



FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Office 01983 752000

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 5th JULY 2022 AT 7.29 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
MEMORIAL HALL, FRESHWATER**

PRESENT: Councillors: D James (Chairman) C Bray, G Cameron (until 8.56pm), E Cox, C Jarman, G Kennett, J Medland, D Hicklin, B Hinton MBE, B Hobbs, L Becker, K Fosbury, and N Thomas

Members of the public: Cllr Peter Spink.

Clerk: H Rowell

Claire Beasley Chair of the Isle of Wight Sports Foundation and Ian Broadsmith of Isle of Wight Basketball provided an update on the funding plans for the renovation of the MUGA for basketball use.

1. **APOLOGIES**
Councillor A Bamford.
2. **TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 7th JUNE 2022 AND THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THE 28th JUNE 2022.**
The minutes of the meetings held on 7th June and 28th June (having been circulated) were agreed (CJ/GK).
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 (CIRCULATED TO COUNCILLORS)

Wightfibre

Cllr Bray and I had a site visit on Queens Road with Lanes -1 who wanted to come across Manorial Land to lay the cables on behalf of Wightfibre. We agreed to their request as it will cause less traffic disruption, with the proviso that they will write to all residents affected. It was a useful meeting as they were able to confirm that all land will be reseeded and made good. A further site visit will be held at Norton Green before commencement of work there.

Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)

The AGAR, internal audit and associated documents for the year ending March 2022 have been submitted to PKF Littlejohn, the external auditors. The Notice of Public Rights and Publication of unaudited Annual Governance and Accountability Return has been published for the period Friday 1st July until Thursday 11th August 2022.

The Causeway

I have written to Cllr Jordan and Island Roads to thank them for the restoration work at the Causeway.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted.

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

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

9. FINANCE REPORT – CLLR THOMAS

The last meeting focussed on the large grant applications, and the meetings are now being held bi-monthly with the next meeting on the 16th August 2022.

10. SKATE PARK UPDATE (TENDER DOCUMENTS AND COVENANTS ON STROUD FIELD) – CLLR CAMERON

The tender document was approved, subject to obtaining grant funding for the project, and the terms of the covenant for Stroud Field, with one abstention. Cllr Cameron left the meeting after this item.

11. FUTURE OF STROUD FIELD – CLLR MEDLAND

Cllr Medland proposed the reintroduction of the steering group to support the development of the field, including the play equipment as per item 12. Cllr Bray agreed to chair this group and a meeting will be arranged.

12. PLAY EQUIPMENT ON STROUD – CLLR BRAY

It was agreed to review the existing play equipment as part of the work of the group proposed in item 11.

13. QUOTE FOR BADGER EXCLUSION WORK AT FRESHWATER LIBRARY

The quote was approved unanimously.

14. EXTRAORDINARY MEETING TO UPDATE THE STANDING ORDERS - CLLR COX

Cllr Cox proposed a meeting to update the Standing Orders to ensure that all policies and procedures align with the governance of the Parish Council. The Clerk agreed to work on a revised document that would be circulated to Councillors for comments and adopted at a future meeting.

15. FREEHOLD OF THE MEMORIAL HALL – CLLR JAMES

It was agreed to go through the Minute Books to try and gain information about the Freehold. Cllr Cox offered to do this work, as well as searching local newspaper archives and speaking to FATAG. Cllr Kennett offered to check with Eldridges Solicitors to see if they hold any relevant documents.

16. LADY OF SHALLOT – CLLR JAMES

Cllr James is working on a written agreement with the sculptor and once this is formulated, he will bring it back to the Parish Council for approval.

17. IWALC TOPIC MEETING 30th JUNE REPORT – CLLR COX

The report was accepted, and commended.

18. TO AGREE PROPOSED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COUNCILLORS

- Food Pantry – Cllr Thomas
- Allotment Footpath – Cllr Bray
- Freshwater Bay Boat Park – Cllr Fosbury

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 because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

19. REPORT FROM THE STAFFING COMMITTEE – CLLR KENNETT

The Report was received and the following noted: The Staffing Committee will be meeting quarterly. The Terms of Reference have been reviewed and it was agreed that staff would have the opportunity to bring their questions to the committee.

