

## **FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL**

### **2018 ANNUAL PARISH REPORT**

The last year has been a particularly busy time for the Parish Council. Whilst Freshwater is a Village we are a large Village and as such we have a considerable amount of assets and land.

With the devolution of services from the Isle of Wight Council the Parish Council have taken the opportunity to acquire both land and assets to ensure that we can preserve these for the future benefit of Freshwater residents.

As a council we have also continued to provide financial support to West Wight Sports and Community Centre and this year we have included monies within our budget to support the FYT Bus. Both these organisations bring a great deal to our community and the feedback that we have had from residents is that they would want us to continue to support them.

In line with this the Parish Council has worked with the IWC Public Health Department to develop a service, which would provide support to people within our community. We were able to recruit Melanie Gardiner as our Just Ask Officer with funding provided by Public Health. I am pleased to say that this funding has been extended for a further two years as a result of the outcomes from the project. At this point I would like to mention the work of our Local Area Co-ordinator Adam Tucker and Dale Sloan the Community Co-ordinator. Both Dale and Adam work closely with Mel and they provide a much needed resource for our community. We are also grateful for the support from Churches Together in the West Wight for their voluntary input into the Our Place team.

Work has continued to enhance both Jubilee Field and Stroud Field. The Parish Council has agreed to fund a new Cricket Pitch on Jubilee Field and we are working with Freshwater Cricket Club to ensure the new pitch is ready for the 2018 cricket season.

On Stroud Field we will be siting new picnic benches as residents have told us that they would like these on the field and a tree-planting project for the periphery of the field is also being planned. Residents have also told us that they would like toilets on Stroud as the new play equipment has been very popular with children and it would be helpful to have access to toilets on the field now that more children, and their parents, are using it. We are continuing to review this.

The land management remit in Freshwater is extensive and I would like to thank Cllr Carol Bray and our clerk team for their oversight of this

Freshwater and Totland Parish Councils continue to work together on the upkeep of the Skatepark and the MUGA, this year we have been supported by local residents on repairs that were needed. We are planning a revamp of

the MUGA during this year. The Skatepark continues to be very popular and is heavily used.

During this year we will be taking on the ownership of Stroud Coppice, a lease on Freshwater Bay Green and the Freshwater Bay boat park and we are also anticipating taking ownership of Gate Lane toilets. I would like to acknowledge the support of Freshwater Bay Residents Association. All of these areas will be maintained by the Parish Council and by taking on the leases it ensures that they remain part of our Village and available for the enjoyment of Freshwater residents.

The council has also been working with Gift to Nature, a charity, who have taken over responsibility for both Golden Hill and Afton Marsh from the IWC

A key area of work this year has been the refurbishment of Avenue Road, and I would like to mention the work undertaken by Mike Wheeler in overseeing this on behalf of the Parish Council and for his vision in adding the enhancements to the scheme, which has made the overall scheme more attractive. I hope residents also enjoyed the Xmas decorations throughout the centre of the Village.

As Parish Council we also have an ambition to take over Avenue Road Car Park to help regenerate our shopping area in Avenue Road and we will be in discussion with IWC regarding this. It may take a while

The Parish Council has also been working on a vision for Freshwater Library through the Library Plus Group. We are currently reviewing this work with all stakeholders in the Library and will be reporting back at our May meeting.

The Parish Council has arranged for the Kut Memorial in the Memorial Hall to be cleaned and refurbished. This is particularly relevant as we come to the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War.

Other projects in progress are a revamp of our Village signs and we will be taking over the management of the Notice Board in Moa Place from the IWC. This will need to be repaired as it is in poor condition at the moment and a local tradesman will be starting on this shortly. The notice board will be available to be used by residents to advertise local events.

The very big news, of course, is the adoption of the Freshwater Neighbourhood Plan by the IWC. This has been a very lengthy process and I would like to acknowledge the work put in by many Freshwater residents, Parish Councilors and our Clerk. I would particularly like to thank Cllr Anne Bamford for her leadership as Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan working party.

I would also like to thank our parish office Team who keep the ever-increasing balls in the air and Freshwater residents for their support and assistance throughout the year.

Gill Kennett

Chairman  
Freshwater Parish Council