



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON  
TUESDAY 7<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2017 AT 7.05 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER OF THE  
MEMORIAL HALL**

**PRESENT:** Councillors: M Wheeler (Chair), C Fleury, C Bray, A Bamford, A Harris, J Medland, T Nicholson, G Kennett MBE, G Cameron, Brenda Hobbs and V Lowthion.

Members of the public: 1, IW County Press

Clerk: M J Mills

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**1. APOLOGIES:** Cllrs D Eccles and B Hinton MBE.

**2. TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 10<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2017.**  
The minutes of the previous meeting held on 10th January 2017 having been circulated were agreed.

**3. TO INVITE COUNCILLORS TO DECLARE AN INTEREST IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA.**  
Cllr Nicholson – item 13 (d) as Chair of Freshwater Bay Residents' Association.

**4. QUESTIONS ON THE AGENDA FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (UP TO 15 MINUTES).**  
None.

**5. TO WELCOME SERGEANT GED ARMITAGE AND PCSO MIKE THORNTON TO THE MEETING.**

The Chairman welcomed Sergeant Armitage who had recently taken over as police sergeant for the West Wight. Sergeant Armitage said that he anticipated little change. The area was a low crime area and there was a good police team. Mark Lyth (the previous Sergeant) had done a good job. There were no serious problems in the area.

PCSO Thornton said that there had been a change in dealing with crime figures. These were now on the Police UK website. This had a crime map (1 month behind) and also included information about how to report crime and information on the Crime Commissioner.

Sergeant Armitage said that the police needed to set priorities in the next few weeks and input from the Parish Councils in the area would be welcomed. Priorities needed to be relevant, current and achievable and examples were speeding, burglary and criminal damage. Targeting criminal damage may well have a knock on effect of sorting out other issues.

In answer to a question from Cllr Cameron, Sergeant Armitage said that the community could look at bringing back the local action group meetings.

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

Cllr Medland had circulated his written report.

In answer to a question from Cllr Bamford, Cllr Medland said that he understood that Isle of Wight Council were under pressure to change the waste contract and the concern was that this could affect the opening period at the Freshwater facility. It was resolved to write to the Council to say how good the amenity was and to stress that it should not be restricted.

Cllr Fleury expressed his concern that Cllr Medland's article in the Freshwater Yarmouth and Totland magazine was political in nature.

## **7. CLERKS REPORT – TO BE CIRCULATED TO COUNCILLORS.**

### **Skate Park**

The Clerk met with Cllr Bray, the Totland Clerk, and the contractor along with the Parish handyman at the skate park on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February regarding the problems with the skatelite.

### **Gate Lane toilets**

#### **Transfer**

The Clerk has been corresponding with IWC regarding the buy back provisions suggested by IWC in the draft transfer relating to these premises. Response has now been received (in correspondence).

#### **Water**

The clerk has spent some time trying to resolve the high water bill (taken by direct debit). The handyman has been asked to investigate as the amount of water used is extremely high although it is apparently consistent with usage over a number of years.

### **Planning workshop**

The Clerk attended a planning workshop run by Planning and Development Hub (IW) Ltd on 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

### **Computers**

PC Consultants have dealt with problems with Wi Fi/router (2 hours work).

### **Toilets - cleaning**

The contract for toilet cleaning is due for renewal on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017. The Clerk will liaise with Totland Parish Council over arrangements for tender. Ideally this should be a 3 year contract but in view of difficulties re the transfer of Gate Lane toilets there should perhaps be a termination clause in the event that the Parish Council no longer manages these facilities.

### **The Avenues**

The property is at risk of damage by vermin. Hillbans have quoted £125 plus VAT for dealing with this problem. The handyman has also been asked to put up some ply coverings.

### **My Life a Full Life**

The Clerk and the Vice-chairman met with the CEO of Community Action Isle of Wight on 12<sup>th</sup> January and with Ventnor Town Council on 17<sup>th</sup> January.

The Clerk attended IWALC on 19<sup>th</sup> January.

The Clerk is due to attend the West and Central Locality Management Meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> February.

A meeting is arranged with Newport Parish Council and Cowes Town Council.

