



FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Office 01983 752000

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 2nd MAY AT 7.22 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MEMORIAL
HALL, FRESHWATER**

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

Members of the public: 1

Clerk: H Rowell

1. **APOLOGIES:**
Councillor D James and E Roberts.
2. **TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 4th APRIL 2023.**
The minutes of the meeting held on 4th April (having been circulated) were agreed (CJ/BH).
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. Cllr Spink sent apologies for the meeting.
6. **CLERK'S REPORT (CIRCULATED TO COUNCILLORS).**
Skate Park and MUGA
One of the MUGA doors has been smashed in, and the electrical cabinet has also been smashed open and a wire ripped out and tripped the system so the lights will not work.



I am meeting with Lifeline tomorrow on site, to have a survey for CCTV.

Gate Lane Toilets

We had a site visit at the toilets recently and I have been assured that they will be completed by the 12th May in time for Walk the Wight. However, we are still waiting for the electric meter to be installed.

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/GK).

9. WEST WIGHT YOUTH CRIME UPDATE – CLLR THOMAS

It was agreed to invite PC Gunter to attend a Parish Council meeting to discuss local concerns.

10. PROPOSAL FOR PEDESTRIAN CROSSING – CLLR KENNETT

It was agreed that the crossing is not in the best position. It is being repainted and the lighting improved. It was agreed that Cllr Medland would work with Cllr Kennett to see what else can be done.

11. FRESHWATER IN BLOOM PROPOSAL

Deferred to a future meeting.

12. LAND MANAGEMENT REPORT – CLLR BRAY

Cllrs Kennett, Cox and Roberts have visited many of the assets in the parish. It was agreed to engage with the primary schools to find out which play equipment on the Stroud is most used and what new items they would like us to consider. A proposal will be brought forward based on the outcome of the survey and costs.

Some tree work needs to be completed following the recent survey. A quote of £1540.00 has been received and this work was agreed unanimously.

13. SKATE PARK MEETING REPORT

The Skate Park Committee met on the 5th April and propose the following:
To request planning proposal from Gravity and apply for planning permission. Cllr James proposed a slight change to the location which was agreed and appears on the updated plans. Once the draft planning application is agreed, invite all the homeowners who live around The Stroud to consult on the application.

It was proposed to invite Gravity Engineering to meet with the Parish Council (KF/BH).
This was unanimously agreed.

14. TO AGREE PROPOSED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- The Lady of Shalott.
- Update on the Community Pantry – Cllr Thomas
- Wightfibre.
- Future of the West Wight Heritage Centre – Cllr Medland
- Dog Patrols – Cllr Jarman

The meeting closed at 8.27pm.

Cllr Spink's Report

Please accept my apologies for being unable to attend this meeting, which once again ‘clashes’ with the meeting of Yarmouth Town Council. As I explained in my April Report, YTC is in a continuing state of turmoil and I hope that you will understand, therefore, why it is necessary for me to be present at tonight’s meeting.

West Bay: As mentioned in my April Report enforcement proceedings have been commenced. The landowner has been given until August to comply with the enforcement notice, and has indicated that he will do so. I remain, however, extremely concerned about the fact that the leisure facilities remain closed and the ‘improvements’ have not been carried out. In my opinion this situation has been brought about by planning officers, acting under delegated authority, agreeing that the rebuilding of the leisure facilities could be removed from the previous planning permission. This decision was based on a financial report on behalf of the land-owner which was disclosed only to officers, and, subsequently to me in confidence. The report was not supported by documentary evidence (e.g. bank statements, tax returns etc). I raised this at a recent meeting and was told by the planning officer that “we never ask for this, we just take the word of the developer”. I find this statement extremely worrying. My request for this application to be heard by planning committee was previously refused.

Birch Close: Application to Remove Condition for double yellow lines; I know that Cllr Jarman has been dealing with this. Suffice to say, therefore, that I do not consider that planning officers should have the power to remove conditions imposed by planning committee without reference to the committee; particularly when, as in this case, the condition was imposed in the interests of road safety at the request of Island Roads. The matter will be addressed by amendments to the council’s planning protocol.

DIPS: The Levelling Up Bill, together with changes to the NPPF, will make it easier for local authorities, such as Islands, to claim exceptional circumstances, particularly when calculating ‘housing need’ by the standard method is contributing to demographic imbalance. The council seems reluctant, however, to grasp this opportunity to have a bespoke planning strategy for the Island rather than the current plan which is ‘dictated’ to by Westminster. I find this puzzling, particularly as the Government requires us to build circa 750 houses per annum, when our population has only increased by circa 2,000 from 2011 to 2021 (i.e. the last census period).

I note that Heather has written to Natasha Dix re fly-tipping near to Golden Hill Fort. I have also written in support of Heather’s request for the IoW Council to visit the area with a view to finding a solution.

I have been contacted today by a resident re the state of the road surface on Pixies Hill. Apparently there are large rutted tracks caused by vehicles using the verge to avoid wide vehicles, possibly buses. The resident in question caught his wheel in the rut and almost lost control of his car. I will have a look at the road and contact Island Roads about this.

Peter Spink,
IoW Councillor for Freshwater North and Yarmouth.

Cllr Jarman's Report

I purchased a large box of Coronation signage and with the help of volunteers we have placed them throughout Freshwater Isle from Totland Broadway, through Freshwater and down to Freshwater Bay. I'm pleased to see that many retailers in our community have responded with shopfront decorations and note in particular Sugarloaf and Red Cross.

