



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

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL HELD  
ON TUESDAY 4<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2025 AT 8.10 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
MEMORIAL HALL, FRESHWATER**

**PRESENT:** Councillors: E Cox (Chair), T Armstrong, A Bamford, D Hicklin, B Hinton  
MBE, B Hobbs, D James, C Jarman, K Sloan-Murphy, N Thomas and F Turan .

Members of the public: 3

Clerk: M Gardiner

In attendance Finance Officer – P Blackley

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1. **APOLOGIES:** Councillor Whyte.
2. **TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 14<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2025 AND THE MINUTES OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER 2024 – DEFERRED FROM JANUARY**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025 (having been circulated) were **AGREED** (FT/KSM)

The minutes of the meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024 (having been circulated) were **AGREED** (CJ/NT)

3. **TO INVITE COUNCILLORS TO DECLARE AN INTEREST IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA.**  
Councillor Sloan-Murphy works for Richard Quigley MP
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.**

Report received and circulated from Councillor Spink.

**6. CHAIR'S REPORT**

This month has been shorter than usual as there has only been 3 weeks since our last meeting. I have been quite busy with Parish business. I enjoyed the Public Consultation Day, meeting with our residents, sharing what we do and giving a platform for local community groups to tell residents about the work they do.

Tuesday 29th January

I visited Freshwater Bay to put a notice on our board. I was unable to park in the Isle of Wight Council car park as the road was closed due to flooding and tonnes of pebbles which should have been on the beach. The revetment looked quite battered and the benches on the promenade were mostly covered with pebbles, one bench only being visible for the top inch or so. As Chair of the Land Management and Assets Committee, I was concerned for any damage to the area which may need repairs. As a local resident I was very glad I always remember not to drive down by the Bay in stormy weather.

15 January

I attended my last weekly meeting with Heather Rowell. Emma Carter and Paul Blackley were in attendance. Normally we have a catch up on items currently being worked on within the Parish. The meeting concentrated on ensuring that Emma and Paul were fully briefed on the full council meeting on the 14 January.

16 January IWALC Cabinet Meeting

I attended the above meeting along with Councillor Sloan Murphy. Unfortunately, there were some IT issues and many councillors had problems accessing the meeting. Wendy Perera was in attendance and gave councillors information relating to devolution. The meeting was well attended.

The IWALC Cabinet meetings are open for any councillor whose Council is a member of IWALC. Councillors are sent a link via their Clerk to attend online. The meetings give councillors an opportunity to ask questions to the Cabinet members directly. Each councillor may ask any question they wish to. The questions are not limited to specific topics, although whilst Councillor Bamford was Chair, guest speakers had begun to be invited for topic sessions. Participants are not usually charged with asking questions on the behalf of their Council nor are they required to report back with information gained unless they wish to do so. I would encourage any councillor who has the time and availability to attend at least a few of these meetings as they are a valuable source of

information. They are also a good introduction to other councillors from across the Island.

We are waiting for an update from the IW Council to all Parishes as to how the relationship with County Hall will be in the future under the new Committee system. I hope these meetings will continue.

21 January

The Planning and Land Management and Asset Committee meetings were cancelled.

I attended a now weekly meeting with Paul Blackley, I expect these meetings to continue for some time. These meetings allow me to better understand the finance of the Parish Council and assist with some of the paperwork.

22 January

My Monday meetings with Heather have come to an end and I now attend Wednesday meetings with the Clerks. We discuss all issues concerning the Parish, and I hope these meetings will ensure the smooth running of the Parish until a new Clerk is appointed.

23 January

I attended a Freshwater Bay Residents Association meeting at the invitation of the Chair Neil Aplin. Councillor Jarman was also in attendance. Councillor Jarman attended in a private capacity to give a presentation on his Community Interest Community. There was an update from the local speedwatch group. We were also informed that a section of hedge near Freshwater Bay approximately 10 metres in length will be laid using traditional techniques. We were warned in the first year the section will look quite bare, as the technique normally takes several years to fill back out. Hedge laying is a huge benefit to wildlife.

25 January Freshwater Parish Council Annual Public Consultation

I would like to thank Councillors Armstrong, Bamford, Hobbs, James, Jarman, Sloan Murphy, Thomas and Turan for their attendance on the day. I would like to particularly like to thank Councillor Sloan Murphy who attended despite feeling quite poorly and soldiered on regardless.

