

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30 PM ON 27 APRIL 2023 AT THE FINCHAMPSTEAD MEMORIAL HALL, THE VILLAGE, FINCHAMPSTEAD

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

K. Dagnall, Clerk.
K. Lang, Deputy Clerk.

13/2023 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors S. Gurney, R. Marshallsay, E. Allen. and B. Eytle.
Cllr S. Bowers has been granted a leave of absence.

14/2023 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

15/2023 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 29 March 2023 were agreed as a true and correct record and were signed by the Chair.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

No members of the public attended.

16/2023 CHAIRS REPORT

- The sad passing of Sandie Barrie, of the former Park View Village Stores, was noted.
- Work on the Rooks Nest solar farm was due to start this year. Wokingham Borough Council is challenging the contractors Scottish Southern Electricity Network who have reneged on the agreement to connect the Solar Farm to the national grid in 2026 and are now suggesting a connection date in 2037.
- An update on the current position with Neighbourhood Action Groups and Thames Valley Police has been circulated and a further update from Wokingham Borough Council Community Safety Partnership is expected imminently. The current spate of anti-social behaviour in Warren Wood, California Country Park and Moor Green Lakes is being dealt with by Wokingham Borough Council's anti- social behaviour team and Thames Valley Police.
- Primary School places have been confirmed for this year showing intakes have increased at all three local primary schools. This is a much better position than last year.
- No by-election has been called for the Councillor vacancy. The vacancy will now be filled by co-option. To date, there is one person who has shown interest. Notices have been posted on the website and on the Parish notice boards and the vacancy will be covered in the May e newsletter.

17/2023 PROJECT AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Finchampstead Neighbourhood Development Plan (FNDP)

Cllr Cornish provided an update on the current position.

- The Independent Examiner's 'fact check' report has been received. The Finchampstead Neighbourhood Development Plan meets all legal requirements and can now proceed to referendum. This is, however, subject to significant amendments being made in relation to 2 small housing allocation sites and 2 areas of separation.

- Wokingham Borough Council has written to the Examiner, expressing their concerns over these two points.
- Cllrs Cornish and Jukes and Mr Gibson, Chair of the FNDP Steering Group, met with WBC Officers on the 26 April to discuss options pending receipt of the final report from the Examiner.
- When the final report has been received the Steering Group will consider this. The Parish Council will then need to decide how to proceed, in order that the Plan can be considered by the WBC Executive. It is hoped that this will be in June 2023.

Gorse Ride regeneration

Cllr Evans reported on the current position.

- Minutes of the 21 March Steering Group meeting have been circulated.
- The Steering Group met again on the 13 April.
- Works on the regeneration project are progressing according to plan.

Arborfield Strategic Development Location (Arborfield Green and Finchwood Park)

- Recent updates from Crest Nicholson have been circulated.
- A planning application for the District Centre was submitted to Wokingham Borough Council on 6 April 2023 which includes plans for the Community Centre. The Parish Council's Planning Committee will consider the plans at its meeting on the 17 May. All Councillors are welcome to forward comments to the Planning Committee Clerk.
- Crest Nicholson will be submitting an application for West Court (SANG) Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space. This will abut the existing SANG which is already in place and has been adopted by Wokingham Borough Council.

18/2023 TO CONSIDER AWARDING A COUNCILLOR THE FREEDOM OF THE PARISH

Cllr Weeks provided an overview.

Andrew Pearce served the Parish Council from 2005 to 2023. The Parish have previously agreed, at the discretion of the Council, to consider this award for any Councillor serving 15 or more years. This is a purely honorary award and does not confer any privileges on the recipient.

It was unanimously agreed that Andrew Pearce be awarded the Freedom of the Parish.

19/2023 COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE & GENERAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Woof reported on the financial position of the Council and current matters.

Financial position

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| • Unity Trust Bank | £26,024.26 |
| • CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund account | £1,371,704.13 |
| • CCLA Property Fund | £25,000 |

The Unity Trust balance includes the first 10% instalment of the precept from Wokingham Borough Council.

The schedule of payments totalling £12,281.39 was circulated to all Councillors and was unanimously approved. Cllrs R. Woof and S. Bromley agreed to authorise the electronic payments.

