



FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Office 01983 752000

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 4th APRIL 2023 AT 7.50 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
MEMORIAL HALL, FRESHWATER**

PRESENT: Councillors: D James (Chair), A Bamford, L Becker, C Bray, E Cox, K Fosbury, G Kennett, D Hicklin, B Hinton MBE, C Jarman, J Medland, N Thomas (until 9pm) and E Roberts.

Members of the public: None

Clerk: H Rowell

1. **APOLOGIES:**
Councillor B Hobbs.
2. **TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 7th MARCH 2023.**
The minutes of the meeting held on 7th March (having been circulated) were agreed (GK/AB).
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).**
Library
The library door has had damage which has caused shearing of the arm. The door had been maintained and serviced by a mainland company when managed by the IWC, we have engaged with the local firm A1 Garage Doors who have fixed the door. The company have

identified when servicing the door that the safety sensors failed, the cut-off switch to the Push Pads failed and there is no signage to comply with regulations. The quote for this work is £785.00 plus VAT.

Freshwater Bay Boat Park and Esplanade

Following the recent storms, the IWC will remove the shingle from the Esplanade from the Lifeboat Station entrance towards the Albion Hotel, return to the beach and regrade as necessary on Thursday 6th April. On Thursday 27th April they will remove the shingle from the Esplanade from the Lifeboat Station up to the last set of handrails on the beach steps and clear any shingle that has returned since the previous clearance. On Friday 28th April the seasonal benches will be reinstated.

The Lifeboat are holding an event for the King's Coronation on Sunday 7th May and erecting a marque (10 metres by 4 metres) on the green and are paying the parish council £40.00.

Parish Facilities Officer

Rebuilt the bank in Spinfish outside Sheepwash Farm. He has started filling in the holes outside the Old Ambulance Station and will be doing the ones at Pound Green with limestone chippings soon. The hedge cutting has been completed on Jubilee field, and some emergency plumbing has been undertaken at Moa Place Toilets.

Skate Park & MUGA

The newly formed skate park and MUGA committee is meeting on Wednesday 5th April at 12 noon and will report back to the next Parish Council meeting.

Community Development Work

Through the HAF Funding we have been able to provide over £3,000.00 worth of items to local families to support them through the cost-of-living crisis. Our Community Development Officer is helping to support the development of a Carers lunch at Colwell Baptist Church and is now connected to an island-wide community development network. The network members are attending 'Our Place' to learn from the Freshwater experience.

7. CORRESPONDENCE.

Noted.

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

Payments for March were presented and agreed see Appendix 2 (CB/EC).

9. FLY TIPPING AT GOLDEN HILL – CLLR BRAY.

Concern has been raised about the amount of fly tipping near the industrial units at Golden Hill Fort. It was agreed to contact the IW Council and suggest a site visit with the interested parties including Cllr Spink as Ward Councillor and Cllr Lucioni – Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Regulatory Services and Waste.

10. LIGHTING AT FRESHWATER LIBRARY PROPOSAL – CLLR BRAY.

Friends of Freshwater Library (FOFL) have requested lighting outside for their evening events. It was proposed to put a light over the door on a timer, that lights up the path. It was agreed that Cllr Bray will meet with FOFL to discuss in more detail and bring a firm proposal back to the Parish Council.

11. PROPOSAL FOR A STAND-ALONE CHRISTMAS COMMITTEE – CLLRS BRAY AND COX.

It was proposed that the Christmas Committee is taken out of the responsibility of the Events Committee. There were 4 votes for, 7 against and 1 abstention. So the motion was not approved and it was resolved that the Christmas activities remained the responsibility of the Events Committee. The Clerk requested that the Events Committee arranged a meeting as soon as possible with herself and the Administration Assistant.

12. IWALC REPORT – CLLR BAMFORD.

Media Training and a follow up Basic Skills Training Course is being planned for late spring early summer. The next Topic Meeting on the 27th April will be a workshop focussing on how we work in partnership with the IWC. This will be followed up with a second workshop with the IWC.

