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MINUTES OF A FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 1st SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 18.55pm IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MEMORIAL HALL, FRESHWATER

Present: Councillors Whistance, Bamford, Cameron, Chaucer, Hinton, Hobbs, Jarman, Pakel, Turan, Whyte

Public: 1

Clerk: K Gibson

Minutes: M Gardiner

Finance: P Blackley

1. **APOLOGIES** To receive any apologies for absence.
Councillors Armstrong, Betts and Seely
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**
To receive any declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary (personal) interests relating to items on the agenda.
Councillors Bamford, Hobbs, Hinton and Whyte declared interests as trustees of the Memorial Hall Arts and Leisure Company.
3. **REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**
To receive and consider granting any written requests from Members for dispensations in respect of disclosable pecuniary interests. **NONE**
4. **MINUTES**
To agree the minutes of the Freshwater Parish Council meeting held on 7th July 2026 (PAPER A). **AGREED**

To agree the minutes of the Freshwater Parish Council Extraordinary meeting held on 14th July 2026. (PAPER B) POSTPONED FOR AMENDMENTS
5. **WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT**
Reports from the following ward councillors:
Councillor Chris Jarman – Circulated via email
Councillor Becca Cameron – Circulated via email
Councillor Debbie Conlin – Circulated via email
6. **OFFICER REPORTS**
To receive a written report from the Clerk (PAPER C)

Sport England Grant Success

Our finance officer, Paul Blackley, has worked very hard at applying for grants to support the new skate park and pump track project. This month he successfully was awarded a grant for £15,000 from Sport England. This is a huge success and deserves commendation and congratulations for his effort.

Co-option of a Councillor

No candidates applied for the vacant councillor position during the advertised period. The office will readvertise the vacancy in September for applicants to apply by the 25th September to be presented on the October full council agenda.

Stroud Playing Fields Zip Wire

The pulley mechanism on the zip wire is broken and not repairable and a new part has been ordered. This will hopefully be repaired in the near future.

Spinfish Gabion Repairs

The gabion works have now been completed at Spinfish. We have had positive feedback from the parishioners.

Freshwater Bay Bins

After complaints were made about lots of rubbish being left next to the bins, we put some signs on the side of the bins at Freshwater Bay to encourage people to take their rubbish home if the bins are full. The bins are emptied daily but due to the great weather there have been a lot more people visiting the bay and therefore more rubbish.

Skin Cancer Clinic

The Lighthouse Clinic took a free clinic in the Memorial Hall to check for skin cancer. The clinic is usually held at Captain's Cabin in Colwell Bay, unfortunately, they could not hold it this year. The clinic was fully booked and had very positive feedback from all that attended. It was agreed with the Chair that the cost of hosting the clinic would be covered by FPC. The cost for the day was £115.50, this is a reduced rate than would normally be charged.

7. CHAIRS REPORT

To receive a report from the Chair, Cllr David Whistance (PAPER D)

CHAIRS REPORT AUGUST 2026

Other than the constant planning applications – and therefore Planning Meetings – August has been a quiet month.

I did meet with Kirsty and Mike Guppy at Freshwater Bay where Mike set out

his proposals for a new memorial for John Dundas. This is to replace the one on the cliffs which will disappear into the sea as a result of coastal erosion sometime in the next few years. You will see his proposal in the papers for this meeting.

Meeting with Mike did make me think about the “look” of Freshwater Bay, particularly the shelter (sorry I’ve never liked it!) but also the “grass” bank which is looking very worn and bare after a summer of no rain and heavy footfall. As one of Freshwater’s most iconic locations surely it should look better than it does? Do we want visitors to take away the thought that we don’t care for our village and environs?

With the prospect of an elegant, very expensive, glass memorial being built on the front in the Bay I think the Parish Council should consider how we can improve the look of Freshwater Bay without damaging its charm. I would suggest that at the very least we use the impetus of the new memorial to refresh/rethink the shelter and reconsider the boat park.

