



FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Office 01983 752000

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 1st FEBRUARY 2022 AT 7.02 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
MEMORIAL HALL, FRESHWATER**

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

Members of the public: 0

Clerk: H Rowell

1. APOLOGIES

None

**2. TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON THE 11th JANUARY 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th January (having been circulated) were agreed (EC/CB).

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

Cllrs Kennett and Cameron declared an interest in Item 16 on the agenda as Trustees of the WWSCS.

**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. Cllr Spink sent his apologies for the meeting.

6. CLERK'S REPORT (CIRCULATED TO COUNCILLORS)

Benches

7 new benches have been ordered for the Boat Park, which are especially designed for waterside locations, some of which are being funded as memorial benches.

Allotments

The water to the allotments was disconnected due to the demolition of All Saints School. We have been in ongoing dialogue with Jade Kennett (IWC) to get it reconnected. The IWC are talking about providing a temporary reconnection but wanted evidence in respect of the water costs we have been paying. It has been suggested by the IWC that the school has funded the cost of the water to the allotments. This is an ongoing conversation that the Administration Assistant has been trying to resolve.

Gate Lane Toilets

Work has been ongoing with Island Roads to arrange for the location of the site office for the construction company, adjacent to the site. The movement of the electric pole is in progress.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted.

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

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

9. FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

The consultation event was well attended, and the feedback has been collated and noted.

10. TO APPROVE THE BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2022/23

The budget and precept were unanimously approved for 2022/23. It was agreed to write to the Isle of Wight Council to request a precept of **£295,287.00**

11. EV CHARGING POINTS AND POSSIBLE GRANTS – CLLR JARMAN

There is the opportunity to apply for funding for on street EV charging points. Cllrs were requested to think about possible sites and let the Clerk know.

12. LADY OF SHALOTT UPDATE – CLLR JAMES

Cllr James reported back from a zoom call with Timothy Schmalz (the sculptor) A request has been made for contribution to the costs of shipping. He has also offered further sculptures of Tennyson's poems on bronze plaques that could be spread around the village, initially 10 included in the delivery. Once any approvals/permissions have been agreed for the placement of the sculpture, a fully costed proposal will be presented to the Parish Council.

13. THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS – CLLR CAMERON

The event will be held on Friday 3rd June on Jubilee Field with local entertainments, arts and crafts.

14. THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE BEACONS – CLLR JARMAN

As part of the 2022 Jubilee celebrations in June, we are proposing to design, build and erect a line of beacons around the IW and to light them in sequence.

James Miller who teaches metalwork at IW College has agreed to support the project and with students designing and fabricating the 5 beacons for the West Wight.

I will suggest to the scouts and similar youth groups that they take on the challenge of carrying up the wood pile for each beacon and filling them immediately prior to the event but not earlier.

I have some large pieces of chopped wood (about 500 Kg) to start the process and will aim to secure much more - if anyone is aware of trees being trimmed or felled then please let me know.

The suggested locations are
in Freshwater Parish - Compton, Close to golf course, East High Down.
in Totland Parish - West High Down, rocket platform above the coastguard station at Needles.

My initial ideas for the theme include each reflecting in style a different phase of IW history: Celtic, Roman, Saxon, Norman and Medieval?

A general form sketch and locations is attached.

