



FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk's office 01983 752000

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 2nd December 2014 AT 7.15 PM AT THE METHODIST CHURCH

PRESENT: Councillors: C Fleury (Chair), C Bray, A Harris, B Hobbs, P England, B Hinton MBE, G Cameron, C Lillywhite, K Lloyd. M Wheeler, G Kennett MBE, and A Bamford.

ALSO PRESENT: Isle of Wight Cllr J Medland

Members of the public: 4

Clerk: M J Mills

1. ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman reminded everyone that the first meeting of Freshwater Parish Council took place 120 years ago.

2. APOLOGIES: Cllr D Eccles.

3. PC BAGGOTT OF THE WEST WIGHT SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM ATTENDING TO UPDATE THE PARISH COUNCIL ON POLICING MATTERS

The Chairman welcomed PC Baggott to the meeting. PC Baggott referred to the Beat Report which had been circulated. A drugs warrant had also been executed. It had been a pro-active month. In answer to a question from the Chairman PC Baggott said that the police were aware of youngsters cycling without lights. There was a traffic operation this coming weekend. Action would be taken to educate and enforce where necessary.

P C Baggott said that the police awaited formal confirmation from the Parish Council that they could take over the monitoring of the CCTV camera at Moa Place. This was **resolved** and PC Baggott advised accordingly.

4. CLARE GRIFFIN MANAGER OF WWS&CC ATTENDING TO TALK ABOUT THE NEW YOUTH SCHEME AT WEST WIGHT SPORT & COMMUNITY CENTRE.

A written report was circulated (attached to minutes). Cllr Wheeler asked if details of the Centre's catchment area could be supplied. Cllr Hinton congratulated the Centre on its good work.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD 4th NOVEMBER 2014:

It was **resolved** the Minutes of the previous meeting held 4th November 2014, having been circulated, be approved

6. TO INVITE CLLRS TO DECLARE AN INTEREST IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

Cllr Wheeler on the Norton Green item –item 19.

7. QUESTIONS ON THE AGENDA FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (UP TO 15 MINUTES).

A member of the public wished to speak about the issue of car parking at Moa Place and this to be dealt with at the appropriate point in the agenda.

8. TO ACCEPT WRITTEN REPORTS FROM FRESHWATER WARD COUNTY CLLRS/QUESTION AND UPDATE SESSION (UP TO 15 MINUTES FROM BOTH CLLRS).

A written report had been received from Cllr Medland (attached to minutes). Cllr Kennett pointed out that the Parish Council had not been in a position to take control of the car park. Cllr Medland said that that he thought the Parish Council had a good case. He wanted to query the removal of the trolley park.

9. TO CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FOR THE VACANCY FOR NORTON WARD.

The Chairman explained that this could not proceed immediately as the lady concerned had personal reasons to delay her prospective application.

10. DELIVERING DIFFERENTLY IN NEIGHBOURHOODS (DCLG)

Cllr Kennett was dealing with this on behalf of the West Wight Sports and Community Centre. The Centre had already successfully applied under the “Our Place” program. It was agreed to support this initiative.

11. CLERKS REPORT – had been circulated to Councillors.

Jubilee Field

It appears that although we were told that Isle of Wight Council were meeting to discuss this on 29th October, the meeting did not take place. However Cllr Stubbings has now offered to help progress this and an e mail was received on Friday 28th November confirming Stroud recreation ground now to be included and “instructions awaited”.

Sign at Yarmouth Bridge

This has been temporarily replaced pending a Freshwater Parish Council sign.

Moa Place

The Clerk met with Councillor Medland and Environment Officer Katharine Arblaster at Moa Place car park on 24th November to discuss the traffic situation. Katharine is the EO who is currently most involved with Freshwater. She works Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. She has suggested contact with NANSAG (Newbridge and Ningwood Safety Action Group) as a first port of call for considering road safety measures and she may be able to undertake a survey on volume of traffic in the area at certain times. Cllr Medland will now take this forward.

Cllr Bray said that she felt that the traffic situation was chaotic.

Tree Planting

The Clerk had collected 20 hazel trees, 20 oak trees and 10 elm trees from the Big Tree Plant. These were now with Brighstone Landscaping pending resolution of exact location for planting.

Cllr Bray was meeting with Brighstone Landscaping to discuss this and to ascertain how many more plants were required.

Christmas lights update

The tree has been ordered for the library and should have arrived on 1st December. The tree is a 15 to 20 foot Norway Spruce and is costing £170 plus £20 delivery and cost of installation. Mark Churcher has installed the other trees and the lights were switched on on 28th November.

