

## FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD AT 7 PM ON WEDNESDAY 26 OCTOBER 2022 BY MICROSOFT TEAMS VIDEO CONFERENCING

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**PRESENT:** Cllr S. McDonald, Chair. Cllr S. Bowers, Vice Chair.  
Cllrs S. Gurney (part); A. Pearce & G. Veitch.

K. Dagnall, Clerk.

#### **244/2022 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr B. Eyle.

#### **245/2022 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were received.

#### **246/2022 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2022 were approved as a true record and will be signed in due course.

#### **247/2022 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

##### **121/2022 Platinum Jubilee**

The four trees planted for the Jubilee need to be registered for the Queen's Green Canopy scheme.

The Finchampstead Society will be contacted with an offer to promote the Jones' Trophy.

A proposal will be drawn up for a scheme to informally recognise residents who have made a significant contribution to the community.

The sum of £5000 had provisionally been allocated for a gift for the children in the community, it was hoped this could be used at the FBC playing fields play area. However, the refurbishment of the play area is not being progressed by Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) due to lack of funds; it was noted that the Parish Council has not been approached regarding a potential contribution. The Clerk has mentioned this to WBC senior officers and will follow up again.

It was agreed that the £5000 should be reserved for potential use in connection with a community gift to mark the coronation in 2023.

##### **WBC World Café Arts and Culture event**

Information on an event being arranged by WBC was circulated. The event aims to strengthen an Arts & Culture Alliance within the Borough.

Cllr Bowers may be attending as a representative of another organisation; Cllr Gurney hopes to be able to attend.

##### **Public Participation Session**

No members of the public were present.

#### **248/2022 COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATORS**

##### **Defibrillator recall**

The five Parish Council owned community defibrillators were recalled for a software update in August 2022. Loan units were in place while the units were updated. All units are now updated and back in situ.

### **Defibrillator apps and websites**

The defibrillators are all registered with The Circuit, the national defibrillator database. This links to <https://www.defibfinder.uk> which is the first to show when doing a search. This app is also used by the British Heart Foundation, Resuscitation Council UK and St. John's Ambulance.

It was agreed that it was unnecessary to register all of the defibrillators with additional apps or websites.

### **Defibrillator cabinet codes**

At present limited people have the code to open the cabinets. The procedure when a unit is required is to ring the Ambulance Service on 999 who will provide the code and send an ambulance. The Ambulance Service subsequently updates the Parish Council with details of if and how a unit has been used so that the Parish Council can act to get the unit back in service as quickly as possible.

It was agreed that the disadvantages of sharing the cabinet code more widely outweighed the advantages, and the position would remain as it is at present.

### **Defibrillator / First Aid training**

The course held on 20 October was successful with positive feedback received. Several people have already expressed interest in a future course. It was agreed that a further course should be arranged for Spring 2023. It is hoped that staff from local schools will show interest in future courses.

### **Additional defibrillator**

Cllr Bowers advised that as reported at the recent Council meeting, Wates Construction will have a defibrillator in the 'site village' on the Gorse Ride development, and will donate this for community use when the development is complete. Cllr Bowers will follow up potential locations for the defibrillator – including the possibility of purchasing a telephone box to house the unit.

## **249/2022 LITTER WASTE AND RECYCLING**

### **Litter Wardens**

Information on the work of the two part time Litter Wardens carried out from April 2022 to date and previous years is summarised below. It was noted that only one warden was working from June to October. The vacancy has now been filled.

	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	210	294	188

### **Adopt a Street**

Approximately 45 volunteers are now involved, covering 40 roads in the Parish.

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.

### **WBC consultation on waste and recycling collections**

WBC is currently consulting on proposals to change the frequency of collections in order to encourage recycling, meet climate emergency goals and make savings so that funds can be diverted to protect other essential services. Changing the frequency of collections will also mean changes to the size and type of containers used.

It was agreed that a response would be submitted supporting Option 1: Weekly food waste collections with fortnightly general rubbish and recycling on alternative weeks. The response will also note concerns on where homes of certain types will house wheelie bins, and the issues bins cause on footways for those with mobility issues, sight impairments or pushchairs.

### **250/2022 TREE RELATED PROJECTS**

#### **Tree planting**

It is hoped that an oak can be planted near St. James' Church to commemorate the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. This is subject to tree availability, and permission from the Parochial Church Council.

There has been no progress with WBC over suggested planting in Warren Wood and on various highway verges in the Parish.

Cllr Veitch has identified Moor Green Lakes and the Fleet Hill and Manor Farm reserves as potential sites for planting in future years.

#### **Wellingtonia Avenue**

A summary of the information and statistics for all the trees in the Avenue, for example average height and total carbon storage, will be produced.

It was intended that a seminar type event for the tree owners would be arranged but an event for a wider audience is now being considered. This could be run in conjunction with the Wokingham District Veteran Tree Association and / or the Finchampstead Society, and could include presentations on the value of the Avenue as a national asset and the responsibility residents have in protecting the trees. Cllr Veitch and the Clerk will progress this.

#### **Cemex Woodland adjacent to Longwater Lane**

Cemex UK Ltd. had committed to look at clearing the old guards and derelict fencing but there has been no progress.