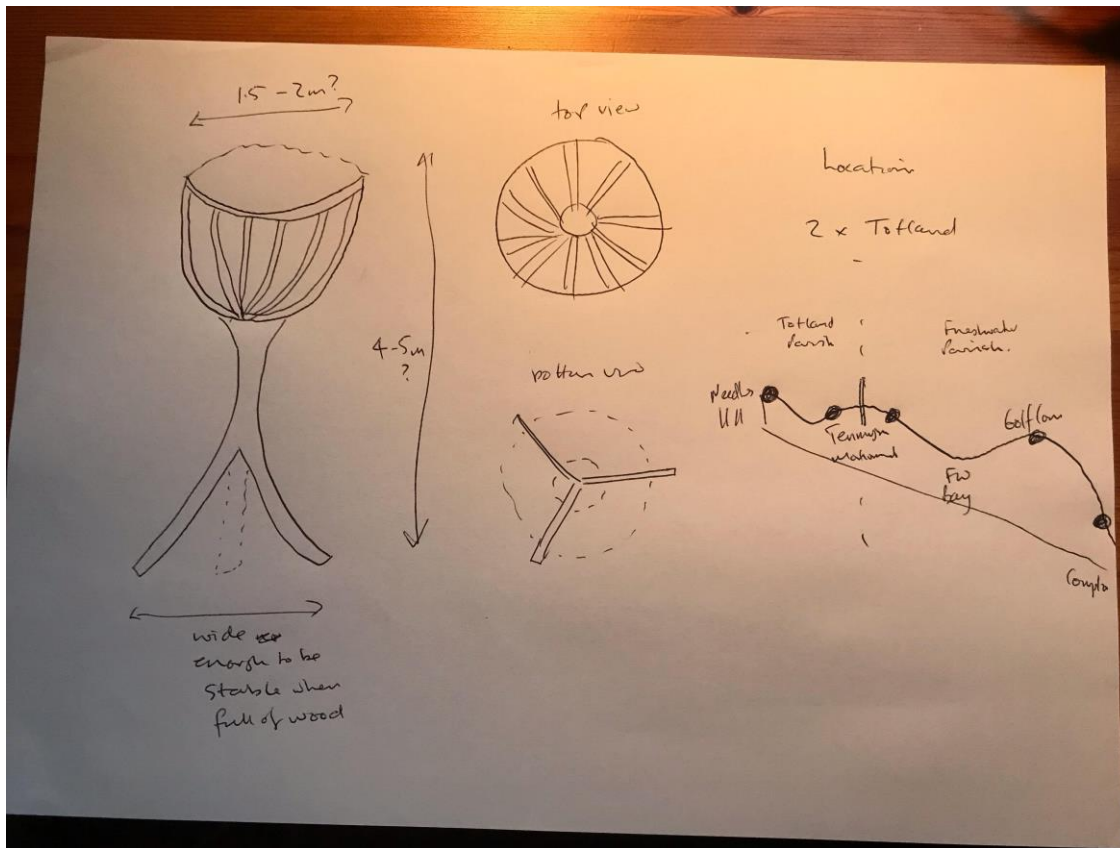
I am coordinating with the High Sheriff and will also engage with the various landowners. I will also speak to the fire brigade and coastguard.

Other suggestions:

I will photograph the 5 beacons together with the respective design and fabrication team of students and we can promote in the media. Their efforts would be part of assessed work and greatly enhance their CVs.

The lighting of one I have promised to my wife Barbara. I would like to offer the lighting of the remaining four to some selection of good causes / voluntary sector etc but to ensure those chosen have not previously been recognised for their contributions.

I would like us to produce a booklet of our West Wight Beacons event showcasing what we have collectively achieved. Whilst many copies may be printed and sold, I am also seeking to arrange a presentation of the original to Her Majesty as our celebration of her Jubilee.



15. LAND MANAGEMENT (TREES) – CLLR BRAY

80% of the tree budget for the current year was spent on the tree work in Queens Road. Any further urgent work will be done in March to remain within budget for 2021/22, and non-urgent work will be done in the next financial year.

A flowering cherry tree will be planted on School Green for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, near the one planted for the Golden Jubilee.

16. PROPOSAL FOR UNCLAIMED LAND BETWEEN WWSCC, BROOKSIDE HEALTH CENTRE AND PARISH LAND – CLLR MEDLAND

Cllr Medland's proposal is that FPC, BHC and WWSCC all take responsibility for the bits of unregistered land closest to their existing properties. By this I mean legally claiming them, insuring them and taking care of them. In the case of FPC this means us taking responsibility for the access footpath to Brookside Health Centre over Parish land which was built without agreement on future management.

