

**FRESHFORD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
27th April 2017, MEMORIAL HALL, FRESHFORD**

PRESENT:

Cllr Andrew Orme (Chairman), Cllr John Adler, Cllr Jean Hawker, Cllr Peter King, Cllr Nick Stevens, Cllr Martin Walker, Cllr Sue Wingrove,

Clerk: Ingrid Maher Roberts, Ghika Savva-Coyle *Other:* Members of the public

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME:

Cllr Andrew Orme welcomed everyone to the APM.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Hugh and Maureen Delap, Steph Jenkins, Cllr Roger Paine, John & Lizanne Pettit, Mike Taylor, Claudia Towner

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES 26th April 2016:

These were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICERS REPORT

Ingrid Maher Roberts detailed the income and expenditure items, the balance in the accounts; the precept for the next financial year and the reserves. She noted that both income and expenditure were significantly higher than last year due particularly to the grant from B&NES and concomitant spending on the new play park equipment. There is a retained surplus of £14,051.61. With this reserve the Parish Council has committed to the following expenditure; street lighting update and renewal (£3000), PC asset repairs (£4240), Tynning maintenance (£4486), Tree cutting and maintenance of the Cemetery (£5,200) and a donation to the Memorial Hall (£1650).

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Cllr Orme offered a review of the past year through a power point presentation which is available on the Freshford Village website. In explaining the role of the Parish Council in planning applications, Cllr Orme emphasized that residents must also comment directly to B&NES. He appealed for residents to put themselves forward as prospective councillors to support the community. The rise in the precept for 2017/18, relating to the new principles governing Council Tax rises, and the resulting need to provide the parish council reserves with some protection was explained. Cllr Orme detailed all the changes around the village including the current plans for Freshford Fields, Pipehouse, Cables at Park Corner, Freshford Mill, and the improvements to the Avoncliff Footpath. He recognized the successes of the 94 bus being reprieved and Wessex Water backing down on their proposal to install kissing gates on the canal. The Tynning Advisory Group were thanked for their research to provide the PC with a balanced overview to formulate the guidance for maintenance of this area. He reflected on the work on other community assets. There continues to be problems around parking and dog-fouling. The presentation was followed by a short film taken in Freshford in 1974 when the village with some reluctance became part of the county of Avon.

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Freshford PC is made up of the following Councillors Cllr Nick Stevens (Vice Chairman), Cllr Roger Paine, Cllr Jean Hawker, Cllr John Adler, Cllr Sue Wingrove (till October 2016), Cllr Peter King, Cllr Martin Walker and Cllr Andrew Orme (Chairman). Cllr Orme thanked Parish Councillors for their contribution to the Parish Council. He also thanked Malcolm Shirley (Flood Rep) Hugh Delap (VPA Highways Group), Neil Butters (Ward Councillor) Graham Jenkinson (Neighbourhood Watch) Cotswold Volunteer Wardens and the many other residents who support the community.

PARISH CLERK

Cllr Orme paid tribute to the significant contribution made by Ingrid Maher Roberts to the work of the Parish Council. He introduced the new clerk, Ghika Savva-Coyle.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Speed Monitoring

John Jenkins asked if there was a willingness to support speed monitoring on the High Street and commented on the effectiveness of this practice in Westwood. It was noted that the organization of a community speedwatch initiative did not require the sanction of the PC. Cllr Orme reflected that he understood that the police should be consulted about this type of initiative. Graham Jenkinson supported the suggestion, considering that a 20 mile an hour limit was too fast around the village, and recommended gathering evidence to build a case. Gordon Edwards suggested the PC for Hinton Charterhouse and Wellow could be contacted about their experiences. Neil Butters agreed that this was worth pursuing and offered to assist. Cllr Orme agreed that the PC would support the suggestion that volunteers could be sought to remind drivers of the 20mph limit and it was agreed to continue discussions outside this meeting. **Action: AO/JJ.**

Cabling at Park Corner

Ray Benfield expressed concern about SSE's current practice of modifying the poles to fix cabling and the visual impact on the environment. Residents were encouraged to note any modifications and raise their concerns with the Parish Council.

Parking

Rachel Moore asked if there had been discussions with B&NES about the problems with parking at the top of Rosemary Lane. She commented that this issue is affecting visibility for traffic, particularly the school bus. Cllr Nick Stephens reflected that there had been a suggestion to install white lines. It was considered that parking issues had worsened in the past year and noted that white lines were advisory rather than enforceable. There was some discussion around the use of yellow lines. John Symons observed that this had been an issue in Winsley and the use of yellow lines had resolved the issue but that the resolution had taken seven years. A quick show of hands was held to ascertain residents' views on the use of yellow lines on Abbey Lane and Rosemary Lane and there were no votes against.

In response to a question from Malcolm Shirley regarding the PC's knowledge of B&Bs, Cllr Orme confirmed that there was no register and the PC had no control in this area. Penny Murray commented that the impact of school traffic on the parking issue could be lessened by walking, car sharing, etc with the support of parents. Cllr Orme reflected that discussions had been held with the School governors but parents felt that the idea of car sharing was not practical. He suggested that the community could come up with other suggestions, eg the use of empty driveways at pick up and drop off times with the owner's permission. He recommended further consideration and collaboration with the school to make progress.

Parish Clerk

Gordon Edwards seconded the comments from the Chair about the contribution of Ingrid Maher Roberts paying tribute particularly to her financial acumen. District Cllr Neil Butters also made a statement, saying that it was always a pleasure working with Freshford Parish Council, who were responsive, constructive and efficient. Cllr Butters also paid tribute to the outgoing Clerk.

The next Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Thursday 26th April, 2018

The meeting ended at 9.00pm.

Signed by the Chairman...



.... Date:

26th April 2018