May 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 2023 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. The Clerk will check on progress with this.

WBC has arranged for the bottle banks in the Avery Corner Car Park to be moved along to release a parking space. WBC also indicated that it would review the number of banks in the light of the new mixed glass collection, as it may be possible to remove one or two banks. The Clerk has requested an update from WBC.

585/2022 INCIDENT REPORTS

- There were no incidents to report.

586/2022 FORUM

- Cllr Weeks advised that Thames Water will be installing main sewers along Heath Ride during 2023.

587/2022 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 8 June 2022.

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

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

MINUTE REFERENCE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)
577/2022	Potential lamp column transfer to WBC. Monitor progress.	Clerk
577/2022	New bus shelters on Nine Mile Ride – continue to follow up lighting issue	Clerk
577/2022	Continue to monitor progress with planned installation of new and replacement bus shelters nr Ratepayers Hall	Clerk
579/2022	Purchase new SDR units	SPB / Clerk
580/2022	Boundary speedwatch sign for NMRE when road open	Clerk
580/2022	Arrangements to comply with new TVP requirements Volunteer training Details of locations to be uploaded to TVP system SLA with TVP Risk Assessment	SPB
580/2022	Signs to display during speed watch sessions	Clerk / SPB
580/2022	Restart roadside SID sessions for awareness – no data to be recorded	SPB
581/2022	Maintain contact with WBC over outstanding gateways ref Reading Road traffic management works	Clerk
582/2022	Update from Barkham PC re Biggs Lane crossing	Clerk
583/2022	Continue to encourage WBC to improve roadside condition, and report issues.	Clerk / All
583/2022	Look into contractors for roadside maintenance works	RC
583/2022	Commonfield Lane – take images and send to WBC	SPB / Clerk
583/2022	Lower Sandhurst Road / Dell Road – seek full reinstatement once The Ridges reopens	
584/2022	California Crossroads improvements – maintain contact with WBC	Clerk
584/2022	Potential parking at the Co-op – look into rights of access. Arrange meeting with Co-op and property owner.	SPB
584/2022	Avery Corner – follow up removal of bottle bank with WBC, to release parking space	Clerk