A number of local community groups attended, Natural Enterprises, the West Wight Sports and Community Centre, Totland Scouts, Men in Sheds, Ability Dogs 4 Young People, Alzheimer Cafe Totland and Community Connector I would like to thank these groups for their support on the day.

The Consultation gives us a chance to meet and speak with residents and I was disappointed that the number of members of the public who came was lower than in 2024. I would also like to report that no one came into the hall after 4 pm. I decided at 5.30 pm to end the consultation early, the community groups apart from Natural Enterprises had all left by 5 pm. Councillors may wish to reconsider the details for the consultation in 2026.

27 January

I attended a Personnel Committee meeting chaired by Councillor James with Councillors Bamford and Jarman also present. The meeting is considered confidential due to the nature of the discussions. Councillor James will report directly to the Full Council.

29 January Site visit for planning application 24/01896/out

I attended the planning committee site visit organised by Emma Carter. Councillors also in attendance Armstrong and Turan. I would like to thank Martha James, the agent for the application for organising the visit for councillors.

**7. CLERK'S REPORT (CIRCULATED TO COUNCILLORS).**

**Tree Survey**

The Deputy Clerk Emma Carter has now received the completed Tree Survey report. The next task is to go through and see what the recommend works are – referred to Land Management and Assets Committee as this falls within their responsibilities.

**MUGA Shelter**

The Parish facilities Officer has removed the shelter at the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA). Remedial works will need to be carried out to 'make good' the area of land.  
**COMPLETED**

**Moa Place Telephone Box**

The Deputy Clerk Emma Carter has received a quotation to have the Telephone Box at Moa Place refurbished. This will be carried out when the weather is suitable.

**Tenders**

The Land Management grass cutting and cleaning tenders have been advertised. Both have been advertised on the relevant government and Isle of Wight County Press websites plus also in the IWCP paper. There has been interest expressed against both tenders, but no quotations have so far been received.

### **Spinfish**

The contractor has been contacted and notified that their bid has been successful. The deputy clerk Emma Carter is currently waiting on a date for the work to commence. It has been confirmed that the water levels will need to drop before work can start. So ideally around late spring weather dependent but confirmation will be received before any work is started.

### **Clive Fleury**

The Deputy Clerk Emma Carter has written to Churchers Solicitors in respect of the Estate of the Late Clive Fleury (deceased). A cheque will be sent to Freshwater Parish Council with regards to the legacy of £1,000. This will be added to the Community Grants Fund as per Clive's wish.

### **Play Equipment**

The Deputy Clerk Emma Carter has now received two quotations for a replacement trim trail, Seesaw and nest swing. A third supplier still needs to be sourced, and a site meeting arranged.

### **New Skate Park/ Pump Track**

A percolation test has been carried out and completed on the Stroud Recreation Ground by Dial a Rod Engineering Services Limited, and then, sent to Gravity Engineering Limited for their response to the results of the test.

### **Website.**

Councillor James contacted the office with regards to a website he found. Deputy Clerk Emma Carter confirmed that it was nothing to do with the Parish Council and that it is part of the Community Action Initiative. Confirmation was also given that every parish council on the Isle of Wight has a page and that there is nothing on it that can't be found either on the Parish website or the Isle of Wight Council website.

## **8. CORRESPONDENCE.**

An email was received from a resident to confirm that another one of the gabions along Spinfish is collapsing. These were flagged up last year as being in need of replacement in the near future – **It was agreed to refer this matter to the Land Management and Asset Committee.**

An email from Ability 4 dogs has been received thanking the Parish Council for allowing them to attend the Consultation Day.

An email has been received from the architects of the Albion Hotel asking if the Parish Councillors wished to have a tour of the site again. This would enable them to show work that has been completed and talk about the plans they still have. The meeting is

currently slated for Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 12.30pm on site. **It was agreed to ask the Albion Hotel if an evening visit could be arranged to enable Councillors who are not available in the day to attend.**

The Chair has received an email from Graham Biss requesting an update on their grant application. The Chair will request for this to be on the next Finance Agenda.