## Defibrillators

The Clerk and the Vice-chairman met with Totland Parish Council and Paddy Noctor re grants for defibrillators. A grant application has been submitted by Totland PC covering both areas.

## 8. CORRESPONDENCE

## 9. TO AGREE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The following payments were approved

<u>Payments January / February 2017 - by internet banking</u>		£	Paid
IB Island Cleaning Solutions Inv 34-16-17	Toilet Cleaning December	638.00	3/1
IB Wayne Isaacson Tree Consultancy Ltd	Library; Tree Survey	240.00	9/1
IB Protected Species Ecology Ltd	Projects; Badger Sett Survey	280.34	20/1
IB Dean Parkman Architecture Inv 205	Library; Survey and Plans	770.00	20/1
IB Salaries	January Salaries	3,071.67	31/1
IB IW Council	Library Business Rates February	880.00	2/2
<b>INTERNET BANKING TOTAL</b>		<b>5,880.01</b>	
<u>Direct debit payments during January / February 2017</u>			
D/Debit BT	Telephone & Broadband	262.38	5/1
D/Debit ICO Registration Ref Z7428770	Data Protection; Annual Fee	35.00	20/1
D/Debit IW Council	The Avenues Business Rates	169.00	1/2
D/Debit IW Council	Moa Place Toilets Business Rates	223.00	1/2
D/Debit IW Council	Gate Lane Toilets Business Rates	322.00	1/2
D/Debit Southern Water	Allotments	66.30	15/2
<b>DIRECT DEBIT SUB TOTAL</b>		<b>1,077.68</b>	
<u>Debit Card payments during January 2017</u>			
D/Card Dropbox	IT	7.99	9/1
D/Card Staples Inv 070 02 1038	Stationery	19.99	18/1
D/Card NEST	Pension Contributions January	45.54	27/1
<b>DEBIT CARD SUB TOTAL</b>		<b>73.52</b>	
<u>Cheques drawn for approval 7 February 2017</u>			
			<b>Issued</b>
B 100088 MALCO Inv 1655	Parish Office Suite Rent December	847.08	10/1
B 100089 MALCO Inv 1656	Parish Office Suite Rent January	847.08	10/1
B 100090 Mark Adams Maintenance Inv 10003	Open Spaces; Stroud Play Repairs	30.00	10/1
B 100090 Mark Adams Maintenance Inv 10023	Events; Christmas Lighting	15.00	10/1
B 100090 Mark Adams Maintenance Inv 10024	Events; Christmas Lighting	15.00	10/1
B 100090 Mark Adams Maintenance Inv 10025	Library; Maintenance	50.00	10/1
B 100090 Mark Adams Maintenance Inv 10026	Events; Christmas Lighting	15.00	10/1
B 100090 Mark Adams Maintenance Inv 10027	Allotments; Maintenance	201.15	10/1
B 100091 Brighstone Landscaping Ltd Inv 20038	Grounds Maintenance	1,199.50	10/1
B 100091 Brighstone Landscaping Ltd Inv 20057	Grounds Maintenance	6,000.00	10/1
B 100092 IW County Press Inv 641860	Library	110.40	10/1
B 100093 SMC Bookkeeping Services Inv 298	Bookkeeping December	236.00	10/1
B 100094 Wayne Isaacson Tree Consultancy Ltd	VOID: see IB payment 9/1/17	0.00	

B 100095	PC Consultants Inv 26695	Technical Support	78.00	7/2
B 100096	IW Council Inv 9416583/9	Freshwater Library	1,644.98	7/2
B 100097	Leon Bicheno Inv 41	Seats	1,392.80	7/2
B 100098	Ricoh UK Ltd Inv 100732330	Photocopier	394.54	7/2
B 100099	Isle of Wight Assc of Local Councils	Annual Subs for IWALC inc NALC	1,000.00	7/2
B 100100	Brighstone Landscaping Ltd Inv 20112	Library; Extra Works	1,104.00	7/2
B 100101	Mark Adams Maintenance Inv 10028	Allotments; Signage	15.00	7/2
B 100101	Mark Adams Maintenance Inv 10029	Consultation; Delivery Service	15.00	7/2
B 100102	Isle of Wight County Presss Inv 643326	Public Consultation Event	35.10	7/2
<b>CHEQUES SUB TOTAL</b>			<u>15,245.63</u>	
<b><u>Petty Cash for approval February 2017</u></b>				
PC 258	JCB Imaging 000011	Photo ID	7.00	9/1
PC 259	Sainsburys 0033	Just Ask; Mobile	10.00	9/1
PC 260	W Hurst & Son F3461129	Consultation: Stationery	3.95	18/1
PC 261	Co-Operative 000075	Consultation: Refreshments	9.00	25/1
PC 262	JCB Imaging 000005	Consultation; Copying	10.00	25/1
PC 263	St Mary's Hospital	MLAFL; Parking	1.40	25/1
PC 264	JCB Imaging 000013	Consultation; Copying	20.00	24/1
<b>PETTY CASH SUB TOTAL</b>			<u>61.35</u>	
<b>TOTAL</b>			<u><u>£22,338.19</u></u>	

