



FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Office 01983 752000

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 1st MARCH 2022 AT 7.00 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, C Jarman (from 8.28pm), J Medland, D Hicklin, L Becker, K Fosbury and N Thomas

Members of the public: 4

Clerk: H Rowell

1. **APOLOGIES**
Councillor G Kennett
2. **TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 1st FEBRUARY 2022**
The minutes of the meeting held on 1st February (having been circulated) were agreed JM/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.**
Reports received see Appendix 1. Cllr Spink sent his apologies for the meeting.
6. **CLERK'S REPORT (CIRCULATED TO COUNCILLORS)**

Changes to Covid 19 Self -Isolation Rules

Following the change in Government legislation in respect of self-isolation following a positive Covid 19 test I am working on a staff/councillor protocol for the next parish

meeting. This will include options around self-isolation following a positive test and relevant sick leave for staff. As well as guidance on staying safe in the workplace. NALC are holding a webinar shortly which the Clerk will be attending.

Gate Lane Toilets Rebuild

The starting date for the demolition and construction has been postponed until immediately after Walk the Wight. This is due to the opportunity to apply for a substantial grant for the cost of the disabled/changing places facility. Unfortunately, the drawings need to be adjusted to ensure that it is compliant for the funding.

Allotments Water

The Isle of Wight Council have instructed a temporary supply of water to be re-instated as possible. They are also speaking to Southern Water about the billing for the water for the allotments to check that payment hasn't been made twice (by Freshwater Parish Council and the Isle of Wight Council).

Parish Email Addresses

The new parish councillors now have their parish email addresses, and we met briefly to discuss their new role. They have suggested a small social event to get to know councillors.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted.

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

Payments (having been circulated) were agreed (CB/KF)– see appendix 2.

9. REPORT FROM FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE FROM THE MEETING 15th FEBRUARY 2022 – Cllr Bamford

- **Financial Planning 2022/23** – It was agreed to set up meetings with all recipients of large grants to discuss ongoing funding requirements.
- **Community Grants Recommendations** – It was agreed to award a grant of 864.00 to the Isle of Wight Citizen's Advice Bureau to fund a volunteer advisor for one year.
- **New Project Application Form for Councillors** – It was agreed to adopt the new application form.
- **Asset Valuation Update** – Following the receipt of 3 quotes it was agreed to appoint Smart Surveyors to undertake the valuation of all Freshwater Parish Council owned assets.
- **Appointment of Internal Auditor** – The Clerk is making enquires and will report back to the next Parish Council meeting for approval.

10. ALLOTMENT REPROT – CLLR BRAY

All allotment holders have paid for the current year. There are 3 full plots, 41 half plots, 6 quarter plots and 15 people on the waiting list.

The problems with the water have been resolved, we proved that we have paid for water by supplying meter readings and our paid water bills. Jade Kennett (IWC) has arranged with the contractors on the school site to temporarily reconnect our water supply, it will be done permanently at a later date.

There has been some badger activity which is being monitored.

There has been a request from several female allotment holders for a combustible toilet which we are investigating.

We are planning to meet with members of Freshwater Horticultural Society to look at how we can develop some ideas to hold competitions among the allotment holders who want to get involved eg: largest pumpkin, something for the children to grow and we would like to link in with local flower shows. We have been approached by the parent who ran the gardening club at All Saints School who asked “if there is no allotment at the new school, could they have a small plot”. Our view is that this should happen.

We have a lot of ideas to explore regarding surplus seeds, fruit and vegetables.

11. PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE FOR YHAC – CLLR BAMFORD

Cllr Bamford would like to resign from being the Parish Council’s representative on this committee due to her other commitments and asked if there was another councillor who would like to take this on. As no other councillor was able to take on this commitment at this time, Cllr Bamford will continue until the Annual Meeting in May 2022.

12. COLWELL BUOYS UPDATE – CLLR JAMES

The Parish Council need to review the numbers and configuration of the buoys at Colwell to enable safe swimming for the 2022 season. Cllr James will provide options and costs for the parish meeting in April 2022. Cllr Jarman joined the meeting during this item.

13. IWALC TOPIC MEETING 24th FEBRUARY 2022 – CLLR CAMERON

The purpose of the meeting was to consider both the housing needs on the Island and possible community led solutions. The speakers were:

- Jamie Brenchley, IWC’s Housing Needs Manager
- John Prickett, Community-Led Housing Officer
- Martyn Pearl, Chief Executive, Vectis Housing Association
- Peter Griffiths, Director, Capture Housing (new affordable housing provider)

The report of the meeting will be circulated to all councillors.

