



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

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL HELD  
ON TUESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2025 AT 8.10 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
MEMORIAL HALL, FRESHWATER**

**PRESENT:** Councillors: E Cox (Chair), T Armstrong, A Bamford, D Hicklin, D James, C Jarman, K Sloan-Murphy, N Thomas (until 9.15pm) and F Turan .

Members of the public: 2 including Cllr Spink

Clerk: H Rowell

In attendance Finance Officer – P Blackley

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- 1. APOLOGIES:**  
Councillors: B Hinton MBE, B Hobbs and W Whyte.
- 2. TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 3<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER 2024 AND THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING ON THE 16<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2024.**  
The minutes of the meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December (having been circulated) were deferred to the next meeting. The minutes of the extraordinary meeting (having been circulated) held on the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024 were agreed (AB/FT).
- 3. TO INVITE COUNCILLORS TO DECLARE AN INTEREST IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA.**  
None
- 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.**  
Written reports have been received from Cllr Spink and Cllr Jarman (see Appendix 1).

## 6. CHAIR'S REPORT

It was with great sadness I received the resignation of the Clerk Heather Rowell over the Christmas period. I wish to extend my personal gratitude to Heather for all of her support during my time as a Parish Councillor. In particular I would like to thank Heather for always being available to listen and advise me during my tenure as Chair of the Parish Council. Heather, you will be missed.

I hope both Councillors and officers alike enjoyed the Festive Season, however or whatever you choose to do during those two weeks.

12 December 2024 - I attended part of the IWALC Cabinet meeting, unfortunately I was late logging on due to receiving an unexpected telephone call. I was then unable to remain within the conversation due to technical difficulties. I was delighted to receive my first link to these important meetings for some time and hope to attend the IWALC Cabinet meeting on Thursday. I have been informed that Wendy Perera will be attending to discuss devolution with Councillors.

16 December 2024 - I called an extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council to discuss planning application 24/01230/rvc Land at east of birch close which was discussed at the Isle of Wight Planning Committee on 17 December 2024. Councillors determined through debate a statement to be read at the meeting and the Clerk volunteered to speak on behalf of the Parish Council at County Hall. The statement read as follows:-

*Freshwater Parish Council attends this meeting on behalf of its residents and to give voice to their continued concerns regarding this development site. Our residents continue to believe that the site is unsuitable for the planned development however the Parish Council accepts the validity of the planning consent. The Parish Council will limit our response to the concerns raised by the proposed Variation of condition 11, to allow the development to take place with a Traffic Regulation Order to be in place prior to occupation of housing rather than prior to commencement of development.*

*The importance of planning conditions is key to good development and to mitigate any impacts.*

*The planning application was given full planning permission by the LPA planning committee on the recommendation of the planning officers. The committee considered the report produced at that time by officers and agreed to the consent with the planning conditions attached, as such it is considered that the conditions were deemed appropriate and proportionate.*

*The Town and Country Planning (Pre-commencement Conditions) Regulations 2018 states:*

*A pre-commencement condition must not be imposed on the grant of permission without the written agreement of the applicant.*

*Therefore, it is clear to the Parish Council that both the IW Council and the applicant agreed that this condition was necessary and appropriate for the consent to be given.*

*The Parish Council would like to clarify that there have been no material changes to the site since the planning consent was given. This is nothing more than an attempt to circumvent the condition.*

*The Parish Council remains concerned that a decision today in favour of the applicant will not result in the agreement by the IW Council to consent to a TRO being approved for the development to proceed. Our residents will continue to live with uncertainty. The Parish Council considers that the TRO should be acquired prior to the commencement of the site being developed. This would give certainty to all affected by any possible TRO. The applicant acknowledges there is an issue because they themselves are suggesting a temporary TRO is necessary.*

*Removal of this TRO prior to commencement achieves nothing more than removing democratic and public scrutiny.*

*Freshwater Parish Council requests on behalf of the residents of the Parish that the Planning Committee refuse the application for the reasons given here today.*

17 December 2024 - The application as discussed above was refused by the Isle of Wight Planning Committee.

17 December - I attended the Land Management committee meeting following the Planning Committee meeting, I have submitted a report for Councillors to consider.