Correspondence received from PO Services regarding the Hearing sessions of the examination of the Isle of Wight Local Plan. The original email invitation sent on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024 cannot be. As the first session is to be held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025 which is now too late for Councillors to make representations it was felt that it was important that Councillors do not miss such an opportunity again. **The Chair has requested that Officers email the author of the PO Services email requesting a copy of the original email.**

9. **a. TO AGREE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT - LIST CIRCULATED TO COUNCILLORS FOR INFORMATION.**  
**Payments (having been circulated) were AGREED. (NT/DH)**
- b. TO AGREE THE BANK RECONCILIATION – The bank reconciliation (having been circulated) was AGREED. (CJ/NT)**
- c. TO AGREE THE BUDGET FORECAST FOR 2024-2025 – DEFERRED FROM JANUARY MEETING - AGREED (CJ/NT)**
- d. TO AGREE THE PRECEPT FOR 2025/2026 –** It was resolved to accept the 9% precept increase to allow for the anticipated rise in contract costs in the 2025/26 financial year – **AGREED (NT/CJ)**
10. **TO CONSIDER THE UPDATED RISK REGISTER (PAPER COPIES TO BE GIVEN TO COUNCILLORS) TO BE RATIFIED 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH MEETING.**  
Copies of the updated Risk Register were supplied to Councillors for consideration. Councillors are requested to make any comments to Officers by the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025. This will allow officers to consider comments and make any adjustments required before the report is brought back to full council on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025 for ratification.
11. **REVIEW OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION DAY ON THE 26<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2025.**  
The Chair thanks all Councillors for attending the consultation and apologised that banners advertising the consultation were not produced.

There were approximately 30-40 attendees which is lower than previous years. There were two written comments, both relating to Island Roads which will be forwarded on to them for their attention.

Councillors may wish to consider a change of venue/time or a return to the previous two sessions for future consultations.

**It was agreed that the Chair would produce a guidance sheet/policy and events box for future Parish Council events.**

**12. CURRENT SKATE PARK UPDATE – Councillor Cox.**

Proposed to defer to the land management and assets committee until further updates are available – **It was agreed to defer the future use of the Skate Park to Land Management and Assets Committee.**

**13. THE CHAIR PROPOSES THE FOLLOWING: - TO NOMINATE COUNCILLOR JAMES TO BEGIN AN OVERVIEW OF THE CURRENT & FUTURE AGREEMENT BETWEEN FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL, TOTLAND PARISH COUNCIL AND THE MEMORIAL HALL COMMITTEE FOR REPORTING PURPOSES ONLY - AGREED (EC/KSM)**

**The Chair of the Parish Council read out a letter she received from Totland Parish Council dated 21st January 2025 and Councillor Bamford requested the following be minuted.**

Councillor Bamford objects to the notion that another Parish Council can talk on behalf of the Memorial Hall Arts and Leisure Company (MALCO).

**14. TO AGREE THE QUOTES FOR REPLACING THE BINS ON THE STROUD/BLACK HUT GREEN AND AT FRESHWATER BAY. – REFERRED TO THE LAND MANAGEMENT AND ASSETS COMMITTEE**

It was resolved that Councillor James investigate the cost of purchasing second hand bins from Ebay or similar sites. **AGREED (DJ/TA)**

**15. CO-OPTION A NEW COUNCILLORS**

Full council voted to co-opt two new candidates to Council having each given a brief presentation and votes duly counted.

The candidates were instructed to contact the Clerk during office hours to sign their declarations of acceptance.

**16. TO INVITE ALL COUNCILLORS TO JOIN SUB COMMITTEES (CIRCULATED TO COUNCILLORS) APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AS FOLLOWS:**

It was resolved that Councillor Sloan-Murphy is now a member of the finance committee.  
**- AGREED**

It was resolved that Mrs Knowles in principle will join the Land Management and Asset Committee and the Personnel Committee on completion of all necessary paperwork and accepted by the Clerk of the Parish Council - **AGREED (EC/DJ)**.

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. TO RECEIVE & CONSIDER THE LIBRARY LIFE LINE QUOTE**

Quotations for the Fire Alarm maintenance (contract) and zone alarm plan were received.  
– **AGREED (BH/BH)**

**18. THE RECEIVE & CONSIDER THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION.**

Councillor James gave an update on the recruitment process for the new Clerk/RFO. There was a good level of applications, and five applicants were shortlisted for interview. Two interviews have taken place at the current time with a further due to be held on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February and the remaining interviews to take place the following week. Councillor James hopes to have a recommendation by the date of the next planning meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

The meeting closed at 9.37pm.