

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7 PM ON 23 MARCH 2022 By Teams Video Conference

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

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

622/2022 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors E. Biskup; B. Eytle; R. Marshallsay and G. Veitch.

623/2022 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

624/2022 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 24 February 2022 were agreed as a true and correct record. The minutes will be signed retrospectively in due course.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

No members of the public attended the meeting.

625/2022 CHAIRS REPORT

- Cllr Weeks noted that today marks the second anniversary of the first lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The Councillor vacancy is currently being advertised and to date there has been one application. It is intended that candidates will be invited to meet the Council prior to its April meeting.
- The Ukraine crisis was noted. The Parish Council has been promoting local appeals and has a dedicated link on its website to where people can find more information and how to donate to appeals. Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) and local Voluntary and Community Sector organisations have formed a specific team, reporting to Wokingham Community Response, to monitor the situation and identify action required locally. The Town and Parish Councils will be contacted if their help is required.
- In their capacity as Wokingham Borough Council Ward Members, Cllrs Margetts and Weeks met representatives from Crest Nicholson to discuss the Arborfield Green development and concerns over the poor communications with the Town and Parish Councils and the community. WBC Cllr Kaiser attended the meeting.
- WBC has approved the Bohunt Education Trust's proposal to add a sixth form at Bohunt Wokingham School at Arborfield Green. The sixth form provision will open in September 2023. In addition, the School will also be offering at least 30 additional places for year 7 from September 2023 or possibly 2022, and will be making provision for children with special education needs and disabilities (SEND).

626/2022 PROJECT AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATES Finchampstead Neighbourhood Development Plan (FNDP)

The draft Plan and associated documents can be viewed on the Council's website at <https://www.finchampstead-pc.gov.uk/community-projects/neighbourhood-development-plan/documents>

Cllr Cornish advised that the draft Plan and related documents are now with WBC for an initial review. This is taking considerably longer than anticipated and Cllr Weeks agreed to follow this up.

Feedback to date has identified a requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) on two of the potential housing sites included in the Plan. Cllrs Cornish and Marshallsay have met representatives from Locality who would undertake the EIAs, and the need for the EIA's has been questioned. This is being followed up with WBC.

The level of feedback from WBC and the extent of changes required to the Plan, together with the need for EIA's, will determine the timescale for moving to the next stage of the process. This next stage is the Regulation 15 phase which constitutes an official review by WBC and will be followed by the Regulation 16 consultation.

Cllr Cornish advised that the Steering Group would like another Parish Councillor to join the Group. Any Cllrs interested in the role should contact Cllr Cornish.

Gorse Ride regeneration

- Cllr Bowers advised that the Steering Group met on 8 March. The Project Group continues to meet regularly.
- The second phase of the regeneration is progressing – a video of the demolition of properties in Dart Close has been circulated. Two further blocks of housing are yet to be demolished. Construction is due to start in late summer 2022.
- The official opening of the Community House at its new location on Gorse Ride South took place on 4 March. Several Councillors attended. The Community House is open from 9.30am to 11am on Mondays, and at other times by appointment.
- There will be a presentation on the regeneration project at the Council's Annual Gathering on 31 May, with a specific focus on sustainability measures across the new development.
- Cllr Margetts advised that WBC and the Steering Group are running a competition for local schools to identify a theme for the road names to be used on the new development.

Arborfield Strategic Development Location (Arborfield Green and Finchwood Park)

- Reserved Matters applications are coming forward for several parcels at both Arborfield Green and Finchwood Park.
- Crest Nicholson has now constructed over 1000 dwellings and has therefore reached the trigger point for bringing forward some community facilities for the development.
- Plans are progressing for the Community Centre at Arborfield Green, this will now be located in the existing library building. Further to the meeting held with Crest Nicholson noted under minute 625/2022 above, a presentation on the Community Centre proposals is being arranged for the Parish Council.
- The Community Liaison Group will be meeting on 4 April. Cllr Pearce represents the Parish Council at these meetings.

627/2022 ASSOCIATIONS OF LOCAL COUNCILS

A report was circulated summarising the role of the various Associations of Local Councils together with other organisations and groups providing support for the Parish Council.

The Parish Council currently subscribes to the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and the Berkshire Association of Local Councils (BALC) although it was noted that the Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC) is contracted to provide services on behalf of BALC.

While NALC is considered to provide value for money, and to fulfil a useful role in representing the sector, BALC provides little support to the Council. Unfortunately the governing documents do not permit a Council to be a member of NALC unless it also belongs to its County Association.

