



FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Office 01983 752000

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 7
TUESDAY 7th FEBRUARY 2023 AT 7.47 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
MEMORIAL HALL, FRESHWATER**

PRESENT: Councillors: D James (Chair), A Bamford, C Bray, E Cox, D Hicklin, B Hinton
MBE, B Hobbs, and N Thomas (until 9pm).

Members of the public: 1

Clerk: H Rowell

1. APOLOGIES:

Councillors L Becker, K Fosbury, G Kennett and J Medland.

ABSENT:

Councillor C Jarman.

**2. TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON THE 10th JANUARY 2023.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th January (having been circulated) were agreed
(AB/CB).

**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

I have been in touch with Wightfibre in respect of the three boxes on Parish land. They have sent me a Wayleave Agreement, but as yet we haven't agreed a price.

Swift Boxes at the Memorial Hall

Permission has been requested to put up two double nestboxes on the side of the Memorial Hall to help the colony of Swifts in Graham Cottages. It has been agreed by Totland Parish Council.



MUGA

The IOW Basketball Club are hoping to commence work on the MUGA in the near future, hopefully springtime. They have arranged for a local (island company) to repair the fencing and are hoping this will be done sometime in February.

Skate Park visits

Would councillors like me to arrange a mainland visit to Lymington to see a skate park built by Gravity?

Councillor vacancy

The notice advising residents about the vacancy has been displayed for 14 clear days and we will be notified by election services on the 10th February as to whether or not a by-election will be called. If an election is not called, then we will be inviting prospective candidates to submit their applications for co-option for the March full council meeting.

Boat Park Terms of Reference

Cllr Kennett met with the Assistant Clerk at the Boat Park and will be submitting a report to the Parish Council at the next meeting.

7. **CORRESPONDENCE.**
Noted.
8. **TO AGREE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT - LIST CIRCULATED TO COUNCILLORS FOR INFORMATION.**
Payments for December and January were presented and agreed see Appendix 2 (EC/BH)
9. **TO ELECT A VICE CHAIR FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL.**
Cllr Cox put herself forward, seconded by Cllr Hobbs and agreed unanimously.
10. **TO ELECT A CHAIR FOR THE PLANNING COMMITTEE.**
Cllr Hicklin was nominated by Cllr Cox and seconded by Cllr Hinton, and agreed unanimously. As this leaves a vacancy for Vice Chair of Planning, Cllr Fosbury was nominated in her absence, seconded by Cllr Hinton and agreed.
11. **TO RECEIVE FPC BUDGT CONSULTATION FEEDBACK – CLLR BAMFORD.**
The feedback was shared with councillors, residents were very supportive of the parish council level of community support. Over 100 people signed in on the day as well as many others who didn't. The Parish staff were thanked for their work on the day.
12. **TO APPROVE THE BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2023/24 – CLLR BAMFORD.**
The budget was agreed for 2023/24 with a precept increase of 55% which was supported at the public consultation by residents, this will enable the same level of community financial support as 2022/23. It was agreed that a precept of £458,646.00 will be requested from the Isle of Wight Council. (AB/BH).
13. **TO ACCEPT THE INTERIM ADUDIT REPORT – CLLR BAMFORD.**
The interim audit was accepted unanimously, with one outstanding action which is the asset review, this is in progress, and we have asked for it to be completed in time for the full audit in June 2023. (AB/EC).
14. **TO AGREE THE ADDENDUM OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF PARISH COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE AT EXTERNAL MEETINGS – CLLR JARMAN.**
Cllr Jarman was not in attendance, however it had been circulated so was discussed. It was agreed not to accept the addendum, with one against (EC/BH).
15. **TO CONSIDER POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) POLICY AND REQUEST ALL CHAIRS UPDATE/CREATE A TOR FOR THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES TO BE RATIFIED AT THE MARCH 2023 FULL COUNCIL MEETING – CLLRS COX AND HOBBS.**
It was agreed to accept the policy as updated (EC/AB). All committees and working groups were requested to update their terms of reference.

16. CO-ORDINATION WITH TOTLAND AND YARMOUTH COUNCILS AND YHAC REGARDING PLANS FOR EVENTS MARKING THE CORONATION OF CHARLES III – CLLRS JAMES AND JARMAN.

It was agreed to support the Coronation Celebration that will take place in Yarmouth and contact YHAC to determine what is happening and finding out if volunteer support is required.

17. GATE LANE TOILETS REBUILD UPDATE – CLLR HOBBS.

A meeting has been held with the contractors, we are on budget and the build should be completed by the end of March 2023. Once the roof is on there will be the opportunity for a site visit.

18. TO AGREE THE PARISH COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL'S REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR.

