



PUBLIC (DRAFT/UNAPPROVED)
FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk's office 01983 752000

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 3rd February 2015 AT 7.15 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER**

PRESENT: Councillors: C Fleury (Chair), C Bray, A Harris, B Hobbs, P England C Lillywhite, M Wheeler, G Kennett MBE, A Bamford, B Hinton MBE (to item 13), G Cameron, K Lloyd.

Members of the public: 12

Clerk: M J Mills

1. APOLOGIES: Cllr. D Eccles
Isle of Wight Cllr J Medland

2. FOOTBALL COMPETITION

The Chairman mentioned that there had been a football competition held at West Wight Sports and Community Centre recently and no team from All Saints Primary school had been entered. The Chairman understood that the school felt that it did not have staff members available to supervise children but help would have been available had it been requested.

3. TO INVITE COUNCILLORS TO DECLARE AN INTEREST IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA.

Cllr Kennett re item 13 as her children are employed in education.

4. TO AGREE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD 13th JANUARY 2015.

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 2nd December, having been circulated, be approved. Item 15 was amended for clarification at the request of Cllr Hobbs.

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

None

6. POUND GREEN. TO CONSIDER WORK CURRENTLY REQUIRED AND TO CONSIDER WHETHER AN ONGOING MAINTENANCE SCHEME IS NEEDED.

This item was taken early as a number of members of the public were present. Cllr Bray explained the history and that in July the council had identified that some posts needed replacement. Before that posts had had to be removed because there had been uproar from residents when they had been put in. Cllr Kennett confirmed that there had been numerous complaints and people had been unable to get their cars around.

A member of the public said that residents had not been consulted. Money had been spent on the road but it was wasted money. Posts had now deteriorated.

Cllr Bray said that prices were being obtained. There had been a site meeting last week and the council wanted to put in all new posts.

Cllr Hobbs said that she remembered the road being single track. It is now nearly double track.

The Chairman said that the best way forward would be to have a meeting to decide what to do and to get work priced.

A member of the public said that there was a concern about fire tenders being able to get through. A risk assessment from the fire department might be requested.

Cllr Wheeler said that the problem with the road was that there was no drainage. Water would pond. Cars will then churn it up. It could be regraded from time to time but there was no long term solution without drainage. It was a question of managing rather than solving.

The public suggested that filling would simply come out of the road when cars drove over it.

Cllr Wheeler said that there was a benefit in filling. However water would wash the fines out and that would lead to a loss of interlock.

Cllr Bray said that the council would contact Island Roads about the edge of the land by the main road. A contractor is doing work by the Pound. Chippings had been put in the wrong place.

It was agreed that there would be a meeting at Field House on Saturday at 10 am.

The public mentioned concerns about safety for people walking about after dark and that some people were elderly.

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

Cllr Medland's written report was noted.

Cllr Eccles was not present.

8. CLERKS REPORT.

Jubilee Field

We had a site meeting on 29th January. Cllr Fleury and Cllr Medland attended. An independent surveyor has now been appointed by the Isle of Wight Council and he will contact the Clerk with Heads of Agreement. It still seems the IWC may want a break clause. 12 months' notice was mentioned but we have made it clear that this would not seem to be acceptable. The suggestion now is that IWC could require part of the site should they decide there is a need for a new school.

Honoraria

Robin Day and Jenny Williams have asked that I pass on their thanks for their respective honoraria.

Co-operative

Meeting was arranged with Estates Manager for Co-operative on 28th January but cancelled due to ferry service to Yarmouth being stopped. I have asked for a new date.

The Pound

Cllrs Fleury and Bray and the Clerk attended the site on Friday 30th January. Agenda item.

Recycling bags

These will in future be available from the Parish Office for members of the public.

9. CORRESPONDENCE AND TABLED DOCUMENTS.

CORRESPONDENCE

14 January e mail IWC re education consultation

16 January e mail IWC re Countryside Estate and invitation for expressions of interest

17 January e mail Esme Ballard

22 January e mail IWALC re workshop on neighbour planning

23 January IWC press release re electoral registration letters

2 February IWALC re NALC newsletter

TABLE

NALC improvement plan

NALC events

Island Line update

SIA fish and chip supper

Stop Loan Sharks newsletter

Hampshire & IW village of the year entry invitation

IW 16 and 16 + consultation

Give and Take – timebanking

It was felt to be inappropriate to offer the support requested in Esme Ballard's e mail.