CLlr Lloyd offered to arrange photographs and a press release.

CLlr England said that the caretaker would put lights on the Memorial Hall tree but the Clerk had been asked to arrange for an electrician to check them.

Moa Place car park

The Car Parking Order came into effect on 1st December. The Parish Council have not been officially notified by Isle of Wight Council of the implementation date.

12. CORRESPONDENCE.

22/10/14 Copy letter DCLG to Ventnor TC
British Legion thanks re Poppy Appeal
6/11/14 IWC TPO Barricoes Halletts Shute Norton
7/11/14 E mail FBRA to John Medland
10/11/14 E mail Bembridge PC re Peoples Millions Grant
10/11/14 E mail Ashley Curzon
11/11/14 IWMD&DF letter of thanks
13/11/14 IWC TPO 4 Selwood Road Freshwater
14/11/14 Copy e mail Matt Kitchin to John Medland
17/11/14 E mail IWALC re DCLG funding
17/11/14 E mail IWALC re planning representations
18/11/14 Copy e mail David Walter to John Medland
1/12/14 E mail David Ballard re welcome boards
1/12/14 E mail John Martin re Moa Place

13. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Resolved that the following accounts be accepted

SALARIES TOTAL			£1675.86
<u>Cheques drawn for payment 2nd December 2014</u>			
			£
400587	Mark One Maintenance	Skatepark pole jam & grind box; Stroud Adult Equip loose bolts	140.00
Debit Cd	IW Council	Avenues Rates Nov	101.00
Debit Cd	BT Inv SD44324534M015VO	2nd line rental Nov + fees	27.60
Debit Cd	Battery Station Inv 20111487354	Batteries for Xmas Trees	47.96
400588	MJC Tree Services Inv 14/083	Tree Survey	738.36
400589	W Hursts Inv F3343076	Skatepark Black bags	3.58
400590	BL Ltd Inv 16900	Grounds Maintenance incl extra Spinfish no 7	1271.26
400591	MALCO INV 1085;1074	Office Electricity; Hire Small Hall	93.00
400592	S Water Inv 709001106277	Avenues Standing Chgs 12/09/14 - 14/11/14	14.67
400593	Ricoh Inv 100049250	rent 01/11-31/01, copies 01/08-31/10	232.73
400594	Michael Mills	Travel costs re CiLCA training	458.25
Sub total			3128.41
TOTAL			£4,804.27

14. PAYMENT TO THE PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN OF AN ANNUAL ALLOWANCE OF £500.

Resolved that a payment of £500 be made.

15. PAYMENT TO MR ROBIN DAY OF AN HONORARIUM FOR HIS WORK OVER THE YEAR ON THE PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

Resolved that £500 be paid (Cllr Bray abstained).

16. PAYMENT TO MRS JENNY WILLIAMS OF AN HONORARIUM FOR HER WORK ON THE PARISH ARCHIVES

Resolved that £250 be paid.

17. REPORT ON MEETING OF WEST WIGHT LOCAL COUNCILS GROUP HELD ON 20TH NOVEMBER.

Cllr Wheeler reported that this had been a very positive meeting. It has been put to the group that so far as the West Wight Sports and Community Centre were concerned, there were 6109 council tax paying households in the West Wight. £1 per month per household would deal with the Centre's budget deficit.

Cllr Kennett said that she supported the idea of the group.

18. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT

Details published by the National Association of Local Councils had been circulated. Cllr Kennett said that she understood that this would become more prevalent. Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils would be doing a presentation in due course. It would not affect Neighbourhood Plan and was something that could be considered by the West Wight local councils group if appropriate.

19. NORTON GREEN DRAINAGE

A letter from David and Margaret Carter had been circulated. Cllr Wheeler felt that the total cost should be no more than £1000. Quotes had been in excess of that figure however. The work should be done without setting a precedent and without liability.

20. MOA PLACE CAR PARK.

The Chairman pointed out that the Parish Council had been told that implementation would not be until the New Year. Cllr Wheeler said that there were implications with maintenance and charges if the Parish Council took it over. He had attended a talk on the right to challenge with Ashley Curzon from Isle of Wight Council. It had been suggested that it was best to avoid the Localism Act because of the risk of there being a full procurement process and a private contractor such as NCP becoming involved. It had been suggested that the Parish Council should talk to the Isle of Wight Council and that is what had been happening. There had been a recent meeting with Cllr Stubbings when the option to pay £13700 had been discussed. This equated to 50p per household per month.