**10. THE BUDGET. TO APPROVE THE BUDGET AND TO AGREE A PRECEPT TO BE REQUESTED FROM ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL FOR 2017/2018**

Cllr Fleury reported that public opinion at the consultation event had been favourable. The budget and precept as proposed were approved.

**11. TO AGREE A DATE FOR THE NEXT "FRESHWATER FLYER" (MARCH EDITION) AND TO APPROVE ADDITIONAL PUBLICATION SPACE WITH ISLAND MAGAZINES - 6 ADDITIONAL ARTICLES PROPOSED AT AN ANNUAL COST OF £270. TO NOTE THE NEED FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS.**

It was felt that the content of the Flyer had been good but distribution needed improving. Cllrs needed to pass ideas to Sue Allen. More Cllrs should contribute articles which only needed to be 100 or 150 words.

**12. FEEDBACK FROM PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING HELD ON 25TH JANUARY.**

The Chairman said that he felt that the standard of presentations was very good. Turnout in the evening had been disappointing and next year the Parish Council would go back to greater publicity and putting posters in local shops.

**13. WEST WIGHT TRANSPORT STRATEGY. TO CONSIDER PROPOSALS FOR A TRANSPORT STRATEGY (JM).**

Cllr Medland introduced this and said that it was a discussion document prepared with a view to it becoming a Parish document.

Cllr Wheeler said that it would be referred to the West Wight local councils group and all councils would be invited to make some input.

## **14. PROJECTS UPDATE TO INCLUDE**

### **A) UPDATE ON FRESHWATER LIBRARY IMPROVEMENT WORKS AND CONSIDERATION OF NEW SIGN (MW).**

Cllr Wheeler reported that phase 1 had stalled slightly. Funding was being looked into for phase 2. Full proposals should be available in the next 6 weeks.

### **B) UPDATE ON AVENUE ROAD IMPROVEMENT/RESURFACING WORK (MW).**

Cllr Wheeler reported that Island Roads had belatedly discovered that the carriageway needed rebuilding and they had no resource to do it. Works would now be done at the end of September probably in 3 phases. It would be an 8 week project. Paul Herbert director of Island Roads had agreed to arrange liaison for businesses and there would be a communication officer on site as well as a site manager.

Cllr Harris said that in his opinion this demonstrated Island Roads lack of competence.

Cllr Medland congratulated Cllr Wheeler on the arrangements.

### **C) ALLOTMENTS (AB).**

Cllr Bamford reported that there had been a consultation day for allotment holders. In general opinions were positive. Emma Carter (Assistant Clerk) had done an excellent job. Arrangements had been made for the tractor to get access through the adjacent field. Cllr Bamford was looking at for more land for a further site for allotments.

### **D) FRESHWATER BAY REGENERATION PROJECT (TN).**

Cllr Nicholson would circulate a report. There were two areas in question – the grass area to the pathway and the area from the pathway to the Lifeboat. The grassed area needed topsoil, regarding and planting with salt resistant seed. Cost was in the region of £10,000. £4,000 had been offered by Isle of Wight Council. Area 2 needed the construction of a retaining wall and a hard standing. The cost would be a minimum of £16,000. There had been no commitment from the Lifeboat and Cllr Nicholson said he thought this could be put to better use elsewhere.

The work for area 1 was agreed.

