



**DRAFT**

**FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL**

**Parish Office 01983 752000**

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON  
TUESDAY 4<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2020 AT 7.00 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER OF  
THE MEMORIAL HALL**

**PRESENT:** Councillors: A Bamford (Chair), G Kennett (joined the meeting at 8.25pm), C Fleury, C Bray, B Hobbs, V Lowthion, A Harris, T Dimmick, T Murphy and G Cameron.

Members of the public: 1, Cllr J Medland in attendance

Clerk: H Rowell

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**APOLOGIES**

Councillors B Hinton MBE, G Kennett (for first part of the meeting) and H White.

**2. TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL  
MEETING HELD ON 14<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2020**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020 (having been circulated) were agreed.  
(AF/CF)

**3. TO INVITE COUNCILLORS TO DECLARE AN INTEREST IN MATTERS ON  
THE AGENDA**

Cllr Cameron declared an interest in Agenda Item 12, as a Trustee of the FYT Bus.

**4. TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS ON THE AGENDA FROM MEMBERS OF THE  
PUBLIC (UP TO 15 MINUTES)**

The member of the public raised the question about the recent electrical fault which resulted in the road being dug up, were all services notified, and was there an alternative way to attend to the problem without digging up the road? Cllr James suggested that this could be something to look at when the Neighbourhood Plan is reviewed.

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

IW Councillor's Report to Freshwater Parish Council  
IW Cllr John Medland, Freshwater South Ward  
February 4th, 2020

Dear members

There has been recent concern expressed at the lack of certainty on the Department for Education grant for the new school at the All Saints Site. I have had it confirmed by the Cabinet member, Cllr. Paul Brading, that if for any reason the funding does not materialise, then the governors of the Shalfleet/Yarmouth Confederation will cancel their plan to move and the IWC will cancel the closure of All Saints. We will all then be back at the start point.

However, all the indications are that the new Yarmouth School at the All Saints site is going to receive a major budget for an almost complete replacement of the existing buildings as part of the national Priority Schools Building Programme. Richard Vaughan who is the officer leading on this believes we should have confirmation of agreement on the Outline Business Plan by the DfE Capital Director possibly as early as the end of this week. The PSBP Programme Director has described the progress of the business plan as 'exceptional'.

Once the outline plan is approved detailed planning will begin leading to a formal planning application for the new-build later in the year followed by tendering the building contract. I was delighted to see the content of the Parish Council's public consultation event on January 29<sup>th</sup>. I hope you received positive feedback for the proposed rebuild of the Gate Lane Toilets and starting work to turn Stroud from a bare open space into a more ecologically diverse parkland. This morning I resumed what I plan to be regular attendance at the Our Place Café. The Parish Officer Mel Gardiner deserves particular praise for this now highly popular and very well attended event.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> the IW Council will pass another horrific budget. We do not have the detailed papers released yet. Despite national talk of an 'end to austerity' the Authority, which has already made cuts of £90 million in the last ten years plans to make another £4.5 million in savings or increased revenues.

I will propose that the two Council owned sports centres be converted into CICs and run on the lines of WWSCC without any cost to the IW Council as I have for the last seven years. Any thoughts on how I can develop this argument will be gratefully received plus any other ideas for reducing cost or increasing income that you may have, as these can be introduced in amendment form. Parking fines for cars which park on pavements is an idea I am considering for raising revenue.

I sense there is growing interest around the Island for local control of the IW Council's car parks. The Cabinet member Cllr. Ian Ward was dismissive of our requests over Avenue Road but if we join with other town and parish councils suffering parking congestion while IWC car parks remain mostly empty the movement could become unstoppable? I believe local councils could do an infinitely better job of micro-managing these assets to maximise use through for example annual permits for commuters to free up our crowded residential roads.

Ward Councillor John Medland.

Cllr Cameron apologised for not providing regular written reports due to workload

COUNCILLOR'S REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2020  
GEORGE CAMERON  
FRESHWATER NORTH

Along with fellow West Wight Councillors, we had a very productive meeting with Rapanui last week to discuss their expansion plans. We are fortunate to have such a successful factory in Freshwater, providing employment to many and expanding as well. One issue is that they are looking for storage land and I have been in touch with property services who is looking at a site in the Golden Hill Fort area for them to use. I have had a complaint from a unit hirer at the Golden Hill Fort area that the Council has doubled their rent and want them to insure the whole property although they do not own it. This is being looked at.

There is a dumped vehicle at Golden Ridge and although this is in progress we have come to a standstill because we are now waiting for DVLA to provide the registered owners details before the next step, the car is taxed till the 1<sup>st</sup> May but the MOT has expired. I have reported the flooding issue at Edinburgh Road to the planning department, the flooding is due to a ditch that was filled in when the Windsor Drive development started, and it is affecting one resident in particular in a bad way. The case has now been passed to enforcement who is dealing with it.

