



FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Office 01983 752000

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 12th JANUARY 2021 AT 7.10 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, T Murphy and J Young

Members of the public: Cllr J Medland was in attendance.

Clerk: H Rowell

Michael Craig gave a short presentation on behalf of the FYT Bus about their plans to move towards a zero-emission sustainable transport system.

1. **APOLOGIES**
Councillor B Hinton MBE and V Lowthion
2. **TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1st DECEMBER 2020.**
The minutes of the meeting held on 1st December (having been circulated) were agreed (BH/CF)
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 George Cameron Freshwater North Report for January 2021

I would like to wish everyone a happy, healthy and a prosperous new year. I hope that we have a better year than last year and that we eradicate this virus as soon as possible. I was

disappointed to learn that the island's R rate has increased to between 1.2 – 1.4 in the last week and plead with everyone to adhere to the rules and stay safe. The council have designed a form for people to report others when they break the rules as imposed by the government, I have sent a copy of this to the Parish office for this purpose if needed as I think it is important for everyone to keep within the law.

The IOW Council opened the applications for businesses grant funding yesterday and I encourage every business to apply for this funding. There are various grants, five different ones in all, available for businesses and I hope that everyone make use of this much needed funding to help them operate and if anyone have problems accessing any grant, they can get in touch with me and I will assist with the paperwork.

I have, yet again asked for the Causeway bridge railings to be dealt with and I will do so on a weekly basis. Island Roads have indicated that they have ordered the materials to do the work but the work they propose to do is not to replace all the posts and I feel this is a half-baked job, all the posts need to be replaced and that is what I am trying them to do.

In the last month I have been busy dealing with a lot of housing, council tax, health and even neighbouring border disputes. I am still supporting a group of residents that I have been looking after since the first lockdown and will continue to do so whilst needed and it is a pleasure to do so. Lastly, I would like to thank all our local groups and volunteers for their help in the community, I have said before that we are lucky to have such a great community that support each other, and they need all the support they can get from us.

Thank you, **George**.

**IW Councillor's Report to Freshwater Parish Council
IW Cllr John Medland, Freshwater South Ward
January 12th 2021**

Dear members,

It has been fantastic to see the new vaccination service running so well in the former Community and Youth Centre. It is also great to see the Hub operating again.

Given the health crisis/lockdown there has been little political work for me personally. At last week's Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Neighbourhoods and Regeneration we discussed our developing strategies for economic recovery, carbon reduction, 20mph speed limits, the cycling and walking strategy, parking strategy and beach management strategy.

We learned that the Council's staff, repeatedly redeployed and home working, are now pretty exhausted. Therefore, a lot of policy and progress on agreed plans is more or less on hold. Joint action with local councils was mentioned as the best way forward in developing small scale local speed and access alterations and signage. I described the joint approach taken by

FPC, IWC and Island Roads in the improvement of Avenue Road and raised the notion that parking management should be decentralised to local councils, but the official approach remains one of centralised uniformity.

I will forward you the new Parking Delivery Plan

Newport and Ryde have both received funding for their 'cycling and walking plans' and as there is increased potential funding from the Active Travel budget I feel we should be preparing such a plan for the West Wight too?

I am awaiting the fixing of a meeting with Island Roads and IWC to authorise action on the Parkers Hill footpath ditch, and to press for an improved pavement from Stroud Road to the Afton Road Co-op. I have also with Cllr. Cameron urged the replacement of the post and rail safety barrier on the Causeway.

Very Best Wishes
Councillor John Medland.

6. CLERK'S REPORT

Parish Office Refurbishment

The Parish Office suite has refurbished with new carpet, the Council Chamber has been decorated and the old servery has been turned into office space and has become the Parish Reception manned by the Parish Administrator.

Census

I attended an online workshop in respect of the forthcoming census which takes place on the 21st March 2021. This is going to be primarily online. Parish and Town Councils have been asked to support this through local promotion activity and supporting people to be able to complete the census. I have shared this with both our Community Connector and Just Ask Officer.