10. TO AGREE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Resolved that the following payments be approved

Payments January 2015 by internet banking

		£	
TOTAL SALARIES		1657.45	
<u>Cheques drawn for payment 3rd February 2015</u>			
Debit Cd	BT Inv SD44324534M019AG	2nd line rental Jan + fees	27.60
400611	Petty Cash	Petty Cash	200.00
400612	IW C Press Inv 600680	Notice: Public Consultation	345.17
400613	Michael Mills	Stationery for Public Consultation	24.98
400614	Signpost Express Inv 32094	3 banners for Public Consultation	234.00
400615	BL Ltd Inv 17167; 17141	Sellwood Rd; Sheepwash gabions	1200.00
400616	F/W Methodist Church	Hire for Dec meeting	30.00
400617	West Wight Sports Centre	Spectrum banner 1/4ly payt	300.00
400618	Mike Wheeler	Printing for Consultation Meeting	22.00
400619	Anne Bamford	N Plan travel x2 for workshop	172.89
400620	SSE Inv 321580952/0004	Avenues 1/4ly standing charge	19.28
400621	Hillbans Pest Control Inv P21573	Pest Control for Jan 2015	61.80
400622	BL Ltd Inv 17226;17208	50 Tree planting; Jubilee Field maintenance 3rd quarter	978.00
Sub total		3615.72	
TOTAL		£5,273.17	

Cllrs Wheeler and Bamford expressed interests as payees and Cllrs Kennett, Lloyd and Fleury expressed interests re WWS&CC payment.

11. TO NOTE THE FEEDBACK FROM THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING HELD ON 21ST JANUARY.

The Clerk read a letter from Cllr Hobbs. Cllr Hobbs said that the Chairman's comments which she objected to were in regard to the state of the Memorial Hall and its management and the professional management team. The letter had been read to MALCO committee and it was signed as chair of MALCO.

The Chairman asked about MALCO minutes and Cllr Hobbs said that only the trustees minutes are in the public domain.

Cllr England said that he had also been upset. He said it was inappropriate to say that the Memorial Hall had been costing the parish money year after year.

Cllr Hinton said that he thought it was right for the chairman to give his own view. He was a big supporter of the Memorial Hall but he felt it was not doing enough and it had lost its way with public entertainment. The chairman made a huge commitment to the parish council and this criticism of him was over defensive.

Cllr England said that 2 years ago the Hall had been losing money - £12000 deficit. Now there was a £15000 surplus. Cllr Bamford was now involved arranging more social activities and there were reserves available to do maintenance.

Cllr Bamford said that the website was now leading to increased bookings.

Cllr Wheeler said that there should be an expectation to receive information. That would lead to the Hall getting the support it deserved.

12. THE FUTURE OF 16 AND 16+ EDUCATION ON THE ISLE OF WIGHT.

The Chairman had been to a meeting. Initially he had been told that there were roadshows everywhere but West Wight but Cllr Bacon has now confirmed that West Wight will have one.

The Isle of Wight was bouncing along the bottom in comparison to neighbouring councils.

Cllr Lloyd said the statistics were wrong and made things look worse than they actually were. They are being reissued.

Copies of consultation documents were circulated.

13. MULTI USE GAMES AREA – TO CONSIDER WHAT STEPS TO TAKE IN THE LIGHT OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION.

The chairman referred to the current condition of the area pointing out the missing grill, fire damage and lights not working. It was suggested that Cllrs Fleury, Wheeler and Lloyd be delegated to speak with Isle of Wight Council to see what could be done. It seems that Lee Matthews has no money available but there could be funds in another budget. Cllr Wheeler said that the parish would want to take it over in good condition. Cllr Bray queried how much it would cost to put it right. Modern lighting could be considered. Given the public consultation this should be done. Cllr Lloyd said that it had been agreed that the MUGA could come under the skate park committee.

Cllr Harris said nothing had been done. He asked what had happened to the budget.

Cllr Bamford said that Isle of Wight Council were clearly not going to do anything and the parish council needed to act. Cllr Cameron felt that the Isle of Wight Council needed to put some money in.

Cllr Lloyd said that there needed to be open access to the facility.

Cllr England proposed that the parish tell Isle of Wight Council that they intend to take it over but that it must be handed over to the parish.

