



DRAFT
FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Office 01983 752000

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL HELD
ON TUESDAY 4th March 2020 AT 7.10 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
OF THE MEMORIAL HALL**

PRESENT: Councillors: A Bamford (Chair), B Hobbs, C Fleury, A Harris, D James, V Lowthion, T Murphy, T Dimmick, V Lowthion (left the meeting after item 18)
G Cameron and G Kennett

Members of the public: 3 and Cllr J Medland in attendance.

Clerk: H Rowell

- 1. APOLOGIES**
Councillors B Hinton MBE, C Bray.
- 2. TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4th FEBRUARY 2020**
The minutes of the meeting held on 4th February 2020 (having been circulated) were agreed. (GC/TD)
- 3. TO INVITE COUNCILLORS TO DECLARE AN INTEREST IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA**
Cllr Kennett declared an interest in Agenda Item 12 as a Trustee of West Wight Sports and Community Centre.
- 4. TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS ON THE AGENDA FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (UP TO 15 MINUTES)**
None received.
- 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
March 3rd 2020

Dear members

Last Wednesday the IW Council agreed a further £4.5 million of increased revenue or cuts in services. Freshwater Parish will be most directly affected by the £797,300 Islandwide increased parking charges, the cut of £250,100 from waste and recycling, £170,000 from Social Care, Public Health and Housing, another £128,500 from Planning, £95,000 from Parks, £40,000 from Environmental Health and £28,000 from the Library service.

There remains no hope of an 'end of austerity' for IW Council with a further £7 million of further cuts projected for the financial years 2021-23. In the last ten years IWC has lost £90 million of central government grant. This leaves local councils unsupported by the principal authority and will create new demands for services that Freshwater Parish decades ago gave up to South Wight Borough Council.

Interestingly for Freshwater there is £50,000 in the capital budget for coastal railings for the next two years. According to Lee Mathews the former use of the offered grant had been obstructed over a detail with the former Clerk.

We have been badly let down by Planning. On your unanimous planning committee vote I 'called in' the officer's recommendation to accept the most recent Fenney's application but by the time Cllr Cameron and I met with the objecting neighbours last Friday the Chair of the Planning Committee, Councillor Chris Quirk, had already 'signed off' the application. On Monday he told me that he would never allow a call in over a single household application, however controversial. This makes the right of the ward member to call in an application to Planning Committee meaningless so that we need to make a complete case of objection at the only possible stage of public consultation.

As the new application will clearly affect the neighbouring Level by overlooking, loss of light, is inconsistent with the previous planning regulations applied to the Level and involves loss of privacy there remain grounds for an appeal to the Secretary of State.

There is positive news from Lee Byrne, the IWC's Conservation Projects Officer, who has ordered Island Roads to replace the rotted posts on the Causeway with like for like painted hardwood.

I have had confirmation from Lee Mathews that the Brookside Road footpath is not part of the Island Roads contract, but Island Roads do clean it. Their unofficial obligation to clean the path has been further cut back to once a month as part of the ongoing cuts of the IWC budget paid to Island Roads.

It seems the more I investigate the origin of the health centre path the more of a fog it is. The current partners at the Health Centre are leaseholders from the original partners and equally unsure of their legal boundary. But we will get there.

Ward Councillor's Report
Freshwater North
March 2020

The problem with flooding at Edinburgh Road and Parkway has been a problem and after contacting the planning officer he stated that this is not a planning or enforcement issue as the gulley from the field that was filled by the Windsor Drive developers is not a planning issue. I am taking this up with Southern Water and the Environment agency for action.

Café Verdi at Fort Victoria is having flooding issues, like what the Discovery Centre experienced last year. I have a site visit tomorrow with officers to see if this could be dealt with speedily as they cannot open for the season with water leaks as is at present.

I have a meeting up with the council's housing officer tomorrow morning to discuss a couple of ongoing housing issues with the view of resolving them speedily. One is the problem in Sunset Close and the other is in Solent Gardens.

The Council has set the budget for the next year and half of the council tax increase is to deal with the ever-increasing liability of Health and Adult Services.

I am disappointed with the approval of Fenneys re-development in Blackbridge Road and I have spoken to our planning officers and the reasoning of not taking notice of Freshwater Parish Council's comments as well as the local ward councillor's decision to have this application sent to committee for consideration. The outcome of that was that they followed procedure and the decision cannot be reversed.

