

Freshwater Parish Council
Parish Office
Memorial Hall
Avenue Road
Freshwater
Isle of Wight
PO40 9UU
Telephone: 01983 752000
Email: clerk@freshwater-parish.org.uk
Website: www.freshwater-parish.org.uk



MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3RD FEBRUARY 2026, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MEMORIAL HALL, FRESHWATER COMMENCING AT 7.07PM.

Present: Councillors Turan (Chair), Armstrong, Bamford, Betts, Cameron, Chaucer, Cox, Hinton, Hobbs, Jarman, Pakel, Seely, Whyte

Clerk: K Gibson

Minutes Secretary: M Gardiner

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:** Councillor Whistance

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS** To receive any declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary (personal) interests relating to items on the agenda.

Councillor Whyte declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 18 (Library) having worked with an applicant on a previous unrelated project.

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

4. **WIGHTWOOD PIZZA** Joshua Stevens from Wightwood Pizza is attending to request permission to park the pizza van on the Boat Park whilst the building work is being carried out on the FILB station.

It was resolved that the Parish Council agree to the temporary re-siting of the pizza van onto Parish Land for the duration of the works at the Lifeboat station without cost, providing that the business continues its support of the Independent Lifeboat and abides by all boat park regulations (to be supplied by the Clerk) (CJ/BH) **AGREED**

5. **COMMUNITY ACTION IW PRESENTATION** Community Action IW will attend to present further information on the Housing Needs Survey that they can facilitate on our behalf. **DEFERRED**

6. **MINUTES** To agree the minutes of the Freshwater Parish Council meeting held on 2nd December 2025 (PAPER A). **(CP/TA) AGREED**

7. **WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT** To receive a written update from Ward Councillors. Councillor Cameron (PAPER B) Councillor Jarman (circulated by email to Councillors) Councillor Spink (circulated by email to Councillors)

8. OFFICER REPORTS To receive a written update from the Clerk (**PAPER C**).

Clerk's Report January & February 2026

Stroud Play Equipment – Zip Wire

After a recent inspection of the play equipment on Stroud Playing Field it was reported that the Zip Wire play equipment needed some minor repairs. The repairs will include dropping the cable, refitting, lubricating and re-tensioning, along with replacing a tyre and internal brake. This will be carried out on the 5th February 2026 by Sovereign Group at a cost of £964.24. The equipment is safe to continue using until the repair takes place. All other play and exercise equipment was reported as low risk. If any of the Councillors would like a copy of the report, please let me know.

Housing Needs Survey

I have contacted Community Action IW for information on carrying out a housing needs survey, as per the agenda item on the September 2025 full council meeting. Community Action IW have carried out several of these surveys across the island, including Yarmouth last year. Their website has more information on what they do as well as copies of the recent reports.

Rural Housing Enabler - Community Action | at the Riverside | Isle of Wight

They are keen to work with us on this and will be attending the full council meeting in February to present more information on the work they carry out and what that entails.

Erosion at The Scrape – Yarmouth to Freshwater Cycle Track

Yarmouth Town Council contacted the office to request assistance in gaining assistance from the local authority to repair the footpath where the erosion occurred. Even though this area of the track is not part of the parish land the office has been liaising with the IOW council departments to speed up the investigation into repairing the area. The current update is that the council are looking at fitting a culvert to the area and rebuilding the path over the top of this. They are trying to obtain permission from the new owner of the Barnfield Pond (wetlands the water flows into) to carry out this work. The office will update the Councillors when any more information is available.

Council Meeting Schedule 2026-27

The office has had an enquiry from a Councillor on the Parish Council meeting schedule. As requested the schedule for 2025-26 was distributed to the Councillors in March/April 2025 confirming meeting dates up to the end of April 2026. The schedule for 2026-27 will therefore be distributed in March 2026 for the period May 2026 to April 2027. Any Councillors who wish to be sent a reminder of the meeting schedule please let me know.

Councillor Recording Meetings

Just to remind all Public and Councillors that if they wish to record the meeting that they bring it to the attention of the Chair at the start of the meeting.

9. CHAIRS REPORT To receive a report from the Chair, Cllr Frances Turan (**PAPER D**).

I sincerely hope that you all had a truly festive Christmas with family and friends. And of course, very best wishes for a happy and productive new year.

Councillor Armstrong and I started the month by putting up the parish Christmas tree in All Saints Church on 2nd December. In preparation for the late-night shopping event, councillor Cameron, and I spent much of the week sourcing children's books as free gifts in the skatepark pop up shop. These we wrapped in various papers to different reading ages.

Councillor Betts kindly supplied various toys and novelties for the lucky dip which was also free to all. She also donated customised mugs for sale as a fund raiser. Getting into the swing of things, she also wore her brightest smile and her skateboard teeshirt.