I have checked that it is definitely NOT an IWC asset and not a Right of Way so I feel we need to take responsibility for it legally? The unclaimed area directly in front of Brookside and the shrubberies west of the car park could be taken over by the BHC and the WWSCC could claim and manage the odd beds between the WWSCC and the car park. If we do not

collectively agree this, we are putting the public at great and increasing risk. We have already discussed how dangerous the path over our land becomes in autumn with dark evenings and wet leaves. The manager at Brookside is complaining of the uneven unmaintained slabs of the path outside the health centre. The unclaimed area in front of WWSCC is on different levels, a potential trip hazard, and untended shrubberies can have unintended consequences – all this in an area used most intensively by our most vulnerable and ill – where if anyone falls and seeks compensation due to non-maintained paths – we enter into a potentially nasty legal world.

It was agreed that the unclaimed land is historically owned by the Isle of Wight Council and Cllr Medland will write to the relevant cabinet member.

17. YARMOUTH PRIMARY SCHOOL SITE PROGRESS UPDATE REPORT

The report was received, and the Isle of Wight Council will be sending a monthly update to the Parish Council.

18. FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL STRATEGY GROUP – CLLR CAMERON

A virtual meeting has been arranged with Cllr Paul Fuller, and the Isle of Wight Council Planning Department on the 14th February. It was agreed that the Strategy Group would meet prior to this meeting.

19. TO AGREE PROPOSED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COUNCILLORS

- **The future of The Hope Church – Freshwater Bay**
- **A working group to develop an induction pack for new parish councillors.**

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.

20. STAFFING COMMITTEE REPORT (STAFF/COUNCILLOR PROTOCOL) – CLLR KENNETT

It was agreed to send any changes or thoughts on this document for discussion at the next Staffing Committee Meeting, so that a suite of documents can be presented to Parish Councillors, which are complementary and conclusive. There will now be regular quarterly meetings of the Staffing Committee and the agenda will be shared with councillors and staff.

21. LAND MANAGEMENT TENDER EVALUATION – CLLR BRAY

Two tenders have been received and were presented to Parish Councillors. It was unanimously agreed following a fair assessment of the tenders to award the contract to idverde from 1st April 2022.

The meeting closed at 9.32 pm.

County Councillor John Medland's Report

Dear fellow members,

In this report I will concentrate on two primary areas; planning and road infrastructure.

Planning

At the last Full IW Council meeting during members questions I asked the Leader "As I am aware that the administration met with Bembridge Parish Council to discuss its planning issues can I request that the administration will undertake a similar consultation with Freshwater Parish Council which has experienced the recent planning decision on Birch Close which appears to contradict the current Freshwater Neighbourhood Plan?"

We have had an inappropriate date offered to us County Councillors including discussion of the Birch Close decision itself. I have responded that as we are in an ongoing dispute over the decision, which all three of us want to be recalled to the Planning Committee, so that correct national procedures can be followed, such as honouring a clear majority vote rather than overthrowing it; this should not be the focus of our co-operative discussions.

Birch Close is an ongoing case, with legal advice and implications, the next step of which will be our next letter responding to the Strategic Manager for Planning's reply to our first letter.

The discussions with the Local Planning Authority, when we have them, should concentrate on how we update the Neighbourhood Plan and how we change the dISP as it applies to this parish.

Road Infrastructure

I am continuing to follow up asking for delayed decisions and actions such as the Causeway repairs, the delayed TRO for Freshwater Bay roads where for example the Afton Road footway continues to be used for free parking, driving pedestrian traffic onto a 40MPH carriageway, and also to create two spaces for visiting coaches to park up. The meeting with the FBRA committee on the 17th Jan. again emphasised the importance of reducing the speed on Afton Road from 40MPH to 30 MPH and requested bollards to protect the footway on Afton Road.