14. PROTECTING VERGES AND HEDGEROWS – CLLR FOSBURY

I propose that Freshwater Parish Council write to the Isle of Wight Council and Island Roads requesting a blanket ban on Island Roads using glyphosate weed killer specifically in West Wight, and more generally across the Island

Once agreed and 'actioned', I would also like to propose that our response is publicised to encourage other Parish Councils to follow suit.

Background

- Island Roads have been sympathetically hand weeding for the last year, and after receiving a small number of complaints decided to introduce glyphosate weed killer to manage Island weeds
- Isle of Wight Council manage the contract with Island Roads, and have sanctioned the usage of glyphosate weed killer
- In 2015, the World Health Organisation published its findings that glyphosate is a "[probable human carcinogen](#)" and a risk to nature and wildlife (for example bee populations¹)
- A Change.Org [Petition](#) launched by Cllr Mark Jeffries (Ventnor) to overturn the decision is at 3738 signatures (at time of writing) and counting
- Chris Packham (presenter, campaigner and activist) is also supporting the campaign to ban the substance from the UK – pushing content through his social media channels.
- Following increasing public and [press exposure](#), Cllr Jordan (IoW Council) has said the subject was being discussed at the most senior level with Island Roads in order to find a sympathetic and sustainable alternative to the use of glyphosate weed killer
- Cllr Mark Jeffries (Ventnor PC) has proposed an alternative approach (as used by Glastonbury) which is more cost effective than weed killer and doesn't damage the environment (Foamstream)

It was agreed with one abstention that Freshwater Parish Council will write in respect of this issue to the Isle of Wight Council and Island Roads,

**15. STRATEGY GROUP MEETING WITH THE ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL
PLANNING DEPARTMENT 14th FEBRUARY 2022 – CLLR CAMERON**

It was agreed following the meeting that the group would meet to start working on updating the Neighbourhood Plan once the Island Plan had been approved. Terms of Reference and an action plan will be agreed at the next meeting of the Strategy Group.

16. CRICKET USE OF JUBILEE FIELD – CLLR JAMES

Cllr James is meeting with Clare Griffin (West Wight Sports and Community Centre) and Stuart Chatfield (Isle of Wight Cricket Board) on 4th March 2022, to discuss the possible siting of a pavilion on Jubilee Field with possible funding attached.

19. TO AGREE PROPOSED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COUNCILLORS

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

DRAFT

Report - Cllr Chris Jarman – Totland and Colwell Ward.

Main issues again over the past month have related to finance and planning but also recently commencing the project to establish beacons for the Jubilee.

The Use of Wight Council budget has now been passed and following incorporation of the Town, Parish and Community Council, Police, Fire etc elements the annual billing cycles will now commence.

I have received a number of representations regarding increases to the cost of the Wightcare system to cover 1/3rd of the schemes ongoing losses. For those funded participants the majority will not see the difference but those that are self-funded will find that their direct debits are slightly higher by around 18p per day in the middle band.

Multiple complaints have been received regarding roadworks contracted by Wight fibre, including inadequate management of pedestrian walkways and poor diversion signage. All will be aware that Wight fibre has a statutory right to undertake these works and the role of IWC is to ensure the process is safe, correctly managed to restoration meets the requisite standard.

The IWC will be initiating direct Business Grant relief payments (CARF) over the next two weeks, and I have done as much as possible to ensure every entitled Freshwater business is included.

I was advised on Friday by a reporter that the planning notice had been issued last week on Birch Close field, although the grant of planning permission is subject to very many conditions. I raised this with the Strategic Manager of Planning who confirmed this was the case. I am seeking to find out more details on this. There was also an incidence where a contractor appeared onsite and commenced clearance. He was reminded of the wildlife issues on site and of the associated planning condition, apologised and departed noting that he would raise the issue with those that instructed him. IWC planning are also investigating the incident. On the same site a TRO was put forward to Island Roads to put double yellow lines around Birch Close, this being a condition of the planning. The application was put forward and the Cabinet member for transport and infrastructure has replied noting that will not be progressed at this time.

The designs by IWC College students for the 3 Freshwater Jubilee Beacons are due in the next weeks and will be circulated to the Freshwater Parish Council. Island Roads have noted the request for wood for the beacons during their clearance of storm damaged trees. Likewise, the same has been noted by those clearing trees below Tennyson Down.

Report – Cllr John Medland – Freshwater South

Dear fellow members,

I think the most urgent thing to report is from my liaison role with the WW Heritage Centre where I have been the Council representative since May.

On the 16th February the Clerk, Chair of Finance, and Finance Officer explained to myself and the Chair and Treasurer of FATAG that the WWHC was expected by now to be implementing a business plan generating an increasing level of income but agreed to extend the financial support of year two to year three. Since that meeting we at FATAG have been discussing income revenue ideas and we are looking into three particular grant applications to make over the next 18 months.

