

## FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5 OCTOBER 2022 AT 7PM By MS Teams video conference

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PRESENT: Cllr S. Bromley, Chair; Cllr R. Cundy, Vice Chair.  
Cllrs S. Bowers; R. Margetts.

K. Dagnall, Clerk.

#### **196/2022 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Marshallsay and Weeks.

#### **197/2022 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were received.

#### **198/2022 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2022 were agreed as a true record and will be signed in due course.

#### **199/2022 MATTERS ARISING**

##### **82/2022 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 will follow this up with WBC.

##### **82/2022 Bus shelters**

The new bus shelters installed on Nine Mile Ride in August 2018 are still not illuminated. Cllr Margetts will follow this up with WBC.

The bus shelter due to be installed on the Finchampstead Road opposite the California Ratepayers Hall in August 2020 will be installed (subject to space) 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. The Clerk has asked WBC to consider a shelter with a green roof for this location.

##### **86/2022 Road condition issues / sign cleaning**

Further to discussion at the previous meeting the Clerk has advised the company which quoted for the work that the Council will not be going ahead with the project.

##### **89/2022 Road safety information leaflet**

The updated leaflet is now published and in circulation.

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

No members of the public were present.

#### **200/2022 INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2022/23**

The only expenditure from the Committee budget is £168 for the street light energy supply. The current contract is at a fixed rate until 31 December 2022.

## **201/2022 Budget proposals for 2023/24**

The following budget proposal was agreed:

Street light maintenance	£250
Street light energy supply	£500
Road safety improvements	£1000
SDR/SID maintenance	£250

It was noted that larger items and projects are likely to be covered by Community Infrastructure Levy funds.

## **202/2022 SPEED WATCH**

### **Traffic volume and speed monitoring units**

- Two Black Cat speed data recorders were purchased in February 2022. Cllr Bromley is having difficulty with making the units operational and the manufacturer/supplier is unable to assist.

It was agreed that Cllr Bromley would ask Cllr Evans if he could assist. It was agreed that if the issues cannot be resolved by 31 January 2023 the units should be returned to the supplier for a refund.

### **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.

WBC has 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 Clerk will ask WBC to consider installing it's 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. Sessions restarted in May 2022.
- Cllrs Bromley and Cundy have liaised with the supplier of the Sentinel camera and have identified the reason why not all data is being captured – this relates to the positioning of the camera and the SID itself. Measures will be put in place to resolve this.
- Several volunteers have stood down. Cllr Bromley will contact the remaining volunteers about the latest rota as more help is needed.
- Concerns were raised over potentially having to cancel sessions over the winter period due to inclement weather, making it inappropriate for volunteers to stand by the roadside.
- Cllr Bromley and the Clerk will review the current risk assessment and update as necessary.

### **Equipment for volunteers:**

Volunteers currently wear branded hi vis vests during sessions. However, as sessions are no longer run from within a vehicle, consideration is being given to providing volunteers with warm / weatherproof clothing.

The Clerk will circulate details of the options for comments.

### **203/2022 ROAD SAFETY ISSUES**

**Lower Wokingham Road** – there has been no progress with the potential crossing. WBC had agreed to investigate the proposal.

**Finchampstead Road near Church Lane junction** – this has been raised with WBC several times in recent years, but no action has been taken to resolve the sight line issue for pedestrians crossing the road. It has recently been raised again and WBC is now looking into possible solutions.

### **Biggs Lane pedestrian crossing**

Barkham Parish Council is now leading on the project to install a crossing by Hazebrouck Meadows. There is no progress to report.

A toucan crossing (for pedestrians and cyclists) is being installed further west on Biggs Lane. Traffic lights are also being installed this autumn.

### **Arnett Avenue/ Gorse Ride North**

A request for double yellow lines at the junction was submitted to WBC in September 2021.

### **Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO's)**

Cllr Margetts advised that TRO notifications had been received confirming that double yellow lines will be installed at the junctions of Carolina Place and St. James' Road with Barkham Ride, and at Longwater Lane to the rear of the Greyhound car park.

### **204/2022 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.

The Clerk has recently submitted a blanket report for the stretch of Finchampstead Road, southbound, from the gateway signs to the Barkham Ride junction. Numerous signs on this stretch are obscured by vegetation. WBC has acknowledged the issue and said that action will be taken. If this is followed through, the same approach could be taken with other stretches of road with multiple issues.

### **Commonfield Lane**

The condition of the Lane is a concern, particularly the informal passing points. WBC has said 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. WBC has committed to undertaking repair and reinstatement when The Ridges re-opens to traffic and the Roads revert to their normal level of use. Cllr Margetts advised that the works will not take place until early 2023.

### **The Ridges B3348**

The remedial works are underway and are expected to be completed in November 2022.

### **White Horse Lane**

Concerns have been raised by residents about the increased use of White Horse Lane as a short cut when The Ridges re-opens. WBC is currently looking at measures to discourage use of the Lane.

