



FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Office 01983 752000

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 1st OCTOBER 2024 AT 7.01PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
MEMORIAL HALL, FRESHWATER**

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

Members of the public: 5 including Cllr Spink

Clerk: H Rowell

1. APOLOGIES:

Councillors: T Armstrong, N Thomas and W Whyte.

**2. TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL
MEETINGS HELD ON THE 3rd SEPTEMBER 2024, AND THE EXTRAORDINARY
MEETING HELD ON THE 15th AUGUST 2024.**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd September (having been circulated) were agreed (AB/DJ). The minutes of the meeting held on the 15th August (having been circulated) were agreed (AB/BH) with 3 absentions.

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

All Cllrs declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 10 as possible patients. Cllr Jarman declared a pecuniary interest in item 10.

**4. TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS ON THE AGENDA FROM MEMBERS OF THE
PUBLIC (UP TO 15 MINUTES).**

Two members of the public spoke about their concerns in respect of the potential closure of My Dentist in the village, asking the Parish Council for their support in maintaining the service.

**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

I am deeply saddened that Cllrs Gill Kennett and Carol Bray have chosen to leave the Parish Council. Their commitment to our community and their length of service with the Parish Council were an enormous benefit for us all, we shall be the poorer for their leaving. I found both Councillors to be a wealth of knowledge and experience, they encouraged the belief of "our community first."

Cllr Kennett was the previous Chair of the Parish Council, a position she had held before. Cllr Kennett's service to the Parish Council has spanned over 24 years. She is rightly a well respected member of our community, serving not only the Parish Council but also the West Wight Sports and Community Centre, along with many other good causes. Cllr Kennett also gave her time and support to the Coronavirus Support Help Hub during the pandemic. She consistently brought issues of concern for those living within our community to the Council, she is compelling to listen to and continues to encourage people to invest in the welfare of others.

Cllr Bray had been the long-serving Chair of Land Management, a position that she was truly dedicated to and we were incredibly lucky to have someone who was so committed to that role. Every spring we benefit from her bulb planting around the Parish, walk across the Stroud and you will see the results of her planting projects at the edges of the recreation ground which have enhanced our natural environment. Granny's Meade is home to our community orchard and increased numbers of memorial trees and benches, all overseen by Cllr Bray. The benefits to our Parish by the good works of Cllr Bray are in truth too many to list here.

People often speak of legacy and it is said "you plant a tree not for this generation, but for the next generation." Our community has benefited in so many ways from the good works of these two women and our children will continue to benefit from those good works in the future.

I have been busy with the day-to-day work of being the Chair throughout September, but I have also taken a few weeks to recharge my batteries.

18th September - Cllr Thomas and I attended the photo shoot with the West Wight Church Youth Project. It was great to meet the Youth Leader Faye and the many volunteers, it was a pleasure to see so many local young people directly benefiting from the youth club.

20th September - The Christmas Working Party meeting. I apologise but I was unfortunately forced to cancel my attendance due to an unexpected personal event.

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

Correspondence with Freshwater Bay Resident's Association

Following last month's meeting Cllr James contacted Neil Aplin and Freshwater Bay Resident's Association to suggest a meeting to discuss their recent correspondence. Mr Aplin requested that he receive the answers to his questions before convening a meeting. I replied with the responses and asked for some dates to meet, and as yet have not received a reply.

Seats, Benches and Bridges

The Facilities Officer is in the process of refurbishing the woodwork in preparation for Winter.

Any Other Business as an Agenda Item

This is the legal advice why we not to include Any Other Business as an Agenda item.

“ It is bad practice for an agenda for a local council meeting to include, at the end, an item of 'any other business'. Since it is a requirement that business to be transacted a council meeting must be specified in the summons sent to councillors, thus affording the members advance notice of what is to be considered, it is not lawful to make use of the item 'any other business' to take any substantive decision.” Society of Local Council Clerks.

The meeting cannot go outside the business described in the notice for members and as advertised to the public.

8. CORRESPONDENCE.

Correspondence was noted with a couple of items deferred to the next Land Management Committee Meeting. The following correspondence had been received:

- Enquiry about planting trees at Norton Green
- Request for a Memorial Tree.
- Repairs to Halletts Shute.

