

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

HELD AT 7.30 PM ON 28 SEPTEMBER 2023

At the Finchampstead Memorial Hall, Finchampstead

PRESENT: Councillor G. Jukes OBE; Vice Chair.
Councillors S. Bowers; S. Bromley; D. Cornish; R. Cundy; B. Eytle; P. Grainger; A. Grimshaw; S. McDonald; R. Marshallsay; R. Woof & G. Veitch.

K. Lang, Deputy Clerk.

185/2023 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors; E. Allen; G. Evans; S. Gurney; C. Mortimer & S. Weeks

186/2023 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

187/2023 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 26 July 2023 were agreed as a true and correct record.

The amendment to the minutes of the 29 June was agreed.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

No members of the public attended.

188/2023 CHAIRS REPORT

Cllr Jukes reported on current matters.

- Cllr Steve Bowers was welcomed back after his leave of absence.
- The referendum results were confirmed and Cllr Jukes on behalf of the Council thanked the FNDP team - both Cllrs and residents and in particular David Cornish and Allan Gibson.
- The closure of the Finchampstead Society was confirmed. A related agenda item and decision is needed later in the meeting.
- The Finchampstead Scouts have a signed copy of a new lease for Finchbase, their Scout hut in California Country Park. They thanked the Parish for supporting them through the renegotiation period. They are starting to investigate renovation and will be exploring fundraising options.
- Gorse Ride Steering Group - This meets second Tuesday of each month to oversee the Gorse Ride redevelopment project. FPC have 2 Councillors as our formal reps, unfortunately they have both been unable to attend recent meetings and the Steering Group has suggested we appoint new reps. Cllr Jukes will ask for volunteers under the relevant agenda item.
- Complaints have been received about traffic congestion from football matches at the memorial park. The Sports club have responded with a mitigation plan including volunteer traffic monitors. Any complaints should be sent directly to them if the problems continue.
- Work has commenced on the technical assessment of the road improvement proposals at the former war memorial junction.
- On the 20th October the Memorial Park is being used as a filming location for a pre-war funfair scene.
- Following a fire at Breakspears Farm in the village in early September the Fire Brigade and South East Water are investigating the condition of the fire hydrants in that area which were not operable.

189/2023 PROJECT AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Finchampstead Neighbourhood Development Plan (FNDP)

Cllr Cornish provided an update on the current position.

- An informal meeting is taking place on the 3/10.
- The referendum had a 26% turnout with 89% voting yes.
- On the 21 September, Wokingham Borough Council formally adopted the plan.
- One last meeting will be held as a clear up session.
- A press release is coming out in Wokingham Today highlighting the referendum results.
- The committee may send a newsletter to all residents highlighting the results and explaining what the plan means for development in Finchampstead.
- The plan will be reviewed in 6 months' time.

Gorse Ride regeneration

Cllr Bromley reported on the current position

A Steering Group meeting took place on 12th September.

- Houses 1-16 built up to roof level.
- Houses 17-45 foundations complete, build start imminent.
- Work is currently 3 weeks behind schedule due to a wet weather and a burst water main.
- Planning and construction
 - Piling is required to support the larger structures. This work is due to start Mid-October with a work window of 8am-5.30pm Monday to Friday.
- Decant and community regeneration.
 - Most people in 2B have been contacted, 2 people left for a decision.
 - Spring next year for 2B to 2A decant.
 - Residents moving to new builds in phase 2a are currently being invited to 1:1 consultation meetings to indicate their choices of plot and internal fixtures and fittings.
 - A residents meeting was held to discuss the upcoming works on site and in particular the piling rig that will be used for the apartment foundations in mid-October.
 - Spring 2025 for project completion.
- Other
 - Residents were invited to a site tour and BBQ on 21st August which was arranged and paid for by Wates and their subcontractors. Approximately 30 residents were in attendance. It was a great event and gave everyone involved a chance to view progress, discuss the works and ask questions.
 - New road names have been approved by the post office.
- Representation
 - Cllrs A Grimshaw, S Bowers and S Bromley will be the Parish representatives.
 - Next meeting 10th October.

