

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30 PM ON 25 OCTOBER 2023

At the FBC Centre, Gorse Ride North, Finchampstead RG40 4ES

PRESENT: Councillor S. Weeks; Chair
Councillors E. Allen; S. Bowers; S. Bromley; D. Cornish; R. Cundy; G. Evans;
B. Eytle; P. Grainger; A. Grimshaw; S. Gurney; G. Jukes; R. Marshallsay; S.
McDonald; C. Mortimer; R. Woof & G. Veitch.

K. Lang, Deputy Clerk.

230/2023 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

231/2023 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Non-pecuniary declarations of interest were received as follows:

Cllr Gurney: Barkham Hookers

Cllr Bromley: California Ratepayers Association; Finchampstead Park Management Committee.

Cllr Cundy: California Ratepayers Association; Finchampstead Park Management Committee; Finchampstead Primary School.

Cllr Woof: Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership.

Cllr Weeks: Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership; Finchampstead Park Management Committee.

Cllr Eytle: Gorse Ride School.

232/2023 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 30 September 2023 were agreed as a true and correct record.

233/2023 CHAIRS REPORT

Cllr Weeks reported on current matters.

- The death of Katy Dagnall, Clerk to the Parish Council for 12 years was noted and a minute's silence observed.
- The latest newsletter was produced and distributed to households on the mailing list.
- The Remembrance Day parade is on Sunday the 12th of November at 3pm in the Memorial Park.

234/2023 PROJECT AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Gorse Ride regeneration

Cllr Bowers reported on the current position.

- Planning and construction
- Piling to support larger structures is underway and will be finished in two weeks. To date there has only been 1 complaint about the noise.
- Work window 9am to 5:30pm, Monday to Friday.
- The Swale will be constructed by vibrating large sheets of metal into the ground. This process does produce noise.
- Cllr Bromley will circulate an additional update following the meeting.

Arborfield Strategic Development Location (Arborfield Green and Finchwood Park)

- Cllr Bowers is liaising with all stakeholders to organise a date for the next Community Liaison meeting.

235/2023 COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE & GENERAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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

The committee met on the 11/10. The minutes of the meeting have been circulated.

Financial position

- Unity Trust Bank £101,409.88
- CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund Account £1,809,257.47
- CCLA Property Fund £25,000
- The above figures include £1,739,902 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts.

The schedule of payments totalling £82,419.13 was circulated to all Councillors and payments excluding the Grants and Donations section were unanimously approved. Cllrs Woof and Jukes agreed to authorise the electronic payments.

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr McDonald reported on current matters.

A Meeting was held on 4th October, minutes have been circulated.

Remembrance Parade

- All arrangements are in hand.
- There will be a charge of £40 for use of the Memorial Hall where the church members will provide refreshments after the service. FPC will pay this.
- The garden will be tidied prior to the service by our contractor.
- No uniformed service personnel will be in attendance this year.

Recognition Award and Jones Trophy

- Until it is confirmed that the Finchampstead Society have formally closed we cannot take this forward.

Allotments

- Inspection of Finchampstead Allotments carried out by Cllr Veitch on 24th October.
- The installation of the new gates has been delayed by 2 weeks.
- Visit by GV and EA to Finchwood Park allotments being arranged.

California Country Park lakeside Improvement

- Next project Team meeting on 14th November.

Waverley Way Play Area

- The park is closed again for the final stage of repairs.

FBC Play Area and WBC lottery bid.

- PC Input for the bid has been sent to Ricky Josey of WBC

Date of the next meeting is the 7th February 2024

PLANNING COMMITTEE

- The Committee met on Wed 18 October at the FBC Centre. The minutes have been circulated.
- 10 applications were considered. 3 were objected to. Previous comments made in relation to the Arborfield District Centre/Parcel O2 and 31 Barkham Ride were updated and reinforced on revised plans.
- 12 WBC decisions were noted and all but 3 were in line with our comments.

- Proposals for the Arborfield District centre (230872) was approved at WBC Planning on 11 October. Updates have been circulated from both the Developer & WBC regarding plans & timescales for enabling works.
- Cllr Grainger kindly wrote a response to the WBC consultation, on their Statement of Community Involvement, which was submitted on behalf of the Parish Council.
- The FNDP team will be closing, and the Planning Committee will revisit the Plan in 6 months' time in relation to the Local Plan Update.

The date of the next meeting is the 15th of November.

RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

- There has not been a meeting.
- Cemex has been constructing a new bridleway at Manor Farm in accordance with the original planning permission. Works are expected to be complete by summer 2024.

The date of the next meeting is the 6th of December.

ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Cllr Bromley reported on current matters.

- No roads meeting has taken place.
- Speed watch sessions continue and are averaging exactly 20 vehicles per session. A recess is being planned in December and January.
- Looking for new Speed Watch volunteers.
- 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.
- Building works at the crossroads has reduced the number of available parking spaces at the Avery corner car park.
- California Crossroads improvement scheme – Initial surveys will be completed this week and results reviewed which will identify and address any potential major concerns or challenges before construction work commences in February/ March 2024. WBC are continuing work on the traffic management plans and are aiming to meet with the affected businesses around the end of November to update them on the progress of the works.