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

Accounts were agreed and accepted (BH/DJ).

10. TO CONSIDER ACTION IN RESPECT OF THE CLOSURE OF MY DENTIST IN THE VILLAGE – CLLR JAMES

Cllr Jarman left the room for this item. The Parish Council agreed to support the continuation of an NHS dental service in the village and to write to the Isle of Wight Council and the Integrated Care Board.

11. TO AGREE COMMUNITY AWARDS PROPOSAL – CLLR COX

It was agreed to bring back the Community Heroes Awards in partnership with Totland Parish Council.

12. FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENTS FOR PARISH COUNCILORS PROPOSALS – CLLR COX.

Cllr Cox proposed dissolving the current committees except for Finance and Personnel and combining the remainder into a Land Management/Assets Committee. This was agreed with the exception of the Library Committee which will remain. (DJ/AB). The following Councillors agreed to be members of this new committee: Cllrs Bamford, Hobbs, James, Sloan-Murphy and Turan.

13. THE FOLLOWING REPORTS WERE ACCEPTED:

a) SKATE PARK AND MULTI USE GAMES AREA COMMITTEE – CLLR JAMES.

Cllr James provided a verbal report confirming that actions were in place to fulfil the planning conditions.

b) LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

This was deferred until the first meeting of the new committee.

c) BOAT PARK COMMITTEE

This was deferred until the first meeting of the new committee

d) LIBRARY COMMITTEE – CLLR WHYTE

This was deferred as Cllr Whyte had sent apologies.

e) RATIFY LIBRARY COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE – CLLR WHYTE

The Terms of Reference were agreed.

f) CHRISTMAS REPORT

Christmas 2024 will be the same as last Christmas, except for the free parking at Avenue Road car park, which won't be on offer this year.

The budget is **£4,000**

Island Roads will be installing and removing the street lighting on the lamp post down Avenue Road. **£1,064.56**

The 3 real trees – Moa Place, Library and Teemill will be delivered from Thompson's Nursery as normal. **£1,000**

Mark Adams Maintenance Services will be decorating the Library, Memorial Hall, install and dress the 3 real trees, dress and install the 32 artificial trees above the shops, install the Christmas banners. Remove all trees and decorations after Christmas.

£1,735

Shane Geary will chip and dispose of the 3 real trees for free for us.

Total Forecast spend **£3799.56**

Batteries and cable ties will be purchased as needed.

It was agreed to get a quote for the cost of Avenue Road Car Park to provide free parking for residents for 2 days Christmas shopping.

14. TO AGREE A WORKING GROUP TO REVIEW THE LEASE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE MEMORIAL HALL, ARTS AND LEISURE COMPANY.

It was agreed that the two Clerks at Totland and Freshwater meet to look at the lease and consider what is needed going forward and bring back proposals to Full Council. It was agreed to talk to users of Jubilee Field.

15. PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCILLOR AND STAFF WORKSHOP.

Objective

To develop a shared vision and a 3-year business plan for Freshwater Parish Council. The Council's most precious resources are the councillors and staff, identifying the skills, passions, knowledge and expertise within the organisation will enable the Parish Council to fulfil its responsibilities. Having a shared vision will bring councillors and staff together to work productively for the community we serve.

Proposal

To have a shared half day workshop with staff and councillors that is externally facilitated. The purpose of this workshop will be to explore the role of the Parish Council, our priorities and what we would like to achieve in the next 3 years. To hold this workshop in October/November.

What is our Vision for Freshwater Parish?

The outcome of the workshop will start to formulate the business plan which will also include plans for Parish assets, community development and local partnerships which will help us achieve our goals.

Draft Plan and Consultation

Once a draft plan has been completed it can be shared with residents at the consultation in January for their comments. The 3-year plan should also be able to include proposed/planned precept increases or not for each year in the plan.

The proposal was agreed and a date will be set.

16. RETENDERING OF THE LAND MANAGEMENT CONTRACTS.

The contracts for the management of the land owned by the Parish are due for renewal. The staff will prepare the tender documents and bring them to the first meeting of the new Committee.

17. TO AGREE PROPOSED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM COUNCILLORS.

- Policy for Recording Parish Council Meetings
- Vexatious Complaints Policy

The meeting closed at 9.07pm.