

“Zoom”

Present:	David Cornish (chair)	Graham Jukes	Roland Cundy
	Andrew Pearce	Roger Marshallsay	Allan Gibson
	Pauline Grainger		

AGENDA

To discuss further correspondence between WBC personnel and AG, DC, S Weeks, K Dagnell

Minutes and Actions

The minutes of meetings held on 14th December were approved as a true record of the meetings. Electronic copies will be passed to the Parish Clerk for uploading to website and hard copies retained for DC to sign.

- 1 DC, AG, PG meet for housekeeping exercise – amalgamate/centralise documents. Outstanding
- 2 DC prepare statement for FNDP regarding use of land at Greenacre – part build, part SANG. Outstanding

Discussion

The meeting discussed in full the communications between WBC, the actions of the Parish Council and the concerns expressed by both AG and DC – summarised as follows

DC shared an email from KD earlier today with positive affirmation on our position namely:
“I have reiterated to Steve Moore (WBC) that had the NDP team and the Parish Council known about the scale of the Rooks Nest Farm proposals prior to the recent consultation on the NDP, there is no doubt that the site allocations put forward in the Reg 14 consultation would have been different. With the addition of Rooks Nest Farm, Finchampstead now has far more potential development sites than it actually needs to have, based on the advice given by his team. SM (WBC) knows that while the Parish Council has yet to respond to the LPU consultation, its response will most certainly include comment on this, as well as objecting strongly to the Rooks Nest Farm site allocation.”

GJ commented on the correspondence received from WBC and the objectives of any meeting to take the issues forward and what we want to achieve:

- our LPU as currently set out accepted
- the green spaces they have rejected reinstated
- our strong objection to Rook’s Nest Farm recorded

RM would like to find a way to wind down the rhetoric and find a conciliatory approach and felt a meeting was a good idea. It is evident that no one wants Rook’s Nest Farm developed with both the Parish and the Finchampstead Borough councillors objecting. If we can get an agreement from WBC to drop this proposal then our plan should proceed as it stands.

AG stated he had been exceedingly upset by the emails and positions taken by the Parish Council and WBC, in particular Wayne Smith who commented that Rook’s Nest Farm was in Finchampstead in all but name. He was disappointed that the Parish Council had responded unilaterally to Steve Moore with no reference to the Steering Group. Whilst the FNDP is under the auspices of the Parish Council it is run by the Steering Group and Project Management Group and no reference was made to either before removing an article of communication from the FNDP website. He pointed out his response to SM (WBC) avoided “campaign” mode and set out facts. All correspondence between FNDP and WBC had been shared with the Parish Council but on this occasion they chose not to share this communication with the FNDP group.

AG stated we need to be clear of the issues –

- WBC did not inform us fully
- Who is in control of the FNDP website
- Would not have agreed to include 31-33 Barkham Ride in the FNDP had Rook’s Nest proposal been known

and he stated this incident had tested the relationship between the various bodies and clarity was required to move forward.

AG stressed the communication posted by the FNDP should not have been removed from the website. It was a legitimate communication from the FNDP to the residents, taken down on a complaint by WBC with no reference to anyone in the FNDP team. DC offered to draft an email/letter to SW/KD seeking clarity.

AP asked for it to be minuted that he strongly opposed a letter going to SW/KD

AG reminded the meeting that it is not the FNDP who are being confrontational but WBC.

DC and AG both responded to the WBC email in a non-confrontational manner with facts and substantiation and commented to the team that nowhere has WBC admitted that they created a problem for the FNDP team. The letters were not formal complaints so they could not be used as evidence at a later date. In a meeting DC/AG felt they would be able to substantiate all comments made to WBC and were in a strong position to negotiate with them.

RC thanked them both for the professional and thorough manner in which they responded.

DC felt the various communications in social media and on our website have cleared the FNDP of misleading the residents in terms of allocated housing and it is a WBC problem.

RM advised that the Finchampstead borough councillors are unanimous in objecting to the Rook's Nest Farm proposal and are considering how best to promote the objection.

The following meetings were noted:

6th Jan AG/DC with J Giles Bell Cornwell

11th Jan PMG

14th Jan proposed meeting with S Moore – AG, DC, SW and GJ invited

Meeting closed 15.55pm

Dates of next meetings:

DC to advise

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Date:.....

Actions

- 1 DC draft email/letter to SW/KD
- 2 Recommend to PMG the removal of 31-33 Barkham Ride as a site from FNDP
3. Prepare FNDP response to LPU and objection to Rook's Nest Farm
4. AG/DC meet with J. Giles (Bell-Cornwell) for advice
5. AG/DC ask for the FNDP statement to be reposted