



FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Office 01983 752000

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 6th JUNE AT 7.26 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MEMORIAL
HALL, FRESHWATER**

PRESENT: Councillors: G Kennett (Chair), A Bamford, C Bray, E Cox, D Hicklin, B Hinton MBE, B Hobbs, D James, C Jarman, J Medland, N Thomas and E Roberts.

Members of the public: 20

Clerk: H Rowell

Gravity Engineering gave a question-and-answer presentation on the plans for the new Skate Park and Pump Track.

1. **APOLOGIES:**
Councillor K Fosbury.
2. **TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 2nd MAY 2023 AND THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON THE 16TH MAY 2023.**
The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd May and the Annual Meeting held on 16th May 2023 (having been circulated) were agreed (EC/CJ).
3. **TO INVITE COUNCILLORS TO DECLARE AN INTEREST IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA.**
Cllr Hinton declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 12 as a Trustee of Dimbola.
Cllr Thomas declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 14.
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).**

Councillor Resignation

Lindsay Becker has resigned as a parish councillor; a notice has been published asking the residents of South Ward if they would like an election. Any requests for an election, need to be sent to the Proper Officer at the Isle of Wight Council by the 15th June 2023.

Library

A meeting was held between Friends of Freshwater Library (FOFL) and Freshwater Parish Council to discuss the lighting of the library steps and associated costs. We have provided FOFL with options and they are going to consider their financial contribution and a further meeting has been agreed for the 13th June to move this forward. We are also planning quarterly meetings with FOFL and the library service.

Fire Risk Assessment

A fire risk assessment has been completed on the Memorial Hall including the parish accommodation upstairs. It has flagged up the need to put in place a process, with necessary equipment to enable people with disabilities to leave the upstairs accommodation safely, in case of fire. I am meeting with Debbie (Memorial Hall Administrator) and Fire Safe Training to discuss the measures we need to put in place.

MUGA

Cllrs Bray, Bamford and myself met with Tim from Basketball Isle of Wight at the MUGA on Friday 2nd June 2023 to discuss the agreed funding and the implications of the RoSPA report. Tim believes there is sufficient funding to cover the full refurbishment. We have a verbal quote for between £4,000 and £6,000 for CCTV which is not in their allotted funding, so would be the responsibility of the parish council. Clare Griffin at WWSCC has agreed to host the monitor.

Gate Lane Toilets

The toilets are completed; It was confirmed today that the electric meter will be installed on the 29th June, so the toilets will open to the public once the safety check has been completed.

Potholes

The Potholes in Pound Green and Spinfish have been filled in.

Moa Place Flower Beds

The Isle of Wight Council have acknowledged ownership of the flower beds and have raised a job to have the bushes cut back to improve visibility.

7. CORRESPONDENCE.

Noted.

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

Payments for April were presented and agreed see Appendix 2 (EC/JM).

9. SKATE PARK REPORT

Following an emergency Skate Park Meeting having received the RoSPA report advising closure, it was agreed to close the Skate Park with immediate effect. It was agreed to make cost effective safe repairs to enable the park to reopen for the summer. The Facilities Officer and Finance Officer have offered their time to do the work required.

10. TO AGREE PROPOSAL TO APPLY FOR PLANNING PERMISSION FOR THE NEW SKATE PARK.

It was unanimously agreed to put in the application for planning permission.

11. COMMUNITY RESILIENCE REPORT – CLLR THOMAS

Following an inaugural meeting of the committee it was agreed to work towards having a Community Resilience plan which can be activated at any time. To understand the local health needs of the community as this will be paramount in delivering an effective community resilience plan.

To work towards having a local plan in place in the event of an emergency which may impact the local community which will include updating the current 10-year-old Flood plan.

To identify local risks and resources, working with partners including Yarmouth Harbour Commission.

