

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8 JUNE 2022 AT 7PM By MS Teams video conference

PRESENT: Cllr S. Bromley, Chair; Cllr R. Cundy, Vice Chair.
Cllrs S. Bowers; G. Evans; R. Marshallsay (part) and S. Weeks (part).

K. Dagnall, Clerk.

79/2022 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr R. Margetts.

80/2022 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

81/2022 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2022 were agreed as a true record and will be signed in due course.

82/2022 MATTERS ARISING

577/2022 Street Lights / potential transfer to Wokingham Borough Council

The Parish Council has 6 lamp columns across the Parish. A joint letter was sent to Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) in December 2021 requesting that the Borough take over up to 650 lamp columns currently owned by 13 Town and Parish Councils. The Clerk is expecting an update from WBC shortly.

577/2022 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 will be installed when the California Crossroads improvement scheme is implemented, potentially in 2023. The Parish Council owned bus shelter outside the Ratepayers Hall is due to be replaced as part of this scheme.

581/2022 Parish gateways

The final gateways – on the Reading Road- have now been installed along with community speed watch area signage.

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.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

No members of the public were present.

83/2022 INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2022/23

The only expenditure from the Committee budget is £28 for the street light energy supply. The current contract is at a fixed rate until 31 December 2022.

84/2022 SPEED WATCH

Traffic volume and speed monitoring units

- Two Black Cat speed data recorders were purchased in February 2022. These replaced the former units which could no longer be used due to technical issues.
- Cllr Bromley is having difficulty with making the units operational and is seeking advice from the manufacturer.
- Approximately 20 sites were previously monitored on a rotational basis, with other sites monitored as required. It is proposed that the same system will be followed with the new units.
- Cllr Weeks suggested that accident data for the last 3 years could be used to identify additional sites for monitoring. This will be considered.

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.

It was noted that WBC has recently been promoting the use of its 6 Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) which are installed for up to 3-month periods on roads where there is an intermittent speeding problem. The promotion stated that locations are generally chosen following feedback from Town and Parish Councils, the public or community groups, although the Parish Council has not been approached in relation to this.

The WBC promotion would have been an ideal opportunity to acknowledge the extensive community speed watch activities undertaken by the Town and Parish Councils and disappointment was expressed that this opportunity was missed.

The Clerk will ask WBC to consider installing its VAS on the Lower Wokingham Road.

Speed indicator device (SID) sessions

- Roadside SID sessions ceased in January 2022, while arrangements were put in place for sessions to be run in accordance with the new requirements put in place by Thames Valley Police. This included the purchase of a Sentinel camera.
- Sessions restarted in May and four sessions have taken place to date, at Longwater Road and Nine Mile Ride east and west. A total of 72 vehicles have been recorded exceeding the speed limit.
- Six Councillors and two resident volunteers have now completed the training. Information has been circulated to other former speed watch volunteers who have not yet come forward. It was noted that only two people per session are required as the camera now captures some data previously recorded by hand.
- Thames Valley Police now provides insurance cover for the equipment and volunteers during community speed watch sessions. However, the Parish Council should still have a risk assessment in place – Cllr Bromley and the Clerk will review the current risk assessment and update as necessary.
- The SID will be displayed at the Parish Council stall at the Village fete on 18 June. It was agreed that the sentinel camera would not be taken to the event but that its use during speed watch sessions would be explained to interested parties.

85/2022 ROAD SAFETY ISSUES

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. The Clerk is seeking an update on the current position.

There has been no progress with the following:

- Potential crossing on Lower Wokingham Road
- Improvements to the crossing on the Finchampstead Road near Church Lane – it is uncertain if there is a solution to the poor sight lines at this location. It was noted that the overgrown verges compound the issue.

86/2022 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 or obscured road signs, encroaching vegetation, potholes or footway condition should continue to be reported to WBC using its online reporting system.

Cllr Cundy has looked for companies who could 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.

A contractor has been identified who could undertake the work on a rolling monthly contract, but after discussion it was agreed not to proceed with this.

