



**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> NOVEMBER 2024 AT 7.31 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
MEMORIAL HALL, FRESHWATER**

**PRESENT:** Councillors: E Cox (Chair), T Armstrong, A Bamford, B Hobbs, D James, C Jarman (until 8.40pm), K Sloan-Murphy, N Thomas (until 9pm) and F Turan .

Members of the public: 3 including Cllr Spink

Clerk: H Rowell

In attendance Finance Officer – P Blackley

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Graham Biss – Natural Enterprises, and Laura Stichbury – Footprint Trust presented their project funding requests.

**1. APOLOGIES:**

Councillors: B Hinton MBE, and W Whyte.

**ABSENT:**

Councillor D Hicklin.

**2. TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL  
MEETING HELD ON THE 1<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2024.**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 1<sup>st</sup> October (having been circulated) were agreed (KS-M/TA).

**3. TO INVITE COUNCILLORS TO DECLARE AN INTEREST IN MATTERS ON  
THE AGENDA.**

Cllr Cox declared an interest in grant application from the Footprint Trust as her partner is a Trustee.

**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

5th October I was invited and attended the Freshwater Conservative Club charity and open day. I spoke to a number of local groups and individuals but sadly did not win on the tombola.

10th October I met with Kelly Wetherick the Curator and Education Co-ordinator at Dimbola, we discussed their ongoing and future projects including the Lady of Shalott.

10th October At the request of the Clerk I attended a meeting organised by the Clerk of Totland Parish Council, Helen Gibbs to discuss the future of the Memorial Hall. Also present were Gareth Wyre Totland Parish Council Chair, Jan Cave Totland Parish Council Vice Chair and Hilary Benns. They are the current members of Totland Parish Council who serve on Memorial Hall, Arts and Leisure Company. Unfortunately, no Memorial Hall and Leisure Arts Company, members from Freshwater Parish Council were able to attend.

The discussion was wide ranging and background information was shared with myself as I have not served on the Memorial Hall Arts and Leisure Company. It was agreed that the meeting was useful, both Councils expressed a hope to work together in the future when it was in the interest of our respective and shared communities.

The renewal of the lease arrangements for the Hall were discussed and it was agreed that Helen would look over the lease and send Totland Parish Council's suggested revisions to the Clerk.

We were informed the annual Christmas lunch at the Memorial Hall will be held on the 3rd December. Although I will be working in the morning, I will attend, hopefully arriving during the meal and staying to help with the clean up once all the guests have gone home.

Totland Parish Council expressed their goal to sell their part ownership of the Memorial Hall at the meeting. The issue has been raised with Freshwater Parish Council in the past. If Councillors are minded we could add this as a future agenda item.

Totland Parish Council have informed us that they do not intend to pay towards the maintenance/repairs of the hall lift as they have no use of it.

11th October I attended the Christmas Working Group along with the Deputy Clerk Emma Carter, Cllrs Armstrong and Turan. Also present were Assistant Clerk Mel Gardiner and Vice Chair Cllr Whyte. The meeting was useful and I have submitted a report.

15th October I attended the Finance Meeting and would like to thank the Finance Officer Paul Blackley and the Chair of Finance Cllr Thomas for their work to date on the budget.

21st October I attended a meeting with Cllr James and the Clerk, with Neil Aplin and Nadine from Freshwater Bay Resident's Association. Neil is the current chair of Freshwater Bay Resident's Association. We discussed the emails we had received from Freshwater Bay Resident's Association and the Council's response. I would like to thank both Neil and Nadine for attending the meeting. The discussion was felt to be useful, and we hope that moving forward we will be able to work together for the benefit of the community. It was agreed at the meeting that I would ask the Parish Council to nominate a representative to liaise with Freshwater Bay Resident's Association. The role would be to keep Freshwater Bay Resident's Association up to date with any issues that the Council felt fell within the interests of Freshwater Bay Resident's Association and their members. I said I would volunteer for this role myself, but the decision would be that of the Full Council. I was invited to attend the Freshwater Bay Resident's Association meeting on 24th October.

I would like to thank Cllr James for his support at the meeting.

**It was agreed that Cllr Emma Cox would be the Parish Council representative and liaison with Freshwater Bay Residents Association.**

21st October The Clerk and I met with a resident who along with his neighbour is experiencing issues with tree roots from trees on our land. The Clerk has agreed to investigate the issue and we are waiting for further information and evidence from the resident and their neighbour.

22nd October The Clerk and I met with Mark Downer from parking services at the IW Council at Moa Place to discuss the current and future charging points for cars within the car park. We highlighted to Mr Downer that the IW Council had not informed the Parish Council prior to the works being completed. We were disappointed that the IW Council had placed infrastructure on our land without our prior knowledge. Mr Downer shared the information that another two charging points are planned for the car park along with additional signage. Mr Downer agreed to keep the Parish Council informed by contacting the Clerk in regard to these matters in the future.

24th October I attended the Freshwater Bay Resident's Association Annual General Meeting at the Parish Hall in Victoria Hall. Cllrs Jarman and Turan were also in attendance. Freshwater Bay Resident's Association had a presentation made to them by

Graham Biss Managing Director Natural Enterprise  
Danny Horne Senior Ranger Natural Enterprise  
Mark Larter Natural England

The presentation was to inform and discuss their joint project within Freshwater Site of Specific Scientific Interest South Marsh to restore the habitat towards the condition it would have been in when it was first designated as a Site of Specific Scientific Interest.