#### **Road improvements and other works**

The poor road surface condition at the Barkham Ride roundabout and the California Crossroads was noted. The Clerk has reported this to WBC.

No surfacing works in Finchampstead are showing on the WBC programme for 2022/23 as of 29 September 2022.

The water leak on the Finchampstead Road was noted. This has been reported to South East Water.

Potholes on the Finchampstead Road between Spring Gardens and Warren Lane, northbound, have been reported to WBC.

#### **205/2022 LARGE PROJECT UPDATES**

##### **Nine Mile Ride Extension**

The new road is due to be fully open this month. Cllr Margetts advised that the road was due to be open in advance of the start of the school term and its ongoing closure is causing significant traffic issues, and that she will be contacting WBC over this.

The Clerk will ask WBC if a Parish gateway and a community speed watch area sign could be installed close to the Reading Road roundabout.

**California Crossroads:** Implementation of the improvement scheme was deferred from 2021 and is currently expected to take place from summer 2023, with preliminary drainage works around easter 2023.

Concerns were expressed over the recent media release by WBC, which was misleading and caused confusion among local residents. The need to provide appropriate and up to date information to residents and stakeholders was agreed, particularly in view of the time which has passed since the consultation and the following publication of the agreed plans.

WBC has told the Clerk that the Working Group will be reconvened at an appropriate stage. The Clerk will follow this up and request a meeting of the Group as soon as possible.

##### **Parking at the crossroads**

The potential for creating additional parking on land adjacent to the Co-op is being looked in to. The property owner has given approval in principle and the next stage is to arrange a site meeting with the Co-op, the lessee. Cllr Bromley will progress this.

The problem of shop and business staff parking in the bays at the front of the shops persists. WBC has stated that it 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 has reduced the space available. In addition, several bays have been out of use since September due to their use in connection

with works at Nine Mile Ride School, but this is due to be completed by 10 October when the bays will again be available.

**South Wokingham Distributor Road**

The final section of this Road, linking through to the Finchampstead Road near the Tesco superstore, is not due to be implemented for at least 3 years. However, there may be some interim work at the Molly Millars Lane junction.

**Junction of the B3348 and B3016 – former ‘War Memorial junction’**

The War Memorial Working Group is continuing discussions with WBC, with funding and timescale for the implementation of any improvements still to be confirmed. WBC will be undertaking traffic monitoring when The Ridges and the Nine Mile Ride Extension are open, to inform its proposals for the redesign of the junction.

**206/2022 INCIDENT REPORTS**

There were no reports.

**207/2022 FORUM**

No matters were raised.

**208/2022 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting will be confirmed in due course.

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

**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS – Roads & Road Safety 5 October 2022**

MINUTE REFERENCE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)
199/2022	Potential lamp column transfer to WBC. Seek update from WBC.	Clerk
199/2022	New bus shelters on Nine Mile Ride – continue to follow up lighting issue	Clerk / RJM
199/2022	Continue to monitor progress with planned installation of new and replacement bus shelters nr Ratepayers Hall, including provision of a green roof	Clerk
202/2022	Traffic monitoring units – Contact GE to seek assistance. If issues not resolved by 31 January 2023, return units for a refund.	SPB SPB/KD
202/2022	If / when traffic monitoring units are operational. Review former 20 locations. Consider comparing these with accident data to identify any additional sites.	
202/2022	Ask WBC to put VAS on Lower Wokingham Road	Clerk
202/2022	Roadside speed watch sessions Contact volunteers re latest rota Review Risk assessment	SPB SPB/Clerk
202/2022	Volunteer equipment – circulate jacket details for comments Check on use of Thames Valley police logo	Clerk SPB
203/2022	Maintain contact with Barkham PC re Biggs Lane crossing by Hazebrouck	Clerk

204/2022	Contact WBC over road surface at Barkham Ride and California Crossroads roundabouts Refs W2241908 and W2241909. 5/10/22	Clerk
204/2022	Dirty/missing/broken/obscured signs – continue to report issues and encourage WBC to address these. Monitor whether works are undertaken on Finchampstead Road	All Clerk
205/2022	NMRE opening – follow up with WBC	RJM
205/2022	California Crossroads improvements – ask WBC to reconvene Working Group and to arrange an early meeting	Clerk
205/2022	Potential parking at the Co-op – consider rights of access. Arrange meeting with Co-op.	SPB
	<p><b>Follow up with WBC/ monitor progress</b></p> <p>TRO / Parking Order at California Crossroads</p> <p>Gateway – NMR nr junction with Sandhurst Road / Lower Wokingham Road</p> <p>Gateway / community speed watch signage on NMRE</p> <p>Lower Wokingham Road crossing</p> <p>Finchampstead Road / Church Lane crossing</p> <p>Lower Sandhurst Road / Dell Road reinstatement</p> <p>Commonfield Lane works</p> <p>White Horse Lane works</p>	Clerk