



FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Office 01983 752000

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 2nd MARCH 2021 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, T Murphy, V Lowthion (from 8.03pm) and J Young

Members of the public: Cllr J Medland and Cllr Diana Conyers (IWALC Chairman) were in attendance.

Clerk: H Rowell

1. **APOLOGIES**
Councillor B Hinton MBE
2. **TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2nd FEBRUARY 2021.**
The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd February (having been circulated) were agreed (CF/BH)
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)**
See Appendix 1

6. CLERK'S REPORT

Surveys

Structural surveys have been received in respect of the shelter at the Boat Park and the Old Fire Station (Old Ambulance Station) the following recommendations have been made:

Promenade Shelter – Carry out local crack and mortar repairs to the art stone blocks and local repairs to edge of concrete roof deck to seal the structure from the salt elements.

Old Fire Station – Carry out a site investigation to assess the degree of foundations below the near lean to and if substandard carry out remedial foundation works which PTR CE Ltd can undertake under stage 2 appointment – Cllr Bray, Cllr Bamford, the Clerk and Assistant Clerk are meeting to discuss.

Gate Lane Toilets

Planning permission has been submitted for the rebuild.

Windmill Lane Parking

The no parking signs have been put up and they are being adhered to by residents.

Parish Facilities Officer

A lot of work has been done near Bowbridge Court to ensure the water runs clearly in the stream and to reduce the likelihood of flooding. Similar clearing work has taken place in Stroud Coppice. The Parish van is currently off the road awaiting repairs.

Allotments

Quotes are being sort for repairs to the path leading into the allotments and the fencing.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted

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

Payments (having been circulated) were agreed – see appendix 2.

9. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 16th MARCH 2021

It was agreed to invite Graham Biss from Gift to Nature to talk about the work at Golden Hill and Afton Marsh, and Hazel Britton to talk about the work of the West Wight Coronavirus Support Hub.

10. TO APPROVE THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE SKATE PARK AND MUGA (CIRCULATED TO COUNCILLORS) – CLLR FLEURY

The Terms of Reference (having been circulated) were approved and agreed unanimously.

11. SKATE PARK UPDATE – CLLR FLEURY

There was a meeting of the Skate Park and MUGA Committee on the 25th February where it was agreed to pursue fundraising opportunities with the community and commercial companies locally. There has already been some interest and offers of support. A logo is being explored that the community can relate to. Planning are being contacted to discuss the proposal on the Stroud and how we move forward.

12. TO APPROVE THE PUBLIC WORKS LOAN BORROWING APPROVAL APPLICATION FOR GATE LANE TOILETS

The borrowing approval and associated documents (having been circulated) were approved and agreed unanimously.

13. THE CAUSEWAY BRIDGE

It was agreed to report the Parish Council's concerns that the rotted posts need urgently replacing in respect of health, safety and conservation to the Isle of Wight Council, and publicly through the press.

14. LAND MANAGEMENT – TREE PLANTING PROGRAMME – CLLR MURPHY

Proposing to plant some native trees on Spin Fish and in Brookside Road, and holly trees in Granny's Meade. Also 2 memorial trees.

Propose to plant the 400 saplings on Stroud once the Covid -19 restrictions have been lifted on Saturday 3rd April with community volunteers in groups of 6. It was agreed to go ahead with the planting.

15. LAND MANAGEMENT – STROUD COPPICE REPORT – CLLR BRAY

I met with Kevin Oprey who lives in 19 Hooke Close who has concerns as two ash trees in the Coppice that are close to his property show signs of ash die back, Cllr Murphy and I returned to take a look & have agreed to reduce the height of the trees, Mr Oprey would like to work with the Parish Council to enhance that corner of the Coppice & together will plant a few shrubs & a suitable tree plus some wildflowers. We are really pleased to have the cooperation of a house owner and be able to work together.

During February, the rain fall was particularly heavy and there were some flooding issues in the Coppice, our Facilities Officer has worked hard to open up ditches so that the excess water can be managed to avoid flooding properties lower down.

Cllr Murphy and I looked at the ash trees that are just off the lane that runs through the Coppice, as Shaun had concerns that the condition of some of them was not good due to ash die back, we have marked several trees that need to be reduced in height, as they have grown very tall due to overcrowding; this work would need to be done with a contractor with a cherry picker. This work needs to be done this year after the nesting season, and I would like to meet the contractors to get some estimates to bring back for approval. Tom and I also looked at areas where we can plant some suitable native trees to replace the diseased trees.