I have a meeting set up with Island Roads on the 25th March to discuss all Highways issues in Freshwater and have them listed in order of priority to deal with. I will report back on this as well as other issues I am working on as chairman of the council.

George Cameron

The following questions were raised by Councillors:

- Cllr James asked if there was an update about All Saints Primary School – Cllr Medland will ask Cllr Brading for an update.
- Cllr Kennett asked if the Parish Council could continue to pursue the possibility of taking over Avenue Road Car Park.

6. CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk's Report March 2020

Parish Staff

The Administration Assistant and the Clerk have satisfactorily completed their probationary period. The Assistant Clerk has agreed to take on the management of the Boat Park.

Disabled Facilities Grant

We have received a request for works on manorial land to provide access for someone with disabilities.

Annual Parish Meeting

Notice has gone out on social media informing residents of the date of the meeting. It is on the 17th March at 6.30pm in the small hall. John Cattle from Wight Trash has agreed to speak about Skate Parks.

Complaint

The Chair and the Clerk met with the Complainant; however, we were unable to resolve the complaint and are seeking further advice from the Monitoring Officer.

All Saints' School

CLlr Brading was invited to the March Parish Meeting but is unable to attend due to a health procedure.

Chairs for the Council Chamber

The Memorial Hall need their chairs back so new chairs have been ordered.

Brookside Footpath

Following discussion with IW Council and Island Roads it would appear that "The land was transferred to Freshwater Parish under Deed to gift, however Island Roads sweep the paths monthly even though it's not on the project network – There are no other services provided on this path. The Clerk has requested a copy of the Deed.

BT Kiosk

Following consultation and objections to the removal of the kiosk in Moa Place, it will remain as a working phone box.

Rural Community Energy Fund

We will be putting in a bid for a feasibility study to look at viability for solar panels on Parish Council buildings.

7. CORRESPONDENCE.

Noted

8. TO AGREE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENTS – CIRCULATED TO CLLRS

Date	Name	26th February to 4th March 2020	£
04/03/2020	Wages	Wages	837.78
04/03/2020	Paul Blackley	February 2020 Bookkeeping	168.00
04/03/2020	Jo Blackley	February 2020 Bookkeeping	170.00
04/03/2020	K Tudor	Planter and plants	85.56
04/03/2020	Lights4Fun	Christmas Lights	526.24

04/03/2020	Dean Parkman	Stage 4 RIBA Plan of work 2013 (technical design):	3,580.00
04/03/2020	MHALCo	Parish Office Rental	945.42
04/03/2020	W Hurst & Co	Litterpicker and gloves	19.70
04/03/2020	Mark Adams Maintenance Services	Gate Lane Ladies tap	22.50
04/03/2020	Mark Adams Maintenance Services	Allotments weed control fabric removal	45.00
04/03/2020	Mark Adams Maintenance Services	Pull cord switches	45.00
04/03/2020	SSE	Library Gas	133.32
04/03/2020	Island Cleaning Solution	Moa Place and Gate Lane Toilet cleaning	829.14
04/03/2020	Cross Country Services	Storm Damage	120.00
04/03/2020	Isle of Wight Music Drama & Dance	Grant for festival	200.00
04/03/2020	IWC	Building Control Application	354.00
04/03/2020	Brighstone Landscaping	Ground maintenance December 2019	1,429.99
04/03/2020	Brighstone Landscaping	Ground maintenance January 2020	1,429.99
04/03/2020	Biffa	Ambulance Station waste	31.40
04/03/2020	Business Stream	Gate Lane Toilets Water	1,036.27
04/03/2020	Business Stream	Longhalves Allotments Water	4.21
04/03/2020	Intuit	Quickbooks	31.20
04/03/2020	IW Association of Local Councils	Subs	1,113.53
04/03/2020	IW Story Festival	Community Grant	100.00
04/03/2020	NINGBO	Chairs for meetings room	509.16
		Total	13,767.41

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

None received

10. LAND MANAGEMENT-COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING – CLLR MURPHY

Stroud and Jubilee field proposed tree planting Spring 2020

*See attached map for location of proposed planting areas.

Area 1: Approximately 100 trees and shrubs proposed to be planted along Northern boundary of Jubilee field. Adjacent to the skate park.

Area 2: Approximately 60 trees proposed to be planted on the Western boundary of Stroud field, adjacent to the garden hedge of No. 100? School Green Rd.