12. LADY OF SHALLOT FUNDING PROPOSAL – CLLR MEDLAND

Thanks were expressed to Dimbola for storing the sculpture for free. It was agreed to apply for an Awards for All Grant for £10,000.00 to cover the costs of installation which would include an artistic interpretation of a lake. It was agreed that Cllr Medland would explore the possibility of a grant application.

13. FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL EMAIL SYSTEM

It was agreed that some councillors could use their personal email accounts for parish business if they preferred, rather than the Parish Council system.

14. COMMUNITY PANTRY UPDATE – CLLR THOMAS

It was agreed to explore the possibility of a bespoke model for Freshwater and arrange a meeting with the Isle of Wight Council Connect 4 Communities Team, Cllr Kennett and Cllr Medland.

15. TO AGREE PROPOSED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COUNCILLORS.

- Strategic Plan for the Parish Council

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.

16. STAFFING COMMITTEE REPORT

This item was deferred to the next Parish Council Meeting.

17. WEST WIGHT HERITAGE CENTRE – CLLR MEDLAND

This item was deferred to the next Parish Council Meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.42pm.

DRAFT

Cllr Chris Jarman's Report – Totland and Colwell Ward

In my last report I noted that I had joined a new Empowering Islanders group at IWCouncil and in doing so that I was automatically no longer a member of the Alliance group. Being mindful of the fragile state of our IWC finances, I also noted that I had no intention of resigning as Cabinet Member for Finance - that appointment being at the discretion of the Leader of the Council Cllr Lora Peacey-Wilcox. A week later on 19th May and after many reminders, I received the Leader's determination that I was no longer a Cabinet Member. I expressed my disappointment at her decision which I believe to be fundamentally not in the best interests of our Island or IWCouncil, but recognising that she is currently empowered to make it. I offered my support during the transition to a new responsible Cabinet Member for Finance but this has also not been accepted.

At our inaugural meeting at IWC Annual Council we purposefully relocated our assigned tables and seating from the side of the chamber to the middle – a practical demonstration of our unpartisan positioning and an amplification of our message to all members to leave politics at the door and to work collaboratively.

Empowering Islanders now has 4 Members, including all three West Wight Councillors, and is the 3rd largest group on IWCouncil. We have reached out to and met other groups and non-grouped to share our views and aspirations and to explore options moving forward to establish a stable majority administration. Of necessity, given the size of the various IWCouncil groups, this will need to be a coalition and those open and practical discussions have been well received and are now coming to a conclusion. Key will be our focus on bringing forward an Island Plan which utilises that Exceptional Circumstances provided in the pending levelling-up legislation and NPPF revisions to protect our precious Island environment and concentrating development on brownfield sites to deliver homes at socially rented levels. Our other key issues have been well published already including sewerage infrastructure, transport and measures to address our increasingly imbalanced demographics. In summary we recognise that the crisis we face for the future of our Island cannot be tackled by one group choosing from a minority of elected Members: It must be by cooperative working utilising the best available skills irrespective of the colour of their underpants. Hard choices but necessary if we are to flourish.

Locally my ward surgeries and resident support work continues. The launch of the Queen's Canopy was a major success and I am please the work on the steps down to the beach East of Colwell have been completed.

I have been assisting many that are not connected to mains gas with their applications for utility grants prior to expiry of the scheme on 31st May 2023.

Together with others we have been identifying and reporting road condition issues through FixMyStreet and actively monitoring their responses and works.

Yesterday I attended the police update on Island issues and raised in detail the challenges we face in the West Wight. Their West Wight operations regarding anti-social behaviour, attempted arson, burglary and vandalism continue with additional enforcement and court cases now scheduled.

Cllr Peter Spink's Report – Freshwater North and Yarmouth Ward

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 previously, 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. It is also my first meeting since being elected.

Birch Close: As I mentioned in my May report, there was an application to remove the condition for double yellow lines; this matter has been resolved, and I have included a provision in the revised planning protocol which prevents officers from dealing with such applications under delegated authority.

