



FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Office 01983 752000

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 4th OCTOBER 2022 AT 7.01 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
MEMORIAL HALL, FRESHWATER**

PRESENT: Councillors: D James (Chairman) C Bray, A Bamford, G Cameron, E Cox, C Jarman, G Kennett, B Hinton MBE, K Fosbury, B Hobbs, J Medland, and N Thomas (until 9.01pm).

Members of the public: 11plus Councillor Peter Spink.

Clerk: H Rowell

Before the meeting commenced Cllr Kennett made a tribute to former councillor Robin Day who recently died.

1. APOLOGIES

Councillors: L Becker and D Hicklin.

**2. TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON THE 6th SEPTEMBER 2022.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th September (having been circulated) were agreed (BH/CB).

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

Cllrs Cameron and Kennett declared an interest as a Trustees for the West Wight Sports and Community Centre. Cllrs Medland and Kennett declared an interest in the West Wight Heritage Centre. Cllr Hobbs declared an interest in the West Wight Heritage Centre as a member of FATAG. Cllr Bray declared an interest in the Community Grant Application as the applicant is known to her.

**4. TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS ON THE AGENDA FROM MEMBERS OF THE
PUBLIC (UP TO 15 MINUTES).**

Questions were raised in respect of items 14 and 16 which were then brought forward to this point in the meeting by the chair.

5. **TO ACCEPT WRITTEN REPORTS FROM FRESHWATER WARD COUNCILLORS.**

Reports received see Appendix 1.

6. **CLERK'S REPORT (CIRCULATED TO COUNCILLORS)**

Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Signposting Grant Award

We received funding following the successful bid written by Cllr Thomas of £4,500 to provide signposting to vulnerable families to funded activities over the summer. This was very successful through working closely with West Wight Nursery we were able to report back that vulnerable families were able to participate in swimming lessons, cycling and bike maintenance activities, and English lessons for Ukrainian families. It was agreed to write to West Wight Nursey to thank them for their quick response.

Household Support Fund Community Grant

The Just Ask Officer and the Clerk submitted a bid and we have been awarded £15,000 to support local people during the current cost of living crisis. The funds will be used to provide energy saving items like Slow Cookers, Air Fryers, Electric Blankets, boiler servicing/repairs, warm clothing, draft excluders etc. The Just Ask Officer will be working with the Community Connector, Our Place, Churches Together, the Food Bank, and Hursts to deliver this project over the next 6 months.

Gate Lane Toilets

Work has started and the toilets have been demolished. The new toilets should be completed in 12 weeks. Porta loos are in place on our land.

Wasps Nests

Two wasp nests have been treated in Granny's Meade. A further nest was reported at the library, but these aren't wasps but mining bees, who are harmless.

Tree work

We are slowly getting through the tree work that needs to be done following the survey.

Remembrance Sunday

Two wreaths have been ordered, one for Yarmouth for the main service and one for All Saints Church Freshwater. The Chair will be in attendance at Yarmouth and the Vice- Chair will lay the wreath at All Saints.

7. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Noted.

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

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

9. TO ACCEPT THE EXTERNAL AUDITORS' ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR) REPORT FOR 2021/2022

The report was unanimously accepted (JM/CB)

10. COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATION – CLLR BAMFORD

It was agreed to provide a grant of £500 proposed by Cllr Bray and seconded by Cllr James to enable local scooterist Joe Crockett to take part in the World Skate Games in Argentina.

11. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR TO THE LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

It was agreed unanimously that Cllr Kennett would be the new Vice Chair of the Committee, this follows the resignation of Cllr Becker as the previous Vice Chair.

12. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN TO THE STRATEGY GROUP

Cllr Cox pointed out that under the current terms of reference of the group, a new Chair could not be appointed. It was proposed by Cllr Cox and seconded by Cllr Hinton and agreed to disband the group. The draft terms of reference for a new group will be presented to councillors at the next meeting – Cllrs Cox and Hicklin.