Area 3: Four groups of approximately 15 shrubs proposed to be planted along the Northern boundary of Stroud Field. Groups will consist of lower-growing shrubs only and located so as not to obscure views from adjacent properties.

Area 4: Approximately 200 trees and shrubs proposed to be planted along the Southern boundary of Stroud Field.

The species to be planted are:

Shrubs – Hazel, Blackthorn, Hawthorn and Dogwood.

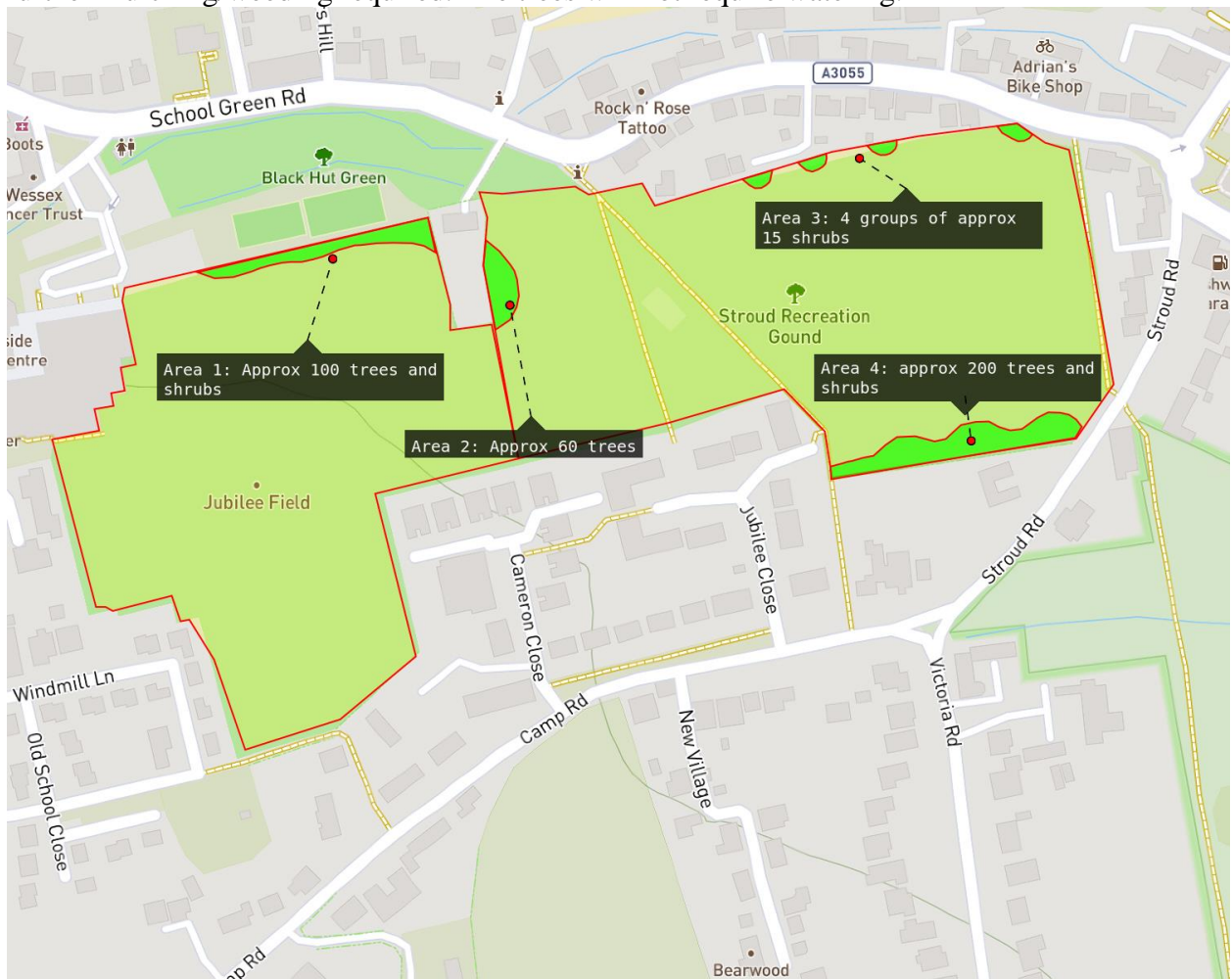
Trees - Silver Birch, Rowan, Oak, Wild Cherry, Field Maple and Grey Willow.

