



FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Office 01983 752000

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 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, V Lowthion and J Young

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

Clerk: H Rowell

1. APOLOGIES

None

ABSENT

Councillor B Hinton MBE

**2. TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON 12th JANUARY 2021.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th January (having been circulated) were agreed (CF/GK)

**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)**

**Report from IW Cllr John Medland, Freshwater South Ward
February 2021**

Dear members

Around January 21s I was telephoned by Cllr. Stewart, the Leader of the Council, and surprised to learn of the change of the proposed route for the TT race. He promised to explain more in a second call, and I have written to him and the Cabinet Member, Cllr. Whittle for more information. The most I have learned is from a bride to be who may have to cancel her wedding at East Afton, due to the four days of road closure. From her I learned that the dates are also to change, to late September, just eight months away.

Cllr Whittle's reply worried me that the organisers, ACU, are still just considering the route and whether it is safe enough. In terms of major event planning this is completely unrealistic. Tonight, I've e-mailed the Leader and relevant Cabinet members recommending that the event be postponed for a year so that the organisers know where and when they want it, and for the necessary consultation to evaluate potential problems.

I would be interested to hear what members possibly know and think of these new proposals? Personally, I feel the new route will be more dangerous than the original route along the lower Military Road and corresponding Round the Island cycle route. Highways issues have been held up by the absence of our excellent Island Roads WW Warden, Derek Bean, who is off to Easter.

I have tried to explain that all the posts of the Causeway need replacing, not just those on the seaward side. I am told the Afton Road (Co-op) pavement is safe, and of course I am not allowed to meet any staff on site visits to show them why I feel it is problematic for wheeled pedestrian vehicles. Cllr James and I are holding progress on the F19/Parker's Hill – Longhalves footpath filled ditch, waiting on the return of Derek Bean.

I have received complaints of resumed roadside parking fines where residents had assumed a relaxation of the rules under lockdown.

I am increasingly concerned about local business reliant on tourism. At a Scrutiny Committee meeting in December the head of VIOW predicted a third of businesses failing by summer. In the next few seasons, the prospects of income are very strong, as the Island becomes the nearest thing to a foreign holiday, so we could be facing new pressures of summer traffic and other issues.

I hope to begin an all WW discussion on our joint economy, transport (rights of way), parking provision to see how we encourage more shoulder month employment through local accommodation, walking, cycling and riding. We have a large archive of research and consultation which was carried out for the WW Landscape Partnership which provides a useful base of information. Would any other members like to discuss how we might take

this forward? Newport and Ryde have both received national grants for their local cycling and walking plans.

Cllr. John Medland

**Report from Cllr. George Cameron
February 2021**

As this report is only three weeks from my previous report I do apologise if it seems a bit short this month.

I can report that the footpath from the Green Meadows development to the nearest bus stop is well in progress which is in line with the statutory obligations of their planning permission. This will be helpful to all pedestrians and not only residents of Green Meadows when that is completed and ready to be populated.

I have reported the damage to the steps leading to the beach at Brambles Chine again, the last repairs were only done just over a year ago, but the weather has not been too kind in this area. This is also the case with stones being washed up on the concrete walkway at Colwell Bay which is very uneven and not safe for some walkers who visit this area. I have reported this and mentioned the stones on the promenade at Freshwater Bay which was previously reported on.

Again, I would like to thank all our local volunteers and everyone else who are helping at our local hub and delivering the much-needed vaccine. I do believe that the West Wight are doing better than most other areas on the island and this is due to local dedication, I do hope that this will be the beginning of the end of the virus so that we can continue our lives in a normal way.

Lastly, I know that this is not a local issue, but I do wish to share the Black Dog Biogas project with councillors, I think this is a fantastic project and we all stand to benefit from work such as this in the future. I attach their media release to this report.

Many thanks,

George

6. CLERK'S REPORT

Consultation

The Parish Communications Officer have been working on the ensuring the consultation went out as widely as possible digitally. As a result, it has been picked up by the County Press, On the Wight, Island Echo and Isle of Wight Radio. There has been good engagement with the community, with residents taking the time to write and tell us their thoughts. One of

the benefits of this digital/social media consultation is increased access and engagement with residents who perhaps have not got involved in the past.

Signs

The no parking signs are now in place at the junction of Windmill Lane and Queens Road. Signs have also been replaced at Pound Green, so they match the ones at Windmill Lane. The new signs are now up at the Skate Park and MUGA showing full responsibility lies with FPC. New signs are going up at the Boat park, the first one has been done.

Allotments All of the rents have been duly received from the Allotment Holders, and new tenant agreements have been signed. Library We have a new library supervisor at the library Charlotte Borg, she has some innovative ideas about developing space inside the library to attract young people including teenagers. We are inviting her to come and talk to and meet councillors next month.

Surveys

Surveys for the shelter at the Boat Park and the Ambulance station should be back this week.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted

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

Payments were agreed – see appendix 1.

9. CONSULTATION REPORT

The consultation this year was held over 5 days utilising social media and the website. A considerable amount of feedback was received, which will be analysed and reported back to the community via the parish website.

