

## **FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 7:30PM FBC CENTRE, GORSE RIDE NORTH, FINCHAMPSTEAD RG40 4ES**

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**PRESENT** Cllr S. Bromley, Chair; A Grimshaw; R. Marshallsay; S. Weeks.

#### **161/2023 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received by Cllrs E. Allen, R. Cundy and P. Grainger.  
Cllr S Bowers has been granted a leave of absence from the Council.

#### **162/2023 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were received.

#### **163/2023 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 31 May 2023 were agreed as a true record and were signed by Cllr Bromley.

#### **164/2023 MATTERS ARISING**

##### **335/2023 Bus shelters**

- The new bus shelters installed on Nine Mile Ride (NMR) in August 2018 are still not illuminated. The electrical supply is apparently now in place but has not been connected. Seats from the shelters were removed (assumed stolen) earlier this year. The Clerk has asked Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) for an update on the current position.
- The bus shelter due to be installed on Finchampstead Road opposite the California Ratepayers Hall in August 2020 will be installed (subject to space) when the California Crossroads improvement scheme is implemented. The Parish Council owned bus shelter outside the Ratepayers Hall is due to be replaced as part of this scheme. The Clerk has asked WBC to consider a shelter with a green roof for this location.

##### **338/2023 Road Safety Issues / Quiet Lanes**

At the last meeting there was a suggestion that WBC was looking into the designation of certain roads as Quiet Lanes. No further communication has been received.

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

No members of the public were present.

#### **165/2023 INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2023/24**

The only expenditure from the Committee budget is £240 for the streetlight energy supply during June, July, and August.

## **166/2023 COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH**

### **Traffic volume and speed monitoring units**

- Data loggers have not been used during the school summer holidays.
- There has been an issue with one device which doesn't log any vehicles anymore (even when tried at 2 individual sites). Cllr Bromley to talk to TagMaster.
- The Parish Council have completed successful surveys at 10 of their original sites.

### **Post mounted Speed Indicator Devices (PSID's)**

- These continue to be used on our most problematic roads, 3 weeks at a time.
- The Clerk asked WBC to consider installing a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) on the Lower Wokingham Road but has still not received a response.

### **Community Speed Watch (CSW) sessions using SID and Sentinel camera**

- Regular sessions continue weekly subject to weather conditions.
- The Go-Pro camera has developed a fault, so a replacement has been purchased.
- Four new volunteers have come forward following a recent promotion, although only one is fully active to date. More volunteers are needed.
- Recent sessions recorded 29 vehicles exceeding the speed limit on NMR at the entrance to CCP EB and 36 on Longwater Road.
- The Deputy Clerk has produced a document on how sessions are planned and run on the day, including follow up, which was recently circulated.

### **Equipment for volunteers**

This will be considered again in Autumn 2023.

## **167/2023 ROAD SAFETY ISSUES**

### **Lower Wokingham Road potential crossing**

There has been no progress following WBC's agreement to investigate this over three years ago. The WBC Highways Officer has agreed to a Teams catch-up meeting.

### **Finchampstead Road near Church Lane junction**

The sight line issue for pedestrians crossing the road has been raised with WBC repeatedly in recent years. Cllr Cornish followed this up with WBC in September 22, and again in November. The hedge alongside the Finchampstead Road on the Church Farm boundary was cut back in Autumn 22 but it is unclear who did the work. It is uncertain whether there is a viable solution to this issue.

### **Biggs Lane pedestrian crossing by Hazebrouck Meadows**

Barkham Parish Council recently had a meeting with WBC and have provided the following update:

The gradients of the footpath are making it very challenging for the developer to correct the BT cover and defects. If the footpath is lowered this would mean diverting pedestrians from the desired line. PM is now working with the developer to look at an option for a table. An initial design has been created but will need to be amended to accommodate buses. The table will need to be 6m long, plus rise & fall for slopes. The benefit of the table is that it would also act as a traffic calming measure which should help with reducing speeds and acceptability of 30mph zone with police. TM team to write to Thames Valley Police in Q1 23/24 – AW has confirmed that the police have been written to.

### **White Horse Lane (WHL)**

Concerns raised by residents about the increased use of WHL as a shortcut when The Ridges reopened. Last October WBC said they were actively looking at measures to discourage use, but advised they were unlikely to be able to deter locals from using the Lane as a short cut. There have not been any recent complaints from residents.

### **168/2023 ROAD CONDITION ISSUES**

The poor condition of roadsides and footways is an ongoing concern. Issues with dirty or broken or obscured road signs, encroaching vegetation, potholes or footway condition should continue to be reported using the online reporting system on the WBC website. It was noted that this system sends reports direct to the contractor and it is unclear how WBC monitors the level of reports, or contractor performance in resolving issues.

Blanket reports for the stretches of roads with multiple issues have had some success. For example, with sections of Finchampstead Road and Barkham Ride. Residents will continue to be encouraged to report issues through items in the e newsletters. It was suggested that local cycling groups could also be encouraged to report issues.

### **Commonfield Lane**

WBC does have plans to improve the surface and 'passing bays', but timescales are unknown, and it is not in WBC's current work programme.

