

Freshwater Parish Council Parish Office
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MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3RD MARCH 2026 AT 18.50PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MEMORIAL HALL, FRESHWATER

PRESENT: Councillors Turan (Chair), Bamford, Betts, Cameron, Chaucer, Cox, Hinton, Hobbs, Jarman, Pakel, Whistance, Whyte

CLERK: K Gibson

MINUTES: M Gardiner

FINANCE: P 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.

1. **APOLOGIES** To receive any apologies for absence.
Councillors Armstrong and Seely
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
To receive any declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary (personal) interests relating to items on the agenda.
Councillors Whyte, Bamford, Hinton and Hobbs declared interests as Trustees of MHALCO
Councillor Hinton declared an interest in agenda item 4 as a director of Community Action.
3. **REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**
To receive and consider granting any written requests from Members for dispensations in respect of disclosable pecuniary interests. **NONE**
4. **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.

Greta Halson Ingham (Community Action IW) gave an informative presentation describing how a housing needs survey can inform the Parish Council in future decision making regarding planning and community needs.

5. **MINUTES**

To agree the minutes of the Freshwater Parish Council meeting held on 3rd February 2026 (PAPER A). (CP/BC) **AGREED**

To agree the minutes of the Extraordinary Committee Meeting held on 17th February 2026. (PAPER B) (CJ/DW) **AGREED**

To agree the minutes from the Budget Setting Meeting held on 26th January 2026. (PAPER C) (AB/BC) **AGREED**

6. **WARD COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

To receive a written update from Ward Councillors
Councillor Cameron (attached)
Councillor Jarman (attached)
Councillor Spink – apologies received

7. **OFFICERS REPORT** To receive a written update from the Clerk

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 has 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 March to present more information on the work they carry out and what that entails.

Erosion at The Scrape – Yarmouth to Freshwater Cycle Track

The position of the area has made it difficult to pin down one department that is responsible for the repair to The Scrape. The IWC have confirmed that the repairs will go ahead on the area with the current position being:

1. The structure is both a coastal asset and a public right of way.
2. The Coastal Team has prepared an outline specification for the required works.
3. The Estuaries Team and Natural England wish to review that specification to ensure it meets all habitat protection requirements, and they are meeting with the Coastal Team and Public Rights of Way to discuss this.

4. The works will be delivered through the Green Link Project. The works are now included in the timetable for the public realms and coastal team. I will update Councillors when we have received a date for the works to commence.

Spinfish Emergency Works

The emergency works to clear the collapsed gabions have been completed. Whilst the footpath was closed to carry the works out the IWC repaired the bridge, there was a hole developing, and repaired bollards at the Queens Road entrance. The remaining works have been put out to tender and are on a separate report in this meeting.

8. CHAIRS REPORT

CHAIRS REPORT To receive a report from the Chair, Cllr Frances Turan

Feb 6. I had a productive meeting with Sam Ade, the IOW Steward for Drainage/Flooding. We discussed the source and impact of surface water flooding in the Colwell Road area, including Birch Close.

I must at this point, thank the clerk for her proactive approach in ordering a supply of aqua bags for residents to purchase in an emergency. A number of these have now been put to effective use. Residents greatly appreciate the initiative shown and the service provided.

Feb 9. I was pleased to attend the Library Committee meeting. As chair, Councillor Whyte led the meeting with great insight and practical advice. Of course, the roof repairs are of utmost importance, but a comprehensive list of future works has also been identified. We continue to work in unison with FOFL and the library staff.

Feb 12. I accompanied Councillor Cameron on a fact-finding visit to the Freshwater Lifeboat Station. This was to establish the need for, and extent of extra land requested for the storage of construction materials. We spoke with the site manager and Councillor Cameron reported our findings to the clerk for continuity.

Feb 13. This was my first day volunteering at the local school. I consider myself very fortunate to have this opportunity and am extremely lucky to be working closely with Mrs Armstrong who teaches year six. She also happens to be the wife of Councillor Armstrong; they are both very good friends of mine.

I have spent a lot of time visiting the many residents affected by flooding. The recent heavy rain has caused extensive flooding throughout our area. I am truly concerned about the impact this is having on the community, stress levels are very high, and it is vital that vulnerable residents are supported and kept informed as to what is being done to address the situation.

Due to the wet conditions, the school half term holiday was very difficult for many parents and their children. This is where the Freshwater Library and the West Wight Sports Centre prove invaluable. We are so lucky to have such active vibrant facilities here in Freshwater.

Feb 24. I usually take the opportunity of a lift from Councillor Cameron when she holds her surgery at our place on the last Tuesday of the month. This allows me to observe this wonderful facility in action. It is always well attended, and the volunteers are all welcoming and willing to help. Adam Tucker and Mel, the assistant clerk provide informed advice and assistance. Quite often, I find myself sitting at a table having a conversation with a group of people I have never met before. This is our place at its best, long may it continue.

Feb 26. Skatepark committee meeting. Good progress regarding the skateboard artwork auction. The boards completed to date are many and varied with many more yet to come. The response has been superb, such talented artists, all giving their time and effort so freely. AWESOME.

9. **CORRESPONDENCE**

One item of correspondence from UKSA thanking the Parish Council for their generous grant support.

One item of correspondence regarding the Radio Teleswitch Service electricity meters phase out.

10. **UPDATE FROM THE SKATE PARK WORKING PARTY.**

Councillor Pakel gave a verbal update including news of a successful grant application for £20000 from the National Lottery and an update on the auction event that will take place at Yarmouth Yacht Club on 9th May 2026.

11. **MEMORIAL HALL RENT INCREASE NOTICE**

To discuss and agree the attached rent increase notice for the office rent at the Memorial Hall. (PAPER F).