## **15. RENEWAL OF LICENCE FOR THE OLD AMBULANCE STATION TO WEST WIGHT ROTARY CLUB.**

A member of West Wight Rotary was in attendance and he outlined the importance of the premises to Rotary's fundraising. £40,000 had been raised since 2003. This had been given in local donations and saving lives.

Cllr Wheeler pointed out that the premises were also needed for storage by the Parish Council. The Council were supportive of Men in Sheds and they would look for other premises.

Cllr Fleury pointed out the need to move things from the Avenues.

Cllr Medland mentioned the Old Dairy site but said that the asking price was £90,000 which seemed unrealistic. He suggested looking into getting a container and putting this behind the Old Ambulance Station.

A representative of Men in Sheds said that they were willing to pay rent. Further a shed could give the Council access to man power. Men in Sheds was for the socially isolated. The Council could pay for additional storage.

Cllr Lowthion suggested that storage could be elsewhere. Cllr Harris suggested the Parish Hall for Men in Sheds but this was not suitable.

**Resolved** to renew the licence to Rotary for a 1 year period.

**16. PLANNING COMMITTEE – TO CONSIDER CHANGING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE FROM ALL COUNCILLORS TO SEVEN MEMBERS AND TO CONSIDER THE NEED FOR TRAINING.**

Cllr Medland said that in his opinion this was a specialized area. He felt that there should be training.

Cllr Nicholson agreed that a smaller committee would be sensible. He would be happy to be part of a new committee.

Cllr Kennett said that she felt the committee should be open to the whole council.

Cllr Bamford agreed to a smaller more knowledgeable committee.

Cllr Cameron agreed that there should be training but felt that each councilor had something to contribute. The committee should remain as it was.

Cllr Fleury queried how it would work with a smaller committee and how councilors who were not members would be able to put their views. He agreed that there should be training.

Cllr Hobbs was against the idea of a smaller committee. This had been tried some years ago but it had not been successful. There was a real need to update training.

Cllr Bray felt the full council should remain as did Cllr Harris.

**Resolved** not to change the membership but to support further training. IWALC may help with the latter.

**17. TO CONSIDER MOVING MEETINGS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL FROM THE MEMORIAL HALL TO THE LIBRARY.**

Cllr Fleury felt that the Memorial Hall was the established council chamber.

Cllr Kennett suggested that meetings should be held where people to attend most conveniently. The library had parking and level access.

Cllr Medland felt that the Memorial Hall was not accessible.

Cllr Harris thought the library was not a viable suggestion.

Cllr Cameron felt that the public knew the Memorial Hall as the Parish Council's meeting place.

Cllr Bamford suggested better IT equipment.

Cllr's Wheeler and Kennett pointed out the need to accommodate the archives group.

Cllr Fleury did not see how archives could be accommodated and Cllr Bamford suggested that the library would be the better location for archives.

**Resolved** to retain the Memorial Hall as the venue for Council meetings.

**18. OFFICE ACCOMMODATION – UPDATE FROM THE CLERK.**

The Clerk had been waiting for a decision of the location of meetings but had been looking into intercom/door systems.

**19. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS – REPORT BY CLLRS FLEURY AND BRAY.**

Cllr Fleury said that there had been a problem with electricians but other than that feedback was positive. The public seemed to feel that the centre of the village should be the focus.

There was an idea to put a cable along School Green Road with lights. Cllr Wheeler pointed out that the Avenue Road scheme involved 4 trees.

It was felt that the lights above shops were not bright enough.

## **20. COMMUNITY GRANTS.**

Cllr Medland declared an interest re Timebank.

Cllr Kennett declared an interest re Early Years.

The following grants were approved:

IW Music Dance and Drama      £100

Freshwater Early Years          £300

Julia Margaret Cameron Trust   £300

The Wave Project                  £300

Timebank                             £300

Freshwater cricket club should be invited to come to another meeting.

## **21. TO ACCEPT WRITTEN REPORTS FROM SUB-GROUPS, COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES OF COMMITTEES.**

Cllr Bamford reported that a book keeper had been appointed for MHALCO.

## **22. TO AGREE PROPOSED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COUNCILLORS.**

Dog Fouling (JM)

Afton Road (JM)

Various (CB)

The meeting closed at 9.41 pm