Other matters

- The household distribution of the Annual Report for 2022/23 began this week. Cllr R. Woof thanked staff and Councillors for their help in distributing to the rural areas not covered by the distribution company.

- The next Committee meeting is on 3 May, the agenda will include consideration of grant applications and the position with Community Infrastructure Levy funds. The meeting will be preceded by a HR sub-committee meeting.

WAR MEMORIAL

Cllr Jukes provided an update on the current position.

- Historic England has confirmed that the Memorial is listed at Grade II on the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest.
- A site meeting took place on the 25 April with the consultant and contractors as this is the end of defects period on the soft landscape works. There is a 12-month defects period on hard landscape items.
- The Parish Council is seeking a contractor to look after the garden area around the Memorial.
- The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) have not delivered the safety report relating to the possible need to fence off the Memorial from the Park. This remains outstanding after 3 months and a formal complaint is being made.

A meeting of the Working Group will be arranged shortly to review the current position with the improvements to the the junction of the B3348 and B3016 where the War Memorial formerly stood.

CEMEX SITES

Cllr Jukes provided an update.

The Working Group met in early March. A meeting with Cemex UK Ltd. representatives has taken place, and last week a meeting took place with representatives from WBC to review the current position and the way forward. The Working Group will be convening imminently to update on progress.

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr McDonald reported on current matters.

- A first aid / defibrillator training session was held on the 24 April. The feedback was positive, and the Committee are planning to organise another one for the autumn.
- The Parish Council is supporting St. James Church with the promotion of its Big Picnic Lunch taking place on 7 May to mark the coronation of King Charles III.
- The Big Help Out is being promoted within the Parish, encouraging people to participate in volunteering referencing Adopt a Street and Community Speedwatch. Posters have been added to the community noticeboards.
- According to the WBC list of road closures, there will be street parties in McCarthy Way; Pinewood Avenue; Maple Drive; Buchanan Drive and Briarwood.
- The allotments are running smoothly. The last three vacant plots are being let: tree maintenance works took place on 24 April; a skip is on site to allow tenants to dispose of unwanted items, and two replacement troughs plus plot markers have been ordered.
- Cllrs McDonald and Veitch and the Clerk will be attending a meeting with WBC in early May to discuss the scope of the California Country Park Lakeside Improvement project.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Cundy reported on the meeting held on 19 April and current matters.

- Minutes of the meeting held on 19 April have been circulated.
- 14 planning applications were considered, objections were lodged against proposals at Shorne Lodge, Sandhurst Road. Concerns were expressed about proposals at 31 Barkham Ride - whilst the development at 31-33 Barkham Ride is supported in principle in the Finchampstead Neighbourhood Development Plan (FNDP), the latest proposals have raised concerns that the total number of dwellings significantly exceeds the number on the previous proposal by 20%. In addition, concerns have been raised over additional traffic and safety, infrastructure and screening.

- The application for a cricket track at land adjoining Lynfield House, White Horse Lane was considered at Wokingham Borough Council's recent Planning Committee meeting. A decision has been deferred pending a site visit.
- 11 decisions made by Wokingham Borough Council were reported, all but one were in line with the Committee's views.
- Several Tree Preservation Orders (TPO's) were considered and 4 applications for works to protected trees. No objections were raised.
- The quarterly Enforcement Update meeting was held on the 26 April.
- The Public Inquiry for the Twin Oaks, Longwater Lane, enforcement appeal is scheduled for 23-25 May.

RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

Cllr Cornish reported on current matters.

- Crowthorne circular walk – The committee are aiming to move forwards with this imminently, the QR code trial will be included.
- Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMO) – the local British Horse Society (BHS) has submitted a large number of DMMO applications to WBC including 8 in Finchampstead. Where the BHS has not been able to identify all of the relevant landowners, they have put large signs up on site – as required by the legislation. Unfortunately this has led to misinterpretation with many people thinking the proposal is actually going ahead. Cllrs Cornish and Mortimer plan to meet the local BHS representative to discuss the proposals and related matters.
- Cemex sites – an update was provided above.

ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Cllr Bromley reported on current matters.