Councillor Pakel took charge and brought everything together to create a welcoming space. She also supplied some interesting games to amuse the children, also free of charge. Win or not everyone received a prize (no tears on our watch).

Mel and Kirsty completed our team bearing gifts of Woolley hats for sale to raise funds. Adrian was also drafted in to transport everything to and from the council offices.

Together we worked hard, laughed a lot, and went home with smiles on our faces, result.

There now appears to be quite a thirst for further events among the residents and businesses. Perhaps it's time to harness this enthusiasm and bring the community at large together. Encourage them to exchange ideas, offer their skills, and form a local events committee that would breathe new life into Freshwater.

I experienced the Brighstone tree festival for the first time this year along with Becca and her friend. I was surprised at the number and variety of venues. It was quite a route march to cover the whole event. I have no clue how anybody could begin to judge the best tree in each section as the artistry and effort involved was amazing.

Next little gem was the pantomime at the Memorial Hall. It was well worth seeing, with some truly comical characters. The atmosphere was brilliant, everybody joined in with gusto and the children in the chorus were full of enthusiasm, it was a joy to see. I'm certainly going back next year.

I did manage to have a truly wonderful Christmas with my family, but the day after Boxing Day I unfortunately succumbed to a nasty virus. I know that I am not the only one here to have suffered from this illness. Several staff and councillors alike have also fallen victim. I am very fortunate to have lovely friends and neighbours, and I thank them all for their many acts of kindness. Councillor Armstrong saved the day and took the parish tree down in time for the deadline, roll on next Christmas hey Tony.

I would like to thank Tara for her diligence in presenting a clear and concise assessment of the council's finances going forward. It is reassuring to have a built-in contingency for the unexpected. The proposal to maximise the interest on capital is a positive move in protecting the interests of the residents.

My heart goes out to all residents currently suffering the effects of flooding. We must remain vigilant and report any issues that need addressing to the relevant authority.

10. CORRESPONDENCE – Four items of correspondence.

11. TO APPROVE THE AMENDED PERSONNEL COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE To approve the amendments as highlighted on the attached. (PAPER E)

It was proposed to accept the amended personnel committee terms of reference (BH/CP) **AGREED**

- 12. UPDATE FROM THE CHRISTMAS WORKING PARTY.** – Councillors Cameron and Jarman gave a verbal update.
- 13. UPDATE FROM THE SKATE PARK WORKING PARTY.** – Councillors Pakel & Betts gave a verbal update.
- 14. WILDFLOWER PROJECT UPDATE** Deferred from the Land Management Committee Meeting Further information the attached email from Councillor Pakel and Pete Johnstone (PAPER F).

The Clerk will contact the contractors to ensure that there are no issues with continuing with the wildflower project.

- 15. GABIONS AT SPINFISH** To discuss and agree the repairs required to the Gabions at Spinfish (PAPER G).

It was resolved that the Clerk contact Brighstone Landscaping, as the original engineers and ask for an immediate response/resolution and allow until the end of this week (w/e 06/02/26) for a response.

It was proposed to agree the emergency works (Section A) as an immediate need. (subject to an unsatisfactory response from Brighstone Landscaping). (EC/CP) **AGREED**

- 16. FINANCE**
- i. To review and approve the payments list (PAPER H) (EC/CP) AGREED**
 - ii. To approve the bank reconciliations for the periods ending 31st October 2025 & 30th November 2025 as recommended by the Finance Committee (PAPER I) – (EC/AB) AGREED**
 - iii. To approve the fixed asset register as at 30th September 2025 as recommended by the Finance Committee (PAPER J) – (CJ/EC) AGREED**
 - iv. To note the approved minutes from the Finance Committee meeting held on 21st October 2025 and 4th November 2025 (PAPER K & K1) NOTED**

17. GRANTS To review the application from The Story Spot Bookshop to pledge mental health book bundles to local schools and nurseries in Freshwater. This would link in with Children's Mental Health Week which runs 9th – 15th February. It is the officer recommendation that the council pledge 10 x each bundle type, which totals £1,288.50 which is within the remaining budget for the year. (PAPER L) **(Councillor Hinton left the room at 20.49 and returned at 20.51).**

It was proposed that the Parish Council do not support the application at this time – (WW/EC) **AGREED**

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. FRESHWATER LIBRARY ROOF REPAIR TENDER To review and agree the proposal for the roof repair. Officers Report (PAPER M)

It was proposed to accept the recommendation of the finance committee and officer recommendation (option B) using WH Brading & Son and Daniel Stimpson as project manager. (EC/CP) **AGREED**

19. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

High Street Regeneration – to invite the IWC representative for regeneration to discuss.

Meeting closed at 21.13