



FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Office 01983 752000

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 7th SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 8.39 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
MEMORIAL HALL, FRESHWATER**

PRESENT: Councillors: D James (Chairman) A Bamford, G Cameron, E Cox, B Hobbs, B Hinton MBE, G Kennett, M Locke, N Thomas (left at 9pm) and J Young

Members of the public: None

Clerk: H Rowell

1. APOLOGIES

Councillors J Medland, T Murphy and C Jarman

**2. TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON THE 3rd of AUGUST 2021**

The minutes of the meetings held on 3rd August (having been circulated) were agreed (GC/BH).

**3. TO INVITE COUNCILLORS TO DECLARE AN INTEREST IN MATTERS ON
THE AGENDA**

Cllr James declared an interest in item 16. Cllr James knows one of the surveyors.

**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.**

Reports received see Appendix 1

6. CLERK'S REPORT

Community Resilience Workshop

IWALC are hosting a community resilience workshop with town and parish council representatives, voluntary sector, and the statutory sector on September 25th in Sandown which Cllr Hobbs and Cllr Bamford will be attending.

Heritage Centre

Cllr Bamford (Chair of Finance) and the Clerk met with the Chairman and Treasurer at the Heritage Centre to discuss the future of the Centre and the Parish Council contribution. It was agreed that the Centre would work towards becoming a Community Interest Company by the end of March 2022.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted.

8. TO AGREE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT -LIST CIRCULATED TO COUNCILLORS FOR INFORMATION

Payments (having been circulated) were agreed (GC/GK)– see appendix 2.

9. CHIRSTMAS REPORT – CLLR BRAY

The following is the report from the meeting on 16th August 2021 with the Administration Assistant, Cllr Bray and Cllr Cox:

REAL TREES

Freshwater Parish Council will have 3 real Christmas Trees at the following locations
Rapanui, Library & Moa Place

ARTIFICIAL TREES

We have 32 trees that go up through the village from The Mountbatten shop down to The Pet Shop, these trees will need replacing within the next couple of years or consider a different option. It has been suggested to have Christmas flags on flag poles. Other suggestions would be most welcome. (The trees are very difficult to store and take up a lot of space).

MEMORIAL HALL

We currently have white icicle lights up around the building which were purchased around 3yrs ago. It has been discussed to add multi coloured lights around the 3 main windows of the Parish meeting room.

OLD AMBULANCE STATION

We had great feedback from lighting this up last year with 2 blue and white shaped lights, we will keep this the same.

LAMP POST LIGHTS

We have had to replace the 6 lamp post lights as they are tired and 2 are not working correctly now. We have replaced these with 6 new blue and white patterned design lights. It has been agreed to offer the other 4 lights to IWALC through Heathers connections. I'm sure someone could make use out of them for a year or 2. Island Roads have agreed to put in new timers in the lamp posts this year as we had a few problems last year and they had to be called out multiple times.

AVENUE ROAD CAR PARK

We had fantastic feedback from last year's free carparking due to its timing, it was agreed that we should do this again this year, the dates are 22nd, 23rd, & 24th December 8am-12noon

WINDOW COMPETITION

This has been a great success for the last 3yrs now since the Administration Assistant has come on board. The shops love getting involved and so do the judges. We tend to have around 15 entries. We tried doing a theme, but this did not go down well, so we just let the shop owners do their own designs, this is then judged over 3-5days by outside judges, last year we had fire fighters and police. For the first 2 years we asked local companies to donate a prize, these were things like free swimming vouchers, tea, and cake for 2 etc. last year the Administration Assistant made 3 hampers for a winner and 2 runners up.

BANNERS

We currently have 4 banners that we place through the village. It has been discussed that we may need to replace the library one as it is too big for the location and does not sit well and we believe this could also be damaged. All banners will be checked and replaced if required.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT EVENT

It was discussed that this was not as successful as we would have liked and will not go ahead this year, for this reason and secondly, we don't know what will happen with COVID.

10. CAR PARK ACQUISITION – CLLR JAMES

Cllr James has met with Cllrs at Ventnor Town Council to consider a proposal to rent each car park from the county council at the current revenue value. This would give the Parish Council the option to provide local permits. It was agreed to find out the revenue value for each of the car parks in the parish and to show an interest in pursuing this proposal.

11. UPDATE ON PROPOSED ROAD RACES – CLLR KENNETT

The preferred circuit for the IW Road Races which is to be held over a 3 day period 20th April 2022 to the 23rd April 2022 is proposed to be via the most rural areas of the West Wight

The promoters are ACU Events and the preferred circuit is via the "Chale Route" which will go through Chale, Shorwell, Kingston, Brighstone and the Military Road.

There has been a second proposed route which would include Tapnell into Freshwater Bay via Afton Road.

There has been a great deal of concern regarding the impact that this will have on the affected roads due to the road closure and concerns around safety.

A group made up from the affected areas have come together to oppose the Road Race. They have concerns about the safety of the races, the impact on the rural West Wight and the possibility of “copycat” bikers trying to emulate the Road Races. They have come forward with counter arguments to those made by the promoters.

