MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 2nd JULY 2024 AT 7.17 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MEMORIAL HALL, FRESHWATER

PRESENT: Councillors: E Cox (Chair), T Armstrong, A Bamford, C Bray, B Hinton MBE (until 8.30pm), B Hobbs, D James, G Kennett, N Thomas (until 9pm), and F Turan

Members of the public: none.

Clerk: H Rowell

1. **APOLOGIES:**
Councillors: C Jarman and W Whyte
ABSENT:
Councillor: D Hicklin

2. **TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON THE 18th JUNE 2024.**
The minutes of the meetings held on the 18th June (having been circulated) were agreed (AB/CB).

3. **TO INVITE COUNCILLORS TO DECLARE AN INTEREST IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA.**
Cllr Hinton MBE declared an interest in Item 15 as the Chair of Dimbola

4. **TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS ON THE AGENDA FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (UP TO 15 MINUTES).**
None.

5. **TO ACCEPT WRITTEN REPORTS FROM FRESHWATER WARD COUNCILLORS.**
Written reports have been received from Cllr Jarman and Cllr Spink (see Appendix 1)

6. **CHAIR'S REPORT**
The last Full Council meeting was only two weeks ago and so I do not have as much to report as previously.

The Clerk and I are now regularly meeting once a week on a Monday morning at 8.30 am to ensure that I am able to properly support the Clerk. I am finding out exactly how varied and complicated the role of Clerk is.

I hand delivered letters to all the resident properties abutting the Stroud Recreational Ground prior to the public meeting and put-up notices around the Parish advertising the meeting.

Whilst out and about in the Parish I have noticed a further two empty properties and reported them to the empty properties team at the IW Council. This brings my total number of properties to 8, however given that I have been informed that the Parish has 42 empty properties I have reason to continue my search. I consider all empty homes to be a missed opportunity to give someone their own front door. Should you know of an empty home please let me know so I can add it to my list and/or report it to the IW Council.

I would like to congratulate Councillors Bamford and Turan on becoming Chair and Vice Chair of Planning.

I would also like to thank Councillor Bamford for Chairing the Public meeting this evening with the support of our new Chair of the Skate Park and MUGA Councillor James.

Congratulations Councillor James on your Chairship.

In my last report I informed Councillors I was exploring the possibility of extending the free parking on Avenue Road from 30 minutes to 1 hour. Following the meeting, Cllr Jarman made further enquiries, I assume in his role as a County Councillor. During an exchange of emails I declared an interest in regard to this issue as I work in a business on Avenue Road. I had originally thought to explore the Parish Council's options, present my case, explain my conflict and leave the chamber for the debate and decision. I will therefore not be leading on this issue and it now falls to Cllr Jarman.

7. CLERK'S REPORT (CIRCULATED TO COUNCILLORS).

Boat Park

All permit payments for the Boat Park have been received apart from one for this financial year. The Coasteering Trailer has been moved onto the designated Boat Park.

Annual Governance and Accountability Return

The external audit has been completed for the year 2022/23 and is on the website. The return has been submitted to the external auditor for 2023/24 and we should receive the report by September.

New Councillor Co-option

There is still a vacancy for a new councillor, no one has come forward for co-option.

West Wight Heritage Centre
The Land Registry Title will be cleared after the 7th July. All the keys have been handed over to the Centre.

Memorial Hall Deeds
As yet no update has been received from Lloyds Bank.

Parish Facilities Van
The van passed its Mot on the 4th May 2024 but we have been advised that there is significant corrosion and it may not be viable to repair. The Clerk with the Facilities Officer and Finance Officer prepare an Options Appraisal in respect of what is needed and present it to councillors.

Asset Register
The Report has been received from the surveyor and will be reviewed as an agenda item.

8. CORRESPONDENCE.
Correspondence has been received from Island Roads in respect of residential development at Mountfield Holiday Park, Norton Green. Two street names have been proposed which are Farm Field View and Woodpecker Drive. Councillors supported Woodpecker Drive but suggested Mountfield instead of Farm Field View as this is a direct connection to the history of the area, and this suggestion will be forwarded to Island Roads.

9. TO AGREE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT - LIST CIRCULATED TO COUNCILLORS FOR INFORMATION.
The payments for this month have not been prepared yet and will be presented to the Parish Council at the next Planning Meeting.

10. REPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE COMMITTEE – CLLR THOMAS.
Up-to-date data is being sourced from the Isle of Wight Council in respect of local flood risk. There will be further feedback after the next meeting in September.

11. TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING POLICIES:
a, PUBLICATION SCHEME
b, GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION POLICY
c, FREEDOM OF INFORMATION POLICY
d, TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY
e, WEBSITE ACCESSIBILTY STATEMENT
All the above policies were adopted by the Council (BH/DJ) with one abstention.

12. TO AGREE DATES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR 2024/25
The Community Resilience meeting dates have been set and they will be sent to all Councillors.

The dates for the Personnel Committee have been set and will be sent to all Councillors.

13. TO AGREE THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR COMMITTEES

Cllr Thomas will bring the Terms of Reference for Community Resilience to the September meeting.

14. LONGHALVES LANE UPDATE – CLLR JAMES

The pipe which runs along Longhalves has been dug up and unblocked. Concerns were raised about the management of the ditch and possible flooding. It was agreed to write to Rights of Way and ask them who is responsible for maintaining the ditch and managing the footpath. Cllr James will find out 'what three words' so that we can provide clear information to Rights of Way of where the problems are.

15. LADY OF SHALLOT PROPOSAL – CLLR HINTON

It was agreed to write to the Albion Hotel, Dimbola, Ex Cllr George Cameron, Kevin Coughlan and Paul Owen to thank them for their help in the installation of the Lady of Shallot.

Cllr Hinton left the meeting during the discussion about any funding to complete the project. It was agreed to advise Dimbola to provide the council with quotes for materials required to enhance the experience of viewing the statue in line with the approved planning permission, that could be considered as grant funding.

16. PROPOSAL FOR MOA PLACE PHONE BOX – CLLR JAMES

It was proposed to get an estimate from the Parish Facilities Officer for tidying up/repainting and repairing the phone box. Possible options are to create an information point and/or a charging point for mobile phones. It was proposed to ask the community for suggestions through a competition to determine its future use. A full proposal will be brought back to full council.

17. FREEDOM OF THE PARISH COUNCIL POLICY PROPOSAL – CLLR COX

Two polices were included in the proposal: a) Freedom of the Parish Proposal and b) Community Awards. It was agreed to accept the Freedom of the Parish Policy. Some amendments were discussed in respect of the Community Awards Policy and Cllr Cox agreed to make the changes and bring the policy back to full council in August. It was agreed to accept the principle of having an awards policy (TA/DJ) with 4 objections.

18. PARKING ON AVENUE ROAD PROPOSAL – CLLR JARMAN

This item was deferred as Cllr Jarman had sent apologies.

19. CHRISTMAS WORKING GROUP PROPOSAL – CLLR COX

The Parish Council previously had a Christmas Committee, this was dissolved and an Events Committee replaced it. The Events Committee was dissolved at the last Annual Meeting as it had failed to hold any events since its inception. The Christmas Committee met to assist the

Administration Assistant with the plans for how the Parish Council would light the village, purchase trees, manage the shop window display competition etc. If the Parish Council would like to continue to celebrate Christmas in the way, it has traditionally done so I believe we should form a small working group to assist a member of the Clerk's team to ensure this celebration can continue. I would also like to suggest that the working group could also consider taking charge of placing and decorating a Christmas tree in the All Saints Church Christmas tree event, which we sadly failed to do last year. Therefore, I propose that Freshwater Parish Council form a working group to oversee the management of the Christmas budget. The membership of the group would be 3 Councillors and 1 officer.
It was agreed that the Working Group would consist of Cllrs Armstrong, Cox, Turan and the Deputy Clerk (EC/DJ)

20. TO DECLARE ANY CONFLICTS OF INTEREST WITH BDO LLP

No conflicts of interest were declared by Councillors in respect of BDO LLP (the external auditors). The declaration was signed by the Chair and the Clerk. The Clerk will contact absent councillors to check if they have a conflict of interest.

That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

21. TO AGREE A QUOTE FOR THE MEMORIAL HALL COURTYARD

It was agreed to accept the quote from RenoDrain and to notify Totland Parish Council and MHALCo of the Parish Council's recommendation.

The meeting closed at 9.08pm.