I am still meeting up on a monthly basis with our Highways officer and we usually have a drive around the area and solving issues as we go. Sometimes this cross over to Freshwater South but it is vital to keep reporting and resolving issues as we see them. The vegetation in Queens Road near the junction with Clayton Road is being dealt with, the first letter to the proprietor was returned and a second letter was sent, if the vegetation is not cut by the 17<sup>th</sup> February, the Council will do the job and invoice the proprietor for it. I am still in the process of dealing with the improper parking opposite Sainsburys and at the moment waiting for a response pending on a site visit.

I have been in touch with the schools delivering team and councillor Medland has also chased this and we all received a response this morning to clarify the situation. I have met up

with our Housing officer and we went on the monthly estate inspection at Solent Gardens and Sunset Close. There was a couple of small issues to deal with but that is resolved now.

As well as ward work, in my capacity as Chairman for the IOW Council I have had the following appointments:

2 Citizenship ceremony's, Ryde School children attended the Council Chamber and had a presentation of the Mace and its history, Chairman's briefing, Full Council, Armed Forces day planning, Ron Smith memorial ceremony, Royal British Legion Annual conference, Holocaust Memorial Ceremony in Havant, Serious Violence Reduction conference, re-opening of the new RSPCA Centre, Mental Health day conference, and the annual staff awards last Friday.

I am also representing Freshwater on three different committees which is Health and Adult Services Scrutiny committee, Children and young people scrutiny committee and the main planning committee.

Any questions please get in touch.

George

The following questions were raised by Councillors:

- Cllr Fleury asked if County Cllrs knew or could find out how much income had been generated by the two council owned leisure facilities.
- Cllr Harris asked Cllr Cameron about Heathfield Road and Silcombe Road, Cllr Cameron confirmed they are on Island Roads work list.
- Cllr Murphy asked about an update on the railings at the Causeway. Cllr Cameron will follow up.
- Cllr James thanked County Cllrs for gathering the information from Hampshire CC re the School.

## **6. CLERK'S REPORT**

### **Clerk's Report – February 2020**

**West Wight Town and Parish Councils Association Meeting Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020**

The meeting was attended by the Clerk and Cllr Bamford.

- **Hampshire and Isle of Wight Police** - Sergeant Pringle and PC Martin Eggerton gave an update, they are now back in the local Police along with Matt Rowlinson. Cat Quinn now covers Freshwater and Totland. They reported there was a significant drop in crime in the last few weeks. In terms of clear up rates, the Island was about 28% against national 11 – 12%. There was an increase in non-dwelling burglaries since the last meeting.
- **Island Roads Network Safety Register** – emailed Island Roads and asked for all Parish and Town Councils to have an up to date copy of this. Informed by their Road Safety Engineer the consultation exercise undertaken by the IWC was to identify local priorities from the extensive list of items added since the PFI started. Currently working with IWC to develop and implement systems identified through the prioritisation process. Unfortunately, they do not have the resource available to undertake another comprehensive consultation with town and parish councils. Went on to say if we notify them of any issues considered to be a priority, they will highlight them on the register (if they are already on there) or add them on to it.
- **Housing Needs** - Discussion on Housing Needs Surveys and Neighbourhood Plans It was felt the Island Housing Register, which is used to house people, needs updating as it has people on it who have died. There have been local Housing Needs Surveys which have looked at the three villages in the Brighstone Parish and how many properties were either empty or let. The Clerk had been told that IWC Planners will not take Parish and Town Housing Need Surveys into account but will just use their own. It was noted that the Island Housing Needs Survey was not part of the Island Plan but being run in parallel. The WW group propose consultation/more seminars important rather than just a survey. The Clerk will write to Ollie Boulter.
- **Wessex Cancer Trust Daisy Bus** - Totland PC had asked for this agenda item to go on. Their Clerk's email had mentioned the Appeal and the knock-on effect for Island residents should the Daisy Bus stop. local resident had helped set up the Freshwater Wessex Cancer shop and was keen for this and the Daisy Bus to continue and be protected.
- **Island Roads – what happens after 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020?**  
**Is there a need to raise a list of roads that are still in need of works or resurfacing in the West Wight?** - Totland PC had asked for this agenda item to go on, who said that a lot of roads around Colwell that should have been resurfaced, have not. It was believed there was no money left but originally it was said all roads on The Island would have been resurfaced and brought up to a certain standard during the first 7 years of the 25 year contract (then 18 years of maintenance). It was noted that Island Roads would have the list of roads which have been resurfaced and those that haven't, so no need to draw up a list ourselves. The Clerk will contact Island Roads and ask for figures for the number of roads

completed in each area/District and have those in the West Wight had the proper share. Copy of letter to be sent to Wards Cllrs and Contract Manager. Also, to ask for the programme of when they would be doing the rest of the roads and information on which roads they consider up to standard.