13. FRESHWATER YOUNGER GENERATION PROPOSAL – TO IMPROVE ENVIRONMENT/OPPORTUNITIES – CLLR FOSBURY.

NexGen Freshwater - investing in our younger generation.

Background

Over the last year, there have been a number of concerning incidents involving some of the younger generation, impacting us all.

The incidents seem to be symptomatic of a number of causes, which we are all keen to address to ensure we are addressing the core of the issues.

Various meetings, numerous discussions and a number of actions have already taken place to provide a focus for the next generation of Freshwater residents.

Some of the ideas shared/in progress:

- More sports options – for example basketball, martial arts, boxing and football (Clare at WWSC doing some great work here)
- Additional youth club nights
- Club nights (we used to call them discos)
- Work experience – hands on, service/carpentry mentioned.
- Parents volunteering to help support the above
- Community projects, involving the younger generation (beach clean, tree planting, design of facilities etc)

- FAYE and Adam at WWSC engaging with the younger generation to understand their point of view.
- More visible presence from police force, including local officer joining WWSC and available to meet/talk with parents/younger generation.
- Somewhere to 'hang out' without adult supervision (out of the rain, somewhere to sit) ...it was suggested that we could allocate some FPC land, and the design and build could involve donations with the younger generation being involved throughout.

High-level Proposal

1) Design and conduct a survey:

- Promote via social media, email distribution lists (WWSC for example) – people would be able to either drop their feedback into the Parish office (we could provide forms for those without www), complete on their phone or via the internet.
- The survey could be short (for all to complete), with an extended version if there is time.
- The survey would ask for people's opinions on existing facilities, current and future needs.
- Survey results will help us make the right decisions as an FPC and feed into Working Group and NexGen Community (below)

2) FPC to form a working group and NexGen Community

- Working with other community groups including local schools, WWSC, food pantry, youth clubs, parents, churches, charities (e.g. Men in Sheds), grassroots/voluntary organization, cubs/brownies, etc.
- Enable change through the network.

It was agreed unanimously to progress the proposal and develop the survey and formation of the working group.

14. KING CHARLES III CORONATION – CLLR JARMAN.

It was agreed to send congratulations to the King and Queen Consort on their coronation.

15. REPORT ON THE OPENING OF FRESHWATER AND YARMOUTH C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL.

The school opening was well attended including a number of parish councillors. It was a great celebration and an honour to be part of.

16. TO AGREE PROPOSED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Proposal to include Clerks in IWALC – Cllr Cox.

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.

17. STAFFING COMMITTEE REPORT – CLLR KENNETT.

The committee was held yesterday 3rd April, and the minutes will be circulated to all Councillors.

18. REVIEW THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR JUBILEE FIELD – CLLR JAMES.

It was agreed to meet with the West Wight Sports and Community Centre to rework the agreement to ensure it is workable for both parties.

The meeting closed at 9.29pm.

Freshwater North and Yarmouth Ward Report from Cllr Peter Spink

Please accept my apologies for being unable to attend this meeting, which once again ‘clashes’ with the meeting of Yarmouth Town Council. Unfortunately YTC is in a degree of turmoil, the Mayor has resigned and there is an agenda item accusing certain members of bullying. Prior to this I had written to the YTC informing them that, in light of the behaviour of certain members towards me at two previous meetings, I would not be attending meetings in the future. In view of the agenda item, however, I consider that it would be inappropriate not to be present. The item is towards the end of a relatively full agenda and it will not be possible therefore to attend both YTC and FPC.

I note that the public is to be excluded from part of tonight’s meeting. As outlined in my March Report I have been involved with the recent incidents of ‘ASB’ in Freshwater. Should the agenda item relate to this I ask please that I am informed of any matters pertinent to my involvement.

Further to my comments last month re Westbay, enforcement proceedings have now been commenced re the use of ‘holiday homes’ for long stay.

My request for planning committee to determine the application for the development of the pier and adjacent land near Fort Victoria remains outstanding. I have, however been informed that the application is to be amended to take into account objections re scale/design. The application will be readvertised.