### **Lower Sandhurst Road and Dell Road**

There have been some surface dressing improvements made to Lower Sandhurst Road, but these have already started to deteriorate.

Dell Road – nothing known about future works and it is not in WBC's current work programme. Apart from the overuse while The Ridges was shut, there has been roadworks by various utility companies.

### **Road surface condition at the Barkham Ride roundabout and the California Crossroads**

The work on Barkham Ride roundabout was completed in late April / early May. Unfortunately, there was a major water leak on 31 August which resulted in a road closure on the south section passing the Ratepayers Hall.

California Crossroads - NMR between White Horse Lane and Finchampstead Road is included in WBC's work programme to June 2024 – this may include the problem area at the California Crossroads adjacent to Creswell's Garage.

### **Finchampstead Road between the Doctor's Surgery and Spring Gardens**

Numerous potholes plus water leaks, floods due to blocked gullies etc. All issues have been reported to WBC and some ad hoc work has been carried out.

### **Other planned works included in the WBC programme for 1 January 2023 to 30 June 2024**

Jubilee Road (B3016) between Wick Hill and The Ridges – minor repairs have been implemented but the road is in the programme for full resurfacing.

Improvements to the Reading Road (A327) between the Nine Mile Ride Extension and Park Lane.

## **169/2023 LARGE PROJECT UPDATES**

### **Nine Mile Ride Extension**

The new road opened in October 2022. The Clerk contacted WBC in October about another gateway and / or community speedwatch area sign. Cllr Bromley has contacted WBC for an update.

### **California Crossroads:**

Deferred from July-Dec 2021, implementation now planned for 2024.

WBC has committed to convene a meeting of stakeholders when they have a timeframe for implementation, with regular meetings going forward. Cllr Bromley has offered the Ratepayers Hall as a venue for these meetings, which has been accepted.

### **Parking at the California Crossroads**

WBC has recently put a parking order in place to limit parking in the parking bays in front of the shops to 1 hour no return in 24 hours. WBC has put a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) in place to prevent commercial vehicle parking in the Avery Corner Car Park and are considering measures to restrict all day parking in the Main car park.

Cllr Bromley has contacted the WBC Parking Manager requesting the following:

- To restrict the parking to a max of 1 hour no return in 4 hours in front of the shops.
- To introduce more parking enforcement and pay if necessary.

The Parking Manager said he would organise extra enforcement and consider changing the TRO.

### **Junction of the B3348 and B3016 – former ‘War Memorial junction’**

The War Memorial Working Group is leading on this project, reporting to the Finance & General Management Committee and Main Council.

## **170/2023 INCIDENT REPORTS**

- On 16 August a significant incident took place on Jubilee Road, outside the house at Court Cottage. The incident involved two speeding cars as a visitor was leaving the driveway. There was a head on collision at a place where the householder regularly crosses the road. This was reported to have been caused by dangerous driving over the speed limit. The Police were in attendance along with multiple paramedics and an ambulance. Cllrs Bromley and Weeks have requested a meeting with the householder.
- The Fleet Hill reduction in speed limit has helped to reduce accidents.

## **171/2023 FORUM**

Cllr Marshallsay sends his apologies for the next CSW session.

Cllr Weeks had a query about WBC’s minor infringements policy. Would TVP accept Sentinel footage to prosecute offenders?

Cllr Weeks noted there were several dirty signs around and urged everyone to keep reporting them to WBC.

## **172/2023 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting is 31 January 2024.

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

## SUMMARY OF ACTIONS – Roads & Road Safety 6 September 2023

MINUTE REFERENCE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)
164/2023	New bus shelters on Nine Mile Ride – continue to follow up lighting issue and seat replacement. Question level of use of the shelters.	SPB
164/2023	Continue to monitor progress with planned installation of new and replacement bus shelters nr Ratepayers Hall, including provision of a green roof.	SPB
166/2023	There is an issue with one device which doesn't log any vehicles, even when tried at 2 individual sites. SB to talk to TagMaster.  Continue to ask WBC to put VAS on Lower Wokingham Road (Oct 22, Jan 23).	SPB
167/2023	Maintain contact with Barkham PC re Biggs Lane crossing by Hazebrouck	SPB
168/2023	Dirty/missing/broken/obscured signs, potholes, footway problems – continue to report issues and encourage WBC to address these.	All
169/2023	California Crossroads improvements – maintain contact with WBC over progress towards implementation	SPB
169/2023	Avery Corner Car Park / parking bays parking issues – arrange meeting with WBC parking manager to discuss suggestions	SPB
	<b>Follow up with WBC/ monitor progress</b>  Gateway – NMR nr junction with Sandhurst Road / Lower Wokingham Road  Gateway / community speed watch signage on NMRE KD/AW 7/10/22  Lower Wokingham Road crossing Finchampstead Road / Church Lane crossing Lower Sandhurst Road / Dell Road reinstatement Commonfield Lane works White Horse Lane works  Road condition at California Crossroads. Ref W2241909. 5/10/22.  Request for double yellow lines at Arnett avenue / Gorse Ride North. 09/2021.	SPB