

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30 PM ON 19 OCTOBER 2022 AT THE FBC CENTRE, GORSE RIDE NORTH, FINCHAMPSTEAD

PRESENT: Councillor S. Weeks, Chair. Councillor S. Bromley, Vice Chair.
Councillors S. Bowers; R. Cundy; D. Cornish; G. Evans; B. Eytley;
G. Jukes OBE; R. Margetts; R. Marshallsay; A. Pearce; G. Veitch & R. Woof.

K. Dagnall, Clerk.

232/2022 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors S. Gurney, S. McDonald and C. Mortimer.

234/2022 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Non pecuniary declarations of interest were received as follows:

Cllr Bromley: California Ratepayers Association; Finchampstead Park Management Committee.

Cllr Cundy: California Ratepayers Association; Finchampstead Park Management Committee;
Finchampstead Primary School.

Cllr Margetts: Nine Mile Ride Primary School.

Cllr Weeks: Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership; Finchampstead Park Management Committee.

Cllr Woof: Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership.

235/2022 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 20 July 2022 were agreed as a true and correct record and were signed by the Chair.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

Three members of the public attended to observe the meeting.

236/2022 CHAIRS REPORT

- Cllr Biskup has stood down from the Council. The Notice of Vacancy will be published shortly.
- As already advised, the Deputy Clerk has resigned and will be leaving the Council on 27 October. The post will be readvertised as soon as possible.
- Wokingham Area Housing Society (WAHS): As previously reported to the Council, WAHS had expressed interest in transferring some or all of its assets to the Parish Council. However, after investigation it was found that this was not possible within the rules of the Charity or the legislation governing the Parish Council. WAHS has now decided to transfer its cash assets to Berkshire Women's Aid, and WAHS itself will be officially closed this autumn.
- Boundary Commission review: The current consultation asking for views on future Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) ward boundaries closes on 7 November. It was agreed that Cllrs Cornish, Pearce and Woof and the Clerk would collate a response.
- Finchwood Park Community Event: The WBC Community Development team is organising this event on 27 October and the Parish Council has been invited to attend. My Journey Wokingham, the Arborfield Leisure Centre, St. Eligius Church and Involve will be attending.

- The repair work to The Ridges is progressing well and the road is likely to be open in mid-November.

237/2022 PROJECT AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Finchampstead Neighbourhood Development Plan (FNDP)

The 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 Plan has been submitted to WBC and on 29 September the WBC Executive agreed to proceed to the next stages.
- The Regulation 16 public consultation, led by WBC, is now underway and runs to 23 November. WBC has submitted a formal request to appoint an independent examiner.
- It is hoped that the Referendum will take place in early 2023.
- Cllr Marshallsay advised that Locality had indicated that a grant of £1000 may be available to assist with further costs.
- A meeting of the Steering Group will be arranged to discuss funding requirements and promotion of the Referendum.
- Cllr Weeks congratulated Cllr Cornish and other Councillors involved with the project, as well as local residents on the Team, for their achievements in reaching this stage with the Plan.

Gorse Ride regeneration

- Cllr Bowers advised that the Steering Group continues to meet monthly.
- Wates Construction commenced building work on Phase 2A in early September, the 'ground breaking' event is taking place in late October, Cllr Bowers will be attending.
- Implementation of Phases 2A and 2B is likely to take around 5 years.
- The Contractor's 'site village' is in place and will have a defibrillator. When the development is complete this unit will be made available for community use.

Arborfield Strategic Development Location (Arborfield Green and Finchwood Park)

- Cllrs Bromley and Evans attended a recent presentation on the planned sports facilities and infrastructure at Arborfield Green. The Arborfield Aces football team has expressed concerns over the parking provision.

238/2022 WAR MEMORIAL RELOCATION PROJECT

Cllr Jukes advised that the Memorial is now in place in its new location by the Memorial Park. The landscape works are underway, and the stonemason will be returning to complete minor repairs and the installation of the sword.

A progress meeting will be held on 24 October and project completion is expected next week.

The reinstatement of the former Memorial site is in hand and will be completed before the contractor working on The Ridges leaves site.

