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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 7.15PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MEMORIAL HALL, FRESHWATER

PRESENT: Councillors: Turan (Chair), Armstrong, Bamford, Betts, Cameron, Chaucer, Cox, Hinton, Hobbs, Jarman (arrived at 6.38pm), Pakel, Seely, Turan, Whistance

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 1

CLERK: K Gibson

MINUTE SECRETARY: M Gardiner (Assistant Clerk)

FINANCE OFFICER: Paul Blackley

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Prior to the Council meeting commencing there will be a public forum of up to 15 minutes, if necessary, when there will be an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions of the Parish Council regarding matters on the agenda. **NONE**

1. APOLOGIES: NONE

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

To receive any declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary (personal) interests relating to items on the agenda. **NONE**

3. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

To receive and consider granting any written requests from Members for dispensations in respect of disclosable pecuniary interests. **NONE**

4. MINUTES

To agree the minutes of the Freshwater Parish Council meeting held on 5th August 2025 (having been circulated to Councillors). **(BC/BS) AGREED**

5. WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT

To receive a written update from Ward Councillors. **(See attached)**

Councillor Cameron provided a written update.

Councillor Jarman gave a written update (Circulated at the meeting).

Councillor Jarman gave a written update (Circulated at the meeting).

6. OFFICERS REPORTS

To receive the written update from the Clerk

Clerk's Report September 2025

Skate Park Working Party

The working party has been put together with the Terms of Reference proposed for full council approval. The working party can then meet to push the project forward and organise fund-raising events.

Library Roof Update

As you may be aware the library committee are currently investigating the repair to the roof structure on the library due to water damage. An engineer has carried out an inspection and produced a comprehensive report on the extent of the damage. Since then, the repair has been further complicated by the Isle of Wight Council confirming that the roof tiles contain Asbestos. A tender document to obtain quotes on repairing the roof structures that are damaged and replacing the roof tiles, hopefully only on the front section, will be put together. The quotes will also include the removal of the current roof tiles by a qualified contractor. Once received these will be brought before full council.

Councillors

Photos and Website Information - To complete the information on the Parish Council website we still require photos of Councillors Chaucer and Whistance. The Assistant Clerk will happily take photos outside the building in the same place the other Councillors had their photos taken. We also require personal statements for the website from Councillors Chaucer, Whistance, Seely and Cameron.

Play Equipment on Stroud Playing Field

The final piece of play equipment has been fitted and there is now an all-inclusive basket swing fitted that can be enjoyed by children of all ages and abilities.

Grants Awarded

Clare Griffin from West Wight Sports and Community Centre would like to say a huge thank you to all Councillors and that they are grateful for your continued support. Jack Isaac has also thanked the Councillors for their grant support in his quest to become a para-olympian.

7. CHAIRS REPORT

Chairs Report September 2025

At last, the disruption caused at the annual meeting has been overcome, and all committees are now fully functioning.

Debbie Mason, the lady who produces the community magazine, invited me for tea and cake at Dimbola. She is a very friendly approachable lady, providing a wonderful service to every area on the island. She is at present looking for somebody to take over the recipe page.

The Horticultural Show was a great success. Lots of interesting stalls and vast range of locally grown food and plants. I was very pleased to see Parish Councillors both past and present supporting the event.

The newly formed resilience committee has made good progress and will be meeting again very soon to establish an effective emergency response plan for the area.

The Freshwater Independent Lifeboat Day was a resounding success. The weather was perfect; the atmosphere was truly joyful. So much to see and do. Lots of good things for the

children to enjoy. BRILLIANT.

Bob Seely held a booking signing evening at Dimbola which was very well attended. It was nice to see several fellow Councillors amongst the many enthusiastic supporters. They say never to work with children or animals and true to form his beautiful baby daughter Elizabeth completely upstaged him for a while.

My personal highlight this month was a visit to the zoo. The rescue bears put on quite a show and I felt privileged to just stand and witness such amazing animals just being themselves. Although the bears were the main attraction, the whole zoo with its many and varied species is well worth a visit and our support is vital to its survival.

Let us hope that we can move forward and become a united and effective parish council, working for the benefit of the community.

The Chair gave verbal congratulations to the Clerk on the completion of her ILCA qualification.

8. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

To receive any questions from Members concerning the business of the Parish Council or about a matter affecting the parish but which is not included on the agenda for the meeting or is not otherwise before the Council.

Councillor Cox: Raised that the standing orders need to be amended to include Members Questions for future agendas.

9. UPDATE AND DISCUSSION ON WEST WIGHT HERITAGE CENTRE

Councillor Whistance gave a verbal update.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

One item - André Usborne Captain, Royal Navy – Remembrance Sunday (**See attached**)

11. TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY

It was proposed to accept the Tree Management Report with the amendment that replacement planting will usually be with native non-invasive species wherever possible. **(BS/DW) AGREED.**

12. HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

To discuss whether the Parish Council should implement a housing needs survey.

A verbal discussion was had. It was proposed that the Clerk investigate the costs for an independent organization to complete a Housing Survey on behalf of Freshwater Parish Council. **(EC/BH) AGREED**

13. CHRISTMAS FAIR

To discuss the proposal from Councillor Cameron to hold a Christmas Fair on Stroud Playing Field. The aim is to bring together the community, promoting local businesses/artists with the aim to have fun and raise funds for the Skate Park/Pump Track. Possibly to include Circus skills, funfair stalls, Santas grotto, children's carol singing, crafts/festive stalls, festive food stalls etc.

A verbal discussion was held.

14. FINANCE

- To review and approve the payments lists – **(BC/BS) APPROVED**
- Approve the revised Grant Award Policy – **(EC/DW) APPROVED**
- Approve the revised Grant Application Form – **(EC/BC) APPROVED**

The Parish Council would like to thank the Responsible Finance Officer for her work on this matter.

15. TO APPROVE THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES

- Community Resilience Committee – to be amended to state that only Parish Councillors will be voting members. **(TA/DW) AGREED**
- Skate Park and Pump Track Working Group – it was proposed to approve the terms of reference and provide the Skate Park and Pump Track working group a budget of £500 (allocated from reserve funds) – **(AB/BC) AGREED**

16. ELECT CHAIR OF THE SKATE PARK AND PUMP TRACK WORKING GROUP

It was proposed to elect Councillor Pakel as Chair of the Skate Park and Pump Track working group **(BC/AB) AGREED**

17. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Isle of Wight Council Transport Plan 4 – to review of the draft strategy to form a response to the Isle of Wight Council.

Flood Planning – motion required.

Coastal Erosion – motion required.

Signed Crossing at Green Meadows – motion required.

5G Masts – motion required.

Council Harmonisation – motion required.

18. TO ARRANGE A DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING. 7th October 2025

The meeting ends at 9.10 pm

Should anyone require a copy of the minutes in a large print format please contact the Parish Council.