It was agreed not to support this request. (CB/BH)

19. IWALC REPORT – CLLR BAMFORD.

There has been training in First Aid (use of defibrillators) and Chairmanship Training which was well attended by local councillors. The next Topic Meeting on the 23rd February will look at the interface between housing and planning, all councillors are invited.

20. JUBILEE FIELD UPDATE – CLLR JAMES.

Cllr James apologised for not sharing his proposal for Jubilee Field with the West Wight Sports & Community Centre prior to the meeting when it was discussed. It was also agreed that any complaints in future that are brought to the parish council in respect of a third party are to be treated using the complaints procedure. Cllr James apologised to any West Wight Sports and Community Centre staff who may have been upset by complaints sent to the parish council that subsequently found themselves in the public domain following a parish council meeting. The usage agreement still needs to be agreed with the West Wight Sports and Community Centre. The original agreement will be shared with councillors and a working group will develop a new proposed Memorandum of Understanding for consideration.

21. REPORT OF MEETING WITH YARMOUTH AND FRESHWATER SCHOOL ABOUT THE SCHOOL GARDEN – CLLR BRAY.

Cllr Bray and the Parish Administration Officer met with the school, offering the opportunity for them to use Stroud Coppice for their Forest School activities.

22. TO RECEIVE TREE REPORT – CLLR BRAY.

Concerns were raised about a couple of the Horse Chestnut Trees on School Green Road, following one losing two branches. It was agreed that these trees would be surveyed to determine the work that is required.

23. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE BADGER WORK AT THE LIBRARY – CLLR BRAY.

The current work has been completed.

24. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE STANDING ORDERS – CLLR HICKLIN

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

25. TO AGREE GUEST SPEAKERS FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ON MARCH 21ST 2023.

To invite Reverend Leisa to speak at the meeting.

26. TO AGREE PROPOSED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COUNCILLORS.

Proposed amendments to the Standing Orders – Cllr Hicklin

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.

27. TO CONSIDER PROPOSAL FROM GURNARD PARISH COUNCIL.

The Clerk has been approached by Gurnard Parish Council to provide some interim locum support whilst they recruit a new Clerk. It was agreed that the Clerk would take on this additional work funded by Gurnard Parish Council for three months.

The meeting closed at 9.29pm.

Ward Report Freshwater South – Cllr John Medland

Dear fellow councillors,

The first public AGM of F&TAG for three years will take place at 7pm the Methodist Hall on February 27th including a showing of the new documentary, ‘Tales of the Western Solent’ featuring Dave Kennett MBE, Peter and Tony Isaacs, and Caroline Dudley.

The F&TAG Committee are still awaiting some kind of written agreement from the Clerk on what our formal relationship is, particularly now that it has changed by verbal agreement, with payment of the lease on the Heritage Centre now transferred from FPC to F&TAG. The only legal document they have is the minute of a virtual meeting in 2020 by which the last council voted to take on the lease.

I have submitted our Food Pantry application in different formats, with different criteria of time and with a further statement, so that it may fit the criteria of the Department for Work and Pensions, a total of six times now. Considering we did not receive the new application questionnaire for the second funding period of October-March until December, gives you an idea of how difficult this process has been.

On January 30th I visited our wonderful new school. I discussed with Mrs Grainger the return of the 1953 coronation plaque and the potential for a 2023 coronation plaque on the other gate-pillar which she welcomed.

The official opening by the Bishop of Portsmouth will take place on the 30th March with a ceremony in the morning and ‘open day’ afternoon for the general public. We will be invited to the morning session.

She invites the council to hold some meetings there and engage with the pupil’s Junior Leadership Team on the role of local government. I suggested following the Yarmouth Town Council tradition of holding the Annual Meeting in the school. This would give another opportunity for the general public to see the school and it would give our Annual Meeting some extra interest.

She wants the pupils to be involved in any FPC based activities. I said that I imagined that we may be following up our successful jubilee event last year with something similar for the coronation this year. We also discussed the potential use of Stroud Coppice as an educational resource to be discussed with Cllr. Bray.

The developers of the Camp Road estate have still not submitted reports that show how the project will protect the nature reserve, estuary and Solent from sewage overflow to convince Natural England. The Case Officer is to ask the developers for a timeline and if this fails to be met the application will be refused. With the Island Strategic Plan now being reformulated to reflect changes introduced in December it seems more likely that we can achieve our joint ambition of hardening Freshwater’s existing development envelope.

Ward Report – Freshwater North and Yarmouth – Cllr Peter Spink

Once again there is a clash with the meeting of Yarmouth Town Council; there is an agenda item that requires my presence but I will come, time allowing, to Freshwater PC after this. Should I not be able to attend please accept my apologies.

