

**MINUTES OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH
MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 15th MARCH 2016 AT 7.30 PM IN THE
TENNYSON SUITE OF THE MEMORIAL HALL**

PRESENT: Councillors: M Wheeler (Chair), C Fleury, G Kennett MBE,
G Cameron, B Hobbs, D Eccles, A Bamford, C Bray, B Hinton MBE, A
Harris, S Allen and J Medland.

8 Members of Public

APOLOGIES: None

NOTICE AND WELCOME: The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and signed the Convening Notice. He also welcomed the guest speaker Mr Matthew Chatfield.

1. GUEST SPEAKER MR MATTHEW CHATFIELD

Mr Chatfield spoke about the work of Island 2000 and Gift to Nature and in particular their involvement at Golden Hill and Afton Marsh which they had taken over responsibility for. Mr Chatfield said that his organisation was keen to work with Town and Parish Councils. Island 2000 had some initial funding from Isle of Wight Council but was actively seeking grants where possible. Cllr Wheeler thanked Mr Chatfield for his instructive presentation and he also thanked Brian Friend a trustee accompanying Mr Chatfield for attending.

2. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 2015 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING:

It was **resolved** the Minutes of the meeting held on 17th March 2015, having been, circulated and agreed, be approved and signed (BAH/AH).

3. TO RECEIVE THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL:

The Chairman gave the 2016 Annual Report for the year. Copy attached to Minutes.

4. TO RECEIVE THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEMORIAL HALL ARTS AND LEISURE COMPANY:

Cllr Anne Bamford, Chairman of the Memorial Hall Arts and Leisure Company gave the report for the year. Copy attached to the Minutes. Cllr Nicholson congratulated Cllr Bamford and administrator Debbie on their excellent work throughout the year.

5. TO RECEIVE THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UNITED CHARITIES TRUST:

Cllr Brenda Hobbs, Chairman of the United Charities Trust gave the report for the year. Copy attached to the Minutes. Thanks were given to the board of trustees.

6. TO RECEIVE THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FRIENDS OF FRESHWATER LIBRARY:

Ann Fraser, Chairman of the Friends of Freshwater Library gave the report for the year. Attached to the Minutes. Cllr Hinton congratulated those involved at the library for their excellent work.

7. TO RECEIVE THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FYT BUS:

Cllr Adrian Harris, Trustee of the FYT Bus gave the report for the year. He said that the year had been very successful for FYT Bus with a grant having been received for 2 new buses.

They had won the community action award. There had been a successful party at Farringford House with a treasure hunt which attracted 70 people. Cllr Harris thanked the volunteers who now numbered some 140. FYT Bus had been nominated for the Queens Award and the results would be in May 2016.

In July 2015 the Brighstone route had started as a pilot and in March permission was given for this to be a permanent route. Amongst others it has helped Shorwell residents whose GP's are in Brighstone.

Cllr Hinton said that FYT Bus had been a lifeline for people in Freshwater Bay who were badly served by Southern Vectis. More was needed at weekends he said.

8. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE SUPPORTERS OF THE MEMORIAL HALL

Cllr Sandra Allen gave the report for the year. Copy attached to the Minutes.

9. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

A question was asked about trees which had been cut down near Stroud Coppice. Cllr Bray said that these were on the edge of the coppice and not the responsibility of the Parish Council and the work had been done by Southern Households. There was however a management plan for the coppice.

A question was also asked about Fort Victoria. Cllr Medland said that the Isle of Wight Council had retained this because of the complexity of the site. However thought needed to be given as to who will look after it in future.

10. OTHER MATTERS

The Chairman said that discussions with Isle of Wight Council had included the green space at Freshwater Bay and the Lifeboat station and boat park. Tim Nicholson chair of Freshwater Bay residents' association said that the area had been badly affected by storms 2 years ago. Isle of Wight Council had acted quickly for which his organisation was grateful but it was unlikely that IWC would help in the same way now. A working party was removing stones. Cllr Harris said that the Lifeboat would be interested in the boat park.

It was acknowledged that this area was high maintenance and discussions were at an early stage.

Cllr Fleury said that the Piano Bar was an excellent facility.

The Chairman called the meeting to a close and thanked everyone for attending the Annual Parish Meeting.

The meeting closed 9.00 pm.