



FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Office 01983 752000

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 1st NOVEMBER 2022 AT 7.13 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
MEMORIAL HALL, FRESHWATER**

PRESENT: Councillors: D James (Chairman) A Bamford, L Becker, C Bray, G Cameron, E Cox, D Hicklin, C Jarman, G Kennett, B Hinton MBE, K Fosbury, B Hobbs, J Medland, and N Thomas (until 9.00pm).

Members of the public: 1

Clerk: H Rowell

1. APOLOGIES

None

**2. TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON THE 4th OCTOBER 2022.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th October (having been circulated) were agreed with some amendments (EC/CB).

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

Cllr Thomas declared an interest in Item 9 due to her employment with the Isle of Wight Council.

**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 from Cllr Spink and Cllr Medland see Appendix 1.

6. CLERK'S REPORT (CIRCULATED TO COUNCILLORS)

A message of thanks from Joe Crockett

“Thank you so much to everyone who has helped me to raise enough money to go to The World Skate Games in Argentina. It has been my dream since I first started scootering and it

means so much. I would especially like to say a big thank you to GNARS DAO for all their help and funds and to Freshwater Parish Council for their grant too. I can't wait to go". He sent a further message from Argentina today to let us know his first practice run is today.

Jubilee Field

Cllr Kennett, the Clerk and Assistant Clerk met with West Wight Sports and Community Centre to discuss the management of Jubilee Field. Concerns raised at the last Parish meeting were discussed. Since the meeting the football club have contacted the office and are very pleased with how the grass has been cut.

Heritage Centre

I have been in contact with Eldridges Solicitors who drew up the lease, to work with us on a new sub-letting tenancy agreement.

Meeting with Claire Griffin – West Wight Sports and Community Centre

I have met with Claire Griffin to discuss outcomes for the Community Connector role that will be reported to the parish council quarterly. Claire will work with Adam Tucker and send a proposal for councillors to agree.

A further discussion was held in respect of the grant for West Wight Sports and Community Centre. Claire will continue to provide the parish council with an annual report.

Friends of Freshwater Library (FOFL)

I have spoken to FOFL who have offered to pay £500 a year towards the cost of the heating at the library. The Parish finance officer is going to provide report of the heating costs for the library. I am going to meet with their chair and finance officer to discuss the running costs in more detail.

Memorial Hall

I have arranged a meeting with Totland Parish Council with the suggested date of Tuesday 8th November at 11am, to discuss the future funding of the Memorial Hall, and ownership.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted.

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

Payments (having been circulated) were agreed (CB/BH) with 1 Cllr voting against and 3 abstentions– see appendix 2.

Cllr Jarman requested a breakdown for the following payment areas: IT, library general costs and uncategorised expense. It was agreed that this would be circulated to Cllrs within 7 days.

9. FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSE TO THE COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS – CLLR THOMAS

Cllr Thomas updated Cllrs on local activity including the planned Community Pantry, and a proposal to bring all concerned organisations together. If any Cllrs would like to support Cllr Thomas on the parish's response, please let her know.

10. TO AGREE A PARISH ORGANISATIONAL REVIEW LED BY THE STAFFING COMMITTEE – CLLR KENNETT

In view of changing priorities Cllr Kennett proposed that an organisational review and staffing needs to meet the Parish's key priorities would be progressed. This was agreed unanimously, and a Staffing Committee Meeting will be arranged before the next Parish Council Meeting so that recommendations can be brought forward.

11. FINANCE MEETING REPORT – CLLR BAMFORD

- i. To ratify large grant application recommendations
A grant for £40K for West Wight Sports and Community Centre was agreed unanimously.
A grant for £5K for the FYT Bus was agreed unanimously.
A grant application was received from Gift to Nature for £8K, it was agreed to request further information about how the grant will be spent.
- ii. To ratify community grant application recommendations
It was unanimously agreed to provide a grant of £100 to the Music Festival
- iii. To ratify the risk assessment (copy attached for Cllrs)
The risk assessment was agreed unanimously.
- iv. Budget proposal and precept 23/24
Cllr Bamford proposed bringing this item to the December Parish Council meeting when more information will be available.
- v. To approve the 25th January 2023 for the public consultation in the Memorial Hall.
It was agreed to hold the public consultation in two sessions, during the day and the evening.