Plans for the Remembrance Parade and Service on Sunday 13 November at 3pm are in place. Those involved with the organisation of the event, including representatives from the Uniformed Groups, the Parochial Church Council and the Parish Council, will have a site meeting to agree practical arrangements for the event.

239/2022 TO CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FINANCE & GENERAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

A report was circulated to Councillors in advance of the meeting.

Changes to Ear Marked Reserves

The recommendations of the Committee, reference minute 162/2022 of the meeting of the Committee held on 27 July 2022 were accepted by the Council.

Appointment of an internal auditor for 2022/23

The Committee recommended the re appointment of Claire Connell as the Internal Auditor for the Council for 2022/23. This was agreed by the Council.

Award of grants to local organisations and initiatives

The following grants recommended by the Committee were approved by the Council.

Organisation/project	Grant
Citizens Advice	£3500
First Days	£1000
Gorse Ride Community after school drop in	£400 (to be funded by CIL)
Growing Places	£725
Me2 Club	£750
Wokingham Job Support Centre	£1000
Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership	£4000

A decision on an application from Keep Mobile was deferred pending further consideration of the application by the Finance & General Management Committee at its next meeting.

Award of donations to local schools, community halls and churchyard

The following donations recommended by the Committee were approved by the Council.

Category	Organisation	Donation
Halls	California Ratepayers Hall	£1200
	Memorial Hall	£500
Churchyards	St James' Churchyard	£800
Schools	Nine Mile Ride Primary	£3077
	Gorse Ride Infants	£1284
	Gorse Ride Junior	£1862
	Finchampstead Primary	£952

Provisional allocations from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds

War Memorial junction improvements

Cllr Jukes summarised the purpose of CIL funds received in connection with local development, namely to ensure appropriate infrastructure is in place to address the demands that any new development places on the Parish. The high level of traffic already passing the junction was noted, and the increase in the volume of traffic that the planned development in the Parish and surrounding Parishes will bring in the coming years.

The emerging Finchampstead Neighbourhood Development plan acknowledges the concerns expressed by residents about traffic and getting about, and includes clear policies and statements of intent relating to making the road network safe and ensuring the required infrastructure is in place.

Cllr Jukes advised that, as previously reported to the Parish Council, the Council's War Memorial Working Group has been in discussion with WBC over the potential improvements to the junction. Concept designs have been drawn up and the preferred option selected by the WBC Highways Department has been costed at an estimated £300,000. WBC is unlikely to be able to contribute

more than around £20,000 as the junction is not a priority for improvement in comparison to other junctions in the Borough.

The Finance & General Management Committee discussed the project at its meeting on 13 October 2022 and agreed that a provisional allocation of a maximum of £300,000 would be recommended to the Parish Council.

The Parish Council agreed that a provisional sum of a maximum of £300,000 should be allocated to the project. This allocation is subject to the Parish Council approving the final scheme which will be prepared by the WBC Highways Department in due course, and the cost of the project.

Cllrs Evans and Margetts abstained from the vote. Cllr Margetts requested further clarification of the funding available from the Borough Council.

240/2022 COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE & GENERAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Woof reported on the financial position of the Council, the meeting held on 13 October and current matters.

Financial position

- Unity Trust Bank £191,042,88
- CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund account £1,004,280.14
- CCLA Property Fund £25,000
- The above figures include £1,036,451 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts.

The schedule of payments totalling £71,628.01 was circulated to all Councillors. This included the grants and donations authorised under agenda item 239/2022 above.

Cllrs Weeks and Woof agreed to authorise the electronic payments.

Other matters

- Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 13 October have been circulated.
- Cllrs McDonald and Woof and the Clerk have met representatives from the FBC to discuss the youth activities provided by the FBC and how the Parish Council's contribution towards the activities is utilised. The FBC will now be providing regular reports on the activities, and meetings with the FBC will continue.
- Larger grant applications have been received from the Gorse Ride Schools, Finchampstead Primary School and the Finchampstead Sports Club. These are supported in principle by the Committee but further information is required before they can be fully considered and a recommendation made to the Council.
- Current authorised signatories are Cllrs Bromley, Cundy, Veitch, Weeks and Woof. Cllr Jukes is in the process of becoming a signatory.