Anti Social Behaviour: I am concerned to hear that the anti-social behaviour is continuing. I attended the recent presentation at Ryde Castle by Donna Jones PCC, and Officers. I have also spoken to Claire Griffin, who expressed difficulty obtaining funding for the extra activities that she has put in place (boxing, gym, and football). I emailed all concerned and have received confirmation that this will be prioritised. I have asked Claire to keep me informed of progress.

My application for the development near to Fort Victoria to be determined by planning committee is still outstanding. I intend to raise my concern with the Chair of Planning Committee, Cllr Warren Drew, regarding the time that these requests are taking. I am also concerned by the practice of accepting letters of objection/support after the consultation period has closed. Although a degree of flexibility should be allowed the current situation where letters are accepted right up to the hearing is unacceptable.

I continue to battle with planning officers re the meaning of 'local need' when considering planning applications. Local need should be, and indeed was, interpreted as meaning a need of the Parish/local community. Officers contend, however, that this should be reinterpreted to mean 'Island-wide' need. In my view this is incorrect and conflicts with a recent Court of Appeal decision.

Cllr John Medland's Report – Freshwater South Ward

Dear members

We have seen significant changes in the last month. All three of us Freshwater councillors are now part of a new Council group called Empowering Islanders. When Cllr. Jarman was removed as Cabinet Member for finances we decided to support a motion of no confidence against the Alliance administration Leader and Cabinet in order to bring about a cabinet recruited from the different political groups with a clear majority in the Council Chamber.

In part this breach is rooted in the conviction of the administration to accept the Island Plan in its current draft which would condemn the West Wight to inappropriate unsustainable housing developments. We believe the current model for providing housing is broken and that we need to take dramatically different strategies for dealing with what is now an acute housing crisis.

The new arrangement has the local advantage that all three Freshwater PC related councillors are now in the same political group. In addition, we have monthly meetings with the fourth

Appendix 1 FPC Meeting June 6th 2023 – County Councillor Reports

WW Councillor, Nick Stuart, to discuss common issues like the future of the Military Road, No.12 bus service, the Greenway etc.

Now I am outside the Alliance administration I will be concentrating more of my time on my new role as Vice Chairman of this Council.

On the local level there is little to report. I have been passing on the state of paths and waterways and parking and speeding issues as usual.

I will give a verbal update on the statue and the heritage centre building lease under those agenda items as they come up.

I hope I can answer any further questions?



Freshwater Parish Council

Transaction Detail by Account

May 2023

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
Administration Expenses	
Admin, Training & Office Costs	
Admin Other Costs	£45
Bank charges	£9
Bookkeeping	£34
Communications	£60
Just Ask	£476
Photocopier	£100
Total for Admin, Training & Office Costs	£724
Staff Salaries & PAYE/Ni & Pension Contributions	
Employer Pension Contributions	£264
Staff Salaries	£8,910
Total for Staff Salaries & PAYE/Ni & Pension Contributions	£9,174
Total for Administration Expenses	£9,898
Community Investment	
Current Grants & Projects	
Current Grants	
Community Connector	£19
Total for Current Grants	£19
Total for Current Grants & Projects	£19
Total for Community Investment	£19
Governance	
Subscriptions	£236
Total for Governance	£236
Memorial Hall Expenses	
MHALCo Precept	£4,798
Office Rent	£2,061
Total for Memorial Hall Expenses	£6,858
Services Expenses	
Land Management & Trees	
Committed Contracts	£1,997
Land Management	£348
Trees	£600
Total for Land Management & Trees	£2,945
Library	£800
Motor vehicle Expenditure	£28
Old Ambulance Station	£155
Parish Facilities Officer	£1,035
Public Toilets	£2,037
Tools & Equipment	£7
Total for Services Expenses	£7,007
Unapplied Cash Bill Payment Expense	£0
Youth Expenses	



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Transaction Detail by Account

May 2023

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
Skatepark & MUGA	
Skatepark Expenses	
Skatepark General Expenses	£26
Total for Skatepark Expenses	£26
Total for Skatepark & MUGA	£26
Total for Youth Expenses	£26