Website

The new website is progressing well and should be up and running soon.

Consultation Plan 2021

Due to the current lockdown, we are unable to consult with residents' face to face. The following plan is being put in place: Consultation will take place during the week commencing 25th January. Information will be on the website and promoted through social media. We will be encouraging residents to ask questions through the Clerk. A survey will also be available online with questions focussing on Gate Lane Toilets and the Skate Park as well as the general budget and precept increase. Consultation outcomes will be presented to the next Parish Meeting.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted

8. TO AGREE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT -LIST CIRCULATED TO COUNCILLORS FOR INFORMATION

The process of consolidating the accounts takes several weeks so it was proposed by the Clerk that accounts will be presented a month in arrears. This was agreed by all.

9. TREE PLANTING PLAN 2021 – CLLR MURPHY

Tree Report for the January 2021 Parish Meeting

Cllr Murphy and Cllr Bray did a Parish walk on 5th December 2020 to decide where we will plant trees in 2021 we have blended our ideas to form a four part plan: - maps will be available of the areas to be planted. This will be an ongoing two-to-three-year plan starting in 2021.

Four-part plan

1. Plant the saplings bought in for the Stroud & Jubilee Field in February half term with the help of volunteers - delayed from March last year. Due to current restrictions this will need to be postponed again.
2. Buy in small trees for planting in the areas shown on the maps - between 20 & 30 an assortment of native trees & shrubs, these are to replace the trees felled in 2020, include 3 fruit trees, 2 sweet chestnuts as part of our food for all trail, estimated cost £500 & planted by Cllrs Murphy & Bray and our facilities officer.
3. Extend the orchard on the Stroud in the autumn with a volunteers' day - estimated cost £500.
4. Engage with our Parishioners - give them a small tree to plant in their gardens - rowan, crab apple, native cherry, holly, the idea is to encourage children to know how important it is to look after trees, this will tie in with their learning in school.

The Details: -

Granny's Meade the meadow lacks autumn colour, so to address this we plan to plant holly trees between the memorial oaks, and to put a sweet chestnut at each end of the main path, this will be part of the food trail.

Spinfish The Aspen trees are our biggest problem, they are quick growing, the branches break easily in strong winds, and the trees rot in the middle, and therefore no not have a long life, and this is where we spend a lot of money. At the Queens Road end, we plan to plant alders, elms, crab apple, rowan & shrubs, and at the Sheep Wash end, plant 2 beech to form a beech avenue, as this is where we lost several elms.

West Green Plant 3 fruit trees, and soft fruit & shrubs around the memorial trees.

Brookside Road we plan to under plant the existing trees with native shrubs, crab apples & rowan.

School Green There is enough space to plant a lime tree to continue the line of trees.

Black Hut Green We would like to plant replacement trees on the back edge where ash & elms were removed, take out the clump of goat willow in the middle of the green & plant 3 ginkos. These are a nod to the ginkos on the school site which may be removed, we know of no other ginkos in the village.

Hooke Green We plan to meet with the residents of Hooke Close to get their views of how they would like to see the green. At present the green consists of grass and shingle, we can either keep it as it is or remove the shingle and lay turf, our idea would be to plant a couple of small trees and shrubs - native cherry, rowan, crab apple and viburnum, there is a small dead elm that needs removing, and we would need to cut back the overgrown laurels.

10. **SPINFISH REPORT – CLLR BRAY**

The risks in Spin Fish, previously when the banks of the stream the runs through Spin Fish have eroded Brighstone Landscaping have installed Gabion baskets to keep the stream for further erosion, and this has been done also and at Sheep Wash.

This work was carried out because the path will get too close to the stream & we may have someone fall in the stream, the path is used a lot of day & night, and daily by horse riders. My concerns are that with the latest slippage in an area where the path is very close to the stream (around a metre) and my view is that this is urgent.