Freshwater Bay Resident's Association raised concerns regarding the Freshwater Bay Shelter, which I informed them was in hand, the Parish Council has received quotations for the maintenance works to be completed.

Road Safety was also an issue raised in particular the area around the Guyers corner where it meets Victoria Road and Simmonds Close. The area around the Afton Road junction where it meets Freshwater Bay and the area around Albion Hotel.

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

**Councillor Vacancies**

A notice has been posted asking residents in Freshwater South if they would like an election. If at least 10 electors have contacted The Proper Officer at the Isle of Wight Council by 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024, then an election will be called. If not, then we will be able to Co-opt.

**Emergency Tree Work**

Following concerns from a resident the following tree work is taking place: The removal of an ash tree due to ash die back at a cost of £ 650.00 and the removal of a large beech tree due to large decay at the base of tree no 02326 at a cost of £780.00.

**Library Works**

Work is underway to repair the library exterior to ensure that it is watertight and safe. The quote to complete this work is under £1000.00, however the cost might be greater if more work is required than expected, depending upon whether or not more extensive damage is uncovered.

**Stroud Coppice**

The Deputy Clerk and I met with Jerry Willis (The Isle of Wight Council Tree Officer) at the Coppice to check out any non-native species. Jerry is going to check out the semi-ancient woodland category for the Coppice which will help with the management plan.

**8. CORRESPONDENCE.**

None.

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

Accounts were agreed and accepted (AB/BH).

**10. TO AGREE THE BANK RECONCILIATION.**

The bank reconciliation was agreed.

**11. TO AGREE THE BUDGET FORECAST FOR 2024/25.**

This was deferred to the next meeting.

**12. TO AGREE THE BUDGET FOR 2025/26 WITH A PRECEPT INCREASE OF 3% FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION.**

It was agreed to provide 3 precept increase options for residents at 0%, 1% and 3%. These will be brought to the next meeting.

- i) TO AGREE TO TERMINATE THE CONTRACT WITH THE ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL FOR THE ENVIRONMENT OFFICER.** It was agreed to cancel the contract. Cllr Jarman left the meeting after this item.

**13. TO CONSIDER TWO GRANT APPLICATIONS:**

**i) NATURAL ENTERPRISE.**

It was agreed to defer this item to get further advice about providing grants to manage land not owned by the Parish Council

**ii.) FOOTPRINT TRUST.**

Cllr Cox left the meeting for this item and Cllr Thomas took the Chair as Chair of Finance and Governance.

It was agreed to get clarification from the Footprint Trust on the figures quoted in the application.

**14. TO AGREE THE PARISH COUNCIL RECORDING POLICY AND CONSIDER OPTIONS FOR PURCHASING EQUIPMENT AND THE RECORDING OF FUTURE MEETINGS – CLLR SLOAN-MURPHY.**

Cllr Sloan-Murphy thanked the Chair and the Clerk for their support. It was agreed to accept the policy as this will provide clarity for the public and councillors. It was agreed to not purchase equipment and therefore not live stream the meetings.

**15. TO AGREE THE TREE SURVEY.**

It was agreed to commission the Inventory, Safety and Risk Survey (option 3).

**16. TO AGREE THE MEETING DATES FOR 2025.**

The meeting dates for 2025 were agreed.

**17. TO ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING REPORTS:**

**i) CHRISTMAS WORKING GROUP.**

The report was accepted.

**a) TO CONSIDER PAYING FOR FREE PARKING AT AVENUE ROAD CAR PARK FOR 2 DAYS.**

It was agreed to pay for the parking on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> December at Avenue Road Carpark at a cost to the Parish Council of £198.00.

**ii) FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – CLLR THOMAS**

This item was brought forward to follow item 13 as Cllr Thomas needed to leave early. It was agreed following a proposal, in principle to hold a competition for primary school

children to involve them in the public consultation in January with a budget of £200.00. Full details and an update will be brought to the next meeting. Cllr Thomas left the meeting after this item.

**18. TO AGREE THE PERSISTENT OR VEXATIOUS COMPLAINTS POLICY.**

It was agreed to accept the policy.

**19. TO AGREE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE NEW LAND MANAGEMENT/ASSETS COMMITTEE, ELECT A CHAIR AND SET A DATE FOR THE FIRST MEETING.**

The membership was agreed, and Cllr Cox was elected as Chair of the new Committee. The first meeting will be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024 following the Planning Meeting. This will be the pattern that the meetings will follow the alternative Planning Meetings for the foreseeable future.

**20. TO AGREE THE QUOTES FOR REPLACING THE BINS ON THE STROUD AND AT FRESHWATER BAY.**

The actual quote is dependent on agreeing the type of bins required. It was agreed that double bins would be sourced with the option for recycling. A quote will be brought back to full council.

**21. TO AGREE THE AGENDA GUIDANCE FOR COUNCILLORS DOCUMENT.**

This document was agreed.

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

- Update on the textile bins at Moa Place
- The Moa Place Phone Box
- To update the Chairman's Board
- To start meetings at 6.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.