



FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL

Council Chamber, Memorial Hall, Avenue Road,
Freshwater, Isle of Wight. **O** take this concern to the meeting of
Telephone 01983 752000 Email clerk@freshwater-parish.org.uk

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT THE MEMORIAL HALL FRESHWATER ON 23rd JANUARY 2024 COMMENCING AT 6.45PM.

Prior to the Meeting commencing Mr Mike Wheeler addressed the Council about the planning decision made by the Isle of Wight Council on the Planning Application 23/01148/FUL Mountfield Holiday Park Norton and the approval decision that was given to that application that has resulted in the Residents of Norton being very upset as the rural character of Norton is being destroyed.

Concerns were raised that Freshwater was becoming a housing estate and nothing is being planned for the local Economy. Councillors and Residents feel the Isle of Wight Council is sacrificing employment land for housing. Freshwater needs more employment. Housing is being put on employment land and the Council and Residents feel that is not right.

The Chairman agreed to take this concern to the forthcoming meeting of the West Wight Town and Parish Council Association on Monday as Wendy Perera the Chief Executive of the Isle of Wight Council is attending.

Mr Wheeler was thanked for attending the meeting and for bringing local concerns to the attention of the Council.

The Meeting then commenced.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Kennett (Chairman) Cllr Banford, Cllr Hobbs, Cllr Cox, Cllr Hinton, Cllr James, Cllr Bray.

ALSO PRESENT Paul Blackley Finance Officer AN Val Taylor Locum Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Medland (Dispensation) Cllr Thomas, Cllr Jarman for lateness as he had to attend a meeting in Ryde prior to our meeting and hoped to make this meeting

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THE 9TH JANUARY 2024

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 9th January 2024 were approved and duly signed.

3. TO DISCUSS AND AGREE THE PRECEPT FOR 2024

The Finance Officer took the Councillors through the financial paperwork and highlighted additional costs that have arisen after setting the draft budget, the lights need replacing on the Muga and we are looking at LED lights which will last longer and the number of lights required can be reduced but depending on the work involved costs are between £12 and £16,000.

Various Ground-works needs to be done urgently and we are looking at a cost of over £30,000 for the most urgent one.

The budget was thoroughly discussed, and consequences of various actions looked at. Councillors raised many questions on the budget which the Finance Officer answered.

Concerns were raised due to the present weather situation that more ground works repairs could more than likely be required which could be costly.

It was proposed and seconded that at the Public Consultation the Council presents the cost of the Precept increasing by 10% and 12%.

RESOLVED:-

That the Council presents at the Public Consultation figures showing the cost of 10% increase and a 12% increase in the Precept.

4. TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT FOR 2024

The Clerk presented the Financial Risk Assessment for 2024 and highlighted certain points in the Assessment which Councillors noted such as the telephone system when land lines are discontinued supposedly in 2024.

The 2024 Financial Risk Assessment was duly proposed and seconded.

RESOLVED:-

That the 2024 Financial Risk Assessment was agreed.

Signed

Dated

Please email me on valtayloriw@gmail.com if you cannot attend **THE DAY BEFORE THE MEETING**