- **The future provision of neighbourhood services – take up.** Shalfleet PC had asked for this agenda item. Some Cllrs feel if PC responsible for an area they should own it. Lee Matthews said IWC not likely to give Freehold for these areas but may consider Leasehold.
- **Island Buses** – Discussion about the No 12 bus, bus services through Brighstone, a possible direct bus from Ryde to Yarmouth. Richard Tyldsley from Southern Vectis to be invited to the next meeting.
- There will be a Military Road Update at the next meeting.

#### **Avenue Road Car Park**

The Clerk has contacted the Isle of Wight Council in respect of taking over this car park.

#### **Annual Parish Meeting**

The Annual Parish Meeting is on 17<sup>th</sup> March can anyone suggest a speaker?

**ACTION:** Suggested speakers from Councillors included:

- Someone from the Hooke Society
- Graham Bliss from Gift to Nature
- Someone to talk about the Parish 125 Year Anniversary

#### **Representation at Meetings**

Cllr James has resigned from both the MALCO monthly meeting and the Skate Park and MUGA Committee. A Councillor is required to represent the Parish Council at both these meetings.

**ACTIONS:** Cllr Kennett has agreed to sit on the Skate Park and MUGA Committee. All Cllrs to think about whether they could take on the MALCO representation role.

#### **Consultation Feedback**

In Summary 30 people signed in, however quite a number didn't so we think about 50-60 people came throughout the day. The comments focussed on:

**Christmas** – very positive feedback about bringing the community together

**Allotments** – concerns about the long waiting list and suggestions of utilising other spaces

**Avenue Road Car Park** – concerns about lighting and support for taking over the car park.

**Budget** – support for the proposals, interested to know more detail

**Community Connector** – continued support

**Land Management** – very positive about tree planting and suggestions for Stroud

**Gate Lane Toilets** – concern about cost, information to ensure good disabled facilities, questions about refurbishment as well as pleased to have new toilet enhanced facilities.

**Cllr Bamford thanked Councillors for participating in and attending the consultation.**

### **Freshwater Library**

**Meeting with Rob Jones (library Service)** – good discussion with Rob, Cllr Bray, Cllr Bamford and the Clerk about working more closely with the library service for the benefit of the community. A meeting is being set up between Anna Briton, Adam Tucker and Mel Gardiner around the libraries improving health offer. Anna Briton invited to attend the Parish Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

**Meeting with Steve Richards Carpentry and Renovation** – good conversation with Steve, Cllr Dimmick, Cllr Bamford, Cllr Bray and the Clerk to go through the quote for renovation work at the library. The proposed start date is the first Monday in May weather permitting with some preliminary work in April.

### **Complaint against Freshwater Parish Council**

A complaint has been received by Freshwater Parish Council; it was submitted to the Monitoring Officer at the Isle of Wight Council who has confirmed it is not a Code of Conduct issue. We are following the Complaints Procedure and will report back on the outcome.

### **Rural Community Energy Fund**

The Clerk has been invited to attend an event in Lyndhurst on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020 to learn about green energy funding.

### **Institute of Healthcare Management Meeting Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020**

This was an opportunity to showcase the community work including: Community Connector, Just Ask, Our Place, FOFL, The Junk Food Project, West Wight Sports and Community Centre, Alzheimer's Café, West Wight Time Bank and the FYT bus. There was recognition from attendees including senior leaders in the CCG of the value and impact of this coordinated approach to wellbeing.

### **Isle of Wight Branch of the Society of Local Council Clerks Annual Meeting**

Freshwater Parish Council hosted the Annual Meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

### **Moa Place Phone Box**

A formal request has been put in to purchase the phone box from BT.

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE.**

Noted

**8. TO AGREE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – LIST CIRCULATED TO COUNCILLORS FOR INFORMATION**

There were no accounts to be approved

**9. TO ACCEPT WRITTEN REPORTS FROM SUB-GROUPS, COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM COMMITTEES.**

The Following reports were accepted:

Cllr Fleury presented the following report about Christmas:

**CHRISTMAS UPDATE February 2020**

**CRAFT SESSION** – This was held on 29<sup>th</sup> November, we had around 30+ people attend. We also had many elderly people attend who wanted to just pop in for a hot drink and a chat. This was beautiful to see and be part of bringing the community together and not making anyone feel left out.

A wide variety of crafts were offered, from letters to Santa, craft making, cake decoration, colouring, music, story time and light refreshments.