13. LADY OF SHALLOT UPDATE – CLLR JAMES

The sculpture has arrived in Freshwater and is kindly being stored at Dimbola. Planning permission is now required for its permanent setting, which needs to be agreed following a scoping site of possible sites.

14. WEST WIGHT HERITAGE CENTRE PROPOSAL – CLLR JAMES

This item was moved up the agenda by the Chair to item 4 for the benefit of the members of the public present with questions on this item.

Cllr James's proposal was superseded by the following:

Cllr Jarman proposed developing a robust tenancy agreement between the Heritage Centre and the Parish Council for the remainder of the lease, by the 1st November 2022. The Heritage Centre to pay 50% of the rent in year 1 (this being year 1) and 100% for the remainder of the lease, including all utilities. Legal advice is being sought. The motion was seconded by Cllr Hinton and agreed unanimously.

The discussion clarified the current situation and the relationship between the parish council and the Heritage Centre, and the Chair apologised for any inaccuracies within the proposal.

15. YHAC REPORT – CLLR JAMES

Cllr James reported that at the meeting he raised the issue of sewage discharges into the Solent, at Norton Spit.

16. JUBILEE FIELD PROPOSAL – CLLR JAMES

This was moved up the agenda to ensure that members of the public could raise their questions. Cllr James proposed to bring the Jubilee Field under the full management of the Parish Council. Currently the Parish Council is responsible for the grass cutting and the West Wight Sports Centre manage the bookings for the field.

It was proposed by Cllr Hobbs and seconded by Cllr Hinton to meet with the West Wight Sports and Community Centre to discuss the current arrangements and the future arrangements for the management of Jubilee Field and agreed unanimously.

Cllr Cox requested that a plan is formulated about how the Parish Council would manage the bookings for Jubilee Field if they took on this responsibility.

17. IWALC REPORT – CLLR BAMFORD

Cllrs Bamford and Hobbs attended a recent IWALC Open Day where 17 town and parish councils were represented sharing ideas and projects. The recent IWALC Executive Meeting Minutes will be circulated to all Councillors.

18. TO APPROVE THE POLLARDING OF TWO SYCAMORE TREES IN SPINFISH – CLLR BRAY

The pollarding of the two trees was agreed as per the quote of £1,200 from our current contractor. Proposed by Cllr Hobbs and seconded by Cllr Cox.

19. TO AGREE PROPOSED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COUNCILLORS.

- Representation by Parish Councillors at outside meetings, within the Code of Conduct, the qualification of how you are representing yourself as a councillor – is a policy required? Councillors were requested to review the Code of Conduct and bring any proposed amendments to the next meeting.
- Adoption of the new Standing Orders.

The meeting closed at 9.19pm.

Report from IWC Councillor Peter Spink, Freshwater North and Yarmouth.

I am still waiting to hear whether my request for planning application ‘Land close to Fort Victoria’ to be called in for determination by the Planning Committee has been granted.

I have yet to hear what action has/is to be taken re campervans at Fort Victoria being used as ‘permanent dwellings’. I continue to monitor the situation and will of course keep all Parish Cllrs updated.

The Draft Island Planning Strategy (DIPS) is to come before an Extraordinary Meeting of Full Council this Wednesday (5/10). The recommendation of the Alliance Cabinet (save for Cllr Jarman) is that the DIPS should go for R19 Consultation and thence to the Inspector. There has been considerable opposition to holding this meeting at short notice, and with the Alliance Chair choosing the 5th because many of the Cllrs who oppose her cabinet’s recommendation are in difficulty attending. I have made it very clear that this form of political skulduggery is unacceptable and likely to bring the Council into disrepute.

I am able to attend and shall be voting against the recommendation for a number of reasons. Firstly, the extension of Freshwater’s boundary envelope to enable development on greenfield remains. Secondly, the housing ‘need’ figure is based on 2014 predictions, which have been shown by the 2021 census to be inaccurate. Thirdly, no matter how many houses are built on the Island, the ‘housing crises’ will not be solved if we continue to rely on developer led house-building. The vast majority of such houses, including the so called ‘affordable element’, are not within the reach of Islanders on or below the average Island wage nor of those on the most urgent bands of the housing register. We need a DIPS that addresses this issue, not one that allows it to continue!