12. TO APPROVE THE UPDATED STANDING ORDERS (COPY ATTACHED FOR CLLRS)

It was agreed that Cllrs would submit their proposed amendments to the Clerk within the next two weeks. All feedback will be collated and presented to the parish council at the next meeting.

13. TO RATIFY THE BUDGET FOR CHRISTMAS (ATTACHED FOR CLLRS) – CLLR COX

It was agreed to accept the budget for Christmas 2022 (EC/CB)

14. TO AGREE THE DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE POLICY (ATTACHED FOR CLLRS) – CLLR COX

It was agreed to adopt the policy with 1 Cllr voting against.

15. TO AGREE THE DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE STRATEGY GROUP (ATTACHED FOR CLLRS) – CLLR COX

It was agreed to bring a proposal for forming a Strategy Group to the next Parish Council Meeting, before the Terms of Reference can be approved. It was agreed that amendments would be made to the original Terms of Reference for the Strategy Group formed at the Annual Meeting for the Parish Council, and disbanded at the Freshwater Parish Council Meeting on 4th October 2022, be presented alongside the new proposed terms of reference at the Parish Council Meeting in December 2022.

16. TO CONSIDER PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF PARISH COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AT EXTERNAL MEETINGS – CLLR JARMAN

Cllr Jarman proposed that a statement is included in the Code of Conduct that specifically clarifies when a Freshwater Parish Councillor is representing the agreed views of the Parish Council. The exact words will be given to the Clerk and voted on at the December Parish Council Meeting.

17. TREE WORKS REPORT – CLLR BRAY

Some emergency works have had to be undertaken in Spinfish, that was unplanned. Following the storm Cllr Bray inspected most of the Parish to check any damage and has identified the loss of several branches, and work will be undertaken by the contractors as soon as possible.

18. IWALC REPORT – CLLR BAMFORD

Cllr Bamford reported that she has been elected to represent IWALC on the National Association of Local Councils (NALC). A recent Topic Meeting has been held on Road Safety; the presentation will be circulated to all Cllrs.

19. TO AGREE MEETING DATES FOR 2023 (ATTACHED FOR CLLRS)

Agreed unanimous (EC/BH)

20. TO AGREE PROPOSED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COUNCILLORS.

- Approval on the siting of the Lady of Shallot – Cllr James
- The issue of passing places and turn around areas, Cllrs send suggestions to Cllr Jarman – Cllr Jarman
- Would Freshwater Parish Council like a presentation from the police – Cllr Jarman to find a suitable meeting date.

The meeting closed at 9.03pm.

DRAFT

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.

With regard to the issue of campervans at Fort Victoria being used as 'permanent dwellings' I set out below an extract of an email that I have received from the relevant department of the Council together with my reply. I will continue to monitor the situation and keep all Parish Cllrs updated.

Email Received:

From the meeting the following actions were agreed

- 1. For Community safety officer to visit the site to meet the camper residents to highlight the concerns raised – first visit has taken place with a further one planned in early Nov. Officer requested a tidy up around the area. Camper obliged.*
- 2. To ask Out Reach staff to visit to undertake a welfare check and to engage with the campers on alternative housing options – This initial site visit has been completed and discussions held with the campers about rehoming options.*
- 3. To ensure the Police have been made aware of our activity – this has been completed and Police have agreed to monitor the site*
- 4. For the local environment officer to make visits to the site to check on any environmental and welfare issues and we will be planning these every two weeks*

Unfortunately, we are starting to see the impact on the cost of living crisis and well-meaning residents are being driven to this type of shelter/accommodation as they no other means of keeping a roof above their heads. Through our teams we shall be engaging with the residents to monitor their on-going housing and welfare needs and will assist them where we can. We will continue to encourage them move to more appropriate and safe housing accommodation options.

