



DRAFT
FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL
Clerk's office 01983 752000

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 17th DECEMBER 2018 AT 6.45 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER OF THE MEMORIAL HALL

PRESENT: Councillors A Bamford (Chair), G Kennett, C Fleury, A Harris, B Hobbs, B Hinton MBE, G Cameron and D Eccles

ABSENT: Councillors D James and V Lowthion

Clerk: M J Mills

Members of the public 5

1. **APOLOGIES:** Cllrs. T Dimmick, C Bray and H White.
2. **TO INVITE CLLRS TO DECLARE ANY INTEREST THEY MIGHT HAVE IN THE MATTERS ON THE AGENDA.**
None.
3. **TO INVITE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON A PLANNING APPLICATION ON THE AGENDA, AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION.**
See 6 below.
4. **TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING HELD ON 4th DEEMBER 2018.**
The minutes of the meeting held on 4th December (having been circulated) were agreed.
5. **UPDATES FROM LAST MEETING AND IWC PLANNING DECISIONS.**
There were no new Planning decisions.
6. **CLLRS TO HAVE AN INITIAL DISCUSSION AND COMMENT ON DRAFT ISLAND PLANNING STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT PLAN.**
The Chair said that she, Cllr Eccles and the Clerk had met with a planning officer to discuss the document.
Members of the public wished to express concern re sites and in particular Church Field and Copse Lane. With regard to Church Field it was asked whether the status of the land had changed from Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Cllr Cameron agreed to investigate this. A member of the public said that although Copse Lane had been resurfaced 2 years ago it was in poor condition.
The Chair mentioned the Public Consultation event on 9th January. Comments on the Plan could be made there or through the Parish Office or direct to Isle of Wight Council.
Cllr Kennett pointed out the proximity of the conservation area to Church Field. She felt that congestion on Copse Lane would be a problem and it was not possible to widen the road.

Cllr Hinton pointed out that Church Lane site was said to be the core of a medieval settlement and he expressed concerns about its possible development.

Cllr Kennett questioned whether it was possible to specify the sort of housing and whether it could be guaranteed that it would go to local people.

A member of the public said that a problem with additional homes was that the doctors' surgery was already struggling to cope. Development needed the right infrastructure.

Cllr Kennett said that she understood Southern Water had said the system was at capacity 10 to 15 years ago. Also the Island had a high proportion of over 65's. In West Wight the figure was 33%. Domiciliary care was already a problem. She suggested that it was unfair to build housing if it was not possible to provide for the needs of occupants.

Cllr Hobbs said that she felt that affordable housing was needed.

Cllr Harris suggested shared equity.

The Chair said that accommodation was needed for younger people.

Cllr Hinton suggested utilising space above shops.

Cllr Harris said that there were 1 million unoccupied properties.

Cllr Kennett pointed out that homelessness was increasing.

Cllr Fleury expressed concern about the proposal for 150 homes on the site known as land east of the football club. He questioned how Camp Road could be widened.

Cllr Kennett pointed out that many properties in Copse Lane had no driveways.

The Chair pointed out that it would be necessary to identify sites for development.

Cllr Hinton said he thought the proposal for the Apple Farm was fine. He found proposals for huge grids of housing unacceptable.

Cllr Harris suggested that the plan should be looking at everything including utilities, employment and flooding.

The Chair suggested meeting with Island Roads and Southern Water and also considering the position with health, schools and policing.

It was suggested that a consultant be appointed to assist with putting together the Council's response to the consultation. It was noted that the consultation period had been extended to 25th February 2019.

The planning meeting closed at 7.55 pm.