The most concerning matter has been the behaviour in the village of a number of youths. There have been 2 meetings, both of which were attended by many members of the public; feelings of anger and fear were expressed. The second meeting was attended by Inspector Gooding together with the local sergeant. The real problem is the delayed response time of the police. I received an email this week from the Inspector, which included the following *“I want to reassure you that we are still working on this. PC Eva Gunter continues to head this up and is working hard to hold the culprit’s to account for their behaviour and prevent them from continuing any offending behaviour. She has conducted further interviews this week, collated additional evidence, checked bail conditions and compiled paperwork to obtain the Community Behaviour Orders (CBOs). Alongside this, she and team are continuing to address the ongoing anti-social behaviour with patrols and engagements”*.

I also attended a meeting at the West Wight Community Sports Centre, together with Cllr Fosbury, Claire Griffin (WWC Sports Centre), Adam (Community Connector) and a number of concerned ‘Mums’. Faye (WW Churches Youth Project) unfortunately was unable to attend but has emailed her support. I am a firmly of the view that those committing offences should be subject to the Criminal Justice System; however, prevention is better than cure and this meeting concentrated on the possibility of extra activities for young people (not just those in the offending group). Boxing classes, football, and music nights have all been suggested and progress is being made. Cllr Lucioni (cabinet member for Community Protection) is seeking funding from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Bob Seely has also been supportive in this regard. A need for a modest outdoor meeting space was identified and whether the youngsters could be involved in building a simple shelter; a teenage version of ‘Men in Sheds’! Would it be possible for land owned by the PC to be used for this? I would like to emphasize that the Mums were **not demanding** any of these things, and expressed their gratitude for the concern and help that was being given to them. I would also like to mention, and thank, Claire Griffin, who has worked above and beyond her duty in this respect, and continues so to do.

I have a meeting with the Case Officer, Russell Chick, next week to discuss the position re West Bay. The leisure facility remains closed, and there are enforcement proceedings being considered re full-time occupation of some of the ‘holiday lets’.

A decision has yet to be taken regarding my request for the application re ‘Fort Victoria Pier’ to be determined by planning committee.

I have been contacted by a resident who is concerned to hear that the Stroke Association Support Team is to close its service for Freshwater North on 9th February. This is being looked into as a matter of urgency and I hope to have further information in time for tonight’s meeting.

As ever, I remain active in planning matters, both in my Ward and across the Island. Proposed changes to the law have provided a real opportunity for the Island to have a proper planning strategy based on our actual housing need, rather than the entirely unsatisfactory algorithm. It is proposed to amend the NPPF to make it easier for authorities such as Islands to claim exceptional circumstances; Bob Seely together with other back-benchers has worked hard to bring this about. I do not seek to make a political point, simply to give credit where credit is due.



Freshwater Parish Council

Transaction Detail by Account

January 2023

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
Administration Expenses	
Admin, Training & Office Costs	
Bookkeeping	£32
Communications	£335
IT Software & Support	£35
Total for Admin, Training & Office Costs	£402
Other Administration Expenses	
Bank charges	£9
Total for Other Administration Expenses	£9
Staff Salaries & PAYE/Ni & Pension Contributions	
Employer Pension Contributions	£264
PAYE/Ni	£2,288
Staff Salaries	£8,928
Total for Staff Salaries & PAYE/Ni & Pension Contributions	£11,480
Total for Administration Expenses	£11,890
Community Investment	
Current Grants & Projects	
Current Grants	
Community Connector	£17
Heritage Centre	£287
Total for Current Grants	£304
Current Projects	
Colwell Bay Buoys	£1,460
Lady of Shallot	£234
Total for Current Projects	£1,694
Total for Current Grants & Projects	£1,998
Total for Community Investment	£1,998
Governance	
Public Consultation	£18
Subscriptions	£5
Total for Governance	£23
Memorial Hall Expenses	
Office Rent	£1,030
Total for Memorial Hall Expenses	£1,030
Services Expenses	
Allotments	£300
Land Management & Trees	
Committed Contracts	£1,997
Trees	£260
Total for Land Management & Trees	£2,257
Library	
Library General Costs	£812
Total for Library	£812



Freshwater Parish Council

Transaction Detail by Account

January 2023

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
Motor vehicle Expenditure	£118
Old Ambulance Station	£137
Parish Facilities Officer	£1,005
Public Toilets	£2,493
Xmas	
Events / Xmas Lighting	
Christmas Events	£15
Christmas Lighting & Trees	£80
Total for Events / Xmas Lighting	£95
Total for Xmas	£95
Total for Services Expenses	£7,216
Unapplied Cash Bill Payment Expense	£0
Youth Expenses	
Skatepark & MUGA	£187
Total for Youth Expenses	£187