I am very disturbed by the fly tipping that has happened since I last visited the Coppice, someone has dumped tree cuttings at the Long Halves end of the coppice, and someone else has dumped garden waste of clay/soil in the area off Hooke Close. I have asked Mel Gardiner to flag this up on our face book page, and I wonder if more can be done. We have no signs up to say FPC are responsible for the coppice, I am sure signs were made, I think we could put up a sign to say, 'no fly tipping' and write to all the house holders on the estate to ask if they see fly tipping would they let FPC know.

It was agreed to write to Isle of Wight Council to request the timeline for changing the rules at Afton Marsh Tip. When to enable residents to visit more often than fortnightly under the current Covid 19 restrictions.

We are planning to plant shrubs as part of our four-part plan in Spin Fish & Brookside Road this spring.

16. BEACH SAFETY INITIATIVE - CLLR KENNETT

You may be aware that the Isle of Wight Council have now developed a Beach Management Strategy Framework, which was passed at the January Cabinet Meeting

This is helpful other than it seems that the buoys in our bays will be reinstated to where they were located 6 years ago. I know that Cllr James has been highlighting the missing buoys for some time. So, although this is progress, we have to take into account the fact that both Totland and Colwell are now much busier beaches, and with the Pier development in Totland and the expansion of The Hut in Colwell could increasingly become more popular.

Therefore, it would seem that more buoys than were previously sited will be necessary. As previously stated, funding is being sought locally through the West Wight Bays Safety Group and this will progress as although the IWC are replacing the original buoys there may be more needed with the increase of visitors and Personal Watercraft (PWC) in our part of the Solent.

I am not sure what the budget is currently for the buoys in Totland and Colwell or what the arrangements will be for maintaining them and we will try and get that detail once the framework is more developed. Cllr Cameron might be able to get this detail for Colwell. I anticipate that the Parish Councils might be approached to financially support this initiative.

If so, then we would want to ensure that we have enough buoys to maintain the safety of swimmers.

17. TO APPROVE THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR FRESHWATER BAY BOAT PARK

The terms and conditions (having been circulated) were approved and agreed.

18. ELECTIONS 6th 2021

The Clerk will send out parish packs to everyone who is interested. The deadline for the receipt of nomination forms is 4pm on the 8th April 2021. Councillors will have to complete nomination forms if they want the opportunity to be re-elected.

It was agreed to promote the opportunity to become a Parish Councillor.

Cllr Lowthion informed councillors that she will not be standing again for FPC due to relocating. The Chairman and councillors thanked Cllr Lowthion for her contribution and commitment.

19. CENSUS 21st MARCH 2021

The census is predominantly online with hard copies available on request. The West Wight Hub will support where necessary.

20. TO AGREE PROPOSED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COUNCILLORS.

- Gate Lane Toilets
- Beach Safety
- The Causeway Bridge – ongoing item

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

WRITTEN REPORTS FROM FRESHWATER WARD COUNTY COUNCILLORS 2nd MARCH 2021

1. Report from Cllr John Medland, Freshwater South Ward

Dear members,

Last Wednesday the Isle of Wight Council held its final meeting of this term to pass its tenth budget of cumulative cuts in public services and increased charges to meet the obligation of government austerity policy, which is planned to last a further three years, but now at a shallower level of projected budget cuts, at £3 million a year for each year. However, there is a lot of uncertainty over the final cost of the pandemic and the resultant economic paralysis reducing Council income and the final level of central government grant funding. Over £20 million has been budgeted to meet additional pressures. I notice that there is an item on beach safety on the agenda.

During the meeting the Council Leader Cllr Stewart offered a meeting to discuss safety buoys locally. He says he wants “to make all our beaches safe” this summer. Therefore, I have requested a local ward member meeting to discuss this and it would seem sensible to include Parish Councillors with a particular interest? I would also like to ask all members if there are any safety issues for Freshwater Bay that I should be aware of for this discussion. I’m aware of the problems in Colwell and Totland bays but I guess the chalk bar at Freshwater Bay acts as a natural divider for bathers and motor-powered craft? If there are safety issues there, please let me know.

The Leader also agreed to accept any request from the NHS for the suspension of paid parking at Moa Place for people attending the vaccination clinics. I have asked Cllr Stewart and Clive Oliver at Brookside who I need to talk to make this happen? All indications are that the WWSCC vaccination programme is doing particularly well when there are sufficient supplies of the vaccine. In the third week of February some 12,000 vaccinations were administered.

