



FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Office 01983 752000

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 5th OCTOBER 2021 AT 7.45 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
MEMORIAL HALL, FRESHWATER**

PRESENT: Councillors: G Cameron (Chairman) A Bamford, E Cox, B Hobbs, B Hinton
MBE, G Kennett, C Jarman, J Medland

Members of the public: Cllr Peter Spink was in attendance.

Clerk: H Rowell

Update on the WWSCC and Community Connector – Clare Griffin and Adam Tucker

1. APOLOGIES

Councillors T Murphy, J Young, C Bray, N Thomas and D James

**2. TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON THE 7th SEPTEMBER 2021**

The minutes of the meetings held on 7th September (having been circulated) were agreed (EC/AB).

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

None

**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

Meeting with the police 27th September 2021

We had our monthly meeting with the police where we discussed the increase in graffiti locally. The Assistant Clerk contacted all the local primary schools and asked them to raise it in their school assemblies. It was agreed to put back up the anti-social behaviour banners.

Parish Facilities Officer

The bench in the public shelter at Freshwater Bay has been repaired and re-stained. The fencing in Hooke Close which was damaged by the fallen tree in Stroud Coppice has been repaired.

The Causeway

The Clerk has written to Cllr Jordan requesting a site visit. As yet we haven't received a reply.

Yarmouth Harbour Master

The Harbour Master has requested an opportunity to come and talk to councillors at a forthcoming meeting.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted.

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

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

9& 10 LAND MANAGEMENT REPORT/UPDATE AND REPORT ON MEETING WITH GIFT TO NATURE – CLLR BRAY

Cllr Bray met with Graham Bliss of Gift to Nature at Golden Hill on 13th September, to look at the work they have been doing on the site, Graham told me they have invested just over £100,000 this year. The day to day running includes tree work, path clearance, and their contractors will be on the park in the autumn to clear the scrubs etc that have grown up since last autumn. Graham is very pleased with the willow sculpture and the team will come back once a year to tidy it up, and this will help its longevity, it has a life time of five years, and it is hoped to extend this to ten years. The team are working towards getting Stewardship for both Golden Hill and Afton Marsh, which will shape the management of both sites. Gift to Nature is in talks with Natural England, who want less scrub on both sites.

It is hoped that the cycle way work will start shortly, and the first part will be the work on the north side of Afton Marsh. Graham Biss was meeting with Natural England at the Marsh the day after our meeting to discuss the work needed to clear more of the shrubs, for which

funding is needed. There is a lot of day-to-day work done on the site of tree work and work to the paths, plus litter picking.

We also discussed our mutual problem of fly tipping, and how we agree on the way to tackle it.

Cllr Bray and the Assistant Clerk met with some of the residents of Hooke Close on 20th July to discuss tidying the land on the left at the bottom of the close, we explained that we were waiting for the land to be transferred to the Parish Council, and that we wanted to work with the residents on planting bulbs and shrubs. The parish office is organising the purchase of bulbs and shrubs and Cllr Bray will help on day of planting. The residents have concerns regarding parking on the green and our facilities officer will be putting in posts to stop this happening. The bulb planting was approved.

Bulb Planting on the Stroud

The Cubs and Beavers would like to plant daffodils on the Stroud on Saturday 13th November to mark Remembrance Day. The bulb planting was approved.

Tree Work

Cllr Bray met with Will Cross of Cross Country Tree Work on 30th September to discuss the work required for tree survey carried out earlier this year, Island Roads have flagged up a tree that concerns them on School Green which was in the survey and this work will be done shortly. There are concerns regarding the ashen trees at Spin Fish in the survey which may also need urgent work because of winter storms, Cross Country will deal with these if necessary.

Library garden

Work is needed to reduce the height of the fir trees to the front left of the gardens.

Dead Elms

There are 20 dead elms in Spin Fish and 1 in Brookside Road which need felling during the winter, many of the elms can be reduced in height as they are in hedges, but two are very large and will need felling for safety reasons as they are close to a path.

Two concerned residents who have trees that are on our land, that border their properties have asked us to look at the trees, one of the trees is in Stroud Copice and the other is in Spin Fish, Cross Country have been given the locations and they will quote for the work.

The footpath at Spin Fish

This path has been badly damaged by the flood we had in August; the surface has been washed away in many places, and urgent repairs are needed before this gets any worse. The Assistant Clerk will contact Rights of Way & Island Roads to see who is responsible for the repairs. The concerns are firstly for the safety of people walking through Spin Fish, and secondly, that if the work is not carried out the holes will become wider and deeper, and the frosts will impact on the size of the holes.

