

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE
on Wednesday 07 February 2024 at 7.30pm
FBC Centre, Gorse Ride North, Finchampstead, RG40 4ES

PRESENT: Cllrs S. McDonald, Chair; S. Bowers, Vice Chair.
Cllrs E. Allen, B. Eytle, P. Grainger and G. Veitch.

326/2024 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr S. Gurney.

327/2024 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

328/2024 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 October 2023 were approved as a true record and were signed by Cllr McDonald.

329/2024 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- 200/2023 Update: D-DAY 80 - The church has confirmed they will hold an event and light the Beacon. Liaise with the church on how the Parish Council can support them. Investigate how much PC donated for previous events and check contact details for a piper.
See Agenda item 7.
- 201/2023 Once the Finchampstead Society has closed a working group to be set up for the Jones VC Trophy.
See Agenda item 8.
- 202/2023 Find historical records of the Finchampstead Allotment spec. to assist with set up of the Finchwood Park allotment site.
See Agenda item 9.
- 204/2023 Find out if the Greenway will be used as an access point for construction traffic for the Memorial Wood and other works, or to store materials during the construction phase.
Due to the delay by Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) of the California Lakeside Project this has been superseded.
- 204/2023 Oak tree to be planted near Church, investigate availability, and obtain permission from PCC.
Carry Forward
- 204/2023 Look into opportunities for tree planting / continue to liaise with WBC over planting of street trees and at Warren Wood.
See Agenda item 11.
- 204/2023 PC Plaque for Waverley Way Play area, cost to be investigated.
See Agenda item 12.

Public Participation Session

No members of the public were present.

330/2024 INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2023/24

Details of expenditure to date were discussed.

SM to investigate what will happen to underspend in three budget headings and if these can be reallocated to other areas.

331/2024 D-DAY 80 - 6 JUNE 2024

SM confirmed that the Church were arranging to have the Beacon lit on 6 June and hold an event but as it is a Thursday evening it will be a smaller event than that held for the Jubilee or the Coronation. There will be refreshments and possibly a band.

The church social committee are aware that the Role of the PC is to support by publicising the event and providing a donation for the refreshments which in the past has been around £200/£250.

332/2024 RECOGNITION AWARDS AND THE JONES VC TROPHY

The Finchampstead Society have still to confirm it has officially closed.

SM to ask SW to contact the Chair of the Finchampstead Society to find out what the position is. Once the PC have taken over the award of the Jones Trophy, we will plan to seek nominations in the Autumn /Winter of 24/25 with a view to presenting it at the Annual Gathering in 2025. Meanwhile SM to ask SW to contact the current holder of the award to let them know the situation and that they can hold onto the Trophy for the time being.

333/2024 ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Veitch gave an update.

The replacement allotment gates were installed at the end of 2023.

The Council gave the go ahead for a joint funded project with WBC for works to maintain and enhance the allotments. The works will be split into two phases, the first starting on the 5 March. This phase will include the following:

1. Outer entrance road upgrade works
2. Inner haulage road works,
3. Low level tree care/pruning,
4. Fence repair work,

Phase 2 works will include work to the composting area sleeper construction unit, the 10 re-numbering signposts for the plots, and felling of the tall dead trees, plus solar installation.

The artwork for a new sign for the allotment has been shared for approval, this sign will rename the allotments.

Cllr Veitch shared plans to purchase a memorial tree and plaque for the late Clerk, Katy Dagnall.

SM to ask SW if KD's family agree with this memorial.

Finchwood park allotments

The original site is no longer available. It is hoped the developer will allocate another suitable site.

GV to arrange for a tag to be placed on the Liquid Amber Tree outside the FBC Centre.

334/2024 LITTER WASTE AND RECYCLING

Litter Wardens

The Litter Wardens remain active, and the total number of bags collected will be around the same as in previous years. SM to arrange for the Clerk and RFO, once appointed, to meet with the litter Wardens and to review the allocation of areas they cover.

Adopt a Street

The 45 Finchampstead adopt a street volunteers remain in place.

We cannot link with WBC adopt a street due to GDPR.

PG to include something in the newsletter saying those registered with WBC can also register locally to receive support from FPC.