The plants will be planted as 50cm whips, with spiral guards and bamboo canes.

The trees will be planted at approximately 2.5 metre spacing.

It is proposed that the trees will all be mulched with woodchip over the Spring the help of volunteers. The areas in between the trees are to be left unmown if possible, to prevent disturbance to the trees and wildlife.

It is envisaged that minimal maintenance will be required in the first 10 years, apart from replacing any failures in Autumn 2020 and the removal of tree shelters once the trees are established (usually 3-5 years). It is hoped that volunteers will be able to assist with any further mulching/weeding required. The trees will not require watering.



11. THE PILL BOX – CLLR KENNETT

To fund the removal of the ivy and brambles from around the Causeway Pill Box (estimated one day's work). Find out from FATAG to see if they have information that can be displayed about it on site, along with planting to make it a feature.

12. TO REQUEST FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL PERMISSION TO FORM A WORKING GROUP TO EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF AN ALL-WEATHER PITCH ON JUBILEE FIELD – CLLR KENNETT

It was agreed to form a working group. Cllr Kennett to discuss membership with the Chair.

13. ALLOTMENTS

It has become difficult to accommodate Totland residents, following the loss of 19 allotments due to badgers. There are 9 people from Totland wanting an allotment and 16 people from Freshwater on the waiting list. The Parish Council will be writing to the people in Totland advising them that they will not be able to access an allotment, as Freshwater residents will take precedent and Totland residents need to make representation to Totland Parish Council.

14. PROPOSAL FOR A HERITAGE CENTRE – CLLR HARRIS

OUTLINE PROPOSAL TO CONSIDER CREATION OF A WEST WIGHT HERITAGE CENTRE

Looking for: Agreement in Principle

Introduction

Freshwater Parish Council is celebrating its 125th anniversary in 2020 which covers a remarkable period of history both locally and for the world. In the last 10 years FPC has progressively developed as a good local support for the residents in protecting and enhancing the place in which we live and call home. The Memorial Hall, Library and Sports Centre are the flagship projects and there are many other smaller projects.

Ten years ago the Freshwater and Totland Archive Group (FATAG) was set up and has over that time established a substantial amount of material regarding the local areas history managed by a superb group of volunteers. This collection of paper, pictures etc., will only increase as there is much hidden history of the West Wight.

West Wight is also a tourist area and we should be able inform and share our history with those tourists, some who looking at ancestral connections, others who found parts of stories from media and internet sources and those who just like discovering new information.

For FPC at 125 and FATAG at 10 we must consider creating a proper Heritage centre to be able to display and inform both locals and visitors now and in the future.

Location

We have talked many times about trying to draw visitors to the top of the village and a Heritage centre near a car park and free short term parking, this would help this. This means

that premises between the Memorial Hall and the Social Club would be ideal. There are cafes that could benefit from this proposal.

Costs

The shop currently used for “Vaping” is currently for lease at £7250 pa on a 10 year lease and the ex-Estate Agents is £6200pa so £120-140 per week. There would be some legal costs and possible decorating, refurbishment, and furniture etc, say £2000.

Structure and Funding

If FATAG was to be set up as a CIC (Community Interest Company) they are effectively a charity and a not for profit company which gives them Vat and Business rate advantages. It also enables them to apply for Heritage Lottery grants etc.

Summary of Proposal

FPC to discuss and agree to support idea. Meet and discuss with FATAG. Identify suitable premises start legal process. Initial funding first years rent plus costs as above either as a loan or grant. FATAG then set up centre apply for grants, advertise etc.

Finally CELEBRATE!!

Adrian Harris 26/2/2020

It was unanimously agreed that Cllr Harris explored this further and would report back to the next meeting.

15. PROPOSAL FOR WATER FOUNTAINS – CLLR JAMES

Cllr James proposed putting in a grant to the Coastal Community Fund for vandal proof water fountains only for filling water bottles. These would be fitted outside the public toilets. The grant has already been applied for due to timescales.

16. PROPOSAL TO RATIFY THE BUDGET AND THE PRECEPT FOR 2020/21 – CLLR FLEURY

Cllr Harris proposed that the budget as agreed at the last meet was accepted. Seconded by Cllr Kennett and agreed unanimously.

17. TO AGREE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COUNCILLORS.

The following agenda items were proposed:

Update on All Saint’s School

VE Day.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.