

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

HELD AT 7.30 PM ON 28 February 2024

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;
P. Grainger; S. Gurney; G. Jukes OBE; S. McDonald; & G. Veitch. Cllrs B.
Eytle; R. Marshallsay

366/2024 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

A. Grimshaw C. Mortimer R. Woof

367/2024 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Non-pecuniary declarations of interest were received as follows:

Cllr Bromley: California Ratepayers Association.

Cllr Cundy: California Ratepayers Association.

Cllr Grainger: California Ratepayers Association.

368/2024 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 25 January 2024 were agreed as a true and correct record with amendments.

369/2024 CHAIRS REPORT

Cllr Weeks reported on current matters.

- The recruitment for the new Clerk and RFO is complete, Amanda Everett has accepted the post and will be starting in April.
- The Parish met with Cemex last month, an update to follow later in the meeting.
- 6 Councillors attended the funeral of Walter Chapman who served as a Parish Councillor for 51 years.
- Nine Mile Ride school have sent their thanks for the grant which has enabled them to invest in new play equipment for the children. The Council will be invited to the official opening, date to be confirmed.

370/2024 PROJECT AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Gorse Ride regeneration

Cllr Bowers reported on the current position.

- The project remains on track.
- The leader of Wokingham Borough Council came to site last Thursday to lay a brick for a bespoke house being built a disabled tenant.
- The concrete has been poured for the apartment blocks.
- The first tenants will be moving into their new homes in May.
- Work on the bespoke bungalows has begun.

Arborfield Strategic Development Location (Arborfield Green and Finchwood Park)

Cllr Cundy reported on the current position.

The community liaison group meet on the 31st of January, minutes have not yet been circulated.

The Arborfield Green Community Centre working group met on the 14th of February.

- A Chair was elected.
- A development map with timelines has been circulated.

- Work has begun on clearing the site for Sainsbury's, spoil needs to be moved.

California Crossroads

Cllr Bromley reported on the current position.

- Work commenced on Phase 1 on the 12th of February and is due to be completed on the 30th of April.
- There will be regular WBC newsletters and leaflet drops describing each phase in more detail.
- There are regular onsite/teams updates with WBC which several FPC councillors and the Deputy Clerk attend.
- Following abuse, workers on site are wearing body cameras and CCTV is being installed.
- Cllr Bromley thanked Cllr Grainger for creating the special edition of the newsletter on the Crossroads and Cllr Cornish for delivering it to residents.
- There is a 50% reduction in traffic going through the crossroads.

371/2024 COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE & GENERAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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

The committee met on the 09/01. The minutes of the meeting have been circulated.

Financial position

- Unity Trust Bank £582,674.60
- CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund Account £1,841,068.22
- CCLA Property Fund £25,000
- The above figures include £2,195,569 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts from 2023/24.

The schedule of payments totalling £7,872.18 was circulated to all Councillors and payments were unanimously approved. Cllrs Weeks and Jukes agreed to authorise the electronic payments.

The next committee meeting is on the 13th of March.

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr McDonald reported on current matters.

The last Meeting was held on 7th February 2024. Minutes have been circulated.

D-Day 80 6th June

The Church social committee are finalising the details, but it looks like people will be invited to bring their own picnic, cake and a glass of bubbly will be provided, a brass band will play music of that era, and the beacon will be lit at 9.15pm. As it is a Thursday attendance will be affected. FPC will pay for the band, cake and promote the event.

Recognition Awards and Jones Trophy

- The Finchampstead society has not formally wound up.
- The trophy will remain with Mr Cresswell and FPC will seek nominations from the public towards end of this year and award the Trophy at the Annual Gathering in 2025

Allotments

- The Joint funded enhancement and refurbishment project with WBC is due to start on 5th March.
- Finchampstead Allotments now renamed The Katy Dagnall Allotments. A fitting Tribute.
- A memorial tree has been planted on the site and a wooden sign will be installed once it has been delivered.