With regard to the tree felling at Heathfield referred to in my March Report, I am happy to report that, since TPOs were issued for the remaining trees, the land-owner has not carried out any further work. The matter is being considered by the Forestry Commission re prosecution. This is likely to take some time, although I am pleased to note that a decision to prosecute has finally been taken re a similar incident at Silver Glades Caravan Park in Cranmore.

I have been contacted re dog fouling in the field adjacent to Linstone Drive. A dog-foul waste bin has been requested. I will keep the FPC informed as to progress.

There is to be a presentation to IoW councillors on 19th April updating the position re the Draft Island Planning Strategy (DIPS). The Committee will recall that the DIPS has been paused pending the proposed changes to planning policy. It is intended to clarify the criteria for claiming ‘exceptional circumstances’, making it easier for local authorities, such as Islands, to have a bespoke planning strategy rather than one imposed by central government. This is an opportunity for the Island to have the housing that Islanders need rather than houses that developers want. I intend to do all I can to ensure that this takes place.

Ward Council Report for Colwell and Totland – Cllr Chris Jarman

I’ve been spending considerable time pushing the planning issues both as regards the island planning strategy revamp and the various planning applications in the West Wight and broader across the island including both the West Acre Park and Penny feathers major developments being brought back to committee.

Having obtained another structurally balanced budget for the Isle of Wight Council there is a necessity to maintain this and to monitor the performance against that budget on a much more stringent basis than had occurred in the past. As such, an accelerated end of month reporting process will give us all a much better insight into where we are in terms of our expenditure and income.

A policy document was presented to the IWC Full Council and passed, which was our declaration of intent to provide 100% uplift of council tax on both empty and second homes. The policy has the additional benefit for the local parish, town and community councils and other precept bodies that it increases the income for them.

My wife and I sponsored one of the trees between Dimbola and Freshwater Bay and assisted in their planting.

I've been following up with the notices issued to residents on private roads regarding the uplift of their roads to a safe standard. Some of the difficulties with this are related to the exact nature of the improvements which are required. I've been pressing the council to provide a definitive document against which the works can be quoted and compliance certified.

My weekly ward surgeries continue to be held every Thursday morning and on every other weekend as required.

Ward Council Report for Freshwater South – Cllr John Medland

Dear members

My apologies for a very late report. I have spent some time now with very erratic e-mail, sometimes sending and receiving, sometimes not. As of this afternoon the problem seems fixed.

I was pleased to see many of you at the opening of the Freshwater and Yarmouth CofE School last Friday. This marks a wonderful opportunity for the future of the village and parish. I have offered the governors and PTA any assistance that I can possibly give. I have had a promise from Highways and Island Roads to review the enforcement of the free access to the Freshwater Bay esplanade which is needed for emergencies and is often blocked with a parked car. I am also trying to negotiate for a new Freshwater Bay 'towards Newport' bus stop which is currently very dangerous.

I continue to be heavily involved in helping FATAG manage the costs of the Heritage Centre by developing a five year Heritage Lottery grant application with the assistance of Cllr. Steve Blamire of Totland PC. Through my publishing background I am also now implicated in managing the publication of the new FATAG book on Totland.

There are still no moves from the applicant over the proposed Camp Road development. The Environment Agency guarantees that the site will not negatively affect the Afton Marsh Nature Reserve are not easy to satisfy.

If the application is finally agreed by the EA it still needs to be recommended by Planning Staff, which remains uncertain as the application remains deeply flawed. If the staff decide to recommend approval, the application will be heard by the Planning Committee and on that

occasion I will step out of the committee to vigorously criticize the application as the local ward member.

I look forward to seeing as many as possible of you this evening.

Ward Council Reports

1. Ward Council Report from Cllr Peter

Please accept my apologies for being unable to attend this meeting.

I was, and remain, very concerned by the recent arson in Freshwater which is a significant escalation of previous behaviour. As I have expressed previously I am firmly of the view that those who commit criminal offences should be held to account notwithstanding that they are juveniles. I also believe, however, that 'prevention is better than cure' and very much support the extra activities that Claire Griffin is organising at the West Wight Community Sports Centre and the work of Cllr Fosbury as referred to in my report last month.