It was agreed that problems should continue to be reported, and WBC encouraged to improve maintenance. Dashcam footage could be used to capture images of issues for reporting to WBC, along with the specific location. Involvement of the Neighbourhood Action Group members could be considered.

It was noted that WBC Cllr C. Margetts, representing Finchampstead North, is now the Shadow Executive Member for Active Travel, Transport and Highways.

Commonfield Lane

The condition of the Lane is a concern, particularly the informal passing points. WBC has advised that it will be undertaking improvements to the Lane and passing bays, but the timescale is unknown.

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 when The Ridges re-opens to traffic and the Roads revert to their normal level of use.

The Ridges B3348

WBC has advised that remedial works will start on 7 July with an expected duration of 10 weeks.

Road improvements and other works

- Fleet Hill B3348 resurfacing 7 - 10 June.
- Barkham Ride (Nashgrove Lane- Finchampstead Road) Traffic lights for South East Water works 7-15 June.
- Finchampstead Road resurfacing 30 June - 10 July.
- Jerrymoor Hill resurfacing – date to be confirmed.

No other works are showing on the WBC programme for 2022/23 as of 17 May 2022.

87/2022 LARGE PROJECT UPDATES

Nine Mile Ride Extension

The new road is now almost complete and due to be fully open this summer.

It was agreed that WBC should be asked if a Parish gateway and / community speed watch area sign could be installed. Cllr Bromley will mark up a map with the potential location and the Clerk will follow this up with WBC.

California Crossroads: Implementation of the improvement scheme was deferred from 2021 and is currently expected to take place from summer 2023.

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, in due course. Any rights of access to the rear of the shops and businesses will need to be considered.

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.

The Avery Corner Car Park continues to be heavily used, with staff from Nine Mile Ride Primary School and the Day Nursery / Pre School taking up a number of spaces. The Chef Peking / Xenuk restaurants previously permitted day time use of their parking areas, but the residential development at the Xenuk restaurant may change this, putting additional pressure on the Avery Corner Car Park. This will continue to be monitored.

WBC has now removed one bottle bank from the Avery Corner car park, releasing one parking space. WBC continues to monitor the banks as the recently introduced mixed collection may allow a further bank to be removed.

88/2022 INCIDENT REPORTS

- Accident at the War Memorial junction B3348 / B3016 on 27 May 2022 involving two cars.

89/2022 FORUM

- The Parish Council's Road Safety Information leaflet has been updated and will be circulated for comments.
- A request to extend the double yellow lines at the junction of Gorse Ride North and Arnett Avenue to improve sight lines was submitted to WBC in September 2021.

90/2022 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 5 October 2022.

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

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

MINUTE REFERENCE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)
82/2022	Potential lamp column transfer to WBC. Monitor progress.	Clerk
82/2022	New bus shelters on Nine Mile Ride – continue to	Clerk

	follow up lighting issue	
82/2022	Continue to monitor progress with planned installation of new and replacement bus shelters nr Ratepayers Hall	Clerk
84/2022	Traffic monitoring locations – consider comparing these with accident data to identify any additional sites.	
84/2022	Ask WBC to put VAS on Lower Wokingham Road ? and Range Road	Clerk
84/2022	Roadside speed watch sessions Review Risk assessment	SPB/Clerk
85/2022	Maintain contact with Barkham PC re Biggs Lane crossing	Clerk
86/2022	Sign cleaning – notify company that FPC will not be proceeding	Clerk/RC
86/2022	Dirty/missing/broken/obscured signs – continue to report issues and encourage WBC to address these. Consider involving NAG in collating and reporting issues	All SPB
87/2022	California Crossroads improvements – maintain contact with WBC	Clerk
87/2022	Potential parking at the Co-op – consider rights of access. Arrange meeting with Co-op and property owner.	SPB
	Parish online details to GE	Clerk
	Follow up with WBC Gateway – NMR nr junction with Sandhurst Road / Lower Wokingham Road Gateway / community speed watch signage on NMRE SPB to produce a plan Lower Wokingham Road crossing (Church Lane crossing) Lower Sandhurst Road / Dell Road reinstatement Timescale for Commonfield Lane works	<i>Clerk</i> SPB