Arborfield Strategic Development Location (Arborfield Green and Finchwood Park)

- Awaiting confirmation of the date for the next Community Liaison meeting.
- The District Centre plans are going to WBC planning committee.
- Resident representation is needed.

The Finchampstead Society

- At its last AGM, The Finchampstead Society members agreed it should close. They have asked that:
- It's remaining funds of approx. £6k be passed to FPC to be used for donations to local "good causes". The Society would not be involved in any way in this process. Additionally, they have requested that the "Jones VC trophy" be passed to FPC to award annually to a local resident, who had made a significant contribution to the local community. This could be decided by FPC only or by informal nominations by residents (preferred?). Again, the Society would not be involved in this process.

- The Council unanimously accepted the proposal.
- Further discussion by the Amenities Committee will establish the criteria for awarding the trophy.

190/2023 COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE & GENERAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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

Financial position

- Unity Trust Bank £152,587.48
- CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund Account £1,801,454.17
- CCLA Property Fund £25,000
- The above figures include £1,739,902 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts.

The schedule of payments totalling £60,569.03 was circulated to all Councillors and was unanimously approved. Cllrs R Woof and G Veitch agreed to authorise the electronic payments.

Other matters

- It was noted that the payment schedule includes an invoice of £42,000 for the Survey and Detailed Design of the War Memorial Junction. Up to £40K has already been approved for CIL funding and when VAT is reclaimed the total will be within this limit.
- Rice Associates have been appointed to manage the Payroll starting with the August run.
- A payment has been received from AXA (our insurers) for legal fees incurred in handling the recent GDPR case. We will also be claiming for the "absence of a key member of staff" when we have all the necessary details.
- Hiscox our Insurance brokers have produced the schedule for renewal on 1st October but this does not reflect the two claims so we asked them to revise it.
- Invoices for allotment rentals have been raised and sent to tenants.
- The 2022/3 AGAR has now been completed the required notice has been published on our Web Site.
- Deputy Clerk to write to WBC confirming the 25% CIL amount is now in place.

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr McDonald reported on current matters.

California Country Park Lakeside Improvement

- Cllrs S. McDonald and G. Veitch attended teams meeting with WBC Officers on 20th September to consider amended plans and costs.
 - The Boardwalk has now been removed and another footpath added. WBC will be sending revised plans and budget reflecting these changes.
 - Cllr McDonald to write to WBC asking for confirmation on the following points that were raised:
 - There is work on the Covid Memorial Wood at the same time as this project, Cllr Cornish asked if access has been discussed by both parties.
 - Cllr Eytle asked what additional flood prevention is being put in place.
 - Clarification was required on the existing path that comes from the caravan park and runs along the right-hand side of the ice cream kiosk is it being upgraded as it is very bumpy and in poor repair.

Allotments

- The increase in rent has been communicated and invoices have been issued.
- New Troughs have been installed and the new gates will be installed at the end of October.

Finchwood Park Allotments

Some progress as WBC have shared an initial spec. for consideration. Cllrs Veitch and Allen are arranging a site visit with WBC and the Developer.

FBC Play Area

WBC intend to bid for lottery funding and are seeking views from residents and the PC about the FBC. This is being discussed as a separate agenda item.

Waverley Way Play Area

The new play area passed the inspection and opened today. Please note that although we have given a financial contribution to this project the park is in Wokingham Town.

California Crossroads Phone Box

The consultant has been given the go ahead to proceed with the work.

Street Cleaning and Grounds Maintenance WBC Consultation

Cllr McDonald completed the consultation document on behalf of the PC and attended a Teams meeting on 8th September. A word document of the consultation has been requested for circulation to Councillors. Any views will be collated by Cllr McDonald and emailed to Richard Bisset of WBC. Deadline extension date to be confirmed by WBC.

