



FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL
Council Chamber, Memorial Hall, Avenue Road,
Freshwater, Isle of Wight.

Telephone 01983 752000 Email clerk@freshwater-parish.org.uk

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL THAT WAS HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT THE MEMORIAL HALL FRESHWATER AT 18.45HRS ON 7th NOVEMBER 2023

2 Members of the Public were present.

MEMBERS PRESENT:- Cllr Kennett (Chairman), Cllr Jarman, Cllr Thomas, Cllr James, Cllr Banford, Cllr Hobbs, Cllr Hicklin,, Cllr Bray, and Cllr Cox,

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Medland and Cllr Hinton. Cllr Spink also sent his apologies as he had to attend Isle of Wight Council Scrutiny Committee 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 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 10th October 2023 were agreed and duly signed.

4. TO ACCEPT WRITTEN REPORTES FROM FRESHWATER WARD COUNCILLORS /Questions and update session (up to 15 minutes from all Councillors)

Cllr Jarman read out Cllrs Spinks report and it was duly noted.(Copy of report attached to these minutes)

Cllr Jarman read out his report and it was duly noted.(Copy of report attached to the minutes)

The Chairman thanked Cllr Jarman for the reports.

It was agreed to send to the Councillors information from the Foot-Print Trust on their free Water Butts.

5. TO RECEIVE REPORT ON THE MOBILE SAUNA AT FRESHWATER BAY – Cllr James/Rob de Bank

The Chairman welcomed Rob de Bank to the Meeting.

Cllr James and Rob de Bank reported back on the 28-day trial on the mobile sauna at Freshwater Bay that the Council had given permission for a trial period. They are looking to Council to enable them to become a year-round facility and applying for planning permission to carry this out.

It was suggested to them that they were looking for an Agreement in Principle Looking for an agreement in principle and were seeking Councils permission to obtain planning permission to do so.

The Councils permission is being sort to obtain planning permission and for the Parish Council to make that application as it is on Parish Land. Cllr James is willing to supply support on paper work and there be no cost to the Parish Council.

Councillors discussed the proposal and the Clerk suggested the Council needed to et an agreement in principle before planning permission was sort. She suggested the following wording:-

This will give the Council all the headings that they will need to form the basis of a legal agreement.

Councillors proposed and seconded the following motion:-

The Council reaches an agreement in Principle so that the Council could explore with Cllr James and Rob de Bank the obtaining of planning permission and also bringing together any information that is required for planning permission and the costs involved.

This resolution was approved.

6. B. TO RATIFY MONTHLY ACCOUNTS (Referred from October Finance Meeting)

The Chairman welcomed the Finance Officer to the meeting.

Councillors asked various questions on the payment sheets to which the Finance Officer gave appropriate answers.

It was duly proposed and seconded to ratify the monthly accounts for September and October.

RESOLVED:-

That the September 23 and the October 23 Monthly Accounts were ratified.

7. A. TO REVIEW POTENTIAL SPENDING NEEDS FROM THE FINANCIAL PAPER CIRCULATED FOR THE FORTHCOMING FINANCIAL YEAR 2024-25

The Financial Officer produced Proposed Budgets for 2024/25 showing a budgets with a 5%, 7% and 10% precept increases. Councillors discussed the draft proposals and asked various questions to which appropriate answers were given.

It was asked about the Band D property figure but the Clerk informed the Council it was not out yet as she had tried to get it is late being sent out but as soon as she receives it, she would circulate it with a breakdown of how much it would be per property.

Cllr Jarman says they can now break down things into Separate financial project and break down each one into segments. He gave an example of how it could be done using Moa toilets to demonstrate this. This means budgets can be broken down into ongoing costs (which are your projects) and others into basic budget.

It was asked if costs stay the same what is effect on community grants on % if all grant money not spent. It was said the reserves will increase.

The Finance Officer was thanked for all the work he had put in on the draft budget.

**8. GOING FORWARD CONSULTATION. (– if Memorial Hall is not already booked.)
To discuss preparation for the Public Consultation on the Council's budget on 17th January 2024.**

The Memorial Hall is not available 17th January 24 as the Council cannot get an all-day booking.

Cllr Thomas suggested that the Methodist Hall could be booked if available on that date as it has got parking. She agreed to look if it was free.

Cllr Thomas suggested that we approach the school to see about the children doing a competition and for their work to be put on display so the parents could see it.

It was suggested that a map of Freshwater showing all the Councils projects and costings was put on display for the Public to see.

The Clerk was asked about the Grants that were awarded at the Finance Meeting being ratified by this meeting.

The Clerk responded by saying since the whole Council sits on the Finance Committee Meeting and they had agreed to the Grants that were awarded to the applicants the whole

Council had in effect approved the Grants so it was unnecessary to bring them to this meeting.

She advised the Council that a Finance Meeting should be a sub-committee of the Council and be made up of about a number of members and then recommendations of the grants being awarded should then be then brought forward to the Council for ratification.

I thought your Standing Orders would reflect the fact that all Members of the Council are on your Finance Committee so there is no point in them being taken to the Council.

Cllr Jarman asked the meeting to ratifying the finance grants.

RESOLVED:-

That the Grants were ratified.

It was agreed a Vote of Thanks be sent to the Staff.

Signed

Date

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION AFTER THE AGENDA WAS COMPLETED AND THESE DO NOT FORM PART OF THE COUNCIL MINUTES.

1. Cllr Jarman advised about complaints he had received about Moa parking machine. It has been tested and the machine does take 5p and people have been paying in 5p's Help for the Office was raised and there is going to be a staffing meeting arranged.
2. Availability of looking at Grant Application was raised. This was then discussed **The Council accepted the suggestion that 1 week before a Finance Meeting that is to discuss any Grant Applications, the Councillor who wished to look at the application has to make an appointment before they go into the Office to look at the documents.**
3. It was raised about people who work and cannot get into the Office during the day but want to see the applications.
4. The Clerk responded that the staff at this moment have not got time to scan them and send them out for Councillors who work full time. The Council is in a difficult position at the moment.
5. Staffing issues were raised and the Chairman raised about next year's budget on staffing. The Clerk commented on the Finance Officers hours as she thought they needed upping .
It was pointed out that Staffing matters cannot be discussed in public.
Cllr Cox mentioned about a Staffing Committee with an outside body reviewing staff. She was asked if they had consulted their unions if you are including an outside body. The Chairman said that a Staffing Committee would be called.