



**FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL**  
Council Chamber, Memorial Hall, Avenue Road,  
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**MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT THE MEMORIAL HALL FRESHWATER AFTER THE PLANNING MEETING ON 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023**

**2 Members of the Public were present.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT :-** Cllr Hicklin (Chairman) Cllr Jarman, Cllr Hinton, Cllr Banford, Cllr Thomas, Cllr James, Cllr Cox, Cllr Bray, and Cllr Kennett  
Also, present Mr Blackley Finance Officer

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Medland and Cllr Hobbs.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Thomas declared an interest in agenda item 9.

**3. TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THE 7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023.**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023 were agreed and duly signed.

**4. TO ACCEPT WRITTEN REPORTS FROM FRESHWATER WARD COUNCILLORS/QUESTIONS AND UPDATE SESSION (UP TO 15 MINUTES FROM ALL COUNCILLORS.)**

The Councillors reports were noted and attached as Appendix's to these minutes. Councillors raised concerns about flooding problems on a pedestrian route to school where it has been ankle deep in water because it would appear the drainage ditch has not been cleared and it appears there is a blockage under the short railway. The Clerk is to talk to Cllr Spink and also to write to the Environment Agency.

**5. TO AGREE THE MEETING DATES FOR 2024 (Copy attached)**

**RESOLVED:-**

That the Dates of the 2024 Meetings were agreed.

**5. TO RATIFY NOVEMBER 2023 MONTHLY ACCOUNTS.**

The Finance Officer answered various questions raised on the Novembers monthly accounts.

**RESOLVED:-**

That the November monthly accounts was approved.

A discussion took place regarding the Heritage Centre lease and the requirement to give notice to quit to activate the break clause on the lease. Councillors raised concerns that the historic Freshwater records must be kept.

It was duly proposed and seconded that The Council issue a letter invoking the break clause in the lease now to the Landlord. Cllr Jarman and Cllr Kennett will meet to tell the Heritage Centre they are activating the break clause and also to discuss their future.

**6. TO DISCUSS GRANT APPLICATIONS.**

This was deferred and applications since some are dated some months back are looked into.

**7. TO APPOINT A CHAIRMAN FOR THE SKATE PARK PROJECT COMMITTEE.**

This was deferred until January. The Council agreed to look at this skate Park Committee become a Working Party with Terms of Reference being "To deliver the Skate Park Project".

This would enable the Committee to bring onto it outside experienced people to work on this project with Councillors.

The Finance Officer raised concerns about meeting the deadline for the completion of a number of documents that Planning are requesting to be sent in with their planning application. The Clerk will assist the Finance Officer with them this week.

**8.a WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF FINANCE IT IS PROPOSED TO FORM A FINANCE SUB COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL MADE UP OF 7 MEMBERS INCLUDING THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL**

Councillors discussed this proposal which would allow at full Council Councillors not on the Finance Committee to allow additional scrutiny of the proposals made by finance to the Council.

**RESOLVED:-**

That a Financial Sub-Committee be formed of 7 Members including the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council.

**b. WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF PLANNING IT IS PROPOSED TO FORM A PLANNING SUB COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL MADE UP OF 7 MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL INCLUDING THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL. THAT COUNCILLORS NOT ON THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MAY ATTEND THE MEETING IF THEY WISH TO SPEAK ON A PLANNING APPLICATION IN THEIR WARD.**

Councillors discussed this proposal and rejected it.

**9. TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM CLLR THOMAS ON WORK SHE HAS BEEN INVOLVED WITH THAT WILL BENEFIT OUR LOCAL RESIDENTS.**

Cllr Thomas reported that a Fall Prevention leaflet has been prepared and asked Councillors to let her know of any local networks and also how many leaflets those networks would need for them to distribute the leaflet to their members. She asked that this information is sent on her works email.

She informed the Council she is working on a local Emergency Plan /Resilience Plan. Up to date documents are needed. We need to have Parish documents enabling us to active while waiting for the IWC to come in as that will take time which is the Council's Resilience Team. We need our own Resilience Plan especially with local Risk of flooding and we need to look at ways we communicate locally with all of our residents.

It was suggested we will need to have a meeting to discuss updating our present plans and as a Council we need to become prepared for all type of events.

**10. CLERK TO REPORT ON CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED.**

Correspondence has been received the Ability Dogs Newsletter and a thank you letter for the Grant from the Prostate Group.

**Cllr Kennett reported that the only venue that was free to meet the Public was on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January at the Methodists Church for public to discuss their thoughts on the Precept. The Clerk would talk to the staff about this.**

Signed

Dated