We received some lovely feedback, with people asking if there would be something similar during the year. (Cost of this was around £200)

I would like to thank those Councillors who attended the event.

I personally was not happy with this turn out and need to look into how I can change this.

**WINDOW COMPETITION** – 17 Shops entered, prizes were donated by The Co-op, WWSCC & The end of the line café. Judging took place between 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> December with the winner and runners up being announced on 20<sup>th</sup> December.

1<sup>st</sup> place was Rock n Rose Tattoo Parlour and as she won last year too, she decided to re-gift her prize to Hurst.

2<sup>nd</sup> place Mountbatten Hospice Shop.

3<sup>rd</sup> place The Beauty Lounge.

All thank you letters were hand delivered by Myself and I was happy with the whole outcome.

Rock n Rose tattoo shop says she will participate next Christmas but will not be judged.

**CAROLS AT THE LIBRARY** – The electrical work was completed to relocate the Christmas tree to the larger lawn, this was due to the amount of people who turned up to the carols in 2018, social media advertising and song sheets were completed by Melanie. We had around 50 people attend this event.

I did not feel 2019 was as successful and as community spirited as 2018.  
I feel this event needs to be run by the community for the community, making it a village event and possible having collection buckets for a local Island charity.  
Feedback from the community on the night was that the area needed more lighting, maybe on the hedges as it was too dark to read the song sheets. I feel we should recommend everyone bring a torch this year.

**LIGHTS, TREES AND BANNERS** – 8 new trees were purchased for 2019 and 7 new sets of lights, making 32 artificial trees, new lights were also purchased for the Memorial Hall and for the Library.

- We will be looking into replacing more of the tree and lights this year too.
- We have discussed that we are looking at multi coloured lights throughout the village.
- The Parish received positive feedback regarding the library lights, (I preferred the library lights static.)
- I will be looking into costing to replace the x6 Lamp post lights through the village.
- This year we had a few problems with the artificial trees and lights. With lights not working etc. and some of the lights not very bright and powerful. (I am already looking into this for next Christmas)
- Lights need to be set to come on at 4pm

Do you feel a letter should go out to all shop owners/businesses asking if anyone else would like to purchase a tree with a one-off payment of £20 and if the businesses that have them already would like to keep them?

**BUDGET** – 2019 budget was £6000, total spent was £4516.01.

**PARKING** – We were able to offer free parking for 2 consecutive days in December at The Avenue Road carpark this was at a cost of £120 in total. We were asked by local residents about Moa Place carpark too.

Christmas 2020 planning to start in August.  
Do you have any questions or suggestions?

Regards  
Clodagh Pearce  
Administration Assistant

### **Cllr Cameron reported back from the Skate Park/MUGA Committee**

The Committee have visited Newport Skate Park and are now getting quotes for steel ramps which will be painted with car sealer to reduce noise. A proposal will then be submitted to Freshwater Parish Council.

**10. COMMUNITY GRANTS**

The following grant applications were considered:

**IW Story Festival** – Grant agreed of £100 to enable some Freshwater families on low incomes to attend through local primary schools. (BH/CF).

**IW Music Dance and Drama Festival** – Grant agreed of £200 (CF/GC)

**Action 4 Support including West Wight Time Bank** – Grant agreed of £200 (TD/DJ)

**West Wight Youth Football Club** – Agreed to request furthermore detailed information through the completion of the grant application form (VL/AH)

**South Wight Youth Theatre Group** – Grant refused.

**11. APPROVE UPDATED RISK ASSESSMENT**

Risk assessment approved (AH/BH)

**12. APPROVE FUNDING FOR FYT BUS**

Decision previously agreed to provide funding of £5,000 per year for 3 years with an inflation uplift was unanimously ratified.

**13. GATE LANE TOILETS UPDATE**

Planning proposal has been submitted to Planning and a decision should be made by March 17<sup>th</sup>. The Architect has completed a comprehensive tender pack. **Action:** to send the tender pack to the Gate Lane Toilets Group. It was noted that the tender must be published on the Contract Finder website and at least 3 tenders are required. **Action:** further advice to be sought from the SLCC about the timeline for the tendering process.

**14. DECISION ON PLACING OF PICNIC BENCHES ON STROUD**

It was agreed to concrete the benches in and to purchase a third bench (CF/AH).

**15. MONITORING OFFICER'S REPORT – PARISH COUNCILS**

The Monitoring Officer's Report was noted.

**16. TO AGREE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COUNCILLORS**

1. All Saint's Primary School to be a regular agenda item (BH/VL) – **Action: Invite Cllr Brading to the March meeting.**

2. Land Management – Community Tree Planting – Cllr Murphy

3. Pill Box – Cllr Kennett

4. To approve, agree the budget and notify IWC of the precept – Cllr Fleury

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.