20. TO CONSIDER QUOTES FOR TREE WORK

Three quotes have been received for the tree work required as per the annual tree survey. It was unanimously agreed to accept the quote from Douglas Mcgeoch.

The meeting closed at 9.38pm.

Councillor Peter Spink's Report – Freshwater North and Totland

I am pleased to note that the work to the Causeway has been completed on time, and that this historic bridge has been preserved. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend for the 'opening'.

I have still not heard whether my requests re West Bay, or Fort Victoria to be heard by planning committee have been granted.

I have 'reported' the recent appearance of a number of white pods at Tapnell Farm to the Case Officer, who is looking into the matter. They appear to be on land which was previously granted permission for a number of bell-tents; however they are not bell-tents and the officer is looking into whether or not that permission was in any event implemented. My recollection is that a number of green pods appeared on that part of the site, which were not covered by the permission; permission was subsequently granted for the pods to be relocated to a less conspicuous area.

I am extremely concerned that work to relocate wild life from Birch Close pursuant to the granting of planning permission has taken place. The Committee specified a condition that this should not be commenced until a management plan has been submitted and approved. No such plan has been submitted. Further, in my view, it defies the intent of the Committee to protect the wild life for work to be allowed to commence before other conditions preventing development have been discharged. For example it is a condition that development cannot commence until a TRO for double yellow lines has been made; that application has been refused. Unless this is resolved the development ought not to commence; the relocation of wild-life cannot be reversed.

The Draft Island Planning Strategy was served yesterday on the Corporate Scrutiny Committee, of which I am a member. I will set time aside to look in detail at the document in readiness for the meeting next Tuesday.

I continue to attend the Yarmouth Harbour Advisory Committee.

Councillor John Medland's Report – Freshwater South

Dear fellow members,

Boris Moscoff has offered the Parish Council a superb pastel artwork he was commissioned to make for the West Wight Landscape Partnership's publicity. I suggested this would be better seen in the Memorial Hall. I feel we should certainly welcome this gift.

I am getting positive feedback on the Causeway repairs along with a sigh of 'how did it take so long' and the need to introduce lower speed/a one way or no parking policy. I am inclined to think that we need 20MPH speeds for roads west of the Yar which lack footways and often narrow to a single carriageway.

Attached you will find the latest Speedwatch report. I hope we can feed all this information into the IWC speed review and make a case for making such lanes all-user friendly with a reduced vehicle speed. One improvement we should be considering as a safety priority is a zebra crossing of Gate Lane in Freshwater Bay between the car park or Coastguard Lane and the green.

Can we agenda this for the September meeting?

I've been advised by senior planning staff that as Chairman of the IWC Planning Committee it could be challengeable in a future appeal to the Planning Inspectorate or a judicial review if I continue take part in parish planning meetings.

As your Councillor since 2013 I have always based my views on local planning applications on those of our Parish Council, which has I feel a first class understanding of the material considerations on which planning decisions are decided.

The Members Code of Conduct is elastic at present, we are left to weigh conflicts of interest individually. As I need to act as your local representative, I will retire to the public gallery to be able to listen to the debate.

I am delighted that IWC is now proposing a second bid for the 'Levelling Up Fund' to fund an off road route from Ryde to Freshwater, which could provide the capital investment to create the "West Wight Greenway" we have long prioritised between the old railway bridleway that ends at Thorley Road with Carisbrooke/Newport and the rest of the Island's cycling network. As some of you will recall from Graham Biss' presentation last summer the dozen intervening landowners are currently in agreement on establishing the new route. We seem to have a unique opportunity to realise a top demand of the WW Landscape Partnership survey of some twenty years ago?

IWC were successful in our first bid to rejuvenate our maritime construction industry in East Cowes last year. IWC has an eight year record in attracting funding to promote cycling from the Dept of Transport, and we have a strong case.

Please remember that I attend Our Place Café each week from 11.00 to 12.00 in case you want to discuss anything with me.

You can also reach me on jcmedland@outlook.com or 07543309219.

Councillor Chris Jarman's Report – Colwell and Totland

My Thursday Ward Surgeries continue and are well used. The bulk of issues continue to be raised directly, increasingly by phone. The personal touch is important to residents and I appreciate the opportunity to hear not only their concerns but also of other local matters.