Cllr Cundy has recently been elected Chair of the BALC Executive Committee and reported that the Committee has recognised that the organisation needs to improve. An initial meeting has been held to identify where improvements need to be made and actions to address this.

It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council should renew its membership of NALC and BALC for 2022/23, and that the Council would give Cllr Cundy its full support in endeavouring to resolve the current issues. This will be reviewed in March 2023 and if the situation has not improved the Council will not renew its membership for 2023/24.

628/2022 FINCHAMPSTEAD NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN (FNDP) AND FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

The Council previously agreed to defer the development of a strategic plan pending the FNDP coming forward. The FNDP is now at a stage where the Council can look at developing a strategic plan, underpinned by the FNDP.

Cllr Cornish outlined the key areas of the NDP. Some areas are already included in the work of the Parish Council but involvement with other areas may need to be considered.

The importance of being realistic about what the Parish Council can do or influence, and what it cannot do was stressed, along with the need to recognise the limited resources available.

It was agreed that this would be a regular discussion topic at future Council meetings.

629/2022 COMMITTEE REPORTS FINANCE & GENERAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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

Financial position

- Unity Trust Bank £32,149.98
- CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund account £719,551.69
- CCLA Property Fund £25,000
- The above figures include £688,259 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts.

The schedule of payments totalling £20,728.30 was circulated to all Councillors.

The payments were approved by the Council. Cllrs Bromley and Woof agreed to authorise the electronic payments.

Other matters:

- The first stage of the Internal Audit for 2021/22 has been successfully completed.
- The annual staff appraisals are now complete.
- Salary awards for the 3 Wardens are under discussion.
- The Committee is meeting on 30 March and will be discussing grant applications, potential projects for Community Infrastructure Levy funding, support for youth work and other matters.

War Memorial relocation project

Cllr Jukes provided an update on the project.

- The Consultant is currently drawing up the tender documentation.
- As a requirement of the planning consent WBC needs to approve this documentation and it is hoped that this will not delay the project.

- Four companies are interested in tendering for the main contract. The stonemason will be a nominated sub-contractor under the main contract.
- The Finchampstead Park Management Committee is being very co-operative over practical arrangements and has nominated a single contact point going forward.
- The Working Group will be meeting on 29 March to review progress and discuss various matters.

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr McDonald reported on current matters.

- Plans for events on 2 June to mark the Platinum Jubilee are progressing.
- The closing date for nominations for the Platinum Jubilee Awards is 14 April. The Awards will be presented at the Annual Gathering on 31 May.
- The annual Community Litter Pick will take place on 3 April. This is supported by WBC and is linked to the Keep Britain Tidy Great British Spring Clean. Cllr Weeks will be leading a group covering The Village and surrounding area and a further group meeting at the FBC Centre will include volunteers from the Baptist Church, the Scout Group and the Police Cadets as well as local residents. Smaller groups and Adopt a Street volunteers are also being encouraged to take part. The local Guides and Rangers are keen to take part but on an alternative day.
- WBC has advised that it is moving forward with drawing up proposals for a potential project to improve the lakeside and nearby areas at the California Country Park.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Cundy advised that the Committee met on 16 March. Minutes of the meeting have been circulated.

- Prior to the meeting the Committee received a presentation from Barratt David Wilson Homes on a reserved matters application coming forward for 3 parcels of housing at Finchwood Park.
- The Committee considered 12 applications and submitted objections to 3 development proposals.
- 11 decision notices received from WBC were noted. All decisions were in line with the Parish Council's views.
- Details of applications considered, and decisions can be viewed here <https://www.finchampstead-pc.gov.uk/meetings/meeting-minutes>
- A new Appeal has been lodged against the refusal of permission for a dwelling on land adjoining Garden Cottage, The Ridges.
- Cllr Veitch will be attending an Appeal Hearing on 29 March relating to the Bloor Homes proposals for up to 150 dwellings and associated infrastructure on land west of Wokingham Road and east of Lower Church Road, Sandhurst.
- Cllr Marshallsay will be attending a Public Inquiry on 10 May relating to 6 Johnson Drive.

RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

Cllr Cornish reported on current matters.