PG to investigate if changes to the Rubbish collection will affect the adopt a street scheme volunteers putting out bags for collection

Annual Litter Pick

The event is scheduled for 24 March. As in previous years there will be two events in Finchampstead - one from the FBC centre and the other will start and end at the Greyhound public house. PG to put details of start times in the newsletter.

SM to ask the Deputy Clerk to find out how much FPC usually donates towards refreshments and staff costs to the FBC for providing bacon rolls and hot drinks and liaise with FBC about what they plan to offer this year.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Deputy Clerk has agreed to assist some students who have asked to litter pick as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award. This has happened previously. Hi Viz vests, litter pickers and Health and Safety Guidance will be provided.

335/2024 UPDATES ON OTHER MATTERS

Defibrillators

Cllr Grainger confirmed she has checked all the defibrillators, and all were in order.

BE to investigate Bleed Control Kits.

First Aid Training

The Parish would like to run another Basic First Aid and Defibrillator training session in Spring 2024.

California Country Park lakeside improvement project

Cllr McDonald reported that this project has been on hold as the Project Manager from WBC has been on long term sick. WBC have informed us that works may not commence until October 2024.

Tree related projects

Cllr Veitch advised the committee that there has unfortunately been no progress in finding an oak tree to plant near the church, nor with The Borough in identifying opportunities to plant street trees and at Warren Wood. There has been no update from WBC on the tree strategy considered by the WBC Executive in November 2022.

Hanging Baskets and Christmas Displays at California Crossroads

The Baskets normally placed at the end of May have been cancelled due to the redevelopment of the California Crossroads.

PG to investigate how many lamp columns will be in place after the redevelopment, where they will be located and if they will have a secondary power supply which might allow Christmas lights in the future.

Consideration to be given to having Hanging baskets on the Lamp Columns at the Barkham Ride / Windsor Ride junction. SM to investigate if these Columns would be suitable for baskets.

336/2024 PLAQUE AT WAVERLEY WAY PLAY AREA

A plaque has been purchased. It will be installed shortly.

337/2024 FBC PLAY AREA AND LOTTERY BID

The delay appears to be with FBC giving their input to RJ of WBC.
SM to ask SW to follow up with the FBC Management Committee.

338/2024 FORUM

No matters were raised.

339/2024 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be held on 12 June 2024.

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

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS 07 FEBRUARY 2024 – AMENITIES COMMITTEE

MINUTE REFERENCE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)
204/2023	Oak tree to be planted near Church, investigate availability, and obtain permission from PCC. Carried forward from previous minutes.	GV
330/2024	Investigate what will happen to underspend in three budget headings and if these can be reallocated to other areas.	SM
332/2024	Contact the Chair of the Finchampstead Society to find out what the position is with regard to the Finchampstead Society officially closing.	SW
332/2024	Contact the current holder of the award to let them know the situation and that they can hold onto the Trophy for the time being.	SW
333/2024	Contact KD's family to obtain approval for the memorial at the allotments.	SW
333/2024	Arrange for a tag to be placed on the Liquid Amber Tree outside the FBC Centre.	GV
334/2024	Arrange for the Clerk and RFO, once appointed, to meet with the litter Wardens and to review the allocation of areas they cover.	SM
334/2024	Include something in the newsletter saying those registered with WBC adopt a street can also register locally to receive support from FPC.	PG
334/2024	Investigate if changes to the Rubbish collection will affect the adopt a street scheme volunteers putting out bags for collection.	PG
334/2024	Put details of start times of the annual litter pick in the newsletter.	PG
334/2024	Find out how much we usually donate towards refreshments and staff costs to the FBC for providing bacon rolls and hot drinks for the annual litter pick and liaise with FBC about what they plan to offer this year.	Deputy Clerk
335/2024	Investigate how many lamp columns will be in place after the crossroads redevelopment, where they will be located and if they will have a secondary power supply which might allow Christmas lights in the future.	PG
335/2024	Investigate if the lamp columns at the Barkham Ride/Windsor Ride junction would be suitable for baskets.	SM
337/2024	FBC play area and lottery bid - follow up with the FBC Management Committee.	SW