- The Finchwood Park allotment site is no longer available. The allocation of a new site is with the developer.

Litter Waste and Recycling

- Cllr Grainger investigated if litter pick waste bags can still be collected separately once wheelie bins are in place for household collections. This was confirmed. Bags to be left beside Wheelie bins.
- Finchampstead Litter Pick to be held on 24th March 2024 .

First Aid and Defibrillator Training

- The next course has been arranged for the 23rd April at FBC

California Country Park Lakeside Improvements

- The WBC Project Manager has returned to work and a Project Team Meeting has been arranged for 13th March which Cllrs McDonald, Veitch and the Deputy Clerk will attend.

Hanging Baskets California Crossroads

- The summer baskets have been cancelled due to the redevelopment.
- Winter baskets to be arranged once confirmation is received on how many lamp columns will be in place following the redevelopment.
- The committee will also look at installing temporary lights for Christmas.

Waverley Way Play Area

- A plaque has been ordered and will be installed shortly.

FBC Play Area and Lottery Bid

- WBC are waiting for input from FBC about car park redevelopment so that lottery bid can be taken forward.

The next committee meeting is on 12th June.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Cundy reported on current matters.

- The Planning Committee met on 21 February. Minutes will be circulated in due course.
- 12 applications were considered, of which 2 were objected to. Comments of concern were submitted for 3 others. Notable ones were as follows:
 - Revised plans for 31 Barkham Ride – Nothing substantial has changed to alleviate concerns with these revised plans, so the committee submitted comments for the 3rd time reiterating concerns over housing density, traffic and safety, impact on the local infrastructure and inadequate screening provision.
 - Finchampstead Sports Club, The Village - Proposals for refurbishment of the existing clubhouse & changing rooms, with new workshop and equipment store –no objections.
 - Proposals for a dog walking business have been submitted at land adjoining 59 Nine Mile Ride and the rear of 61-67, which has been met with some opposition from residents at California Park homes. The committee objected to this on the grounds of development in the countryside, environmental concerns over noise, disturbance and loss of nature and safety concerns over inadequate fencing for larger dogs.
- 10 WBC decisions were noted and all but 1 were in line with the committee's comments.
- There was an Appeal Decision for Harts Leap Farm, New Mill Road. Proposals were for the erection of an agricultural building and stables with associated hardstanding and access. The Committee didn't object when they considered this back in August 2022, but WBC refused it in November 22. The Appeal was dismissed.
- The committee were asked for suggestions of road names for the Sheerlands Road development at Hogwood Farm and came up with a 'tree' theme. However, WBC felt that this theme has been utilised in numerous developments within the Borough over the

years, so names associated with individuals who have a significant connection to ancient trees and woodlands were chosen.

- WBC Planning enforcements have been investigating some contentious sites to keep on top of planning breaches, such as Land to the rear of 6 Johnson Drive, Lakeside Retreat, New Mill Road and Pro Auto Motors, The Village. The planning Clerk keeps in regular contact with the case officer and will update the committee accordingly.

RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

Cllr Cornish reported on current matters.

- The committee met on the 6th December.
- Cllrs Cornish and Jukes to organise a meeting with Andy Glencross at WBC to go through the project list.
- Footpath 33 and Church Path are the highest priority, the committee will work with WBC to move forwards with these.
- Footpath 33 is difficult due to drainage issues in Longwater Lane. WBC have huge flooding issues currently and are prioritising properties at this time.
- A request for funding to resurface Range Road has been received, this will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Cllr Bromley reported on current matters.

The committee met on the 15th of February.