It was proposed to agree the increase in rent providing there were sufficient reserves to pay for it and to obtain the necessary leasing paperwork going forward as soon as is practicable (within six to twelve months). (CP/DW)

AGREED

12. **APPROVE THE IT POLICY**

To discuss and approve the new IT policy, based on the NALC template. This is a requirement that has been identified in the Internal Audit interim report.

(PAPER G).

It was proposed to adopt the current policy with some minor amendments (to delete the first paragraph, to clarify the equipment to which the policy applies (WW/CP) **AGREED**

13. **APPROVE THE RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY**
To discuss and approve the new Risk Management Policy. (PAPER H).
DEFERRED
14. **IWC BRIDGE WEIGHT RESTRICTION REMOVAL ORDER**
To discuss and agree a response to the Isle of Wight Council proposal to remove the weight restrictions on The Causeway and Blackbridge Road Bridges. (PAPER I).
It was proposed that the Parish Council ask IWC to confirm that the TRO for the width restriction is valid.
It was proposed to object to the removal of the restriction order – Councillor Whyte to liaise with the Clerk on a response.
15. **FORT VICTORIA COUNTRY PARK IWC PLANS**
To receive an update on the proposal from Isle of Wight Council to introduce parking charges and close the public toilets on site in the winter. Councillor Cameron confirmed that the plans have at this point in time been withdrawn, however this issue may return in the future.
16. **STROUD PLAYING FIELD DRAINAGE ISSUES**
To discuss and agree a response to the issues with the failed French drains on Stroud Playing Field. With the continuous rainfall the drains have failed and are causing flooding issues to houses on School Green Road.
Councillor Cameron gave a verbal update on the flooding issues occurring in School Green Road. The Clerk gave an update on discussions regarding the drainage solutions being examined for the skate park which may alleviate the wider problem.
17. **FINANCE**
i. To review and approve the payments list (PAPER J). **DEFERRED**
ii. To receive the recommendations from the finance committee. (PAPER K) **DEFERRED**
18. **GRANTS**
iii. To review and approve the Grant Application from Dementia First – Carers Friendship Group (PAPER L). **DEFERRED**
iv. To review and the Grant Application from West Wight Churches Youth Project (PAPER M) **DEFERRED**
v. To review and approve the Grant Application from St Johns Ambulance (PAPER N) **DEFERRED**

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.

19. MEMORIAL HALL REPLACEMENT FIRE EXIT DOORS

To discuss and agree the replacement fire exit doors for the memorial hall.
(PAPER O). (See appendix) DEFERRED

20. GABIONS AT SPINFISH

To discuss and agree the repairs required to the Gabions at Spinfish following an open tender process. **(PAPER P).**
(See appendix) DEFERRED

Meeting closed at 9.00pm

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Dear Kirsty,

After careful consideration and in light of rising operating and maintenance costs, we will be making a small adjustment to the rental fee for the office. Effective **1 April 2026**, the annual rental fee will increase from **£12,365** to **£14,838**. This change will help us continue to maintain the property and provide a comfortable, well-managed working environment. Please note, the last rental increase was in May 2021.

As usual, invoices will be issued on a monthly basis, with the new monthly rental fee being **£1,236.50**.

We value our relationship and are, of course, very happy to discuss this further or answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for your understanding and continued cooperation.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Debra McAteer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Debra McAteer

Administrator

On behalf of the Memorial Hall Arts & Leisure Co Ltd

**THE ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL
(VARIOUS BRIDGES, ISLE OF WIGHT)
(WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS)
ORDER NO 1 2026**

Notice is hereby given that the Isle of Wight Council in exercise of their powers under section 1, 2 and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 ('the Act' of 1984) the Road Traffic Act 1991 ('The Act of 1991') and of all enabling powers and after consultation with The Chief Officer of Police propose to make an order the effect of which will be to:

1. To revoke 'The Isle of Wight Council (Longwood Bridge, Adgestone, IW) (Weight Restriction) Order No 1 1996.
2. To revoke the provisions of 'The Isle of Wight Council (Various Bridges) (Weight Restrictions) Order No 1 2005' and re-enact these provisions into this permanent Order:
3. To re-enact the provisions contained therein subject to the following amendments.
 - a) To revoke the following weight restrictions from this Order from the following locations:

3 Tonne

B192 - Rink Road, Ryde
B193 - Park Road, Ryde

7.5 Tonne

B104b Blackbridge Road, Freshwater
B152 Caesars Road, Newport
B164 Sandy Lane Bridge, Blackwater
B173 Park Road, Wootton

17 Tonne

B165 Highwood Lane, Rookley
B155 Towngate Bridge, Newport

25 Tonne

B105 The Causeway, Freshwater

30 Tonne

B115 Quarry Lane, Newbridge

These restrictions are being revoked due to the structural stability being strengthened. The amendments are being proposed to facilitate the passage on the road or any other road of any class of traffic (including pedestrians) and for avoiding

danger to persons or other traffic using the road or any other road or for preventing the likelihood of any such danger arising.

A copy of the draft Order, this Notice and the relevant plan may be inspected between normal office hours at the Customer Service Centre, County Hall, Newport, Isle of Wight during the objection period. If you wish to support or object to these proposals contained in this notice you should send the grounds for your objection, in writing, to Scott Headey – Traffic Manager, St Christopher House, 42 Daish Way, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5XJ, or email pfi@iow.gov.uk, not later than 12 noon on Friday 13th March 2026. Large text format copies can be requested by emailing pfi@iow.gov.uk, or by contacting the Council on 01983 821000.

Scott Headey - Deputy Strategic Manager

20th February 2026