

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7 PM ON 21 DECEMBER 2022 AT THE FBC CENTRE, GORSE RIDE NORTH, FINCHAMPSTEAD

PRESENT: Councillor S. Weeks, Chair. Councillor S. Bromley, Vice Chair.
Councillors D. Cornish; R. Cundy; G. Evans; S. Gurney; G. Jukes OBE;
R. Marshallsay; C. Mortimer; G. Veitch & R. Woof.

K. Dagnall, Clerk.

310/2022 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors S. Bowers; B. Eytley; S. McDonald & A. Pearce.

311/2022 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

312/2022 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 17 November 2022 were agreed as a true and correct record and were signed by the Chair. Minor corrections were made to minutes 272/2022 and 273/2022.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

One member of the public attended to observe the meeting.

313/2022 CHAIRS REPORT

The two Parish Councillor vacancies are now open for co-option and it is intended that candidates will be invited to meet the Council at its meeting on 23 February 2023.

314/2022 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 provided an update on the current position.

- The Regulation 16 public consultation, led by Wokingham Borough Council (WBC), ended on 23 November. 51 representations were received by WBC.
- The FNDP Project Team met on 19 December to review the responses.
- WBC has appointed an independent examiner to review the Plan and the examination is underway.
- The examiner may ask for further evidence and may make recommendations for changes to the Plan before it is finalised – initial queries from the examiner are expected in January.
- The extent of the queries and comments from the examiner and therefore the level of changes which need to be made to the Plan will determine the timetable for the final stage for the Plan – the referendum.

Gorse Ride regeneration

- Cllr Bromley advised that the Steering Group continues to meet monthly.
- The enabling works for Phase 2 of the regeneration are underway with foundations for 10 dwellings now in place. Works have been delayed by the recent adverse weather conditions but will resume in January.

Arborfield Strategic Development Location (Arborfield Green and Finchwood Park)

- Minutes of the Community Liaison Group meeting held on 17 November have now been circulated. Cllr Evans reported on the meeting at the November meeting of the Council.
- An exhibition/ drop in public consultation event on plans for the District Centre at Arborfield Green was held on 8 December. A reserved matters planning application is likely to be submitted in March 2023.
- The supermarket at the District Centre will be Sainsbury's.

315/2022 TO CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FINANCE & GENERAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

At its meeting on 30 November the Finance & General Management Committee considered grants and donations, and bids received from Wokingham Borough Council for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds.

Recommendations from the Committee were circulated to Councillors and agreed as follows:

Grants and donations

Organisation	Project	Grant requested	Committee recommendation
Wokingham Poppy Appeal	To cover the cost of the wreath provided for Remembrance and a donation towards the Appeal.	N/A	Donation of £ 400
Keep Mobile	Running costs of the services including Dial a Ride, Shopping Bus, Group Transport and Day Trips	£4500	Grant of £4000
Bohunt School	Support for initiatives to improve attendance by local young people	£2000	Grant of £1000

An application from the South East Berks Gang Show was declined but it was agreed that the organisation should be advised that the Parish Council is very supportive of the local Scout and Guide Groups but prefers to support the Groups in alternative ways to the Gang Show.

Community Infrastructure Levy fund bids received from Wokingham Borough Council

In accordance with the agreement for joint working over CIL, WBC has submitted two bids to the Parish Council for CIL funds.

California Country Park lakeside improvements: WBC has drawn up proposals which have been presented and circulated to the Parish Council and other Town and Parish Councils within the Borough. WBC has now formally requested a contribution of £250,000 towards the project.

The Council agreed a provisional allocation of a maximum of £250,000 or 50% of the total project cost, whichever the lower, subject to match funding being secured for the project from WBC and other Town and Parish Councils.

It was agreed that the allocation should also be subject to WBC agreeing that the Parish Council has a leading role with the project going forward, as part of the managing group to be formed, and to the Parish Council approving the final design for the scheme.

Cycle route to Wokingham

WBC has formally requested the sum of £40,000 to create a section of a permissive cycle route to form part of a route between Finchampstead and Wokingham. The Council agreed that insufficient

information had been provided about the overall scheme and therefore while supportive in principle of the creation of a cycle route to Wokingham, the current bid would not be supported.

The Clerk will notify WBC of the decisions.

316/2022 COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE & GENERAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Woof reported on the financial position of the Council, the meeting held on 30 November and current matters.

Financial position

- Unity Trust Bank £108,286.25
- CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund account £1,357,523.67
- CCLA Property Fund £25,000
- The above figures include £1,351,265 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts.

The schedule of payments totalling £18,502.60 was circulated to all Councillors and was unanimously approved. Cllrs Bromley and Woof agreed to authorise the electronic payments.

Meeting held on 30 November and other matters

- Grants, donations and CIL allocations were discussed as per agenda item 315/2022 above.
- It was noted that several funding applications from local organisations have been agreed in principle, but decisions are on hold pending receipt of further information on the projects.
- The draft budget for 2023/24 was discussed. This will be reviewed and finalised in January before being presented to the Council for approval at its January meeting.
- Discussions continue with the FBC over the youth activities supported by the Parish Council. A full report on activities during 2022 is expected in January.
- The Business Continuity Working Group will be meeting in January.
- There has been one application for the Deputy Clerk vacancy. This is being held pending the outcome of further advertising in the New Year.

Working Groups reporting to the Finance & General Management Committee

War Memorial relocation / junction improvements

Cllr Jukes advised that a report will be presented to the Council at its January meeting.

It was noted that it has been agreed with the Finchampstead Park Management Committee that an independent safety audit should be commissioned in relation to the open access from the Memorial to the Park. The Parish Council has commissioned the report. In the interim FPMC has installed a temporary orange fence.