- 11. OLD AMBULANCE STATION UPDATE – CLLR BAMFORD**
The roof is in the process of being repaired and the external painting is being completed.
- 12. LIBRARY UPDATE - CLLR BAMFORD**
A new library supervisor has been appointed by the IWC following the promotion of the current supervisor. Councillors were encouraged to introduce themselves to the new supervisor.
- 13. FOOTPATH BETWEEN AVENUE ROAD AND TENNYSON ROAD – CLLR COX**
The Rights of Way application is in process but could take 12 months to be completed. The owners of the Octopus Workshop have been advised by the IWC that they can keep the footpath closed until a decision has been made. It was agreed to write to the owners of the Octopus Workshop and request that the sign on the gate, on the closed footpath which implies agreement from the Parish Council is removed.
- 14. ISLE OF WIGHT LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 4 WORKSHOP REPORT – CCLR COX**
A stakeholder engagement workshop in support of the Emerging IOW Transport Plan LTP4 was held on 23/09/21 . The Workshop was run by Hampshire County Council and Atkins. Ben Mitchell - Assistant Transport Planner Hampshire County Council Charlotte Reynolds – Atkins. The LTP4 is proposed to run from 2023 until 2038 building on the current LTP3 plan. These workshops are to offer stakeholders their first opportunity to help shape the LTP4. There will be a further opportunity to engage in the process in Spring 2022 before the plan goes to public consultation in the Summer of 2022. Participants were given ample opportunity to speak, sharing views and ideas on the way forward. Views were wide ranging, however, in the main people were optimistic and supportive of the objectives shown during the workshop Cllr Cox attended. It is hoped that the LTP4 will encompass a significant change in policy from Government and work alongside the Environment Strategy Plan in the emerging IPS. Taking into account the comprehensive Islandwide Speed Limit Review and the Traffic Regulation Order review. It will include a new Bus Service Improvement Plan. The emphasis will be centred on more sustainable ways of living and travelling, concentrating on reducing the Island’s greenhouse emissions and the desire to have net zero carbon by 2030. Priority is to be given to moving away from the reliance of the private car, while ensuring equitable access to jobs and services. Participants highlighted key areas that would need considerable investment to meet the Plan’s objectives. The two main concerns raised were accessibility and affordability. There was a general consensus that the different areas of the Island needed local solutions, and that the strategy when moving forward did not become One Island One Solution.
- 15. YARMOUTH HARBOUR ADVISORY COMMITTEE (YHAC) REPORT – CLLR BAMFORD**
The report and minutes from the last meeting were received.

16. SKATE PARK AND PUMP TRACK LEADERSHIP

Following the resignation from the Parish Council of Cllr Locke who led this project it was proposed that Cllr Cameron take on the role of Chairman. This was seconded and unanimously approved.

17. REPORT FROM FINANCE MEETING – CLLR BAMFORD

- **UPDATED FINANCIAL REGULATIONS** – This work is still in progress and will be presented to councillors at a future meeting.
- **UPDATED RISK ASSESSMENT** - This was approved unanimously
- **UPDATED COMMUNITY GRANTS POLICY** - This was approved unanimously.

18. COMMUNITY GRANTS APPLICATIONS – CLLR BAMFORD

Five applications were received, and the following grants were approved:

Jigsaw – £150.00

West Wight Men in Sheds - £ 300.00

Freshwater Short Mat Bowls Club - £1,248.00

West Wight Churches Together - £ 6,000 (£3,000 per year for 2020/21 and 2021/22) as per a previously 3 year agreed grant from 2019 – 2022.

19. PARISH BORROWING APPROVAL FOR GATE LANE TOILETS

The following resolution was unanimously approved:

At the Freshwater Parish Council meeting of 2nd March 2021, it was resolved to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to apply for a PWLB Loan of £165,000 over the borrowing term of 25 years for the rebuilding of Gate Lane Public Toilets. The Annual Loan repayment will come to around £10,000. It is intended to increase the tax precept for the purpose of the loan repayments by 1% which is the equivalent of £1.02 for a Band D property. This was part of the budget consultation for 2021/22.

20. TO ACCEPT THE EXTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT FOR THE AGAR

The external auditors report and recommendations for 2020/21 was accepted.

21. TO AGREE PROPOSED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COUNCILLORS.

- Location of the donated Lady of Shalott Statue
- Projects for 2022/23
- Formation of the Strategy Group
- Local Authority Assets in Freshwater Parish

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.