30 December - I attended All Saints Church in Freshwater and removed the Parish Council's Christmas tree from the Church. I would like to thank Cllrs Armstrong and Turan for their superbly decorated tree. I would also like to thank Cllr Turan and her son for the wonderful images he created, they were the main part of the display, and the additional decorations supplied by Cllr Turan. The event was well supported and the visitor numbers were increased from 2023.

6 January 2025 - I attended a Personnel Committee meeting Chaired by Cllr James, also present were Cllrs Bamford and Whyte, the meeting was clerked by Heather Rowell. This meeting will be reported to the Full Council by Cllr James.

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

**Co-option**

A notice was published before Christmas requesting that anyone who would be interested in being Co-opted onto the Parish Council get in touch before the 9<sup>th</sup> January. Unfortunately, I haven't received any applications.

**Land Management Contracts**

The current contract with Ide Verde expires at the end of March 2025 and it was agreed by Council to request a quote from them to continue for a further 12 months. The quote they have provided for a one-year extension "Based on our current agreement and specification with the services we provide, the indicative price would be £44325 plus vat." Which equates to £3693.75 a month The current contract value is: £1997.34 a month and £23,968.08 a year. This would be an increase of £1696.41 a month plus VAT. We currently pay 1,239.89 plus vat a month for the large tractor work and 757.45 plus vat a month for the manorial land work.

It was agreed to go out to tender for these contracts (CJ/DH).

**Youth Shelter**

The Youth Shelter is in the process of being dismantled and removed. Some work will then need to be done to the concrete base so that it is not a trip hazard.

**8. CORRESPONDENCE.**

A letter has been received from Churchers Solicitors in respect of the Estate of the Late Clive Fleury (deceased). Freshwater Parish Council have been left a legacy of £1,000 with the wish the money is added to the Community Grants Fund. The Clerk will write to the Solicitors acknowledging this legacy. The Finance Committee will determine how this is incorporated into next year's Community Grants Fund.

- 9. TO AGREE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT - LIST CIRCULATED TO COUNCILLORS FOR INFORMATION.**  
Accounts were agreed and accepted (AB/NT). (See Appendix 2).
- 10. TO AGREE THE BUDGET FORECAST FOR 2024/25.**  
This will be deferred until the next meeting.
- 11. TO AGREE THE PLAN FOR THE ANNUAL CONSULTATION DAY ON THE 25<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2025.**  
The consultation will run from 11am until 7pm. Councillors provided information about when they would be in attendance. Cllr Thomas provided an update on the school's project and all Children will get a certificate in respect of their contribution.
- 12. TO AGREE THE UPDATED RISK REGISTER.**  
It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.
- 13. TO AGREE THAT CLLR KELLY SLOAN-MURPHY JOINS THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE.**  
Cllr Sloan-Murphy was elected to join the Library Committee.
- 14. TO AGREE THE UPDATED ALLOTMENT TENANCY AGREEMENT.**  
The updated agreement was agreed.
- 15. TO AGREE THE LAND MANAGEMENT AND ASSETS COMMITTEE INTERIM PLAN - CLLR COX.**  
This item was deferred to the next meeting.
- 16. TO AGREE THE RESERVES POLICY**  
This item was deferred to the next meeting.
- 17. TO AGREE PROPOSED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COUNCILLORS.**
  - The future of the Memorial Hall
  - The Moa Place Telephone Box

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.

**18. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE.**

The Committee discussed the role of the Clerk and RFO. The post has been advertised with a closing date of the 25<sup>th</sup> January. The Personnel Committee will meet on the 27<sup>th</sup> January to consider the applications and short list them for interview. It was also agreed that the current Clerk would support the transition providing a maximum of 8 hours a week if needed until the end of March 2025 on a self-employed basis. This was ratified by full council.

**19. TO CONSIDER THE QUOTES FOR THE WORK AT SPINFISH.**

It was agreed to accept the quote from Coughlan's including the additional work as quoted and advised by Mayer Brown.

**20. TO AGREE A WAY FORWARD FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE DEFIBRILLATOR AT THE MEMORIAL HALL.**

It was agreed to pay for the replacement of the defibrillator at the Memorial Hall, which was installed during the Christmas break. Isle of Wight Defibrillators will check the defibrillator monthly free of charge. It was agreed to contact Isle of Wight Defibrillators to have our own arrangement with them and write to Totland Parish Council and request that in future we will manage this process ourselves.

The meeting closed at 9.27pm.