The current situation at West Bay is most unsatisfactory. The Leisure facilities are closed with little prospect it seems of being reopened. The reason for originally granting planning permission for circa 20 open market houses was to facilitate a 'specific local need' for a luxury leisure facility to be used by tourists and local residents. Relatively recently, however, officers, acting under delegated authority, granted permission for the open market housing to go ahead without requiring the leisure facility to be upgraded. The justification for taking this course was the financial position of the Applicant/landowner. A financial statement had been submitted to the LPA which it was said could not be disclosed for reasons of confidentiality. I have requested a copy of the report which I have now seen. I am not at liberty to disclose the contents of the report, but I am able to say that it was not supported by any documentation to verify the financial position of the applicant/landowner. I asked about this at a meeting last month with the case officer and with residents. I was told by the officer that it was not normal to call for documentary evidence and that the LPA normally "accepted the word of the developer". I was and remain extremely concerned by this and suggested that it hardly demonstrated 'due diligence' on behalf of the LPA.

The case officer is to carry out a site visit and to have further discussion with the owner. In addition, enforcement proceedings are being considered by the IoW Council re the use of some holiday homes as permanent residences.

A decision has yet to be taken re my request for planning committee to determine the application to develop the pier and land close to Fort Victoria.

I have twice visited Heathfield Meadows re the recent felling of a number of trees. This was carried out by the landowner to the distress of many residents. The trees in question were not subject to TPOs. The IoW Council's Tree Officer has issued an emergency TPO to cover such trees as remain. An application to the Forestry Commission for prosecution for felling without a licence is being considered. The proposed changes to planning law by the Levelling Up Bill and amendments to the NPPF will make such conduct unlawful if carried out to further a planning application.

I have spent a considerable amount of time this month grappling with the circa 60 question Government Consultation on the proposed changes to planning law/policy. The questions are particularly specific and there are copious guidance notes. No doubt the Parish Council had a

similar experience when taking part. The 2 most significant changes for the Island are firstly, that it will be made simpler for local authorities, such as Islands, to pursue a case of exceptional circumstances. A successful application for exceptional circumstances would mean that the Island would be able to determine its own housing need rather than be governed by the standard algorithm. Secondly, greater emphasis is to be given to neighbourhood plans. I am in favour of this in principle as it will give local communities greater powers over development in their area. In my response to the consultation, I made it clear, however, that many Parish Councils will be unable to fund a detailed neighbourhood plan and will therefore be disadvantaged. I also expressed a wish for local communities to be given the right to appeal planning decisions. In my view it is inequitable that only applicants can appeal to an Inspector. Judicial Review is not a substitute for a right of appeal, as it is concerned more with procedural irregularities and is hugely expensive.

The recent Meeting of Full Council concerned the setting of the annual budget. The current economic situation has resulted in reduced funding for local government and, worryingly, cuts by the Council to public services. No one wants to reduce public services, but the Council is required by law to set a budget that balances. I supported the amendments proposed by Cllr Brodie, and by Cllrs Garrett and Stewart because in my view they were beneficial to communities and could be made by relatively small changes to the budget.

I continue to serve on the Corporate Scrutiny Committee, Planning Committee, Licensing Committee, and as Chair of the Planning Protocol Working Group.

2. Ward Council Report from Chris Jarman

The past 4 months have required significant focus on the IWC in order to bring forward a balanced and legal 23/24 proposal. There was no mechanism to avoid significant cuts in order to absorb the differential between cost increases and revenue.

The Full Council of IW will meet tomorrow to discuss the budget and, we trust, approve it.

Further Ukrainians have arrived to be hosted by local people in both Totland, Colwell and Freshwater. Many of you will have noticed them now serving in local restaurants, pubs, holiday centres and also in our local chemists.