Looking at my report to you of one year ago, I wrote then that the Conservation Officer, Lee Byrne, had agreed the like for like replacement of the posts at the Causeway, so it is a mystery to me that we are no further forward. I am looking forward to some co-ordinated action on this long overdue safety issue and eyesore.

We as IWC are part of a Solent LEP bid to create a ‘freeport’. I mention this as it will involve us having “streamlined planning processes” (Leader’s Report, p.22 of Full Council papers). As of April 1st Hampshire, will take over the IW Fire Service. Against my counsel the IWC land assets of the fire authority have been transferred freehold rather than leased, and we are making as IWC a transfer of £600,000 and we will all be paying a higher precept to Hampshire to put us all at the same higher rate. It seems to be a strange deal to give away a critical asset and pay even more for the service it provides?

It is good to see that the capital budget is now being directed away from commercial property investments on the mainland (£35 million) to match funding significant new investments on the Island. For example, IWC will contribute £400,000 to add to the

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£4.5million from DfSE funding for the new school. Finally, I would like to thank Cllr Cameron for acting as an effective and competent Chairman of the County Council during an extraordinary moment of improvised online meetings. He has done an excellent job and I wanted you all to be aware of this.

Cllr. John Medland

2. Report from Cllr. George Cameron Freshwater North

I have been getting another series of complaints relating to speeding at Halletts Shute, I am sure this is due to the latest accident where a wall was knocked down. I was told that the cause of the accident was ice on the road and perhaps speeding was a small factor. However, the residents do have a problem with ongoing speeding at Halletts Shute and I have asked for clearer signage to be positioned and a review of the speed limit down to 30 Mph. I will update on this progress as soon as I have more information.

Whilst on Highways, I can report that the pavement at Silcombe lane is now finished and in an exceptionally good condition, Colwell Lane is now in the process of being done. The Causeway bridge – we have had a letter from Jayne Tyler about the remedial work and we will get an update soon, I have found out that the Ecology officer needs to do a report for it to go forward.

I am still in the process of supporting residents at West Bay, trying to get their facilities restored. It is due to having these facilities that some have bought their properties and with re removal of the swimming pool, gym etc it devalues their properties whilst their levies are escalating, some more than £10K per annum.

I am pleased to be part of the skatepark committee who are in the planning stages of the newly proposed skatepark and pump track, I feel this is something that we need, and the upgrade of the area will be beneficial to the parish council.

I am concerned that we received a letter from our MP regarding funding for an outreach post office at Freshwater bay. I would like to get Councillor's views on this and if we feel this is a viable proposition, of course if a post office service for one hour per week is needed and the parish council agree to fund the session, I will support it.

The last 12 months have been a challenging time for all of us. As we emerge from the epidemic, I must ask people to keep safe until regulations change and release us from lockdown. Again, I would like to thank all at our local Hub and our medical centre for doing such a great job and to manage the huge task of delivering the vaccine is mainly due to all our local volunteers, we will be forever in their debt and I thank them all for their hard work.

Lastly, I am pleased to see that Walk the Wight is now back on track for this year with the rescheduled date of the 12th of September.

Thank you, George.

Freshwater Parish Council Meeting 2nd March 2021 Appendix 2

Budget vs. Actuals: FPC Budgets 2020/21 - FY21 P&L

January 2021

	TOTAL		
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	REMAINING
Income			
Additional Income	3		-3
Services Income	0		-0
Services Sub Committee Income	240		-240
Total Income	£243	£0	£ -243
GROSS PROFIT	£243	£0	£ -243
Expenses			
Administration Expenses			
Admin, Training & Office Costs	9,978	1,750	-8,228
Other Administration Expenses	192	889	697
Staff Salaries	9,329	7,080	-2,250
Total Administration Expenses	19,500	9,719	-9,781
Grants & Projects			
Current Grants & Projects	4,424	0	-4,424
Total Grants & Projects	4,424	0	-4,424
Memorial Hall Expenses		0	0
Services Expenses			
Allotments	12	50	38
Footpaths		0	0
Land Management & Trees	2,542	4,650	2,108
Library	1,693	1,667	-26
Motor vehicle Expenditure		0	0
Old Ambulance Station	24	417	392
Public Toilets	2,072	2,083	11
Seats, Bridges & Woodwork		0	0
Stroud Coppice		0	0
Stroud Playing Fields		0	0
Total Services Expenses	6,343	8,866	2,523
Youth Expenses	240	436	196
Total Expenses	£30,507	£19,021	£ -11,485
NET OPERATING INCOME	£ -30,264	£ -19,021	£11,242
NET INCOME	£ -30,264	£ -19,021	£11,242