Cllr Hinton said that he had been told by Shirley Smart that it was all the fault of the Parish Council and that a good offer had been made.

A member of the public asked what the people of Freshwater should do and mentioned civil disobedience. He suggested covering up the signs.

Cllr Wheeler said that 15 retail shops depended on the car park. The Parish Council were fighting for the community.

Cllr Medland mentioned the availability of free spaces on the road.

Cllr Harris said that the Isle of Wight Council had made the Parish Council look stupid. The Parish Council were trying to consult but they were being misled. He felt the Parish Council should determine the lease.

Cllr Medland said that there had been a huge mess in communication. Officers had told Luisa Hillard that Freshwater Parish Council were perfectly happy with the proposals. We needed to know more about the figures.

Cllr Kennett said that there was no point in covering signs as people would still get penalty tickets.

Cllr Bamford felt something should be done as many people were asking about the issue.

Cllr Cameron felt that we should offer something less than £13700, perhaps £10,000.

Cllr Kennett felt that there should be a press statement.

Cllr Bray pointed out that it was not a level playing field. Sandown closed for the winter. Totland was free.

Cllr Lloyd said that the need for a press release was urgent.

Cllr Wheeler said that Cllr Hillard had been given a chance to respond. She had said that her diary was full.

Cllr Kennett said that anxiety was high. It was important that Cllrs did not contradict each other.

The legal position would be considered at the end of the meeting.

21. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillor Bamford said that all communications were now coming through her as Chair. All groups were near their deadlines and most of the evidence was available. Some training was being undertaken in January. Cllr Bamford thanked Cllrs Cameron, Hinton, Lillywhite and Lloyd for putting their names forward. It was hoped to finish in June/July and the possibility of an open day to celebrate completion was mentioned.

22. DISCRETIONARY SERVICES.

Cllr Hinton said that he felt the Parish Council should not be funding officers employed by Isle of Wight Council.

Cllr Wheeler said that numbers were not in stone and depended on how many others took them up.

Cllr Medland said that it was safe to assume that buying in was not working and it would be best to get our own figures. Cllr Bray confirmed that the figures had already been obtained.

Cllr Hobbs said that beach cleaning was a statutory responsibility for the Isle of Wight Council.

Cllr Harris proposed that the Parish Council carry out grounds maintenance itself. This was agreed and **resolved**.

23. LENGTHSMAN.

Cllr Kennett said that Bembridge Parish Council had been successfully employing a lengthsmen.

She thought this could be a "handy man" for say 20 hours per week. Cllr Lloyd said this would speed things up and avoid the need for quotes. It was agreed that a job description should be requested from Bembridge Parish Council.

24. WORK PLAN.

A draft document had been circulated to councillors. This was agreed.

25. OPEN SPACES AND ALLOTMENT COMMITTEES.

Resolved to formally ratify the decisions of the committees made on 21st October 2014 and to approve outstanding work from the parish walk.

26. THE OPEN SPACES AND PLANNING COMMITTEES - EXECUTIVE POWERS

The Clerk said that Standing Orders required decisions of committees to be ratified by full council.

Since all members of the council were on the committees it made sense to either give the committees executive powers or to reduce the committee membership. It was agreed to give the committees executive powers and to amend standing orders accordingly.

27. MEETING DATES FOR 2015.

A list of proposed dates had been circulated and this was agreed.

28. THE REPORT OF THE ANNUAL TREE SURVEY

Copies of the report had been circulated. Cllr Bray said that 2 elms had recently come down. It was agreed to accept the recommendations of the report.

29. DRAFT GRANT AWARDING POLICY.

Copies of a draft document had been circulated to councillors. Cllr Hobbs suggested that the policy should record that grants were considered twice yearly. The policy was agreed subject to an amendment that twice yearly consideration be included.

30. APPRENTICE.

The Clerk said that apprentices were being used successfully by many organisations including Ventnor Town Council and West Wight Sports and Community Centre. It may be appropriate to offer travel expenses in addition to the salary previously discussed. This was agreed.

31. CHRISTMAS CLOSING.

It would be left to the office to decide but Cllrs should be advised.

32. TO ACCEPT WRITTEN REPORTS FROM SUB-GROUPS, COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES OF COMMITTEES.

None

33. TO AGREE PROPOSED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM CLLRS.

Media strategy (KL), old ambulance station repointing (CB), list of community assets (BAH), time of publicising minutes (PE).

34. RESOLVED 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.

MOA PLACE CAR PARK

The Council considered the legal position regarding the lease of the car park to the Isle of Wight Council.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.