



DRAFT

FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Office 01983 752000

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 2nd NOVEMBER 2021 AT 7.25 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
MEMORIAL HALL, FRESHWATER**

PRESENT: Councillors: D James (Chairman) A Bamford, C Bray, G Cameron, E Cox, B Hobbs, B Hinton MBE, G Kennett, C Jarman, J Medland and N Thomas.

Members of the public: None

Clerk: H Rowell

1. **APOLOGIES**
Councillors T Murphy and J Young,
2. **TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON THE 5th OCTOBER 2021**
The minutes of the meetings held on 5th October (having been circulated) were agreed (BH/GC).
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.**
Cllr Spink sent apologies for the meeting. Reports received see Appendix 1
6. **CLERK'S REPORT**
Old Ambulance Station
The work on the roof has been completed.



Seesaw

The seesaw as approved is currently being manufactured as of the 20th October. There is an 8–10-week lead time. Once it is near completion, we will provide them with a delivery contact for MCM Construction, who will install it. This has been a complicated process that the Assistant Clerk has worked really hard to sort out.

Christmas 2021

The new lights for the lamp posts have been ordered, and Island Roads have added new timers at no extra cost. Avenue Road Car Park has been secured for free parking for 3 full days leading up to Christmas. There will be 32 artificial trees with the possibility of 2 new shops participating, and 3 real trees for the usual locations. The following judges have been booked for the Window Competition – Paul Topping (IW Radio), Amy Shepard (IW Beacon) and Paddy McHugh (Events Organiser IW).

Facilities Officer

Hooke Close – the posts are being put in to prevent parking outside Stroud Coppice. The bins are being streamlined as we now have a pass for the tip which is cheaper than using Biffa.

Colwell Buoys

The buoys have been removed and put into storage. They were unable to find one of the sinkers so that will need replacing next year.

Projects for 2022/23

As yet we haven't received any projects from councillors for next year. We need to have any costed proposals before the next Finance Meeting on 16th November 2021.

IWALC Topic Meeting – Island Roads PFI Contract

Cllr Jordan explained that the previous administration, as part of its attempts to reduce expenditure, had renegotiated the Island Roads PFI. The result was a reduction of £2 million in the Island Roads budget, about £1.5 million of which has already been implemented. The main areas where 'savings' have been made are as follows: • Street cleaning: £200,000 pa • Grass cutting: £200,000 pa • Winter servicing (i.e. gritting): £60,000 • CCTV: £160,000 pa • Road markings: £10,000 pa • Street furniture: £80,000 pa • Street lights (trimming and dimming): £25,000 pa • Traffic management: £30,000 pa • Models and counters (i.e. data collection): £50,000 pa • Litter collection, including bin emptying: £100,000 pa • Emptying of dog bins: £50,000 pa • Help desk: £70,000 pa • District Stewards: £35,000 pa.

The West Wight Town and Parish Councils Association meeting

Thank you to Councillor James for the following report:

- The Speedwatch scheme (monitoring vehicle speeds at the roadside) needs volunteers. A speed camera costs just over £200, and some parishes are buying their own. The speed monitoring is done on 30mph roads and possibly 40mph roads.
- Island Roads has said that reports of any dangerous highways or junctions need to be re-submitted to them.
- Bob Seely MP was in attendance and asked any parish councils concerned about speeding or wanting the Island's road policing unit to be reinstated to write to him about that.
- There is controversy over the coastal path in Newtown, due to a people using a potential right to roam affecting cattle and protected birds. Natural England has not been attending public meetings to explain their position to local people. The Ministry of Defence has apparently not allowed the coastal path to go through Jersey Camp.
- The cycle path funding being offered by central government was discussed. The West Wight to Newport cycle route is looking likely, there is one landowner yet to agree to it, according

to Bob Seely MP; he also raised the involvement of Cyclewight in a future West Wight parishes meeting. Public safety from cattle should be considered when gates are open.

