



FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Office 01983 752000

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 7th JULY 2020 AT 7.13 PM VIA ZOOM PORTAL.**

PRESENT: Councillors: A Bamford (Chair), C Bray, G Cameron, T Dimmick, C Fleury, A Harris, B Hobbs, D James, G Kennett, V Lowthion, T Murphy and J Young

Members of the public: none

Clerk: H Rowell

Linda Barnes, Chairman Freshwater & Totland Archive Group (FATAG) gave a short presentation about FATAG, their work and future plans.

1. APOLOGIES

Councillors B Hinton MBE

ABSENT– Councillors H White

**2. TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON 2nd JUNE 2020**

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd June 2020 (having been circulated) were agreed (JY/GC)

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

None

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

None

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

Councillor's Report for Freshwater North
7 July 2020
Cllr. George Cameron

This month I would like to thank our local volunteers again for their hard work, especially our West Wight Hub leaders and the team. Their hard work had a well- deserved Royal recognition, and we cannot thank them enough for their work which is ongoing.

I am pleased to inform the council that the council finally replaced the steps at Brambles Chine, leading to the beach. The steps washed away in the storms leaving no access to the beach. This will help when the tourist season arrive especially the chalet owners from brambles Chine. The concrete part of the same area needs replacing as this forms part of the coastal path and I have requested for this to be done as well.

I have had many complaints from The Crundles area about the new planning application submitted by Rapanui. The main issue is parking and I am meeting with our cabinet member for transport to see if this can be resolved along with the footpath leading from freshwater Garage to the Co-Op as it is not a safe route to take in its current condition. I have had confirmation from Island Roads that they are looking into making urgent repairs to the causeway Bridge, I will update as soon as I receive any information.

I am pleased to see that with the relaxing of the lockdown some pubs have reopened along with restaurants. I hope this is approached with caution and that we do not have any problems either, I am aware that the police were extra active in the West Wight last weekend which is always good to see and I hope to start regular monthly meetings with our local Sergeant. I feel that we need to work much closer with the police locally as we do pay them as part of our precept money.

I have had a limited walk about with our housing officers this week, the first time since lockdown and although we had to be Covid secure it was successful and we ironed out quite a few issues and some of them will be dealt with, mainly repairs to property and garden issues.

Regards,

George

Cllr Medland's Report to follow

6. CLERKS REPORT

Service Level Agreement WWSCC -Jubilee Field

The Clerk is updating the service level agreement and will bring a draft to the August Parish Meeting. The Clerk has written to WWSCC requesting an Annual Report for the year ending 31st March 2020.

Longhalves Lane and Hooke Close Footpath

Island Roads have to adopt the new road which includes the footpath. The Council then issue a licence and then the footpath can be fully opened. The builder anticipates that this will be achieved within a month. The opportunity for an opening ceremony is being explored.

Meeting with Robert Hooke Society

The Chairman and Clerk met with members of the Hooke Society to discuss their proposal for new heritage plaques on the Robert Hooke Trail. Society Members would like to present their proposal and designs to the Full Parish Council Meeting in September. This will include cost and request for financial support for installation.

Footpath next to the old Nat West Bank, between Tennyson Road and Avenue Road

Forms have been distributed to interested residents for completion to support the Rights of Way Application.

Boat Park

We have got quotes for the Boat Park signs showing ownership and a noticeboard to provide information to boat owners. Hopefully, they will be in place soon.

Public Toilets

The new cleaning contractor **Clean Wight Cleaning** is delivering a good service with an excellent communication channel with the Clerks. They have asked for feedback from Councillors so would welcome your observations.

Parish Council Email Addresses

We have contacted PC Consultants who are looking at enabling email addresses for all councillors with the domain @freshwater-parish.org.uk. We are awaiting a quote.

Meetings with Isle of Wight Council and Town and Parish Councils

The focus of the meeting was about recovery and the key issues were:

Risks – managing significant future outbreaks. If visitors test positive, they will be supported to return to their home. The Council is working with Public Health and the ferry companies.

Financial Risks – the council forecast a 9.8 million deficit by the end of the financial year

Humanitarian – there is a planned increase in demand for social care (adults and children), and mental health support. Additional costs include 4-5 million for Adult Social Care and PPE.

Economic – advice to business around social distancing and accessing financial help. Actions – cross Solent and bus service restoration and re-opening schools.

(slides distributed to councillors)

Outdoor Play Areas

On the 4th July outside play areas could reopen. This include the Toddler Play Park on Stroud. The guidance for reopening includes:

- Reducing risk through social distancing – including signs limiting the numbers using the equipment, space for queuing, having only 1 family member supporting a child.
- Reducing risk of Covid- 19 transmission through regular cleaning. The advice is to clean high traffic touch points frequently.

To fulfil these requirements, it would be necessary to employ someone to manage the site.

The Isle of Wight Council have decided to not open their children’s outdoor play areas at the moment.

The Toddler Play Area will be opening on the 11th July 2020 with appropriate signage.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted.

8. TO AGREE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT -LIST CIRULATED TO COUNCILLROS FOR INFORMATION

An up-to-date list will be sent to Councillors and reviewed at next meeting.