There was a presentation at the Wilberforce Hall in Brighstone recently by the promoters which was well attended, and an exit poll undertaken by the opposing group showed that the view was roughly 50/50

Brighstone Parish Council are going to undertake a survey of their residents to gauge what the feeling is in the Village and likewise Chale.

Cllr Kennett approached FBRA to see what their view might be, particularly if the Tapnell route was used and they will discuss this at their next meeting

The promoters are outlining the financial benefit to the Island of the Road Races being held here and comparing that with the Isle of Man TT races which brings in substantial funding to their Island.

For me the safety history of the Military Road is not good, and it has been highlighted as one of the more dangerous roads for accidents in the UK, having said that we all know the tradition of the Sunday Morning bikers many of whom have ridden the Military Road for decades.

12. REPORT FROM IWALC TOPIC MEETING ON THE ISLE OF WIGHT DRAFT PLANNING STRATEGY – CLLR BAMFORD

The meeting on the 26th August 2021 was well attended, and four councillors were in attendance from Freshwater Parish Council. Diana Conyers, Chairman of IWALC, chaired the meeting. In attendance was Paul Fuller Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Provision and James Brewer, Planning Team Leader – Policy Delivery for Isle of Wight Council. Cllr Fuller in his introduction did state that there is a major shortage of accommodation on the Island with 2,500 people in desperate need of housing, and so some development on greenfield sites are necessary.

The first section covered the need for a new plan. Since 2018 due to Current plan adopted in 2012 before introduction of NPPF & IWC decisions were being made under ‘presumption in favour’ since 2018 with a lack of delivery. James Brewer stated that a new plan would help improve consistency and decision making.

The next section was about the proposed reduction in housing number of 25% and the removal of garden settlement areas. No allocated sites outside of new settlement boundaries. Unallocated sites in rural areas will be expected to be predominantly affordable housing via Rural or First Homes, exception sites. To establish a revised housing mix policy to provide

more of the types of homes that island people need. To incorporate a new policy to steer unplanned development towards using brownfield site.

A new plan could:

- Require a minimum 10% biodiversity net gain from all development.
- Support for the creation of a Dark Skies Park in the southwest of the Island.
- Over 25 Local Green Spaces are included
- Only around 1 per cent of the Island is allocated for residential and employment land.
- 30 hectares of land is allocated across six different sites for employment use.
- Reinvigorating our High Streets working alongside the ongoing success of Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) projects in Newport and Ryde, enable town centres to be more flexible.
- Over 8 miles of new cycle track are proposed, including proposals to complete the West Wight to Newport pedestrian and cycle greenway.

Some councillors mentioned the experience in areas such as in some parts of Cornwall (Mevagissey) Cllr Fuller also stated the importance of enabling people to downsize therefore freeing up family homes. Diana Conyers asked whether IWALC should make its own submission, highlighting key issues raised by all or most local councils (e.g., need for more social housing). It was agreed that we should and that, in order to compile, town and parish councils should make their own individual submissions and make them available to IWALC. Ways of doing this were discussed. It was agreed to ask councils to let IWALC know the details of their submission to enable an IWALC submission, that would be agreed at the IWALC Executive meeting on 30th September.

In the closing section of the meeting Chris Mills (IWC Planner) pointed out that respondents should comment on policies that they support as well as those with which they disagree. Cllr Fuller informed participants that there will be a ‘pop up shop’ consultation in Newport High Street on Saturdays 4th and 11th of September and that they will also be visiting local libraries. Cllr Fuller thanked IWALC for organising the meeting and Diana Conyers thanked both participants and planning staff for their attendance.

13. SKATE PARK UPDATE – CLLR LOCKE

The pre-planning application meeting held on the 5th August was positive, once the report has been received from the IWC we will be preparing tender documents.

The following is the report from the Skate Jam Competition held on 21st August 2021.

At one point there were about 100 people watching and/or taking part and we raised over £100 in donations. This whole event was put together by Hamish Fleming and Paul Blackley in less than 10 days

“After looking like the weather had let us down, all the skaters got active and swept and squeegeed the puddles, then it rained again! Finally, the sun came out. Although the turnout was already great, people kept on arriving and the commitment to the new park was tangible.

Everyone helped get ramps out and in place and we began. We started with mini challenges such as “hippy jump” and “ramp to ramp” with all ages and abilities taking part. Passers-by stopped to check it out as there seems to be a new understanding since the Olympics got the world’s attention. Further enthusiasm for the new park was demonstrated by the amazing and generous prizes donated from businesses across the island such as Freshwater Parish Council, Craft Vegan Pizza Ryde, Reaper Surf Co, Teemill, Rapanui, Westwood Signs, Steve Miles Artist, Canopy and Wight Trash. The event was captured on an insect like drone and 360 camera, flown and shot by Steve Martin, giving a futuristic feel as the drone flew amongst the skaters. The vibe was rad; it felt like a new beginning for this corner of Skate Island. I can’t wait to welcome everyone to Canopy coming soon.” Hamish Fleming

14. TO AGREE PROPOSED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COUNCILLORS.

- To propose a way forward in respect of the footpath next to the Octopus Workshop, Avenue Road, Freshwater.
- Stroud Coppice
- Land Management
- Trees

The meeting closed at 9.52 pm.