On the flooding problem in Longhalves Lane we are still awaiting IR to do some investigation of the underground piping. All these issues have been knocking around for years, with Island Roads and IWC both pointing fingers at each other while the budget for such maintenance and repairs has been slashed.

Therefore, I feel we may need a co-ordinated approach by all three County Councillors and the Parish Council and FBRA to raise Freshwater's highway infrastructure problems up the agenda of IWC and IR priorities?

Cllr. John Medland.

Ward

Councillor for Freshwater South, IWC.

County Councillor Chris Jarman's Report

I have held my weekly ward surgeries each Thursday morning. Key issues have been residents in financial difficulties and the state of repair of particular social housing lets - in each case due to excess mold. The respective housing company was contacted and in each case the situation seems to be down to a lack of heating combined with ventilation. Clearly with the cost of heating this has been a real challenge, particularly when combined with the covid recommendation to ensure open windows and good ventilation. Other causes seemed to be penetrating dampness and excessive condensation.

I have initiated the Jubilee Beacon Challenge and secured our registration on the national site and also the commitment of IW College students to fabricate the beacons.

Appendix 1 County Councillor Reports February 2022

I remain heavily involved in local and Islandwide planning applications and resolved to provide an improved planning service including revisions to the planning policies, practices and protocols. I am part of a group drafting a paper and various motions for the next meeting of the IWC Planning Committee after earlier versions of said items were pulled real-time at the start of the last planning committee despite being on the agenda and with correctly submitted proposed amendments.

The remainder of my time has been developing the IWC 2022/23 budget and running the online and face-to-face consultations, including during our recent parish consultation day here.

Cllr Chris Jarman JP

Ward Councillor for Totland and Colwell Ward

County Councillor Peter Spink's Report

My apologies for not attending tonight's meeting. Unfortunately, both FPC and YTC hold their meetings on the first Tuesday of the month. I have tended on the last few occasions to prioritise FPC as there have been important planning matters for consideration. However, it is only right that I attend the meeting tonight of YTC. Whether there is any possibility of avoiding future clashes, I know not.

I have been contacted by a number of local residents who are seeking a reduction of the speed limit that applies to Halletts Shute. Island Roads have agreed to a reduction to 30mph. However, the Council is carrying out a survey of speed-limits across the Island which would delay implementation until 2023. I have written to Cllr Jordan in this regard.

I have requested that the West Bay planning application be called-in for determination by planning committee. The variation would enable the building of housing without the provision of increased/upgraded leisure facilities. The situation is urgent as the houses are already being marketed, with construction to commence early this year. Commencement of work prior to the determination of the variation would be in breach of the extant permission and I have asked that should this occur enforcement proceedings be taken by the council.

I continue to receive complaints that a number of lights are being left on overnight at Tapnell Farm. It is a condition of the relevant planning consent that lights should be extinguished at 11p.m. I have contacted the Manager and have received very little response/co-operation. I intend to write to the owner.

At the recent meeting of the Full Council I was appointed to sit on the planning committee.

Cllr Peter Spink,

Ward Councillor for Freshwater North and Yarmouth.

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Freshwater Parish Council

Transaction Detail by Account

January 2022

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
Administration Expenses	
Admin, Training & Office Costs	£447
Other Administration Expenses	£14
Staff Salaries	£14,394
Total for Administration Expenses	£14,855
Grants & Projects	
Grants	
Current Grants	
Community Connector	£16
Community Grants	£500
Heritage Centre	£82
Total for Current Grants	£597
Total for Grants	£597
Total for Grants & Projects	£597
Services Expenses	
Allotments	£205
Land Management & Trees	£106
Library	£1,088
Old Ambulance Station	£104
Parish Facilities Officer	£1,125
Public Toilets	£1,690
Xmas	£1,635
Total for Services Expenses	£5,952
Youth Expenses	
Skatepark & MUGA	£150
Total for Youth Expenses	£150