9. LAND MANAGEMENT – CLLR BRAY

Land Management Report for Parish Council Meeting on 7th July 2020

Cllr Murphy, & I have met with Cllr Bamford and the Clerk on 20th June to look at the Allotments, Stroud Coppice & the Library Gardens: -

The Allotments - It was a chance for Cllr Murphy and the Clerk to see the allotments & horse field, we discussed the problems with some of the holders who have not worked their plots, & Cllr Murphy suggested sub-dividing some of these plots for people on the waiting list, we also discussed the area left because of the badgers, where there are two trees (goat willow & sycamore) that should be removed as they will dominate the area & become a problem in the future.

Stroud Coppice - we agreed to get quotations for the first part of the work on the management plan, with a view to this being carried out in the autumn/winter.

Library Gardens - we hope to put forward a project, this in the early stages of discussions.

All areas of Parish land are now being mowed regularly following our contractors return to work.

We have given Cross Country the go ahead to take down the ash tree in Brookside Road, this should be done next week for the cost of £780 including vat.

Cross Country responded very quickly today to take down a very large aspen tree at Spin Fish, it had lost three branches & a fourth was hanging over the footpath, & was a danger to the public, Will & Sam Cross felt this may have been caused because the tree was distressed because of the drought. There are occasions when I have to make decisions & cannot contact any one from the office, today was one of those & I was concerned because I have no way of closing a footpath, & I think this is something we should give some thought to.

CB 26/6/20

10. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES PROPOSAL – CLLR BRAY

There are times when a footpath may have to be closed for a short time, due to storm damage to a tree on Parish land, which may endanger life, at present, we have no means of doing this. I am usually made aware of this situation by a member of the public who at my door. We are very fortunate that Cross Country Tree Services respond very quickly, even on a Saturday.

I would like the Parish Council to consider purchasing two mobile signs that can be used when necessary to be kept at the old ambulance station, that can be put out when needed.

The Clerk will check to see what authority we have in these situations.

11. ALLOTMENTS UPDATE – CLLR BAMFORD

There are 37 plots in use, 4 full plots and 33 half plots. 16 letters are being sent by the Parish Council to plot holders relating to the condition of their plots, and in some cases concern about pathways between plots and access to plots. Wonderful to see the abundance of vegetables being cultivated by plot holders. We are looking at the possibility for next year of enabling the opportunity for smaller quarter plots, making it more manageable for some and supporting people who are new to growing.

There are 19 people living in Freshwater on the waiting list for plots, therefore we are no longer able to support new applications from Totland residents and have notified Totland Parish Council.

12. MEMORIAL HALL UPDATE – CLLR BAMFORD

The Memorial Hall reopened on the 6th July 2020, in a Covid 19 safe way, in line with government regulations. Bookings are starting to return during the middle of the month.

13. ALL SAINTS CHURCHYARD – CLLR KENNETT

A request has come from Jill Reynolds (Church Warden) for some financial support to enable some work cutting back work to be done in the churchyard to enable the volunteers to return and continue the regular maintenance work. Strimming can be completed in 2 days at a cost of £480. Cllr Hobbs proposed to provide the normal annual grant of £500 now to cover the cost, seconded by Cllr Harris.

14. REVISED DRAWINGS GATE LANE TOILETS – CLLR DIMMICK

Drawings have been amended free of charge by the architect. Cllr Young proposed that the Gate Lane Toilet Working Group continue to lead the investigation of this project and the work required. Seconded by Cllr Harris. Agreed unanimously.

Cllr Cameron left the meeting with apologies for the remainder of the agenda.

15. WEST WIGHT HERITAGE CENTRE LEASE – CLLR HARRIS

Following a proposal to the Parish Council in March the lease has been agreed with the landlord. Freshwater and Totland Archive Group (FATAG) will have a partnership agreement with the Parish Council which details their plans for sustainability at the end of year one and going into year two.

The Chairman expressed thanks to Cllr Harris for his work and commitment.

Cllr Dimmick had to leave the meeting with apologies for the remainder of the agenda.

16. ADDENDUM TO CODE OF CONDUCT – CLLR HOBBS

To provide clarity on the use of emails for communication and decision- making purposes it was proposed to add the following addendum to the Code of Conduct. *The informal nature of emails means that it is easy to cause offence, so the tone of the message needs to be clear, the tone must be respectful to recipients irrespective of their role and status, particular care needs to be taken with remarks that are, or appear to be critical of the recipient or another person – these can come across as much stronger than intended and might in some instances be considered defamatory.*

It was unanimously agreed to add this to the Code of Conduct.

17. REPORT FROM THE FINANCE MEETING ON TUESDAY 16th JUNE 2020 – CLLR FLEURY

The meeting was well attended, the monitoring sheet was approved and

The Finance Committee unanimously agreed that an option to buy the building for the Heritage Centre should be made through the application of a Public Works Loan.

18. TO AGREE PROPOSED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COUNCILLORS.

1. Christmas 2020, following government guidance - Cllr Fleury
2. The Boat Park for September meeting. – Cllr Kennett
3. Building relationships with the Governors of Yarmouth School- Cllr James
4. Gate Lane Toilets Working Party – Cllr Hobbs

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.