

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF FRESHWATER PARISH
COUNCIL HELD AT 6.30PM ON 17TH MARCH 2026 IN THE SMALL CHAMBER,
MEMORIAL HALL, FRESHWATER**

PRESENT: Councillors Turan (Chair), Cameron, Chaucer, Cox, Hobbs,
Jarman, Pakel, Whistance

ABSENT: Councillor Seely

APOLOGIES: Councillors Armstrong, Betts, Bamford and Whyte

CLERK: K Gibson

MINUTES: M Gardiner

- 1. To confirm the minutes of the 2025 Annual Parish Meeting:**
It was proposed to accept the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting: FT/BH
AGREED
- 2. To receive the report of the Freshwater Parish Council**
Councillor Turan gave a verbal report including an update on the works at
Spinfish, the now almost completed Library roof, updated play equipment and
the Christmas late night shopping campaign.
- 3. To receive the report of the Memorial Hall Arts and Leisure Company**
Councillor Hobbs gave the report of the Memorial Hall Arts and Leisure Company
as below.
- 4. To receive questions from the public:** 0 members of public.

Meeting closed at: 18.40pm

MEMORIAL HALL ARTS & LEISURE COMPANY ANNUAL REPORT

October 2025

Hall Use

The Hall has remained fully booked throughout the year meaning that we can only accommodate one off bookings.

In December 2024 we held our Pensioners Annual Xmas Dinner for the residents of Freshwater and Totland.

This was attended by about 110 people. Thank you to Councillor Jan Cave and Debbie McAteer for organising this annual event and to all the Trustees, Staff and Volunteers who turned up on the day and helped make it a success. A special thank you to Adrian Bolton and his team at the Waterfront Bar and Restaurant for providing the catering.

Thank you to Councillor Hilary Benns for her sterling work on updating the Memorial Halls Policy and Procedure and the Health and Safety Documentation. Hilary stepped down as a Councillor and Trustee of the Memorial Hall in May this year, she will be missed. We wish her well in her future endeavours.

Building and Maintenance

There has been no major building maintenance needed this year. The garden/patio area has been smartened up; I would like to thank Freshwater Parish Council for providing the new garden furniture and Lisa Short for keeping the plants and hanging baskets looking good.

The general upkeep and maintenance of the Hall is carried out as and when required.

Staffing and Volunteers

Two members of staff have been ill this year. Thanks to Brendan Warne, Lorraine Richardson and the Memorial Hall staff and volunteers who are covering for them.

I would like to thank the Staff, my fellow Councillors and our volunteers for their continued support and hard work for the Memorial Hall. A special thank you to Alan Benns for his continued work on the sound and lighting equipment.

Also special thanks to Gareth for his Chairmanship for so many years.

Cllr Gareth Wyre/Brenda Hobbs (Oct 2025)
Chairman Memorial Hall Arts & Leisure Company