

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ROADS & ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2024 AT 7:30PM FBC CENTRE, GORSE RIDE NORTH, FINCHAMPSTEAD RG40 4ES

PRESENT: Cllrs S. Bromley (Chair), R. Cundy (Vice-chair)
Cllrs S. Bowers, P. Grainger, R. Marshallsay and S. Weeks.

340/2024 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All committee members were present.

341/2024 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

342/2024 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2023 were agreed as a true record and were signed by Cllr Bromley.

343/2024 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

344/2024 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) in 2022 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. Cllr Bromley has been contacted by WBC regarding permission to access to the bus shelter from land belonging to the Ratepayers Hall and also to reinstate any fence panels that have to be temporarily removed during the work. They are happy to dedicate the green roof to the late Clerk, Katy Dagnall.

345/2024 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 but we believe this is still being investigated.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

No members of the public were present.

346/2024 INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2023/24

The only expenditure from the Committee budget is about £250 for the streetlight energy supply during the last quarter.

347/2024 COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

Traffic volume and speed monitoring units

- Black Cat 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 Evans has agreed 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 restarted at the beginning of February subject to weather conditions
- Simon has stepped down as a coordinator but will still attend some sessions as an operator. Sessions subsequently cut to 1 every other week.
- Feedback on session today in NMR West nr 42. 14 reported fastest doing 55mph.

348/2024 ROAD SAFETY ISSUES

Lower Wokingham Road potential crossing

There has been no progress following WBC's agreement to investigate this over four years ago. Martin Heath has now left WBC and Chris Easton is his replacement. Cllr Bromley agreed to contact Chris Easton to discuss a way forward.

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 PC is leading on the proposed crossing by Hazebrouck Meadows. They are suggesting a lesser crossing which we will have to pay 50% from CIL. TVP have agreed to move the 30mph limit back to the other side of Commonfield Lane.

Arnett avenue / Gorse Ride North

Cllr Bowers to follow up on our request made some time ago for double yellow lines here.

349/2024 ROAD CONDITION ISSUES

The Committee still has concerns about the poor condition of roadsides and this is raised with WBC at every opportunity. Encourage all to continue to report issues – from dirty / broken road signs to overgrowing vegetation.

Blanket reports for stretches of road have had some success, such as a section of Finchampstead Road and a section of Barkham Ride.

Commonfield Lane

WBC has recently done emergency works on 'passing bays', but full reinstatement won't be until after Crossroads Work is complete.

Lower Sandhurst Road and Dell Road

There have been some surface dressing improvements made to Lower Sandhurst Road

Dell Road – nothing known about future works. Not in the WBC programme. Apart from the overuse while the Ridges was shut due to SGN works recently.

Finchampstead Road – Doctors Surgery to Spring Gardens

Numerous pot holes plus water leaks, floods due to blocked gullies etc. It has all been reported many times. All that seems to happen is adhoc work to potholes.

Other works

Reading Road between NMRE and Park Lane, a 30mph VAS sign seems to have been installed. There have been reports of a two person fatality accident at the Park Lane/Reading Road junction. This has not been verified.

350/2024 LARGE PROJECT UPDATES

Nine Mile Ride extension – The Clerk contacted WBC in October about another gateway and / or community speedwatch area sign and was told they would look at it. There has been no response to date.

California Crossroads improvements: Deferred from July-Dec 2021, implementation now planned starting 12 February and lasting until September.

Here are some observations raised at the meeting: -

- Footpaths are OK.
- Different diversions should be colour coded.
- Use of Barkham Ride near Commonfield Lane by large vehicles requires enforcement.
- WBC have responded well on Facebook.

351/2024 INCIDENT REPORTS

None.

352/2024 FORUM

- Cllr Marshallsay said there should be a gateway installed on NMR East near the Sandhurst Road/Wokingham Road junction.
- Cllr Bowers commented on the increase use of e-bikes and e-scooters in the Gorse Ride estate. This needs some police involvement. Cllr Weeks agreed to follow this up with them.
- Cllr P. Grainger expressed her wishes to join the Committee which was duly accepted and welcomed by all. The Committee looks forward to her valuable input in the future.

353/2024 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is 1 May 2024.

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

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS – Roads & Road Safety 15 February 2024

MINUTE REFERENCE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)
344/2024	New bus shelters on Nine Mile Ride – continue to follow up lighting issue and seat replacement. Question level of use of the shelters.	SPB
344/2024	Continue to monitor progress with planned installation of new and replacement bus shelters nr Ratepayers Hall, including provision of a green roof.	SPB
347/2024	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
348/2024	Maintain contact with Barkham PC re Biggs Lane crossing by Hazebrouckas.	SPB
348/2024	Contact Chris Easton (WBC) with regards to several outstanding projects	SPB
348/2024	Follow up on old request for double yellow lines at Arnett Avenue / Gorse Ride North. 09/2021.	SPB
348/2024	Follow up with WBC/ monitor progress Lower Wokingham Road crossing Finchampstead Road / Church Lane crossing Lower Sandhurst Road / Dell Road reinstatement Commonfield Lane works White Horse Lane works.	SPB
349/2024	Dirty/missing/broken/obscured signs, potholes, footway problems – continue to report issues and encourage WBC to address these.	All
350/2024	California Crossroads improvements – maintain contact with WBC over progress towards implementation.	SPB
352/2024	The increase use of e-bikes and e-scooters in the Gorse Ride estate. This needs some police involvement.	SW