Two quotes are being sought for the work. It was proposed that the work needs to be completed (BH/CF) and agreed unanimously.

11. **RAINWATER DRAINAGE BY THE MEMORIAL LAND AT THE FRONT ENTRANCE OF THE SCHOOL – CLLR JAMES**

It was agreed to write to Island Roads and request that the drain is moved to improve drainage.

12. CHRISTMAS 2020 – CLLR BRAY AND CLLR FLEURY

CHRISTMAS final report January 2021

WINDOW COMPETITION – 10 Shops entered, prizes were 3 hampers made by me costing under £100 in total, Judging took place between 14th-16th December with the winner and runners up being announced on 18th December. The Judges were Fire Fighter Liam Daniels (I believe he has just transferred from Cowes so has no connections with the village shops) PC Martin Egerton and PCSO Catherine Quinn
1st place went to The Freshwater Coffee House
2nd place The Beauty Box
3rd place Hursts

All thank you letters were hand delivered, and the feedback on social media was positive. So many shares and likes.

LIGHTS, TREES AND BANNERS – 10 new sets of battery-operated lights were purchased.

- We will be looking into replacing more of the tree and lights this year.
- We have discussed that we are looking at multi coloured lights throughout the village.
- We received positive feedback regarding the library lights, and the lights that were placed at the old ambulance station.
- I will be looking into costing to replace the x6 Lamp post lights through the village. Island Road will also be replacing the timers in the lamp posts as we had a lot of problems at the beginning with the timers not working.

This year we had a slight problem with the real trees due to the extremely bad weather, I will be exploring how we can avoid this happening next Christmas.

All Christmas tree lights looked lovely.

Lights on the artificial trees need to be set to come on at 4pm instead of 4.30pm and will go off at 10pm

We will be sending a letter out to all shop owners/businesses asking if anyone else would like to purchase a tree with a one-off payment of £20 for the bracket to be placed and if the businesses that have them already would like to keep them.

BUDGET – 2020 budget was £4000, total spent was £3790.38 this included buying new storage containers to store away all the lights safely and a £100 donation to Earl Mountbatten for removing the 3 real trees this year as the guy who normally removes them was not available.

PARKING – We were able to offer free parking for 3 consecutive mornings in December at The Avenue Road carpark. This was closer to Christmas as requested by the shop owners. This was at a cost of £81.50.

Christmas 2021 planning to start in August.
Clodagh Pearce – Parish Administrator

13. REPORT FROM FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL SKATE PARK COMMITTEE - CLLR FLEURY

The first meeting of the committee was held on the 7th January with new Terms of Reference agreed setting out governance, accountability and responsibilities. A presentation was given by Paul Blackley (Finance Officer) on options including a Pump Track. A fundraising proposal is being developed, alongside mechanisms to engage with users and researching what the possibilities are. It was agreed unanimously for the committee to move forward.

14. REPORT FROM GATE LANE TOILETS WORKING GROUP – CLLR HOBBS

A meeting was held on the 5th January to discuss the pre-application planning meeting and report. A time-line has been agreed to move forward and submit proposal for planning permission as soon as possible.

15. PUBLIC WORKS LOAN APPLICATION FOR GATE LANE TOILETS

It was proposed (AH/GK) and fully agreed to put in an application to fund the rebuilding of the toilets, following public consultation and planning permission.

16. EXTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT 2019/20

The report was accepted.

17. COVID 19 HUB UPDATE – CLLR KENNETT

There are 26 hubs set up across the island to support vulnerable people during the pandemic. Several new initiatives are being rolled out in the West Wight including food parcels and hot meal deliveries. The vaccine is being rolled out successfully with support from the FYT Bus.

18. TO AGREE PROPOSED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COUNCILLORS.

- Beach Safety Initiative – update

The meeting closed at 8.53 pm.