- 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) in 2022. Deputy Clerk to investigate who to report this to at WBC.
- The Parish Council owned bus shelter outside the Ratepayers Hall is due to be replaced as part of Crossroads Regeneration. It will be given a green roof as requested by the late Clerk.
- The only expenditure from the Committee budget is about £200 for the streetlight energy supply during the last quarter.
- Community Speed Watch: -
 - Sessions are continuing but the volumes of traffic are down by about 50% due to the work at the crossroads. Less traffic means higher speeds, however.
 - Session 15/2 in NMR West nr 42 - 14 of 151 vehicles reported fastest doing 55mph.
 - Session yesterday in Longwater Road - 29 of 165 vehicles reported fastest doing 52mph.
 - Volunteers are needed desperately, Cllr Bromley asked if any Cllrs would like to join.
- PSIDs continue to be deployed but future locations will be influenced by the work at the Crossroads.
- Parking at the California Crossroads – No further update.
- War Memorial junction: -
 - Detailed design pack + specifications are expected by mid-March. Cllr Bromley to arrange a meeting with WBC once they have been received.
 - Implementation of the scheme is unlikely to take place until work is complete at the Crossroads Regeneration.

- There have been 4 fatalities on the Park Lane to New Mill junction. Cllr Bromley asked if we could put in a vehicle activated STOP sign as the current sign says Give Way. Cllr Weeks to discuss with WBC.

372/2024 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES BALC

The next meeting is on the 19th of March.

Finchampstead Park Management Committee

The meeting was postponed.

Councillor Forum

- Cllr Bowers asked if double yellow lines could be painted on Arnatt Avenue. A contact for line painting needs to be confirmed at WBC.
- Cllr Allen said that the exit lines on the T junction at Foxcote have washed away and need repainting.
- Cllr Bromley stated that Chris Easton at WBC is happy to start meetings again to go through the priority list for roads.
- Cllr Gurney suggested Councillors look at the NALC training courses that are available on their website.

373/2024 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 28 March 2024.

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

February Payments List

UNITY TRUST BANK ACCOUNT 10/02/24			£582,674.60
CCLA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 31/01/24			£1,841,068.22
CCLA PROPERTY FUND 31/08/23			£25,000.00
INCLUDING CIL RECEIPTS TOTAL £2,195,569.32			
TOTAL FUNDS			£2,448,742.82
Outstanding payments not yet cleared			
Total payments outstanding			0.00
Payments already approved and paid			
JACK PEACHEY - MEMORIAL MAINTENANCE	67.5	0	67.5
WELLINGTON SIGNS - ALLOTMENT SIGN	210	42	252
HARTWOOD TIMBER - ALLOTMENT SIGN	67.5	0	67.5
MIKE ZMUDA - ALLOTMENT GATES	2600	0	2600
BALC - HR SERVICES	267	53.4	320.4
STAFF COSTS			
Total staff costs	4343.78	0	4343.78
OTHER COSTS			
ASAP COMPUTER SERVICES	278.9	55.78	334.68
WEB MARKETING MATTERS	157.55	31.51	189.06
MICROSHADE	119.37	23.87	143.24
FBC - OFFICE RENT Q1 2024	1221.25	0	1221.25
FBC CAFÉ	24.85	4.95	29.8
STEVE BROMLEY - FUNERAL FLOWERS	45	0	45
GORDON VEITCH - ALLOTMENT TREE	286.33	57.27	343.6
IBS - STATIONARY	47.36	9.48	56.84
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION - OVERHEAD PROJECTOR	482.5	96.5	579
BT	73.6	14.72	88.32
SSE - STREET LAMPS	107.77	5.39	113.16
SSE - STREET LAMPS	82.33	4.12	86.45
JAY PRINTERS - CROSSROADS NEWSLETTER	298	0	298
ALLOTMENT COSTS			
Grants and contributions - subject to final approval by Council where required			
TOTAL FEBRUARY PAYMENTS			£ 7,872.18
TOTAL REMAINING			£ 2,440,870.64

FEBRUARY PETTY CASH / CARD PAYMENTS			
CARD PAYMENT CLERK			
TOTAL CARD PAYMENTS (FOOTPATH WARDEN)			
TOTAL			