



**FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Parish Office 01983 752000**

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON  
TUESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> MARCH AT 7.50 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MEMORIAL  
HALL, FRESHWATER**

**PRESENT:** Councillors: G Kennett (Chair), A Bamford, C Bray, E Cox (from 8.20), B Hinton MBE, D Hicklin, B Hobbs, D James, C Jarman, N Thomas, F Turan and W Whyte

Members of the public: 2

Clerk: H Rowell

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- 1. APOLOGIES:**  
Councillors: J Medland, E Cox (who will be late due to attending the IWC Planning Committee Meeting).
- 2. TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 6<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2024.**  
The minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> February (having been circulated) were agreed (CB/AB).
- 3. TO INVITE COUNCILLORS TO DECLARE AN INTEREST IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA.**  
Cllr Hinton MBE declared an interest in item 12 as a Trustee of Dimbola.
- 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 COUNCILLORS.**  
Reports received see Appendix 1. Cllr Jarman confirmed that he and Cllr Spink were doing their best to cover Cllr Medland's Ward work during his absence. Cllr Spink sent apologies for the meeting.
- 6. CLERK'S REPORT (CIRCULATED TO COUNCILLORS).**  
**Consultation**

The Parish Council Consultation held on the 27<sup>th</sup> January at the Methodist Church, was very well attended, at least 60 people registered on the day. Some comments were posted by residents (attached for councillors).

### **Administration Assistant**

Sadly Clodagh Pearce has resigned her position as Administration Assistant and her employment with the Parish Council will cease on the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The Staffing Committee are meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> March to discuss the vacancy.

### **Memorial Hall**

At the last management meeting the flooding in the back garden was discussed & a decision was made by the committee to obtain quotes to have the drain connected to the nearest sewer & then to make good the surface as this is broken & damaged due to the retention of the water. MHALCo will arrange for the quotes and send them to both Freshwater Parish Council and Totland Parish Council for consideration.

### **Heritage Centre**

We have received confirmation of the termination of the lease with a number of conditions that we need to fulfil before the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

### **Grant Funding**

We have received a thank you from Freshwater and Yarmouth School for the £1,000 donated towards musical equipment along with the invoices detailing what has been purchased.

### **Library**

We have received an email from Rob Jones (IWC) on his retirement thanking the Parish Council for their support with maintaining Freshwater Library. The Clerk has written to Rob thanking him for his work and wishing him a well-deserved and happy retirement.

### **Meeting for Chairs and Clerks with IWC**

The Clerk and Chair have been invited to a meeting with all town, parish and community councils and the IWC to discuss future governance. The meeting is due to be held at the end of March.

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE.**

Noted.

## **8. TO AGREE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT - LIST CIRCULATED TO COUNCILLORS FOR INFORMATION.**

Payments were agreed.

**9. IWALC REPORT - CLLR BAMFORD.**

IWALC is working more closely with the IWC. There is a new training programme underway starting with a Basic Planning Course. There is a new style newsletter, and it would be good to see some content from Freshwater Parish Council.

**10. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE – CLLR JARMAN.**

The following grants were agreed as recommended by the Finance Committee: West Wight Sports and Community Centre (WWSCC): a) contribution to the chemical dosing system - £8,600, and b) contribution towards electric heaters to improve efficiency - £10,000.

West Wight Churches Together Youth Project - £3,000.

FYT Bus - £5000.

It was agreed in addition to provide Independent Arts with a grant of £960.00 to support the Sing About Sessions held in the Memorial Hall Freshwater. The proposal from the Finance Committee had been to not support this application. Clarity at the meeting determined that there had been some misunderstanding about the application and it was Freshwater specific, not all island as originally thought, so it was proposed to disregard the Finance Committee recommendation and award the grant to benefit Freshwater residents.

**11. SPINFISH UPDATE.**

Rights of Way have agreed to meet the Parish Council on site to discuss the problem, and we are still waiting to hear from the Flood Manager at the IWC.

**12. UPDATE ON THE LADY OF SHALLOT – CLLRS JAMES AND HINTON MBE.**

Dimbola will be commissioning ground works to commence in May for the installation of the statue. Grant application has been made to cover the cost. Any help by Cllr Bray would be welcomed by Dimbola to ensure that the planting around the statue is appropriate.

**13. UPDATE ON CRICKET CLUB CONTAINER ON JUBILEE FIELD – CLLRS JAMES AND KENNETT.**

The Cricket Club would like reassurance that the Parish Council is happy with the siting of the container for their equipment. They have spoken to WWSCC who are happy. The siting of the container was agreed. The Cricket Club will be painting it and it was agreed to request that the Football Club also tidy up and paint their container.

**14. APPOINT A COMMITTEE MEMBER FOR THE BOAT PARK COMMITTEE .**

Cllr Anne Bamford was elected to join the Boat Park Committee.

**15. TO AGREE SPEAKERS FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ON 19<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2024.**

The following suggestions were made: Mermaid Atlantic Rowing Team, West Wight Churches Together Youth Workers, Local PCSO.

**16. TO AGREE PROPOSED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COUNCILLORS.**

- Gate Lane Toilets Committee

That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

**17. STAFFING COMMITTEE REPORT – CLLR JAMES**

A Staffing Committee Meeting is being held at 6pm tomorrow to discuss the Administration Assistant role and what is needed.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.