#### **WBC tree initiatives**

WBC has been provided with the number of trees planted by the Parish Council in the last year, plus those planted at Simon's Wood and The Ridges, and on the Finchampstead Allotments.

Approximately 90 Finchampstead residents have been allocated a total of around 300 trees in the WBC Garden Forest Scheme. The trees will be distributed to residents in November.

Tree Strategy: A consultant was due to be appointed in February 2022 with the draft strategy published in July 2022. The Clerk requested an update and has been informed that the draft Strategy will be considered by the WBC Executive in November, and if approved there will then be an 8-week public consultation which residents, Town and Parish Councils and other stakeholders will be able to respond to.

## **251/2022 ALLOTMENTS**

### **Finchampstead Allotments**

The Allotment site is now 10 years old. The Allotment Association held a celebratory event in September.

Several tenants gave up at the end of the 'allotment year' (30 September) but there are several Finchampstead residents on the waiting list who will take on the vacant plots.

Some tree works are required and the Clerk will be seeking quotes for the works.

The Allotment Association Committee discussed the possible provision of solar panels and / or a combined wind / solar facility to provide power to charge electrical mowers or other equipment, plus kettles etc.. This will be considered again when feedback from other allotment sites using solar / wind power is available.

### **Future sites**

Finchwood Park site: The Clerk responded to a request from WBC for a meeting earlier this year to discuss the delivery of the new site but has not heard back from WBC. The Clerk will follow this up with WBC officers and Ward Councillors.

Arborfield Green: The Clerk is holding a 'waiting list' for the new sites and intends passing this on to Barkham Parish Council / WBC or Crest Nicholson as soon as possible.

## **252/2022 INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2022/23 AND BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2023/24**

A report showing the current position was circulated. The budget will be underspent as little tree planting will be taking place.

It was agreed that budget proposals for 2023/24 should be based on the 2022/23 budget. Moderate increases for budgets for community health and community activity were proposed.

The California Crossroads scheme may be implemented in 2023 and the new lamp columns will provide an opportunity for the installation of Christmas decorations. The Committee agreed to support this in principle – the Clerk will make further investigations and will report back to the Committee.

## **253/2022 UPDATES ON OTHER MATTERS**

### **California Country Park**

#### **Potential land purchase**

Following discussion at the previous meeting the Clerk collated background information on the proposals and previous discussions and circulated it to Committee members on 8 July. There has been no further progress.

### **Lakefront / Wishing Well area improvements**

As reported at the Main Council meeting, following the presentation by WBC to Finchampstead and other Town and Parish Councils in Wokingham Borough a formal bid for CIL funds towards the scheme is expected shortly. If the project progresses a working group will be formed to monitor progress.

### **Telephone box**

The proposed use of the box as an information feature with photos and text about features in the Parish will be taken forward when resources are available.

### **Hanging baskets**

There are 11 summer baskets at the California Crossroads and these will soon be replaced with the winter / spring baskets. Budget provision will be made for baskets for 2023/24 although if the California Crossroads improvement scheme progresses it will impact on the displays and these may have to be removed at some stage.

#### **254/2022 FORUM**

Cllr Gurney advised that the Barkham Hookers crochet group have now installed poppies at the California Crossroads for remembrance. The Parish Council contributed to the cost of the poppies created by the group in 2021.

The Remembrance Parade and Service, including the rededication of the War Memorial, will take place at the Memorial Park at 3pm on Sunday 13 November. Representatives from the Uniformed Groups, the Parochial Church Council and the Parish Council have been working on arrangements for the event.

#### **255/2022 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next Committee meeting will be held on 1 February 2023.

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

#### **SUMMARY OF ACTIONS 26 OCTOBER 2022**

MINUTE REFERENCE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)
247/2022	Register trees for the Queens Green Canopy scheme	Clerk
247/2022	Contact Finchampstead Society to offer support in promoting Jones Trophy	Clerk
247/2022	Draw up proposals for a scheme to recognise residents making significant contributions to the community.	Clerk
247/2022	Inform WBC of attendance at Arts and Culture event	Clerk
248/2022	Arrange first aid / defibrillator training session Spring 2023	Clerk / Planning Committee Clerk
248/2022	Location for community defibrillator for Gorse Ride community	SFB
249/2022	Adopt a Street – liaise with WBC to align schemes	Clerk
249/2022	WBC waste and recycling collection consultation – respond by 5 December	
250/2022	Oak tree to be planted near Church, investigate availability, and obtain permission from PCC	Clerk
250/2022	Look into opportunities for tree planting / continue to liaise with WBC over planting of street trees and at Warren Wood	Clerk/All
250/2022	Consider options for event for Wellingtonia Avenue tree owners and the wider public and arrange event	Clerk/GV
251/2022	Finchwood Park allotments – follow up with WBC officers and ward councillors	Clerk
251/2022	Pass on waiting list for Arborfield Green allotments	Clerk
252/2022	Collate budget proposals for 2023/24	Clerk Clerk

	Look into costs for purchase / hire / installation of Christmas lights and likely energy usage to inform budget proposal	
253/2022	Progress the lake front project when the CIL bid comes forward from WBC	Clerk
253/2022	Telephone box – progress plans when resources allow	Clerk