Remembrance Parade

Cllr McDonald has contacted the Church and is waiting for confirmation of the arrangements. Uniformed Groups and the Barkham Hookers will be contacted.

DDAY 80 - 6th June 2024

The Pageantmaster for the UK Town and Parish Councils is organising events to commemorate the 80th anniversary and wants beacons lit across the country. Cllr McDonald has contacted the church and it is hoped they will participate in the way they have done for previous events.

RESPONSE TO FBC REFURBISHMENT CONSULTATION

The following points were made and will be sent to WBC by Cllr McDonald:

- The FBC is integral to the Parish and the Youth Activities which are financially supported by the Parish Council are considered to be extremely important.
- The access to the FBC and the play area from Gorse Ride is considered unsafe for everyone but especially those with mobility issues or visual impairment.
- There is no pavement for pedestrians or safe access for wheelchair or mobility scooter users.
- The car park is heavily used and at peak times the shared space for cars and pedestrians, especially children, is dangerous.
- There are landscaped areas that could be used to improve safe access or increase the number of parking spaces available.
- The number of parking spaces is an issue. The surrounding residential areas are used by overflow cars even although yellow lines have been placed on certain areas and on the corner leading into Watkins close.
- Some time ago the land owned by WBC in Watkins close was being considered for use as an additional car park for the FBC. This was not taken forward at the time but may be worth looking at again.
- The green space adjacent to the play area which was used as a football pitch at one time could be better used for organised activities.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Cundy reported on the meetings held on 16 August, Wed 20 September and current matters.

- The Committee have met twice since the last main council, minutes have been circulated and published for both meetings.
- A total of 30 applications have been considered over the period, and 7 objected to.
- 25 WBC decisions were noted and all but 3 were in line with the committees comments.
- There has been 1 new appeal for Harts Leap Farm, New Mill Road, and 1 appeal decision for Chasleton, Lower Wokingham Road – the appeal was dismissed.
- There was a press release on 4 September called 'Shaping How We Involve You in Planning Issues', and WBC is seeking feedback on its draft Statement of Community Involvement. Cllrs Cornish & Grainger have agreed to submit a response on behalf of the Parish Council.

- There is a proposed development at Land West of Limmerhill Road, which the Committee is keeping an eye on and will look out for any planning applications. This is not within the parish but is close to the boundary.
- There have been no new TPOs served, but several applications for works to protected trees. Those which involved felling were considered by our TPO sub-committee and no objections raised.
- Notification of 2 enforcement appeal decisions was received. All 5 appeals for Twin Oaks, Longwater Lane were dismissed. The appeals for Heartwood Lodge, Sandhurst Road were allowed, and the enforcement notice corrected and quashed.
- Cllr Grimshaw asked to join the Planning Committee at September's meeting.

RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

- There has not been a meeting.
- Cllr D Cornish to speak to Highways at WBC regarding White Horse Lane.

ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Cllr Bromley reported on current matters.

- The Roads meeting was on 6th September, minutes have been circulated.
- Speed watch sessions continue and are averaging exactly 20 vehicles per session. A recess is being planned in December and January.
- Traffic monitoring has not yet resumed after the summer holidays. The problem with one of the units not logging vehicles has not yet been resolved.
- California Crossroads improvement scheme - WBC requested permission to remove then re-instate some of the fence by the bus stop outside the Ratepayers Hall. The contractor has suggested an alternative material that is locally sourced, offers a cost saving, contains 65% recycled material, and offers easier future maintenance for the kerbs in the scheme. The committee recommends that we agree with this proposal.
- A Teams meeting with WBC has been agreed to check the progress of outstanding issues / projects.

191/2023 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES BALC

- Cllr Cundy reported that there are 5 new Councillors on the committee.
- The AGM is taking place on the 9th November in Newbury.