This was carried by a majority.

Cllr Kennett said that junior youth football would help keeping the MUGA clean.

14. MOA PLACE CAR PARK – TO CONSIDER WHAT FURTHER ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN.

Cllr Harris said that £12000 had been the figure clearly recorded in Isle of Wight Council's minutes and he questioned how it could change. 1500 had signed a petition and it had been the main issue with the public consultation meeting. Cllr Wheeler said the parish had fought for it. It was now a question of fighting or paying £20000 or letting it go. He was attending a meeting next week regarding the possibility of increasing on street parking. Cllr Harris felt the parish should continue to fight. Cllr Wheeler thought it would not be possible to achieve much in the next 12 months. Cllr Hobbs said that FVA had mentioned a challenge to a long lease. The parish should explore this.

15. TO AGREE A PRECEPT TO BE REQUESTED FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL FOR 2015/2016.

Cllr Lillywhite queried whether addition funds were now required given the fact that grounds maintenance would be from 2015. Cllr Lloyd suggested £2500 for the MUGA. Cllr Harris was unhappy that there was no provision re the car parks. He suggested that car parking was more important to the public than WWS&CC. Cllr Bray said that many people had commented about people having money for a car. Cllr Kennett suggested keeping a watching brief and seeing how things were going in a couple of months. Some shops were up and some were down. Cllr Harris said that only half the population used the sports centre. Cllr Lillywhite pointed out that the majority of people did not own a car. Cllr Cameron said that Isle of Wight Council would have to consult on a parking strategy. He thought the parish should wait and see the policy. Cllr Kennett pointed out that Newport were taking over Carisbrooke on a deal involving the public conveniences. Cllr Wheeler said the £12000 offer had been rejected by the trustees. Cllr Harris thought the parish was being manipulated by the Isle of Wight Council re WWS&CC. Cllr England said that it was divide and rule. We needed to support the sports centre. This was clear from the public meeting. Cllr Wheeler said that clearly free parking was wanted. More on street would not be enough but it would go towards it. Cllr Harris said that car parking had been the main issue at the public consultation. Cllr Wheeler said £20000 was not viable. The long term objective should be to take over a car park. Cllr Hobbs said a 3 year commitment was needed for the WWS&CC given the removal of the £78000 grant. Cllr Wheeler said he understood that Yarmouth would support the WWS&CC and a decision would be made on 17th February. The draft precept was approved by a majority vote.

16. TO CONSIDER WHETHER OR NOT THE PARISH COUNCIL SHOULD HAVE A FORMAL MEDIA STRATEGY AND IF SO TO DETERMINE HOW THIS SHOULD BE DONE.

Cllr Lloyd confirmed that the council should be on Twitter and Facebook. She pointed out that Totland Parish Council already used Twitter. The Chairman said that Robin Day wished to step down as webmaster. IW Computer Geek or Jason Swain could be asked to take over. Cllr Wheeler said what was needed was communication across the board. He queried whether this was something the council should buy in. Cllr Lloyd would be willing to work with anyone appointed.

17. TO CONSIDER DONATING RECORDINGS OF FRESHWATER RESIDENTS (CIRCA 1979) TO THE ARCHIVES GROUP.

It was resolved to give these to the Archive Group on the understanding that they be returned if the group folded.

18. THE OLD AMBULANCE STATION.

- a) to consider whether or not to commission an inspection of the current state of repair of the premises and if not to consider what work is required to maintain the property.**
- b) to consider future use of the premises following expiry of the current licence in January 2016.**

Cllr Bray said the building needed repointing. There should be a survey. In the longer term it could be useful for storage. Rotary to be asked what plans they had for the building.

19. PARISH ACCOMMODATION. TO CONSIDER WHETHER OR NOT THE WORKING PARTY SHOULD BE TASKED WITH DRAWING UP A SCHEDULE OF REQUIREMENTS FOR OFFICE ACCOMMODATION.

Cllr Wheeler said that he had pressed for the Memorial Hall and the Sports Centre to put together business plans. Staffing levels needed to be decided. Cllr England said that he would update last year's work. The Memorial Hall was looking at increasing space. There were a number of options.

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

None

21. TO AGREE PROPOSED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COUNCILLORS.

Memorial Hall for April or May 2015.

- 22. 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.**

Staff pay and leave were considered.

The meeting closed at 9.57 pm.