- Bridlepath 26 drainage improvements. Quotes from contractors have been obtained and the proposals will be discussed with WBC at a meeting on 25 March. Subject to the outcome, the Council will be asked to consider allocating Community Infrastructure Levy funds to the project.
- Additional items to be discussed with WBC on 25 March are the cycle route to Wokingham via Sandmartins golf course, and a potential project to create a path on Fleet Hill to link FP29 and the Tally Ho. This is a joint project with the Ramblers.
- The 'missing link' between bridlepaths 26 and 34. The local branch of the British Horse Society (BHS) has undertaken a considerable amount of research to justify the reinstatement of a link between the two paths and plans to submit a Definitive Path Modification Order (DMMO) to WBC by the end of March.

ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Cllr Bromley reported on current matters.

- Two replacement traffic data recording units have now been received and are currently being set up.
- Speed watch sessions are currently on hold while arrangements are put in place to enable the sessions to comply with the requirements of the new Thames Valley Police (TVP) scheme.
- Finchampstead Speed watch is now registered for the TVP scheme; details of 15 locations have been uploaded and 7 volunteers have completed the required training. The new Sentinel Camera is due to be delivered this week.
- Discussions over the new scheme have taken place with Barkham Parish Council, and a joint meeting is planned with TVP to discuss outstanding issues and queries.
- Nine Mile Ride Primary School is undertaking a 'safety check' project at the California Crossroads and Cllr Bromley will be attending a meeting on 25 March.

Cllr Weeks advised that data on accidents across the Parish in the last 3 years may identify additional sites where traffic monitoring could be undertaken. This will be discussed by the Committee.

630/2022 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Finchampstead Park Management Committee

Cllr Weeks attended the meeting held on 21 March. Cllrs Bromley and Cundy also attended, representing the California Ratepayers Association and the Finchampstead Primary School respectively.

Several Committee members have retired or resigned including the Vice Chair and the Secretary. The Annual General Meeting will be held on 25 April and additional nominations from organisations wishing to be represented on the Committee, and from residents not representing any organisation, can be submitted. All Committee members are Management Trustees of the Finchampstead Park Charity. The Parish Council is the Custodial Trustee.

Matters discussed at the recent meeting included play area refurbishment and potential future improvements; a new website; the War Memorial relocation project; Sports Club improvement proposals including plans for new cricket nets, and Hall charging rates.

WBC Standards Board

Cllr Gurney advised that the Board will be meeting shortly and asked to be notified of any items Councillors would like the Board to consider.

631/2022 FORUM

Cllr Driver confirmed her plans to resign from the Council in 2022 and noted that the 'Parish Council report' in the monthly Finchampstead Magazine will cease unless this is taken over by another Councillor or a member of staff. Cllr McDonald confirmed that this will be considered.

632/2021 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 21 April 2022.

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

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL - PAYMENT LIST 23 MARCH 2022

UNITY TRUST BANK ACCOUNT 10/03/22			£32,149.98
CCLA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 28/02/22			£719,551.69
CCLA PROPERTY FUND 31/03/21			£25,000.00
INCLUDING CIL RECEIPTS TOTAL £688,259.10			

TOTAL FUNDS			£776,701.67
	NET	VAT	TOTAL
Outstanding payments not yet cleared			
Total payments outstanding			£0.00
Payments already approved and paid			
SSE STREET LIGHT ENERGY	26.26	1.30	27.56
BRITISH TELECOM	34.65	6.93	41.58
GOODGER - WAR MEMORIAL PROJECT	3,129.90	625.98	3,755.88
PAYMENTS MARCH 2021			
Staff costs			£9,475.06
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
CLIFTON INGRAM - LEGAL FEES. WAHS.	696.00	0.00	696.00
TAGMASTER - TRAFFIC RADAR - UNITS	5,317.00	1063.40	6,380.40
FBC CAFÉ	15.92	1.98	17.90
NALC - PRESENTATION	43.09	8.62	51.71
HEARTWOOD - TREE PLANTING	445.00	89.00	534.00
Allotment costs			
FAA SUBSCRIPTIONS X 3	30.00	0.00	30.00
Neighbourhood Development Plan costs			
NONE	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grants and contributions - subject to final approval by Council where required			
FBC YOUTH WORK JAN-MAR	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00
TOTAL MARCH PAYMENTS		£1,227.28	£20,728.30
TOTAL REMAINING			£755,973.37
MARCH PETTY CASH / CARD PAYMENTS	Net	VAT	Total
Total petty cash payments	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Card payments (Clerk)	90.01	18.00	108.01
Total Card payments (Footpath Warden)	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	£90.01	£18.00	£108.01
CARD PAYMENTS DETAIL	Net	VAT	Total
ZOOM SUBSCRIPTION	90.01	18.00	108.01
	£90.01	£18.00	£108.01