Report from IWC Councillor John Medland, Freshwater South.

Dear fellow councillors,

After some months of negotiation, I have finally got agreement to change the name of the bus stop known as “Freshwater Co-op” to “Stroud Recreation Ground” by altering the national bus name database. It will of course take some time for the bus company to alter all their visual and verbal announcements and change the stop’s ‘flag’.

While meeting on this I also pressed that the IWC identify funds to finally create the two new bus stop standing areas on the westbound Guyers Road stop and eastbound Freshwater Bay stop. In both cases the frontage of the properties 1m wide were decades ago sold to IWC for these works to be effected. I regard this as an urgent road safety issue as at present people using these bus stops are obliged to stand in the highway, particularly the Freshwater Bay stop.

I have recently made contact with Barnardos concerning the WW Children’s Centre in the WWSCC. I was concerned at the lack of use of the facility which offers a critical service to a particularly important and simultaneously vulnerable population.

I have learned that currently there is a play session on Monday mornings run by West Wight Nurse, and there are Health Visitor clinic appointments on Monday afternoons and

Thursday mornings. Currently on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons there are covid vaccinations for 5-11 year olds. Space is also rented to community organizations including the cricket club.

I am planning to meet up with the Newport based staff soon to explore if this is sufficiently meeting the needs of our families with young children and see how the future looks for the development of future services.

I have offered to take over the bid writing for the food pantry application from Cllr Thomas who did an excellent job in pulling all the key elements together. We will be applying under a new scheme and are awaiting the new application form around the end of the month.

When the Island Strategic Plan comes for decision on Wednesday I will again be declaring a conflict of interest but I will this time participate in the debate and vote to express the very strong convictions locally against the housing allocations in the plan.

I would be interested to know what if the parish received any response to its detailed submission on the draft plan last year? Personally I feel given the new census figures and the economic recession that the draft plan has lost its basis in reality.



Freshwater Parish Council

Transaction Detail by Account

September 2022

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
Administration Expenses	
Admin, Training & Office Costs	
Bookkeeping	£32
Communications	£61
IT	£25
Office Rent	£2,061
Total for Admin, Training & Office Costs	£2,178
Other Administration Expenses	
Bank charges	£9
Insurance	£3,706
Just Ask	£320
Total for Other Administration Expenses	£4,035
Staff Salaries	£10,923
Total for Administration Expenses	£17,136
Grants & Projects	
Current Grants & Projects	
Current Grants	
Community Connector	£337
Community Grants	£630
HAF (310)	£860
Heritage Centre	£88
Total for Current Grants	£1,915
Current Projects	
Household Support Project	£227
Lady of Shallot	£812
New Gate Lane toilets	£1,152
Total for Current Projects	£2,191
Total for Current Grants & Projects	£4,106
Total for Grants & Projects	£4,106
Services Expenses	
Allotments	£375
Events	
Platinum Jubilee Event	£114
Total for Events	£114
Freshwater Bay Boat Park	£18
Land Management & Trees	
Committed Contracts	£2,050
Trees	£3,494
Total for Land Management & Trees	£5,545
Library	
Library General Costs	£751
Total for Library	£751
Motor vehicle Expenditure	£131



Freshwater Parish Council

Transaction Detail by Account

September 2022

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
Old Ambulance Station	£136
Parish Facilities Officer	£1,080
Public Toilets	
Services Expenses:Public Toilets	1,667
Total for Public Toilets	£1,667
Gate Lane	£13
Moa Place	£735
Total for Public Toilets with sub-accounts	£2,415
Stroud Playing Fields	£700
Total for Services Expenses	£11,264
Unapplied Cash Bill Payment Expense	£0
Youth Expenses	
Skatepark & MUGA	£150
Total for Youth Expenses	£150