10. TO APPROVE THE BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2021/22 – CLLR FLEURY

The budget and precept for 2021/22 (circulated to councillors) was agreed (CB/GK).

11. GATE LANE TOILETS UPDATE – CLLR HOBBS

Following the pre-planning application meeting with the Isle of Wight Council Planning Officer a further meeting has been held with the architect, and adjustments are being made in line with the pre-planning advice and plans will be submitted shortly.

12. PUBLIC WORKS LOAN APPLICATION FOR GATE LANE TOILETS

Following the consultation, we now have the evidence required to put together the application once planning permission has been approved.

13. THE CAUSEWAY BRIDGE

The Chairman raised concerns about the railings at the Causeway which is falling into disrepair and are dangerous. It was agreed to write to the IWC Chief Executive expressing concern and the need for this to be addressed urgently.

14. GRANT APPLICATIONS

The following grants were approved:

- Suicide Prevention & Intervention IOW - £1000.00 (DJ/JY)
- Isle of Wight Music, Dance and Drama Festival – £200.00 (VL/CB) *Following the meeting an email was received saying that all grant applications were being withdrawn due to the current Covid-19 situation and its impact on their inability to put on the festival as anticipated.*

15. ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL CABINET ON THE ROAD MEETING WITH FRESHWATER, TOTLAND AND YARMOUTH TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS.

The Chairman reported that she was disappointed that the leader of the Isle of Wight Council did not know who the Chairman of Freshwater Parish Council was. There was recognition of the valuable work of the West Wight Hub. Concerns about the representation from Yarmouth Town Council were expressed, and the implications of that for parishioners.

16. BEACH SAFETY INITIATIVE = CLLR KENNETT

This is a brief update for Freshwater Parish Council on the Beach Safety project that was originally instigated under the remit of Yarmouth Harbour Advisory Committee (YHAC)

The project has now moved forward.

The Isle of Wight Council have established a Beach Management Strategy for the Island and this is being led by Alex Minns, senior officer at the IWC.

Whilst it is very helpful to know that the IWC is taking this strategy forward the concern of the West Wight working group is to ensure our Bays are included in the strategy.

Sue Poston (Yarmouth Harbour Commissioner) has contacted Alex Minns to update him on the progress of our project. Sue has also spoken to Cllr Stuart Hutchinson, Deputy Leader of the IW Council and elected member for West Wight Ward.

1. The Project – as previously advised there has been a great deal of concern regarding the safety of swimmers in both Totland and Colwell due to the large numbers of Personal Water Craft (PWC) in both the bays. In Colwell visible buoys need to be reinstated and new buoys should be put in place in Totland Bay to increase safety for swimmers.
2. Progress to date – Costs have been sought from Ian Woodford, Harbour Master at Shalfleet Quay, and the person who has historically been commissioned in the past by IWC to do this work in Totland and Colwell. Yarmouth Harbour Commissioners will provide and maintain buoys on Sandhard. Work is also in progress around creating safety notices for the bays which are attractive as well as functional. We have kept Freshwater Independent Lifeboat (FILB) updated with progress on this project.
3. Funding – Funding is being sought through charitable trusts and at the Cabinet on the Road Meeting on the 21st January there was discussion that depending on the outcome of the IWC Finance Meeting in February there may be some IWC funding available for the Beach Safety project. Obviously, this is dependent on the outcome of the IWC’s budget agreements.
4. Other Considerations – There are two businesses that are expanding and could affect both Totland and Colwell Bays. The Hut at Colwell is increasing its footprint and in Totland the pier development is taking shape. There have been discussions with both business owners. These developments could bring in many more PWC to both bays because of the increased amenities, a real boost for tourism for in West Wight, but another strong reason why we need to get safety measures in place.

The key issue is whether IWC will be able to put funding into the beach safety project, however, the team are seeking other funding to provide the buoys in case the IWC are unable to fund this.

Gill Kennett
30th January 2021

17. TO AGREE PROPOSED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COUNCILLORS.

- Gate Lane Toilets
- All Saints School
- Causeway Bridge
- Beach Safety Initiative

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.



Freshwater Parish Council

TRANSACTION DETAIL BY ACCOUNT

December 2020

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
Administration Expenses	
Admin, Training & Office Costs	£922
Bank charges	£23
Parish Facilities Officer	£40
Staff Salaries	£9,498
Total for Administration Expenses	£10,484
Grants & Projects	
Community Connector	£15
Events / Xmas Lighting	£775
FYTBus	£5,000
Heritage Centre	£1,852
War Memorial	£65
Total for Grants & Projects	£7,707
Services Expenses	
Allotments	£31
Freshwater Bay Boat Park	£68
Land Management & Trees	£307
Library	£838
Old Ambulance Station	£68
Public Toilets	£2,754
Tools & Equipment	£8
Total for Services Expenses	£4,074
Youth Expenses	
Skatepark & MUGA	
MUGA Expenses	£36
Skatepark Expenses	£180
Total for Skatepark & MUGA	£216
Total for Youth Expenses	£216