



**DRAFT/UNADOPTED**  
**FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Parish Office 01983 752000**

---

**MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH  
COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> MAY 2018 AT 6.45 PM IN THE COUNCIL  
CHAMBER OF THE MEMORIAL HALL**

**PRESENT:** Councillors: G Kennett MBE (Chair), C Fleury, D James, B Hobbs, C Bray, G Cameron, T Nicholson, A Harris, B Hinton, Anne Bamford, Heather White and V Lowthion.

IW Cllr J Medland  
Members of the public: 4

Clerk: M J Mills

---

**1. APOLOGIES.**

Cllr D Eccles.

**2. FRESHWATER LIBRARY. TO CONSIDER WHETHER OR NOT TO SUBMIT A  
BID TO THE HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND.**

Members of the public were asked if they wished to comment on the matter. A member of the Friends of Freshwater Library (FOFL) said that they had worked hard on the project but it was understood that a lot of money was involved and if the decision was not to proceed then FOFL would still wish to work with the Parish Council. £17000 had been given to FOFL for the resource. 50 people had attended a recent event and there was a lot of interest in local history. She felt that any resource needed to be up to date.

Another FOFL member pointed out that part of the proposed project was about upgrading the building and work would be necessary in any event.

Cllr Fleury said that this was the biggest project which had been proposed for many years. He summarised the figures. He noted that the City of Coventry were spending a similar amount on a scheme. Cllr Fleury pointed out the Parish Council would not be committed to the project if it submitted a bid but costs would be incurred.

Cllr James pointed out that costs often over ran and extra works might be required. He felt that the financial risk was out of proportion to the size of the village and what it could afford. The Chair pointed out that £22000 would need to be set aside for repairs if the project did not proceed and the disabled parking would need to be considered.

Cllr White then presented her written report.

Cllr Harris said that expenditure of £750,000 for a population of 4000 people was unrealistic. He agreed that the library needed to be protected but this could be better achieved by a mezzanine floor. The project would mean indebtedness for 25 years.

Cllr Hinton was concerned that there was no children's area in the proposed plans. He was terrified about the financial implications.

Cllr Lowthion questioned why a working group had not been established. She felt that something more financially viable should be considered.

The Chair confirmed that she had met with Steve Blamire and it had become clear that the views of some groups had not been taken into account. She had therefore met with Freshwater and Totland Archive Group (FATAG) and the Hooke Society.

Cllr James said that there was only one chance with the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and he felt it would not be successful in its current form.

Cllr Nicholson said that there had only been one person to voice an objection in the Freshwater Bay Residents Association. A good presentation had been made to them. However Cllr Nicholson felt that the costs were too great.

Cllr Cameron agreed that a heritage centre was needed but he said that the public had to agree and expenses had to be proportionate.

A vote was then taken. It was **resolved** not to submit an application to HLF.

A working group would need to be set up and terms of reference agreed. Cllrs Hinton and White offered to be involved.

Cllr Harris said that there was a need to repair the library and this should be done before next winter.

The working group should include FATAG, FOFL, the library service and users. It could also include any other parish councils if contributing financially to the project.

Cllr Hobbs said that the current arrangements between the Library and the Parish office were working well and the less people involved in this the better.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm.