

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

HELD AT 7.30 PM ON 26 JULY 2023

At the FBC Centre, Gorse Ride North, Finchampstead

PRESENT: Councillor S. Weeks; Chair.
Councillors E. Allen; S. Bromley; D. Cornish; G. Evans; A. Grimshaw; G. Jukes; C. Mortimer; S. McDonald; R. Marshallsay; R. Woof & G. Veitch.

K. Lang, Deputy Clerk.

140/2023 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors; R. Cundy; B. Eytle; P. Grainger; S. Gurney & Cllr S. Bowers has been granted a leave of absence.

141/2023 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

142/2023 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

One amendment is required to the open forum section, otherwise the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 29 June 2023 were agreed as a true and correct record.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

No members of the public attended.

143/2023 CHAIRS REPORT

- The Clerks absence was noted.
- Fred Rule from Keep Mobile passed away on 1 July.
- The Boundary Commission proposals for Wokingham have been confirmed, there are now 18 x 3 member wards. The Western part of Finchampstead is now included with Arborfield and Barkham, Finch North & (remainder of) Finch South have been combined to one ward.

144/2023 PROJECT AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Finchampstead Neighbourhood Development Plan (FNDP)

Cllr Cornish provided an update on the current position.

- The Plan was approved by the WBC Executive on 29 July.
- A Referendum will take place on 7 September.
- Leaflets, raising awareness of the referendum will be distributed to all residents.
- Roadshows will be held at the FBC, California Crossroads and Jacksons café.
- The Parish Web site will be updated detailing the FNCP and a special Newsletter will be emailed to residents on the distribution list.

Gorse Ride regeneration

Cllr Weeks reported on the current position.

- Work is currently underway on numbers 1 – 43.
- The Road naming is complete, the new names are Primrose, Daffodil and Sunflower.
- A community BBQ event is taking place on the 21st August.
- 4 of the 5 blocks of flats will be named after the original roads, Dart, Billing, Firs, Orbit. The 5th will be named after a local lady, Phillis Franks who is well known within the community.
- Radio Berkshire recorded an interview with a homeowner and representatives from both the Parish and Borough Councils. The broadcasting date TBC.

Arborfield Strategic Development Location (Arborfield Green and Finchwood Park)

- Nothing to report, currently awaiting confirmation of the date for the next Community Liaison meeting.

145/2023 COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE & GENERAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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

Financial position

- Unity Trust Bank £87,816.09
- CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund Account £1,787,318.87
- CCLA Property Fund £25,000
- The above figures include £1,731,106.06 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts.

The schedule of payments totalling £18,527.50 was circulated to all Councillors and was unanimously approved. Cllrs Bromley and Jukes agreed to authorise the electronic payments.

Other matters

- Committee met on 5 July – minutes have been circulated.
- Main items will be covered under agenda item 8 below.
- The Finchampstead Sports Club have requested endorsement of their application for a grant from the Football Foundation as trustees of the Memorial Field. A meeting has been arranged to discuss the implications.
- Due to the Clerk's absence a meeting of the Business Continuity group was held on 18th July to discuss emergency measures to manage FPC. A summary of immediate actions has been circulated and a further meeting of the group will follow Main Council.
- A grant application from Parenting Special Children was considered and the Committee recommended approval of a grant of £500. This was approved by the Council.

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr McDonald reported on current matters.

- Following a site visit in May, revised proposals have been received for the California Country Park lakeside project. Waiting for confirmation of a new meeting date from Wokingham Borough Council.
- Finchwood park allotments – The Parish will organise a site visit with the Developers, date TBC.
- A working group is being set up to discuss FBC play area improvements and a potential lottery bid. The group will include representatives from the Parish, the Borough and FBC. Initial meeting date TBC.
- Concerns are being raised about overflowing bins. The Parish will be writing to the Borough to address the situation.
- The new equipment due to be installed at the Waverley Way play area has been delayed. Awaiting confirmation of the installation date.
- Allotment Invoices are due to be issued at the end of August.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Marshallsay reported on the meeting held on 19 July and current matters.

- The Committee met on Wed 19 July – minutes have been circulated.
- 7 applications were considered. 1 was objected to (Silver Wood, Wick Hill Lane).
- 8 WBC decisions were noted and all but 2 were in line with our comments.

- Cllr Cundy spoke on behalf of the Parish at WBC's Planning meeting against the application for a 60-bed care home at Oak Dale, Lower Wokingham Road. The application has been refused.
- There were no new TPOs served, but 5 applications for works to protected trees.
- The new street names for Parcel 7 at Finchwood Park are Wheat Street, Farmers Road, Mill Close and Farrow Place.

RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

Cllr Cornish reported on current matters

- The footpath on Longwater Lane is flooded. The Parish will report this to Wokingham Borough Council Highways team.
- Wokingham Borough Council are considering the designation of White Horse Lane as a trial of the Safe Pathway concept. A meeting is to be arranged with WBC and the British Horse Society to discuss.

ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Cllr Bromley reported on current matters.

- Speed watch sessions continue, an average of 20 vehicles are being logged each session.
- Traffic monitoring has now ceased for the summer holiday period.
- Parking at the California Crossroads has improved with the implementation of a 1-hour parking limit on the bays in front of the shops.
- The Borough has selected a contractor for the California Crossroads improvement scheme and work should commence at Easter 2024.
- One of the Traffic Monitoring Units is failing to record, the supplier is being contacted for advice.

146/2023 TO CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FINANCE & GENERAL MANAGMENT COMMITTEE

Amenities Committee – Telephone box project

The red telephone box at the California Crossroads was purchased by the Parish Council in 2017. An opportunity has arisen to use artwork being incorporated in features in the California Crossroads Improvement Scheme, plus additional bespoke artwork, some created through work with local schools. The theme would be local heritage and nature.

The Committee recommended allocating a maximum sum of £5,000 to the project. This was agreed by the Council.

Amenities Committee – Allotment gates replacement - £2600

The Committee recommended accepting the quotation from Michael's Gates & Railings for new gates. This was agreed by the Council.

Amenities Committee – Water troughs replacement - £1050 (retrospective)

The committee recommended that the cost of the work (already paid) could be covered by CIL. This was agreed by the Council.

War Memorial Working Group – Junction improvements

The committee recommend that a sum of up to £40,000 is committed to cover detailed design and survey work. This was agreed by the Council.

Appointment of an Internal Auditor For 2023/24

The Committee recommended the appointment of Claire Connell as the Internal Auditor for the Council for 2023/24 at a cost of £365. This was agreed by the Council.

147/2023 FORUM**148/2023 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 28 September 2023.

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

July 2023 Payments List

UNITY TRUST BANK ACCOUNT 10/07/23			£87,816.09
CCLA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 30/06/23			£1,787,318.87
CCLA PROPERTY FUND 31/03/23			£25,000.00
INCLUDING CIL RECEIPTS TOTAL £1,731,106.06			
TOTAL FUNDS			£ 1,900,134.96
	NET	VAT	TOTAL
Outstanding payments not yet cleared			
Total payments outstanding			0.00
Payments already approved and paid			
PEACH TREE GARDENING	67.50	0.00	67.50
Total approved and paid			67.50
PAYMENTS JULY 2023			
Total staff costs	£9,059.40		£9,059.40
Other costs			
ASAP COMPUTER SERVICES - IT SUPPORT	278.9	55.78	334.68
MICROSHADE- REMOTE HOSTING	81.05	16.21	97.26
WEB MARKETING MATTERS SUPPORT/HOSTING	157.55	31.51	189.06
SSE STREET LIGHT ENERGY	82.95	4.14	87.09
BRITISH TELECOM - TELEPHONE/BROADBAND	48.6	9.72	58.32
SURVEY MONKEY	320	64	384
FBC CAFÉ	12.32	2.48	14.8
FBC - YOUTH WORK	3000	0	3000
FBC SERVICE CHARGE Q2	1014.8	0	1014.8
FBC RENT - Q3	1221.25	0	1221.25
WINDOW FLOWERS - HANGING BASKETS	1782	356.4	2138.4
CLAIRE CONNELL - AUDIT	350	0	350
NALC - TRAINING	32.68	6.54	39.22
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Allotment costs			
			0.00

Neighbourhood Development Plan costs			
			0.00
Grants and contributions - subject to final approval by Council where required			
PARENTING SPECIAL CHILDREN	500.00	0.00	500.00
TOTAL JULY PAYMENTS	17974.18	553.32	£18,527.50
TOTAL REMAINING			£ 1,881,539.96
JULY PETTY CASH / CARD PAYMENTS			
TOTAL CARD PAYMENTS (CLERK)	549.08		549.08
TOTAL CARD PAYMENTS (FOOTPATH WARDEN)	14.00	0.00	14.00
TOTAL	563.08	0.00	563.08
CARD PAYMENTS DETAIL			
CLLR TRAINING	32.68	6.54	39.22
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CLLR TRAINING	32.68	6.54	39.22
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CLLR TRAINING	32.68	6.54	39.22
FUEL	11.67	2.33	14