- Vehicles speeding on the Military Road were discussed. The perception is that this problem has got worse since the road races were announced.
The Police and Crime Commissioner might be funding mobile speed cameras.
The Island's MP is lobbying to recover the money from speeding fines to pay for the cameras, as fines currently go to the Treasury.
- The proposed motorcycle races will not be supported by Brighstone Parish Council, which carried out a survey of residents. Chale Parish Council is not supporting the event either. They have expressed doubts about the local consultation but got no reply to their letters from the Auto Cycle Union. There could be restricted access to residents' properties, but is this legal?

Social media consultation attracted supporters of the proposed races, but the only in-person consultation so far, in Brighstone, was not advertised widely. 130 people attended that consultation. Our MP is writing to the government about the proposed races. It was suggested that town and parish councils consider their position on the races and state their support or otherwise.

Cllr James said we were unsure if the route was passing through our Parish. The Tapnell proposal from 'Diamond Races' is apparently not happening.

- Cllr James raised the issue of the Causeway bridge handrail failure. It was suggested by other councillors that the matter be reported to the Health and Safety Executive in order to help break the deadlock between Island Roads and the County's conservation officer.

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. TO RECEIVE THE IWALC COMMUNITY RESILIENCE WORKSHOP REPORT

The report of the workshop on the 25th September 2021 attended by Cllr Bamford and Cllr Hobbs was received.

10. WEST WIGHT LOCAL CYCLING IMPROVEMENT PLAN – CLLR MEDLAND

LCWIPS are the means by which we access funding from the £1.75 billion promised in 2020 for capital investment in walking and cycling.

So far IWC has managed to produce two LCWIPS, for Newport and Ryde, on the basis of which IWC are already bidding for £2 million in grants

A successful LCWIP will give us this status for 15 years.

The process of creating an LCWIP involves an “external writer” with extensive public consultation events which will cost an estimated £15,000-£20,000. We hear that it will not need to be anything like as detailed as the earlier two LWCIPs.

You may have noticed that the IWC has won another grant offer to 50% fund new IW LCWIPS up to a budget of £30,000 which the IWC can only match with £10,000.

As we all know it is an IWC priority to develop the WW Greenway, which is now ready to go, having gone through initial public consultation.

However, it would help if we had a buy in from our local councils which are now in the budget setting process. The potential IWC budget for new LCWIPs will need to be split with other applicant councils in other parts of the Island.

IWC has sent notice to our local councils alerting them to the potential, but I fear that this will be lost as an item in Correspondence in their early November meetings. We ward councillors should highlight it in our reports and if possible, bring a motion to match fund it? We only have to November 15th to submit a 500-word proposal on an online form.

If we can apply for a WW LWCIP combining Freshwater Parish, Yarmouth Town and Shalfleet and Calbourne parish councils as a minimum, ideally including Brighstone, Shorwell and Totland parish councils we can draw down DfT funds for the WW Greenway and other local transport improvements.

It is currently estimated to cost around £2 million to build the Greenway but I feel we should be adding an extra million or more from this vast potential budget for implementation of the long delayed 2008/2016 IW Rights of Way Improvement Plan, throughout the WW, (benefitting Brighstone and Shorwell PCs in particular) grants to local rural businesses to diversify along/near the Greenway, state of the art digital and physical interpretation of the historic and natural landscape? With sufficient investment the WW Greenway could become the future jewel in the crown of our cycling and walking offer from the Island’s capital to the key tourist assets of Alum Bay and the Needles?

It makes sense for the West Wight to think collectively on transport generally to assist us with the new Local Transport Plan which with the Carbon Reduction Strategy and draft Island Strategic Plan will set our public policy into the future for about two decades.

We basically have just three strategic east-west road routes and one ridgetop bridleway. The new national coastal footpath will help but largely coincides with the existing two A road accesses. Our bridleways are predominantly in Brighstone and Shorwell, with almost nothing north of the Downs and west of the Yar. We need to create circular routes to be safely enjoyed by riders, cyclists and walkers.

