

Minutes of the Meeting of Freshwater Parish Council on October 10th 2023 at the parish offices.

Present: Cllrs Gill Kennett, (chair) Brenda Hobbs, Carol Bray, Emma Cox, Daniel James, John Medland, Anne Bamford, Chris Jarman. Cllr. Peter Spink was present as ward councillor for Freshwater North.

The recent death of former clerk and church warden Sally Kimpton was noted.

1. Apologies: Cllrs Brian Hinton, Natalie Thomas, and the Clerk, Heather Rowell.
2. Minutes.

The Minutes of September 5th were proposed as accurate by Cllr Cox seconded by Cllr. Bray.

3. Declarations of interest.

Cllrs Hobbs and James are trustees of the United Charities Trust.

4. Questions from the public. There were no members of the public present.
5. Reports from Ward councillors.

It should be clarified that FPC is sharing information rather than co-ordinating with the police.

6. Clerks Report. There was no Clerks Report to consider.

However it was important to make a decision on one urgent item. Every fortnight we are having to close the new toilets at Gate Lane and to have the toilet sewage pipes cleaned. Reno Drain is a company prepared to remove the Victorian intersector and replace it with a new pipe at a price of £950.00. This was agreed.

7. Correspondence. None presented in the absence of the Clerk.

Cllr James had been copied in a letter from Rob da Bank asking for the Parish to extend the lease of the mobile sauna at Freshwater Bay. Daniel to circulate the mail for decision at the November meeting.

Cllr Cox had received a letter about the Christmas Tree event at All Saints Church asking if this should be done again. Agreed to go ahead.

8. To agree accounts for payment.

There was only one copy of the accounts for payment to approve but not in the usual format. It was decided to defer this item to the next Planning Meeting next week after the accounts could be presented to all members.

9. Skate park and MUGA Committee membership proposal.

The original plan to propose Cllr. Medland as chair of the skatepark committee had been complicated by the local opposition to the project expressed in the preceding Planning Meeting. As ward councillor Cllr Medland could no longer take the role and no other member of the committee present was prepared to become chairman of the committee. The item is to be deferred.

10. IWALC Report.

Cllr Bamford reported that a new Communications Officer was employed three weeks ago. Continuing negotiations with the IWC on assets. Member and Clerk training continuing.

11. West Wight Town and Parish Councils Association Report.

Cllr Kennett noted that Graham Biss of Natural Enterprise had presented on progress with the Greenway which has started from Freshwater Bay and is expected to reach Wellow by early next year.

12. United Charities Trust proposal.

Cllr James has met with the Treasurer and reconciled the trust accounts, which contain around £20,000 with a small annual income. There are currently six trustees but only Cllrs James and Hobbs are currently active. The next step is to recruit some new trustees and change the address to the parish office. The trust consists of two charities with similar aims for the relief of poverty.

13. Library Update.

Cllr Bamford reported that external lighting had been agreed including the steps and non stick reflective strips on the steps. The 'justice service' to be used to repaint the railings. The costs of these works are to be funded by the Friends of Freshwater Library. Shrub work will be undertaken to improve the gardens under the management of Cllr Bray.

14. Events Committee Report.

It was agreed that Cllr Medland circulate the draft minutes of the inaugural meeting to all members for comment. Terms of reference are yet to be drafted.

15. Parish Council Strategic Visioning Workshop on the 14th November 2023.

Cllr Medland proposed that we postpone this event in the light of staff absences and hold the event when we have filled the councillor vacancies.

16. Moa Place Car Park management under lease.

To be postponed as we do not have a copy of the lease to hand.

17. To Propose the creation of a working group to review the Gate Lane Toilet Project.

Referred to the Gate Lane Toilet Committee.

18. To agree proposed future Agenda items from Councillors.

To arrange temporary cover for the clerk team.

Request for new lease on mobile sauna at Freshwater Bay.

The chairmanship and meeting setting of the skatepark committee.

Moa Place Car Park management under lease.