I attended the meeting of Freshwater Bay Residents Association and completed followup actions regarding:

- Storm Water Overflows where £12m has been secured for corrective action on IW including addressing multiple outlets into the Western Yar and the whole feed-in network. The work will be supported by three dedicated local resources.
- Waterbutts where we have secured a commitment from Southern Water that Freshwater Isle will be the next IOW region to benefit from the scheme starting in January 2024.
- Updates on the application to remove TPOs from Birch Close.
- Updates on the planning application on Camp Road.
- Additional details regarding the logistics for the Coronation events at Freshwater Bay including the provision of a marquee.
- Circulated direct contact details for our local PCSO and Police.

FWBRA have asked me to bring a request to FWPC for their representation (non-voting) on FWPC. They noted that they have been unable to find online links to draft minutes of last meetings, advance papers and agendas which they can share with their extensive membership.

I raised the potential for streaming FWPC meetings and received responses that this would not be supported so that matter has been taken off the table.

I provided to our clerk the requested details of professionals able to provide a review of the financial and legal matters related to heritage licensing payment arrangements.

Multiple further complaints have been received regarding the failure to comply with an order for the removal of wildlife from a property in Edinburgh Road. I referred this to enforcement and a followup visit will occur to ensure the owners have fully complied with the notice served.

I have paid multiple visits to monitor the rebuilding of the steps at Brambles Chine and led the West Wight Walking for Health Group there this week to observe the completed project.

I contributed to the Queen's Canopy planting of trees at Freshwater Bay including the planting of a tree in remembrance of my late dad. I will be opening the Queen's Canopy as part of the Coronation Celebrations.

Following the attacks by large dogs on the swans on the Causeway, on small dogs and their owner in a local park, and on small dogs at Golden Hill Country Park, I have noted same on my facebook page and engaged with the respective staff at IWCouncil. I posted the current geographic restrictions online and noted the initial extension suggestions made by residents.

My Ward Surgeries continue on Thursday mornings at the Parish Office on The Broadway.

Cllr Chris Jarman JP
Ward Councillor for Totland & Colwell Ward

Cllr Medland's Report

Dear members

Some of you will recall the consultative workshop events which were held in the community hall of the WWSCC led by the IWC's regeneration manager Chris Ashman. This process over several meetings produced three broad project aims; to get on with building the West Wight to Newport cycleway or 'Greenway', to improve access to GP appointments at Brookside, and to develop a cultural strategy for the West Wight for artists and film making. On April 19th I had a meeting with Chris Ashman to follow up where we had got to with the West Wight part of the Regeneration Strategy.

The Greenway was in the latest bid for levelling up which has failed this time but can continue to be applied for as and when the central government funding window opens. Sadly there are only three regional managers who are all tied up with existing projects in the key regeneration areas of the Medina Valley, Ryde area and Sandown Bay. However he said that if we were to make significant progress one of these regional managers would be redeployed to assist us, or Ashman himself as he is aware that we have been somewhat left in the cold. His advice was that we begin by developing a Place Plan to provide the detail needed for funding applications as they become available. This seems to fit in with recent posts by members of this council suggesting we take a broader view of local issues.

Another approach would be to revise the Neighbourhood Plan which we should do as a matter of course if merely by reviewing it. However to keep up with the areas of the Island which are ahead of us in the current scramble for regeneration grants I think we should be particularly looking at a place plan. So far only the Sandown Bay area has one and I have asked for a copy of this to use as an example.

In bus stop news Highways and Southern Vectis have finally altered a national database to rename the 'Freshwater Co-operative' to 'Stroud Playing Field' and the private offer to build the east bound bus stop in Gate Lane serving Freshwater Bay has been withdrawn as it now has to be two metres wide to meet national regulations. I am now discussing with Highways the option of a new eastbound bus stop close to Freshwater Bay Car Park which would be a much safer location for passengers.

Last Friday I attended a meeting at Shalfleet School with other local representatives and school staff where Mrs Grainger again appealed for innovative ways to bring together the confederation and the communities that it serves. One question was how the school could show what it is doing within the community. The WWSCC offered wall space for artwork and I suggested that the parish council could offer space for news on the Moa Place car park notice board?

Cllr. John Medland – Freshwater South



Freshwater Parish Council

Transaction Detail by Account

April 2022

DATE	ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
Administration Expenses		
Admin, Training & Office Costs		
	Bank charges	£43.90
	Bookkeeping	£32.00
	Communications	£391.18
	Stationery	£156.43
	Total for Admin, Training & Office Costs	£623.51
Staff Salaries & PAYE/Ni & Pension Contributions		
	PAYE/Ni	£6,641.20
	Staff Salaries	£8,617.41
	Total for Staff Salaries & PAYE/Ni & Pension Contributions	£15,258.61
	Total for Administration Expenses	£15,882.12
Community Investment		
Current Grants & Projects		
	Current Grants	
	Community Connector	£17.43
	Community Grants	£864.00
	Heritage Centre	£307.52
	Total for Current Grants	£1,188.95
	Total for Current Grants & Projects	£1,188.95
	Total for Community Investment	£1,188.95
Memorial Hall Expenses		
	MHALCo Maint & Other Costs	£70.00
	Office Rent	£1,030.42
	Total for Memorial Hall Expenses	£1,100.42
Services Expenses		
	Allotments	£85.51
	Land Management & Trees	
	Committed Contracts	£3,976.73
	Total for Land Management & Trees	£3,976.73
	Library	£1,057.49
	Motor vehicle Expenditure	£288.37
	Old Ambulance Station	£117.23
	Parish Facilities Officer	£945.00
	Public Toilets	£1,922.57
	Seats, Bridges & Woodwork	£294.11
	Total for Services Expenses	£8,687.01
	Unapplied Cash Bill Payment Expense	£0.00