Borough Parish Liaison Forum

No update.

192/2023 FORUM

Cllr Eytle asked if there has been an update on the Bohunt 6th form. Currently, there has not.

193/2023 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

SEPTEMBER PAYMENT LIST

| | | | |
|---|-------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| UNITY TRUST BANK ACCOUNT 10/09/23 | | | £60,594.95 |
| CCLA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 30/08/23 | | | £1,801,454.17 |
| CCLA PROPERTY FUND 31/08/23 | | | £25,000.00 |
| INCLUDING CIL RECEIPTS TOTAL £1,739,902 | | | |
| | | | |
| TOTAL FUNDS | | | £1,887,049.12 |
| | | | |
| | NET | VAT | TOTAL |
| Outstanding payments not yet cleared | | | |
| | | | |
| Total payments outstanding | | | 0.00 |
| | | | |
| Payments already approved and paid | | | |
| JACK PEACHEY - MEMORIAL LAND MAINTENANCE | 135.00 | 0.00 | 135.00 |
| ALLOTMENT CONTRIBUTION | 500 | 0 | 500 |
| TOTAL APPROVED AND PAID | 635.00 | 0.00 | 635.00 |
| | | | |
| PAYMENTS SEPTEMBER 2023 | | | |
| Total staff costs | £10,278.25 | £0.00 | £10,278.25 |
| | | | |
| Other costs | | | |
| WEB MARKETING MATTERS | 157.55 | 31.51 | 189.06 |
| ASAP COMPUTER SERVICES | 278.90 | 55.78 | 334.68 |
| MICROSHADE | 119.37 | 23.87 | 143.24 |
| SSE | 79.93 | 3.98 | 83.91 |
| ABC MEDICAL SERVICES - FIRST AID COURSE | 275.00 | 55.00 | 330.00 |
| FBC CENTRE CAFÉ | 4.08 | 0.82 | 4.90 |
| FBC CHURCH - YOUTH WORK Q2 | 3000.00 | 0.00 | 3000.00 |
| BT | 48.60 | 9.72 | 58.32 |
| WBC - CHAIRING SKILLS TRAINING | 70.00 | 14.00 | 84.00 |
| STEVE BROMLEY - GO PRO CAMERA/SD CARD | 211.98 | 0.00 | 211.98 |
| PFK - AGAR | 1680.00 | 336.00 | 2016.00 |
| WBC - WAR MEMORIAL JUNCTION SURVEYS | 35000.00 | 7000.00 | 42000.00 |
| INSURANCE PREMIUM | 1454.21 | 174.50 | 1628.71 |
| | | | |
| Allotment costs | | | |
| ANNE KIRTON - ALLOTMENT OVERPAYMENT | 43 | 0 | 43 |
| PAVLINA TABAKOVA - ALLOTMENT OVERPAYMENT | 25.00 | 0.00 | 25.00 |

| | | | |
|---|----------|---------|----------------------|
| CASTLE WATER - ALLOTMENT | 48.31 | 9.67 | 57.98 |
| | | | |
| Neighbourhood Development Plan costs | | | |
| JAY PRINTERS - NDP LEAFLETS | 80.00 | 0.00 | 80.00 |
| | | | 0.00 |
| Grants and contributions - subject to final approval by Council where required | | | |
| | | | |
| TOTAL SEPTEMBER PAYMENTS | 52854.18 | 7714.85 | £60,569.03 |
| TOTAL REMAINING | | | £1,825,845.09 |
| | | | |
| SEPTEMBER PETTY CASH / CARD PAYMENTS | | | |
| TOTAL CARD PAYMENTS (CLERK) | 0.00 | | 0.00 |
| TOTAL CARD PAYMENTS (FOOTPATH WARDEN) | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| TOTAL | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | | | |
| CARD PAYMENTS DETAIL | | | |
| | | | 0.00 |