My major local focus at the start of June remained the Platinum Jubilee events. An astonishing milestone for our Queen and an opportunity for us all to share in the national spectacle from London of parades and cavalry in their smart and distinctive uniforms. Whilst these serve a purpose in amplifying national pride, it is the multitude of local events that I believe bring greater value. So it was that our community took on the very significant challenge of arranging not one but 5 coastal Jubilee Beacons running from Compton Bay, via Freshwater Bay up over Tennyson Down to the Needles, and then on to Totland Bay - our most beautiful and much photographed scenery.

Our now famous 'as seen on TV' West Wight Jubilee Beacons were designed and fabricated by our own IWCollege students with materials and financial support from DMR engineering and Totland Parish Council. Each group of students took on a different location and customised their beacon according to notable landscape features and history. Our community was involved in sourcing the wood for the beacons and our local Scouts and Cubs provided

(with the help of the odd parent) its transportation and then filling of the beacons at each site. Masters of Ceremony, Readers of the Royal Proclamation and Official Beacon Lighters were appointed for each beacon and performed admirably. National trust support and access to their land was critical. In all, over 70 people were involved in the delivery tasks starting in January and running over 5 months - quite a project!

The 2nd June 2022 events of lighting our own Freshwater beacons were a roaring success (literally as aided by the use of firelighters and very dry wood). All the beacons were well attended and bagpipes echoed across Tennyson Down. I shall be bringing the special participation certificates with me to present at the parish council meeting.

Now the final phase has started, again with the aid of our IWCollege - The production of 70 copies of a 70 page commemorative booklet full of the West Wight Jubilee Beacon story and its participants, and loaded with memories and photos from those who took part. A real celebration of our community at its best with one special copy destined for Her Majesty.

Other key local issues have included the extent of hedge and verge growth along local lanes. I have answered each in turn with the details of the two cut per year agreement with Island Roads negotiated by the last administration and of the official restrictions during the now extended bird nesting season. It remains the case that local Parish Councils can engage their own additional works and I am informed this does not have to be by Island Roads and so can employ local tradespeople.

Final news came from the proposal to place yellow lines in Birch Close. This received an overwhelming 55-60 objections. The original application having not granted by the cabinet member Cllr Phil Jordan. Double yellow lines are a condition (number 11) that must be satisfied prior to commencement of the development on Birch Close Meadow. The objections brought to light other serious concerns regarding the same set of conditions and as a result Cllr John Medland as Chair of IWC Planning Committee has agreed to the matter being called before the next committee meeting in a few days for urgent consideration. The matter has further been reported by Cllr Peter Spink for enforcement action which I have endorsed.



Freshwater Parish Council

Transaction Detail by Account

June 2022

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
Administration Expenses	
Admin, Training & Office Costs	
Bookkeeping	£32
Communications	£60
IT	£530
Office Costs	£83
Office Rent	£1,030
Stationery	£42
Training	£124
Total for Admin, Training & Office Costs	£1,902
Other Administration Expenses	
Bank charges	£9
Photocopier	£168
Total for Other Administration Expenses	£176
Staff Salaries	£8,617
Total for Administration Expenses	£10,695
Grants & Projects	
Current Projects	
Colwell Bay Buoys	£2,657
Total for Current Projects	£2,657
Grants	
Current Grants	
Community Connector	£17
Heritage Centre	£1,908
Total for Current Grants	£1,925
Total for Grants	£1,925
Total for Grants & Projects	£4,581
Memorial Hall Expenses	
MHALCo Public Works Loan	£1,587
Total for Memorial Hall Expenses	£1,587
Services Expenses	
Allotments	£114
Events	
Platinum Jubilee Event	£1,368
Total for Events	£1,368
Land Management & Trees	
Committed Contracts	£53
Land Management	£383
Trees	£1,400
Total for Land Management & Trees	£1,836
Library	£885
Motor vehicle Expenditure	£134
Old Ambulance Station	£143



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Transaction Detail by Account

June 2022

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
Parish Facilities Officer	£1,013
Public Toilets	
Gate Lane	£358
Moa Place	£202
Total for Public Toilets	£560
Total for Services Expenses	£6,053
Youth Expenses	
Skatepark & MUGA	£378
Total for Youth Expenses	£378