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr Weeks advised that WBC is undertaking a consultation on a Tree Strategy for the Borough. Cllrs Veitch, Weeks and the Clerk will be drafting a response for the Parish Council. Involvement from other Councillors is welcome.

Cllr Veitch noted that opportunities for tree planting in the Parish are being sought.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Cundy reported on the recent meeting and current matters.

- The Committee met on 14 December. Minutes of the meeting have been circulated.
- 5 members of the public attended the meeting in relation to the outline application for 68 houses at 33 Barkham Ride. This included the planning agent acting on behalf of the developer, Elivia Homes.

- 21 planning applications were considered, with objections submitted for five applications.
- 13 decisions made by WBC were reported, all but four were in line with the Committee's views.
- The Appeal for Land at and to the rear of 240 Nine Mile Ride has been allowed and planning permission granted for the outline application for up to 32 dwellings.
- Details of 3 new Tree Preservation Orders have been received, and 3 applications for works on protected trees.
- WBC has offered to speak to the Committee about how best to use the Finchampstead Neighbourhood Development Plan when responding to planning matters. A meeting with an officer/ officer from the WBC Planning Policy Team will be arranged.
- Crest Nicholson has issued an updated Vision Document for a potential development of up to 1000 dwellings at Barkham Square, with the main access from Commonfield Lane. There has previously been strong opposition to proposals for development at this site. Barkham Parish Council has requested a meeting with Finchampstead Parish Councillors to discuss the development proposal and this will be followed up in January.

RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

Cllr Cornish reported on the recent meeting and current matters.

- The Committee met on 7 December. Minutes of the meeting have been circulated.
- Cllr Jukes was elected as Vice Chair of the Committee until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2023 when all committee memberships and roles are reviewed.
- Work is underway on the agreed access improvements to Rooks Nest Woods and the project should be completed in January.
- The Bridlepath 26 drainage improvement works were successfully completed on 17 December and positive feedback has been received.
- Progress is being made with a new circular walk including Crowthorne and this will be used for a trial with QR code markers linking to information about the walk and features along it.
- The next major project for the Committee is to seek more information on and involvement with the Cemex UK Ltd sites at Fleet Hill and Manor Farms, particularly the new rights of way on the sites and links to the wider rights of way network.

ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Cllr Bromley reported that community speed watch sessions are on hold over the festive period and will start again at the end of January.

317/2022 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership

Cllrs Weeks and Woof were due to attend the Annual General Meeting on 18 November, but this has now been deferred to the new year.

318/2022 FORUM

- The FBC Centre and therefore the Parish Council Office will be closed from Friday 23 December to Monday 2 January inclusive. The Clerk will be working at home during some of this period.

76/2022 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 25 January 2023.

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

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL - PAYMENT LIST 21 DECEMBER 2022

UNITY TRUST BANK ACCOUNT 10/12/22			£108,286.25
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CCLA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 30/11/22			£1,357,523.67
CCLA PROPERTY FUND 31/03/22			£25,000.00
INCLUDING CIL RECEIPTS TOTAL £1,351,265			
TOTAL FUNDS			£1,490,809.92
	NET	VAT	TOTAL
Outstanding payments not yet cleared			
			0.00
Total payments outstanding			£0.00
Payments already approved and paid			
WORTHY GROUP KNEE RAIL REPAIR	455.56	91.11	546.67
MICROSHADE WEB HOSTING (JULY 22)	77.20	15.44	92.64
JACKSONS CAFÉ	469.25	0.00	469.25
PAYMENTS DECEMBER 2022			
Staff costs			£8,829.84
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 SUPPORT/HOSTING	157.55	31.51	189.06
WEB MARKETING MATTERS ADHOC WORK	124.98	25.00	149.98
SSE STREET LIGHT ENERGY	27.55	1.37	28.92
BRITISH TELECOM - TELEPHONE/BROADBAND	47.68	9.53	57.21
LYRECO STATIONERY	29.79	5.96	35.75
FBC CAFÉ CHARGES	10.91	2.19	13.10
S. WEEKS CHAIRS EXPENSES	42.60	0.00	42.60
SLCC SUBSCRIPTION	494.00	0.00	494.00
GOODGER - WAR MEMORIAL PROJECT FEES	966.38	193.28	1,159.66
K. SMITH FIELD SERVICES (BP 26 DRAINAGE WORKS)	4,750.00	950.00	5,700.00
Allotment costs			
FISHER GERMAN - CEMEX LEASE	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Neighbourhood Development Plan costs			
NONE			
Grants and contributions - subject to final approval by Council where required			
WOKINGHAM POPPY APPEAL	400.00	0.00	400.00
KEEP MOBILE	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00
BOHUNT WOKINGHAM	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
TOTAL DECEMBER PAYMENTS	8,386.84	£1,285.92	£18,502.60
TOTAL REMAINING			£1,472,307.32

DECEMBER PETTY CASH / CARD PAYMENTS	Net	VAT	Total
TOTAL CARD PAYMENTS (CLERK)	308.28	61.68	369.96
TOTAL CARD PAYMENTS (FOOTPATH WARDEN)	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	£308.28	£61.68	£369.96
CARD PAYMENTS DETAIL	Net	VAT	Total
AMAZON - OFFICE SUPPLIES	27.90	5.59	33.49
AMAZON - STORAGE BOX	30.40	6.09	36.49
QR CODE GENERATOR PRO	150.00	30.00	180.00
GARDENESQUE - TROUGHS/WAR MEMORIAL	99.98	20.00	119.98
	£308.28	£61.68	£369.96