My reply:

I have sympathy for the plight of the 'camper resident'.

My concern is, however, that the car-park at Fort Victoria does not become an overflow for those on the housing register. As far as I am aware there is very little accommodation available and the car-park cannot be a long-term 'solution'. Do you know when they might be offered accommodation? I suspect it will not be for a very long time, if at all. I have copied Cllr Ian Stephens, Cabinet Member for Housing, in to this email as he might be able to shed some light on the matter?

If there are not any signs prohibiting overnight parking ought these not to be installed asap. Otherwise there is a real risk of the car-park becoming a camp site. This may well cause environmental problems as well as harm to the local tourist industry.

I look forward to your response.

I have been 'copied in' to a number of emails between a local resident and council officers re Birch Close. The recent digging of archaeological trenches may well have been contrary to legislation for the protection of badgers. I have set out below the most recent email. Birch

Close is not within my ward, it is however of concern to me and I will continue to monitor the situation and keep the Parish Council updated.

The sett site has been checked and there is clearly activity within the 30 metre zone. Furthermore this information was submitted to the planning department at the consultation period!!

My understanding is that a license from natural england should have been applied for by the developer. The excavation work already undertaken may already have destroyed some of the tunnels.

Can you inform me what action you propose to take.

The Draft Island Planning Strategy (DIPS) came before an Extraordinary Meeting of Full Council on the 5th October with a motion that it should proceed to R.19 consultation. I voted against the motion (for the reasons set out in my report last month) which was defeated by a narrow margin. Cllr Jarman's motion that the DIPS should be returned to cabinet for the housing numbers to be recalculated using the latest population data, was not reached and will be heard at the next meeting of Full Council on 16th November. I shall be voting for the motion.

Report from IWC Councillor John Medland, Freshwater South

Dear fellow councillors,

I have been ill much of the last month with Covid.

However, I wanted to ask for your backing on a proposed Traffic Regulation Order to restrict road speeds and improve the security of pedestrians. This was originally an idea of the FBRA which I intend to forward to the current IWC Speed Review.

The essential idea is that where there are unclassified roads or lanes without footways, which at one point narrow to a single carriageway, the speed should be reduced to 20MPH. This covers an interconnected network of minor roads and lanes from Freshwater Bay to Stroud Road, to Summers Lane.

The proposal will also include making the classified A Afton Road into a 30MPH, a reduction of 10MPH. In a door to door survey I carried out last year I found 37 households in Afton Road were in favour of this change with only 4 wishing to keep the current 40MPH limit. A third element would be a pedestrian zebra crossing at Freshwater Bay.

Considering that the IWC has a very limited budget for road safety changes this proposed TRO would be relatively cheap to introduce. It would compensate for the increased road speeds which have been adopted since Island Roads improved our road surfaces.

I would welcome any comments from you as members on this proposal?

Last Friday I attended a meeting of the FATAG operational committee where it was noted that there has been no correspondence with the Parish office since the last council meeting to confirm the council's recent decision on further financial support and the awaited tenancy agreement.

In order to assist the problem of payments to the landlord the FATAG committee agreed to offer to take over the lease and payments of utilities from the Parish Council.

Our next fund-raiser will be a talk on the 1918 Zeebrugge Raid in which local men served, on November 11th at the Wesley Hall, so please come along. We will be holding our AGM in public at last on the 20th or 27th February which will include showing the new film of Dave Kennett, Peter and Tony Isaacs and Caroline Dudley recalling 'Tales of the Western Solent' on a boat trip to Scratchells' Bay.

Some good news is that the new school is ahead of schedule and is due to be handed over to the IWC on December 9th and re-opened on January 3rd. The school will continue to be named Yarmouth Church of England primary school but will later be adopting a new name.