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr Bowers reported on current matters.

- California Country Park – a presentation on proposals for the lakefront has been circulated. A formal bid for a financial contribution towards the project is expected from WBC this month.
- California Country Park – concerns have been raised over vegetation clearance alongside the boundary of the Chalet Park, and the installation of a fence. This is being looked into by WBC.
- Defibrillators – 'defib finder' apps and websites have been investigated and this will be discussed by the Committee at its meeting on 26 October.
- A first aid / defibrillator training session has been arranged for 20 October and is fully booked.

- WBC has launched a consultation on proposed changes to waste and recycling collections. The Committee will discuss a response at its meeting on 26 October.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Cundy reported on current matters.

- Minutes of the meeting held on 12 October have been circulated.
- 22 planning applications were considered, with objections submitted for five applications.
- 14 decisions made by WBC were reported, all but one were in line with the Committee's views.
- Details of 6 new Tree Preservation Orders have been received, including one as a result of an application submitted by the Parish Council for a woodland off Tintagel Road.
- There are no new Appeals. Decisions on the Appeals relating to land to the rear of 240 Nine Mile Ride, and a proposed development in Sandhurst have not been issued to date.

RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

Cllr Cornish reported on current matters.

- The diversion of Footpath 1 in the west of the Parish, proposed by the Ramblers and the landowner, was agreed by WBC and the Parish Council. Three stiles on the route have now been replaced with kissing gates, creating a stile free route from Forge Lane to Church Lane, Farley Hill. One of the gates has been funded by the Parish Council.
- Further progress has been made with the new circular walk including Crowthorne.
- Bridlepath 26 drainage improvements – there has been some progress with WBC over arrangements for the path closure which is required to enable the works to go ahead.
- Rooks Nest access improvements – WBC has agreed that the project can go ahead and will be confirming details including a proposed statement for publication and circulation.
- A response was submitted to the WBC consultation on the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.

ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Cllr Bromley reported on current matters.

- Minutes of the meeting held on 5 October have been circulated.
- An issue with the Sentinel Camera used at speed watch sessions has been resolved with the help of the supplier.
- The new traffic monitoring units are proving difficult to set up and are not yet in use. Further advice is being sought.
- Community Speed watch sessions are continuing subject to volunteer availability and to the weather. Further volunteers are needed as several have stood down, two potential volunteers have expressed interest, but more are required.
- Concerns have been raised over the ongoing delay with opening the Nine Mile Ride Extension. Cllr Margetts has followed this up with WBC and the delay is due to legal issues between the landowner and WBC. It was agreed that the Clerk would draft a letter to the WBC Chief Executive.
- Cllr Jukes noted that the use of White Horse Lane as a short cut is likely to increase when The Ridges re-opens. The Clerk confirmed that the WBC Highways Department is currently looking at measures to discourage its use as a cut through.

241/2022 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Borough Parish Liaison Forum – 23 August 2022

Cllr Cundy was re-elected Vice Chair of the Forum; the new Chair is WBC Cllr Smith. The main topics covered at the meeting were a review of the Terms of Reference for the Forum, and a presentation from the Electoral Commission on the Wokingham ward boundary review.

Cllr Cundy and Cllr Smith will be meeting to discuss ways of ensuring the Forum becomes more effective and has greater attendance.

Finchampstead Park Management Committee

Cllr Bromley advised that the Memorial Hall bookings are returning to pre pandemic levels. Various maintenance and other matters relating to the Park and the Hall are in hand.

FBC Advisory Board – 3 October 2022

Cllr Cundy reported that the Board received an update on the youth activities provided by the FBC. Improved signage to and additional parking for the Centre continue to be looked into, as do repair and maintenance issues.

242/2022 FORUM

- Cllr Weeks reminded Councillors of the Parish Council lunch to be held on 8 December.
- Cllr Jukes suggested that as the Finchwood Park development progresses it would be appropriate to hold some Council meetings in that part of the Parish, provided a suitable venue is available.
- Cllr Evans was congratulated on the successful event organised in the summer, raising £12,000 for the Stevens-Johnson syndrome charity.
- Cllr Bowers advised that Simon Price, the WBC Assistant Director for Housing, will be leaving WBC this month.