Also, given the heavy use of the grass bank, the adverse conditions in the Bay and the changing climate, we should look into ways to try and ensure that it continues to look good whatever the weather and footfall.

In a similar vein I would very much like us to start to think about how to “regenerate” our village.

We have had various suggestions from Becca and others about ways to tidy up Moa Place but there has never been a budget for them so we are always trying to do something for nothing. Maybe this year we should actually allocate a proper budget to the task and do it? Done well the maintenance costs shouldn’t be that high and the potential for improvement is great!

Similarly with the various planters around the village, particularly the ones owned by the Isle of Wight Council on the edge of the Moa Place Car Park? I know they own them but it’s our village and we shouldn’t have to endure pots of weeds just because they can’t be bothered!

Lastly on the subject of car parking it strikes me as an injustice that I can park for free for an hour in the IOW Council car park in Wooton or in the central car park in Ryde but have to pay straightaway in any of the car parks in Freshwater. If we could obtain one hour free parking on at least the Avenue Road car park, that would be a big help to our shops and, given how underused it is, is unlikely to significantly impact the IOW Council’s income.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

One item of correspondence.

9. FINANCE

To review and approve the recommendations from the Finance Committee (PAPER E) i.

- To receive and approve the bank reconciliations as of 30th June 2026
(DW/BC) AGREED

- To receive and note the approved quarter end budget monitor and forecast **(DW/FT) AGREED**
 - To receive and note the approved grant application from Our Place Community Centre for £3,500.00 **NOTED**
- ii. To review and approve the payments list (PAPER F – see appendix) **(DW/CJ) AGREED**
 - iii. To receive and make a decision on a grant application received from FYTbus for £4,860 (PAPER G).

It was proposed to agree the application from FYTbus and invite FYTbus members to join a future parish council meeting to provide further information on the services provided.

(DW/AB) AGREED

10. WE THE 33

To review and approve the request to endorse the We the 33 project.

The endorsement from the parish council involves the following:

Offering the project a recognised home in the parish

Council support in connecting us to the relevant people and groups that might benefit

Supporting with our communications efforts, as relevant (i.e. being featured in the newsletter when reaching out to the community)

We would liaise with the council (either formally or informally) on the project progress in the parish

For information attached is the We the 33 presentation given in June to the Council (PAPER H).

It was proposed to approve the request to endorse **We the 33 (DW/CP) AGREED**

11. UPDATE FROM THE SKATE PARK WORKING PARTY.

Councillor Pakel gave a verbal update.

12. FLT LT JOHN DUNDAS MEMORIAL

To review and agree on principle the officer report and information attached. (PAPER I)

It was resolved to agree on principle at this time, subject to future developments and consultations. **(BH/SC) AGREED**

Councillor Pakel abstained.

13. MOA PLACE TOILET REFURBISHMENT WORKING GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE.

To review and approve the attached terms of reference for the above working group. (PAPER J) **(FT/DW) AGREED**

14. WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT.

To review and approve the attached updated website accessibility statement following upgrades and the move to the .gov website. **(PAPER K) (DW/WW) AGREED**

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.

15. MEMORIAL HALL REPOINTING

To review and approve the attached officer recommendations for the repointing works to be carried out on the Memorial Hall. (PAPER L)

It was proposed to provisionally accept quote 2 with expenditure up to £8255 (subject to clarification on quote 3) **(CP/DW) AGREED**

16. UPDATE FROM THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE.

To update the full council on the replacement RFO recruitment.

To propose the clerk continues in the RFO position for a further temporary period of six months with the support of the RFO at Ryde Town Council as per the attached draft SLA. To review and agree the (PAPER M)

It was proposed that the Clerk continue acting as Responsible Finance Officer for a period of up to six months with technical support from Ryde TC RFO with a maximum spending cap of £480 over the SLA period **(DW/AB) AGREED**

17. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Regeneration at Freshwater Bay
Community Food growing project
Youth project for Freshwater
Freedom of the Village Awards

Meeting ends at: 9.03pm