The date of the next meeting date is the 31st January 2024.

236/2023 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES BALC

- AGM on 9th November at Shaw House in Newbury.

Borough Parish Liaison Forum

- Meeting on 6th December to discuss what should go on the agenda of the next meeting.

FBC Advisory Board

- Everything running well.

Finchampstead Park Management Committee

- A fairground set was erected at Memorial Park and filming took place on the 22/10 for 'Stuntman'.

237/2023 TO CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FINANCE & GENERAL MANAGMENT COMMITTEE

The following items were agreed by the Council.

Disciplinary Policy

Cllr Woof advised that the Policy has been reviewed and updated and that the Finance & General Management Committee recommended it for approval. The updated Policy was unanimously approved.

Grants

- Keep Mobile – £4,000.
- Wokingham Job Support Centre - £1,000.

Amenities Committee Donations – Remembrance Parade

- British Legion: £400 donation.
- Barkham Hookers: £100 donation towards materials for the memorial displays.

Donations to, Halls, Churches and Schools:

Category	Organisation	Donation agreed
Halls	California Ratepayers Hall	£1200
	Memorial Hall	£500
Churchyards	St James' Churchyard	£800
Schools	Nine Mile Ride Primary	£3077
	Gorse Ride Infants	£1284
	Gorse Ride Junior	£1862
	Finchampstead Primary	£952

Community Infrastructure Levy expenditure

Gorse Ride Schools – A contribution of £42,500 towards new play equipment and outdoor shelters.

Finchampstead Sports Club – A provisional allocation of £36,000 was approved.

Nine Mile Ride Primary School – A contribution of £10,000 towards the provision of play equipment.

Amenities Committee – Up to £200 for a plaque at the Waverley Way play area.

238/2023 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 30 November 2023.

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

OCTOBER PAYMENT LIST

UNITY TRUST BANK ACCOUNT 10/10/23			£101,409.88
CCLA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 30/09/23			£1,809,257.59
CCLA PROPERTY FUND 31/08/23			£25,000.00
INCLUDING CIL RECEIPTS TOTAL £1,739,902			
TOTAL FUNDS			£ 1,935,667.47
	NET	VAT	TOTAL
Outstanding payments not yet cleared			
Total payments outstanding			0.00
Payments already approved and paid			
HDESIGN	300.00	0.00	300.00
PEACH TREE GARDENING	67.50	0.00	67.50
		0	
TOTAL APPROVED AND PAID	367.50	0.00	367.50
PAYMENTS OCTOBER 2023			
Staff costs			
Total staff costs	£9,370.52	£0.00	£9,370.52
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
BT - PHONE AND INTERNET	48.60	9.72	58.32
FBC - OFFICE SERVICE CHARGE	1296.00	0.00	1296.00
FBC - OFFICE RENT	1221.25	0.00	1221.25
FBC - CAFÉ CHARGES	5.42	1.08	6.50
RICE ASSOCIATES - PAYROLL	296.67	59.33	356.00
PEAC SOLUTIONS - PRINTER RENTAL	78.00	15.60	93.60
BUGLER	92.50	0.00	92.50
WREATH FOR MEMORIAL	400	0	400.00
BARKHAM HOOKERS - DONATION	100	0	100.00
SIMON WEEKS - FNDP EXPENSES	62.45	0	62.45
Allotment costs			
CASTLE WATER - ALLOTMENT	483.34	96.67	580.01
FAA - ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS	940.00	0.00	940.00
Neighbourhood Development Plan costs			
		0.00	0.00
			0.00

Grants and contributions - subject to final approval by Council where required			
KEEP MOBILE	4000	0	4000
WOKINGHAM JOB SUPPORT CENTRE	1000	0	1000
GORSE RIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL - OUTDOOR RESOURCES	42,500	0.00	42500
NINE MILE RIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL - PLAY EQUIPMENT	10,000	0.00	10000
CALIFORNIA RATEPAYERS HALL - DONATION	1200	0.00	1200
MEMORIAL HALL - DONATION	500	0.00	500
ST JAMES CHURCHYARD - DONATION	800	0.00	800
NINE MILE RIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL - DONATION	3077	0.00	3077
GORSE RIDE INFANTS - DONATION	1284	0.00	1284
GORSE RIDE JUNIORS - DONATION	1862	0.00	1862
FINCHAMPSTEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL - DONATION	952	0.00	952
TOTAL OCTOBER PAYMENTS	82125.57	293.56	£82,419.13
TOTAL REMAINING			£ 1,853,248.34
SEPTEMBER PETTY CASH / CARD PAYMENTS			
TOTAL CARD PAYMENTS (CLERK)	0.00		0.00
TOTAL CARD PAYMENTS (FOOTPATH WARDEN)	12.93	2.58	15.51
TOTAL	12.93	2.58	15.51
CARD PAYMENTS DETAIL			
CRESWELLS GARAGE	12.93	2.58	15.51