243/2022 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 17 November 2022.

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

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL - PAYMENT LIST 19 October 2022

UNITY TRUST BANK ACCOUNT 10/10/22			£191,042.88
CCLA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 30/09/22			£1,004,280.14
CCLA PROPERTY FUND 31/03/22			£25,000.00
INCLUDING CIL RECEIPTS TOTAL £1,036,451			
TOTAL FUNDS			£1,220,323.02
	NET	VAT	TOTAL
Outstanding payments not yet cleared			
			0.00
Total payments outstanding			£0.00
Payments already approved and paid			
CASTLE WATER (ALLOTMENTS)	514.03	102.80	616.83
PAYMENTS OCTOBER 2022			
Staff costs			
Total staff costs	£8,405.77		£8,405.77
Other costs			
ASAP COMPUTER SERVICES - IT SUPPORT	258.20	51.64	309.84
MICROSHADE- REMOTE HOSTING	77.20	15.44	92.64

WEB MARKETING MATTERS	157.55	31.51	189.06
SSE STREET LIGHT ENERGY	29.17	1.45	30.62
BRITISH TELECOM - TELEPHONE/BROADBAND	47.68	9.53	57.21
FBC CAFÉ CHARGES	39.90	8.00	47.90
GOODGER DESIGN (WAR MEMORIAL FEES)	2,864.25	572.85	3,437.10
WORTHY GROUP -WAR MEMORIAL PROJECT (3)	28,248.23	5649.65	33,897.87
LODDON VALLEY RAMBLERS - KISSING GATE	640.00	0.00	640.00
Allotment costs			
FAA SUBSCRIPTIONS X 87	870.00	0.00	870.00
Neighbourhood Development Plan costs			
NONE			
Grants and contributions - subject to final approval by Council where required			
FBC YOUTH WORK JULY - SEPTEMBER	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00
GRANT - CITIZENS ADVICE	3,500.00	0.00	3,500.00
GRANT - FIRST DAYS	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
GRANT - GROWING PLACES	725.00	0.00	725.00
GRANT - ME2 CLUB	750.00	0.00	750.00
GRANT - WOKINGHAM JOB SUPPORT CENTRE	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
GRANT - BLACKWATER VALLEY PARTNERSHIP	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00
DONATION - CALIFORNIA RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00
DONATION - FPMC / MEMORIAL HALL	500.00	0.00	500.00
DONATION - ST JAMES' CHURCHYARD	800.00	0.00	800.00
DONATION - NINE MILE RIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL	3,077.00	0.00	3,077.00
DONATION - GORSE RIDE INFANTS SCHOOL	1,284.00	0.00	1,284.00
DONATION - GORSE RIDE JUNIOR SCHOOL	1,862.00	0.00	1,862.00
DONATION - FINCHAMPSTEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL	952.00	0.00	952.00
TOTAL OCTOBER PAYMENTS	44,637.95	£6,340.07	£71,628.01
TOTAL REMAINING			£1,144,695.01
OCTOBER PETTY CASH / CARD PAYMENTS	Net	VAT	Total
TOTAL CARD PAYMENTS (CLERK)	148.95	14.66	163.61
TOTAL CARD PAYMENTS (FOOTPATH WARDEN)	15.00	3.00	18.00
TOTAL	£163.95	£17.66	£181.61
CARD PAYMENTS DETAIL	Net	VAT	Total
DOCKING STATION / STATIONERY	83.73	16.75	100.48
PARKING	1.67	0.33	2.00
OFFICE THERMOMETER	9.21	1.85	11.06
LITTER WARDEN KIT (PICKER)	16.66	3.33	19.99
LITTER WARDEN KIT (HOOP)	13.32	2.66	15.98
NALC COMMUNICATIONS EVENT - GE	32.44	6.49	38.93
ETSY - 12 NO. REMEMBRANCE POPPIES	75.65	0.00	75.65
FOOTPATH WARDEN - FUEL	15.00	3.00	18.00

	£163.95	£34.41	£282.09
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