However we have taken advice from Community Action IW and their initial advice is that there is no long term viability for such a non-commercial service to find the £7,250 rent due annually under the current lease, beyond initial grants for a couple of years. Last year's shop income was around £500.

A significant problem with the WWHC is that since the death of Linda Barnes who was its' strategic inspiration, the rest of the group, predominantly the former FATAG members, are ageing and in poor health/ with isolation issues and do not make a natural crack fundraising team of the kind required to achieve the target of funding the rental overhead.

Given the illogic of this business model I feel that we need to return to the original plan for the Parish Council to purchase the whole building using a Public Works Board Loan. This would solve two problems. It would make the Heritage Centre viable as an ongoing business, and it would remove from the Council the liability of paying the £7,250 each year until the lease is broken. It would also bring FPC an income derived from the rent of the apartment above the shop, which should at a rough calculation bring in more than the current rental value of the Heritage Centre which FPC is paying out.

The current projection we were told on the 16th was that FPC would continue paying half the rent in the next financial year and that then we would review whether we need to break the lease. This would seem to be a tragedy considering all the effort that has been put into creating the WWHC over the past couple of years. It looks like we have around 14 months to come up with a practical solution.

School progress.

I have checked in with Jade Kennett on progress with the new primary school. The contractors are making good progress now in the levelling of the site for the new foundations. She assured me that the pre-school is effectively protected and is continuing to function effectively as an isolated unit within the site.

Report – Cllr Peter Spink – Freshwater North and Yarmouth

The issue re the speed-limit for Halletts Shute continues. I have exchanged a number of emails with local residents and sent a series of questions to Cllr Jordan as below:

- a) Are those speeds correct for the lower / downhill section of Halletts Shute, which is the side on which the affected properties are. The average speed will be depressed by Freshwater bound HGVs and buses labouring further up the hill. In any event, is an average of 31 safe objectively?
- b) The point that seems to be missed is that the opportunity to travel legally at 40 is too high. A 30mph limit should see average lower speeds, and we all know the difference every 5mph can make. The risks to pedestrian access to our properties in the absence of a pavement is unacceptable
- c) How is it possible the limit on Bouldnor Rd is 30 (and that that limit is so important to the police that they enforce it with the van regularly stationed on the common, issuing prosecution notices for 33), but with regards to Halletts Shute which has no pavement strip at property boundaries, 40 is needed. I have to question whether IR / the Police have actually inspected or, if they have done so,

they did so competently. Has IR's "HUB" passed on our comments to IR engineers?

- d) **Theressa Fisher**, Hub Supervisor commented by email “in response to your email (i.e. from resident Jamie Clark) dated 20 January 2022).....[The request on the HSIR is for the speed limit to be reduced from 40mph to 30mph](#)

In addition Donna Jones PPCC has been contacted and is looking into the matter.

My application for the call-in of West Bay's request to vary its extant planning permission has resulted in their request being refused. West Bay has now lodged a full planning application. The consultation period closes on the 25th March. In essence the application is to build the residential housing without building and upgrading the leisure facility. I shall apply for this to be determined by Planning Committee.

I continue to take an active role, together Cllrs Medland and Jarman, in planning matters in relation to Freshwater and Yarmouth.

I am now a member of the planning committee in addition to the Corporate Scrutiny, Appeals and Licensing Committees.



Freshwater Parish Council

Transaction Detail by Account

February 2022

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
Administration Expenses	
Admin, Training & Office Costs	
Bookkeeping	£32
Communications	£60
IT	£189
Office Rent	£2,061
Total for Admin, Training & Office Costs	£2,342
Other Administration Expenses	
Bank charges	£9
Photocopier	£170
Subscriptions	£1,140
Total for Other Administration Expenses	£1,319
Staff Salaries	£8,466
Total for Administration Expenses	£12,127
Grants & Projects	
Grants	
Current Grants	
Community Connector	£16
Heritage Centre	£85
Total for Current Grants	£101
Total for Grants	£101
Total for Grants & Projects	£101
Memorial Hall Expenses	
MHALCo Maint & Other Costs	£36
Total for Memorial Hall Expenses	£36
Services Expenses	
Allotments	£46
Events	
Platinum Jubilee Event	£121
Total for Events	£121
Freshwater Bay Boat Park	£4,150
Land Management & Trees	
Committed Contracts	£6,992
Land Management	£324
Total for Land Management & Trees	£7,316
Library	£1,871
Old Ambulance Station	£65
Parish Facilities Officer	£1,033
Public Toilets	£2,062
Stroud Coppice	£17
Stroud Playing Fields	
Play equipment	£23



Freshwater Parish Council

Transaction Detail by Account

February 2022

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
Total for Stroud Playing Fields	£23
Total for Services Expenses	£16,703