Our combined local efforts regarding shoeboxes for the Ukrainian soldiers was a huge success. The final batch of 50 or so shoeboxes from the west right were shipped over to East cows to be collated on the last lorry to the Ukraine just before their orthodox Christmas. We've now started the process of making an Easter shoebox for each Ukrainian child on the Isle of Wight.

My weekly surgeries by email, online and in person remain very well attended.

I interceded following a number of complaints regarding a noisy property in Edinburgh Road. Although not strictly within my ward I was pleased to be able to provide assistance and collated an extensive set of case papers which I presented for enforcement. I'm pleased to report that the first visit has resulted in the serving on the occupier of a notice to remove the offending birds from the property. The digging of foundation trenches in the back garden for development without planning permission has also been advised and inspected. The case of disability aids

Appendix 1 Parish Council Meeting 7th March 2023

(placed by the Isle of Wight Council at the front of the property) being removed has also been referred for investigation.

I attended the precept consultation event, meeting of FWBRA and further discussions regarding the sale of the former site of Yarmouth School. I also participated in the community events regarding local youths disturbing the peace.



Freshwater Parish Council

Transaction Detail by Account

March 2023

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
Administration Expenses	
Admin, Training & Office Costs	
Bank charges	£10
Bookkeeping	£34
Office Equipment	£13
Photocopier	£56
Stationery	£57
Total for Admin, Training & Office Costs	£170
Staff Salaries & PAYE/Ni & Pension Contributions	£11,480
Total for Administration Expenses	£11,650
Community Investment	
Current Grants & Projects	
Current Grants	
Community Connector	£17
Community Grants	£100
Heritage Centre	£385
Total for Current Grants	£502
Current Projects	
Household Support Project	£1,182
Total for Current Projects	£1,182
Total for Current Grants & Projects	£1,684
Total for Community Investment	£1,684
Governance	
Public Consultation	£135
Total for Governance	£135
Memorial Hall Expenses	
Office Rent	£1,030
Total for Memorial Hall Expenses	£1,030
Services Expenses	
Land Management & Trees	£2,222
Library	£250
Motor vehicle Expenditure	£77
Old Ambulance Station	£45
Parish Facilities Officer	£900
Public Toilets	£2,859
Tools & Equipment	£15
Xmas	£1,763
Total for Services Expenses	£8,131
Unapplied Cash Bill Payment Expense	£0
Youth Expenses	
Skatepark & MUGA	£94
Total for Youth Expenses	£94



Freshwater Parish Council

Transaction Detail by Account

February 2023

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
Administration Expenses	
Admin, Training & Office Costs	
Bank charges	£10
Bookkeeping	£34
Communications	£60
IT Software & Support	£143
Photocopier	£56
Total for Admin, Training & Office Costs	£303
Staff Salaries & PAYE/Ni & Pension Contributions	
Employer Pension Contributions	£266
PAYE/Ni	£2,312
Staff Salaries	£8,974
Total for Staff Salaries & PAYE/Ni & Pension Contributions	£11,552
Total for Administration Expenses	£11,855
Community Investment	
Current Grants & Projects	
Current Grants	
Community Connector	£17
Heritage Centre	£2,677
Total for Current Grants	£2,694
Current Projects	
New Gate Lane toilets	£36,444
Total for Current Projects	£36,444
Total for Current Grants & Projects	£39,138
Total for Community Investment	£39,138
Governance	
Audit	£180
Public Consultation	£57
Subscriptions	£1,188
Total for Governance	£1,425
Memorial Hall Expenses	
Office Rent	£1,030
Total for Memorial Hall Expenses	£1,030
Services Expenses	
Environment Officer	£2,173
Land Management & Trees	
Committed Contracts	£2,156
Jubilee Field	£315
Trees	£626
Total for Land Management & Trees	£3,097
Library	£4,257
Motor vehicle Expenditure	£75
Old Ambulance Station	£175



Freshwater Parish Council

Transaction Detail by Account

February 2023

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
Parish Facilities Officer	£945
Public Toilets	£2,116
Seats, Bridges & Woodwork	£140
Xmas	£21
Total for Services Expenses	£12,999