In the mid-2010s the Island was rated among the best cycling and walking destinations in the world. We have an extraordinary ROW network and equestrian industry greater by relative size to any other English county. But by the standards of NW Europe our networks are incredibly primitive and dangerous as they join roads with legal speeds up to 60 miles an hour.

This implies both an upgrade of some footpaths to bridleways and some speed restricted, and tarmac signed 'Quiet Lanes' to take cyclists safely from Freshwater Bay, where the current projected Greenway ends, to the Needles which is what tourists to the Island come to see.

Therefore, the LWCIP and LTP are intimately connected. The LTP strategy wants to reduce car use and the LWCIP can assist this by investing a national capital budget to dramatically upgrade our already excellent rights of way.

The IWC has an unprecedented record of success in applying for DfT grants to develop walking and cycling since our first grant in 2013 we have won a further annual grant ever since.

This is an opportunity we would be mad not to grasp.
What we need now is each local council to agree in principle be prepared to commit project/contingency budget commitment if the bid is successful?

It was agreed to put in an expression of interest.

11. FRESHWATER PARISH STRATEGY GROUP -CLLR CAMERON

Objective:

The Freshwater Parish Council (FPC) would like a strategy group formed to formulate proposals to control future developments within Freshwater Parish. It is proposed that initially a small team is established to define the process and set out a project programme and establish points of reference. The team will be appointed by FPC. It is proposed that all members will be able and be expected to contribute as the process develops.

Aims:

a) To ensure that the area still retains its identity and to create a document that builds on the current Village Design Statement that is fully in accord with the upcoming DIPS and the National planning Policy Framework. This combination will help us to maximise our powers under the Localism Act

b) This document will examine all elements of existing development and infrastructure and develop future strategy. Future developments (Infrastructure, Built and Social) are guided with the aim of preserving, enhancing, and promoting the Parish. It will not in itself be a social statement, but it will aim to provide the basis for future growth and prosperity for Freshwater Parish.

c) It will consult with all local organisations, the business community and the IWC. This is to promote the area and to attract new custom to the businesses within the Parish of Freshwater. It will form the base document for future applications for external funding.

d) It will form the basis for an application to IWC and its Highway Maintenance Service Provider for improvements to the highway network throughout the village. It will aim to meet or work towards the aims of the FPC Annual Plan. **It will need to be approved by FPC.**

Other members would be appointed as required and other consultants appointed also as required,

Areas: Due to the size and diverse nature of Freshwater Parish, the four areas, as detailed within the Freshwater Village Design Statement should be used as guidance.

Initial Consultation: To ensure that the group cover the main areas of future development of Freshwater to the residents' requirements a basic questionnaire should be compiled and distributed to the various groups that exist in the area for comment.

It was agreed to take this forward as the basis of the working group to update the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllrs who are interested in participating to contact Cllr Cameron.

12. TO AGREE THE CHANGES TO POINT 10 OF THE ALLOTMENT TENANCY AGREEMENT

The changes were agreed.

13. TO AGREE PROPOSED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COUNCILLORS.

- Invite the Governors of Yarmouth School for an update.

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 of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

14. TO CONSIDER THE ALLOTMENTS PROPOSAL FOR A NEW PATH

A budget of £2k was approved and further detail on the quotes was required before a decision could be made.

15. TO CONSIDER LAND MANAGEMENT TENDER PROPOSAL

Cllr Bray, Cllr Bamford and the Assistant Clerk will meet to discuss the most appropriate way to split the contracts to ensure the work is carried out according to what is required for the best value for money. The proposal will be brought to the next parish meeting.

16. TO AGREE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE TOILET TENDER WORKING GROUP

It was agreed that the working group would interview the bidders and bring their recommendation back to the parish council.

The meeting closed at 9.13 pm.

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