- Community speed watch sessions continue on a weekly basis subject to volunteer availability.
- Three potential volunteers have come forward following an advertisement in the e newsletter.
- The data loggers have not been used due to the school holidays and the impact this has on traffic but monitoring will resume shortly.
- The parking at the California Crossroads continues to be an issue which is generating lots of complaints. The Parish Council has done what it can to maximise the number of spaces in the Avery Corner Car Park, to encourage the School and Nursery to maximise the use of their own parking areas, and to encourage the staff from local businesses to park considerately. Unfortunately, the school drop off zone did not work out due to highway regulations, although the double yellow lines do allow vehicles to stop for up to 6 minutes.
- The spaces at the Chinese restaurant are no longer available and parking behind the Chemist is now more limited.
- Wokingham Borough Council has previously stated that is considering options for the Avery Car Park to restrict all day parking in at least some bays. When the Crossroads improvement scheme is implemented next year there will be a time restriction on the bays in front of the Co-op (there will be one less bay than at the moment). This is however reliant on regular enforcement.
- The Committee's final possible solution – to use the area by the Co-op for parking – has been ruled out as the parking agreed for the new flats at the former Bathroom Concepts blocks off the rear access.
- The Clerk has contacted WBC to update it on the current position and to ask what they are planning to do about the situation. The additional two disabled parking bays recently installed in the Avery Corner Car Park has also been queried.

20/2023 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Borough Parish Liaison Forum – 18 April.

Cllr Cundy attended the meeting. The agenda included an 'open forum' on Town and Parish Council issues. Connecting Communities in Berkshire (CCB) gave a presentation and there were also

presentations on improving partnership working, Biodiversity Net Gain, and the Local Plan and pre-determination.

Finchampstead Park Management Committee AGM - 24 April

Cllr Weeks attended the meeting.

Three new groups have joined the Committee – the Brownies, Ringcraft and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. The Finches Pre School is now attending meetings again.

21/2023 FORUM

Cllr Cundy thanked the Parish Council for their donation to the ball court at Finchampstead Primary School.

22/2023 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 24 May 2023.

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

April 2023 Payments List

UNITY TRUST BANK ACCOUNT 10/04/23			£26,024.76
CCLA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 31/03/23			£1,371,704.13
CCLA PROPERTY FUND 31/03/23			£25,000.00
INCLUDING CIL RECEIPTS TOTAL £1,299,565.47			
TOTAL FUNDS			£1,422,728.89
	NET	VAT	TOTAL
Outstanding payments not yet cleared			
Total payments outstanding			£0.00
Payments already approved and paid			
ABC MEDICAL SERVICES - TRAINING 24/4/23	275.00	55.00	330.00
KARE GROUP - ANNUAL REP DISTRIBUTION	1068.86	213.78	1282.64
Total approved and paid			£1,612.64
PAYMENTS APRIL 2023			
Staff costs			£9,062.40
Other costs			
ASAP COMPUTER SERVICES - IT SUPPORT	268.20	53.64	321.84
MICROSHADE- REMOTE HOSTING	81.05	16.21	97.26
WEB MARKETING MATTERS SUPPORT/HOSTING	157.55	31.51	189.06
SSE STREET LIGHT ENERGY	84.97	4.24	89.21
BRITISH TELECOM - TELEPHONE/BROADBAND	48.60	9.72	58.32
SLCC - CLERKS MANUAL	51.50	0.80	52.30
THE COUNTRYSIDE CHARITY - MEMBERSHIP	36.00	0.00	36.00

INFORMATION COMMISSIONERS OFFICE	35.00	0.00	35.00
JAY PRINTERS - ANNUAL REPORT	840.00	0.00	840.00
Allotment costs			
JDB TREE SERVICES - TREE WORKS	1250.00	250.00	1500.00
Neighbourhood Development Plan costs			
NONE			
Grants and contributions - subject to final approval by Council where required			
NONE			
TOTAL APRIL PAYMENTS	2,852.87	£366.12	£12,281.39
TOTAL REMAINING			£1,408,834.86
APRIL PETTY CASH / CARD PAYMENTS	Net	VAT	Total
TOTAL CARD PAYMENTS (CLERK)	4.58	0.91	5.49
TOTAL CARD PAYMENTS (FOOTPATH WARDEN)	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	£4.58	£0.91	£5.49
CARD PAYMENTS DETAIL	Net	VAT	Total
GREETINGS CARD	4.58	0.91	5.49
TOTAL	£4.58	£0.91	£5.49