

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD AT 7 PM ON WEDNESDAY 22 JUNE 2022 BY MICROSOFT TEAMS VIDEO CONFERENCING

PRESENT: Cllr S. McDonald, Chair.
Cllrs E. Biskup; G. Evans; B Eytle; S. Gurney; A. Pearce (part) & G.Veitch.

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

116/2022 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr S. Bowers.

117/2022 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

118/2022 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2022 were approved as a true record and will be signed in due course.

119/2022 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

Public Participation Session

No members of the public were present.

120/2022 INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2022/23

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

121/2022 PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022

An update was presented at Main Council on 16 June 2022. Positive feedback was received from the community for the Platinum Jubilee events that took place on 2 June, for the regal decorations made by the Barkham Hookers and from the recipients of the Platinum Jubilee Awards.

The 4 trees planted in early 2022 need to be recorded under the Queen's Green Canopy Scheme. An Oak tree will be planted near St James' Church later in the year to mark the Platinum Jubilee, subject to availability and permission from the Parochial Church Council.

The Committee discussed the benefits of recognising residents who have significantly contributed to the community. The following was agreed: a letter should be sent to those nominated for the Platinum Jubilee Award; the Finchampstead Society should be contacted to offer support in promoting the Jones Trophy; the Parish Council should informally recognise residents who make a significant contribution to the community. A proposal will be drawn up and circulated.

122/2022 LITTER WASTE AND RECYCLING

Information on the work of the two part time Litter Wardens carried out from April 2022 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 TOTAL	496	750	465
2022/23 TO DATE	85	127	77

One of the Litter Wardens has left this month. As an interim measure, our remaining Litter Warden will be covering some of the worst roads, within his normal working hours.

Adopt a Street

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

The next stage is to develop closer links with Wokingham Borough Council as it has Finchampstead residents signed up to its own scheme, and these residents may prefer to collect supplies locally. It will also be helpful to know which roads in the Parish are being covered.

123/2022 ALLOTMENTS Finchampstead Allotments

An update was provided on the allotments. There have been several new applications in May and June.

The 10th Anniversary of the site is in September 2022. The Allotment Association will be holding an event for tenants.

Future sites

Finchwood Park site – WBC is expected to be in touch soon regarding a meeting to discuss the delivery of the new site. As agreed at Main Council the Clerk will be contacting WBC about reconvening the Strategic Development Location Steering Group. The new allotment sites should be included as a topic for discussion.

124/2022 UPDATES ON OTHER MATTERS California Country Park

Potential land purchase

The complications of any potential purchase of land adjacent to the Park and the subsequent responsibility of management of the land was discussed. A Working Group including Cllr. Veitch, Cllr. Evans and the Clerk is to be set up to assess the viability of any land purchase and to look at alternative ways of funding the project. The Forestry Commission and other organisations could be contacted about potential grants for such projects.

Lakefront / Wishing Well area improvements

WBC has committed to draw up an outline scheme for the lakefront and the wishing well area. A meeting is being arranged for late July to discuss the draft proposals. A joint meeting of Town and Parish Councils will then be arranged to discuss the scheme and funding.

Tree related projects

Future tree planting plans

There has been no further progress with WBC regarding suggested planting at Warren Wood and locations for street tree planting.

There is no more room for further planting at Burnmoor Meadow. It was agreed that all Committee members should look for potential sites for further planting.

Wellingtonia Avenue

92 of the 112 trees have now been surveyed and the survey reports plus a covering report have been circulated to residents.

It was agreed that a seminar should be arranged in the autumn 2022 or spring 2023 for the tree owners and could include presentations on the value of the Avenue as a national asset and the responsibility residents have in protecting the trees. The event could provide an opportunity for owners to speak to tree professionals. Cllr Veitch and the Clerk will progress this.

Finchwood Oak

A plaque will be installed on the tree. It is the 8000th tree surveyed by Wokingham District Veteran Tree Association.

Cemex Woodland

No further news has been received on the clearance of old guards and derelict fencing and this is now in the hands of Cemex UK Ltd.

Wokingham Borough Council tree projects

Wokingham Borough Tree Strategy – a consultant was due to be appointed in February 2022 with the draft strategy published in July 2022. There has been no further news on this. WBC has apparently agreed to appoint two people to monitor trees on development sites.

Hanging baskets

There are 11 summer baskets at the California crossroads.

Defibrillators and first aid training

All units are in good order and continue to be regularly checked.

First Aid Training for the Finchampstead community has been arranged to take place on 20 October 2022.

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. Former Councillor Mrs Driver has researched some suitable information. This will be progressed when resources are available.

125/2022 FORUM

Cllr Eytel advised that discussions are continuing between Crest Nicholson, WBC and the Finchampstead Baptist Church over the provision and running of the Community Centre in Arborfield.

126/2022 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be held on 26 October 2022,

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

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS 22 JUNE 2022

MINUTE REFERENCE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)
121/2022	Register trees for the Queens Green Canopy scheme	Clerk/Deputy Clerk
121/2022	Oak tree to be planted near Church, investigate availability, and obtain permission from PCC	Clerk
121/2022	Letters to be sent out to all those nominated for the Platinum Jubilee Award	Deputy Clerk
121/2022	Contact Finchampstead Society to offer support in promoting Jones Trophy	Clerk/Deputy Clerk
121/2022	Draft and circulated a pro forma letter to recognise residents making significant contributions to the community.	Deputy Clerk
122/2022	Adopt a Street – liaise with WBC to align schemes	Deputy Clerk
122/2022	Progress vacancy for Litter warden	Clerk
123/2022	Contact WBC about reconvening SDL Steering Group Include new allotment sites as agenda item	Clerk
124/2022	Look into opportunities for tree planting / continue to liaise with WBC over planting of street trees and at Warren Wood	Clerk/All
124/2022	Update from WBC on proposed Tree Strategy	Clerk
124/2022	California Country Park – potential land purchase Form a working group	Clerk/GV/GE
124/2022	Arrange a seminar for tree owners – autumn 2022 / spring 2023	Clerk/GV
124/2022	Progress the lake front project	Clerk
124/2022	First aid / defibrillator training session – promotion of the event	Deputy Clerk/ Planning Committee Clerk
124/2022	Telephone box – progress plans when resources allow	Clerk/Deputy Clerk