

## FRESHFORD PARISH COUNCIL

### **DRAFT: Minutes of the Meeting of Freshford Parish Council held remotely at 7pm on Monday 14 September 2020**

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**Parish Councillors Present:** John Adler (Chairman), Jean Hawker (Vice Chairman), Annabel Batchelor-Wylam, Julian Carpenter, Tom Maddicott, Nick Stevens, Martin Walker, Tania Pascoe (*from Minute 83 onwards*)

**Apologies:** None

**In attendance:** Selina Jobson (Parish Clerk), Ward Cllr Neil Butters

**Members of the Public:** Four

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78. **Declarations of Interests and Requests for Dispensations**

None.

79. **Minutes of Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 August 2020 were signed as a true record.

80. **Review of Actions**

Cllr Stevens had contacted the BANES Highways Engineer about a previously postponed meeting to consider traffic issues in Church Hill/Dark Lane. The Highways Engineer proposed meeting with Cllrs Stevens and Carpenter in Freshford to explore the issues raised, hopefully in late September or October.

Cllr  
Stevens

Cllr Hawker would continue to liaise with two residents about the planting of two trees as previously agreed by the Parish Council.

Cllr  
Hawker

81. **Open Forum**

A resident raised concerns with the uneven surface on parts of the footpath that started opposite the Galleries car park and led up to the Tying. A lack of lighting on some parts of the path were reported.

Cllr Hawker agreed to look into who was responsible for maintenance of the path.

Cllr  
Hawker

Two residents, who had applied for the vacant positions of parish councillor, spoke to introduce themselves.

82. **Co-option**

Councillors undertook voting to fill the two casual vacancies on the Parish Council. Three applications had been received and circulated to councillors.

Voting for the first vacancy was undertaken. To confirm an absolute majority for one candidate a series of three votes were held. Councillors agreed by majority vote to appoint Tania Pascoe to the role of parish councillor.

Voting for the second vacancy was undertaken. Councillors agreed by majority vote to appoint Ben Walters to the role of parish councillor.

Tania Pascoe signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the meeting as a councillor.

83. **Planning Applications**

None.

It was agreed that the Planning Working Group would consider a planning application in Hinton Charterhouse that was adjacent to the Freshford parish boundary.

84. **Tree Applications**

None.

85. **Decision Notifications**

20/00033/FUL – Friars Gate, Sharpstone Lane: Erection of a double garage to replace single garage. Appeal dismissed.

86. **Planning Consultations**

86.1 Councillors noted an update from BANES on the Local Plan Partial Update.

86.2 Councillors noted the Government's three current White Paper Planning Consultations. Only one of these, 'Planning for the Future' was felt to be of relevance to Freshford Parish Council.

It was agreed that councillors should consider the 'Planning for the Future' White Paper consultation and make any comments at the next Parish Council meeting, noting NALCs deadline for responses was 15 October 2020.

All cllrs

87. **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman confirmed that a request for FPC to identify items requiring funding related to funding from the Councillors Fund. FPC's only current requirement from this Fund was for the Rosemary Lane traffic count which Cllr Carpenter had applied for previously.

The Chairman reported positively on an Avon Local Councils Association (ALCA) councillor training course he'd attended.

FPC had been contacted by the Valley Parish Alliances (VPA) in the last two days about a proposal by the owner of the Warleigh Weir site to make an application to DEFRA for designated bathing water status. BANES Renewal's Board would consider the proposal on 16 September. The VPA had circulated a response from Claverton Parish Council and suggested that this proposal could impact other nearby areas and that a joint response from local parishes might be appropriate. Ward Cllr Butters provided some further information about the proposal.

Councillors agreed that FPC should respond to the VPA, although it was noted that there had been insufficient time to provide a considered response. FPC supported the response from Claverton Parish, who felt unable to support the application for Warleigh Weir to become a designated bathing water location. FPC would expect the VPA to be formally consulted on any Application for Designation, in accordance with the DEFRA guidelines, and to be given adequate time to submit a response.

Ward Cllr Butters reported that he and Cllr Joanna Wright were meeting with Highways England next month regarding the A36 Severance Study and would keep the VPA informed of developments. In further discussion it was reported that Limpley Stoke Parish Council had approached Highways England to request a speed reduction on the A36.

It was agreed that Cllr Carpenter would contact Limpley Stoke Parish Council to clarify any proposals that had been put to Highways England.

Cllr  
Carpenter

88. **Correspondence Received**

A resident who had raised concerns with BANES Planning Enforcement Office about a piece of agricultural land that they considered was being used as a garden without obtaining planning consent for change of use, had provided an update on the situation. No action was proposed by the Planning Enforcement Office at the current time.

Several residents had raised concerns about vegetation from private gardens growing over footpaths and a concern about bonfires had been raised. Whilst FPC had no responsibility for these issues, it was agreed that a Parish Communications about these issues would be sent out.

89. **Finance and Personnel**

89.1 The following payments were approved:

- £300 James Lock for grass cutting (part of The Tynning and cemetery)
- £406.04 Selina Jobson for administration
- £60 ALCA Councillor training
- £60 ALCA Councillor training
- £10 ALCA Climate action planning day
- £60 DM Payroll
- £71.20 HMRC Tax contributions
- £35.50 Winsley Parish Council – contribution to SLCC subscription
- £299.52 HL Mills Tynning grass cutting

89.2 The following payment made since the last meeting was noted:

- £1500 Zonkey for web redevelopment

89.3 The bank reconciliation was approved and the following payment was noted:

- £300 Ian Croker for street cleaning (SO)

90. **Village Agent / Social Prescribing**

Councillors noted a report on some exploratory meetings about the provision of local health services. It had been identified that two aspects of health provision - Village Agents & Social Prescribing - should be being provided to the local community. The possible role of Coombe Down Practice in providing services to the local community was being considered. Community Health would be the focus of the next Cam Valley Forum and the possibility of working with other local parishes to secure these aspects of health provision for local communities would be explored.

91. **PC Assets**

Councillors considered whether to investigate moving to LED lights in street lamps in line with FPC's Climate Emergency Declaration. A reduction in energy usage should also lead to a reduction in annual bills. It was reported that some bulbs had been replaced with LEDs already. Consideration should be given to the brightness of street lights. It was noted that FPC had allocated a budget for repairs and improvements to street lights.

Councillors agreed that Cllr Walker would contact SSE to confirm the types of bulbs in Freshford's street lights.

Cllr  
Walker

92. **Highways and Transport**

Cllr Carpenter reported on the outcomes of the August VPA meeting where it had been agreed to support three schemes as part of the A36 Severance Study: Bathampton, Church Lane/Midford Lane and Pipehouse Lane. BANES would take over the formal engagement with Highways England about these schemes and would keep VPA members involved in the process.

Details of a road traffic accident and a 'near miss' accident on the Freshford section of the A36 were reported. It was unclear as to whether details of 'near miss' incidents were logged by the Police. The importance of having data on road traffic accidents on the A36 in light of FPC's ongoing campaign to reduce the speed limit on this road was noted.

It was agreed that:

- The Police should be contacted to confirm whether people should be encouraged to report 'near miss' road traffic incidents to them.
- The use of a Highways England app to report 'near miss' incidents should be explored.
- Having confirmed the above points, a parish communications email should be sent to residents regarding the notification of accidents and 'near miss' incidents on the A36.

Cllr  
Carpenter

93. **Communications**

A verbal update on the redevelopment of the website was received. It was noted that a demo site would be created which councillors could view and provide feedback on. Councillors were asked to provide their details, including a photo, for inclusion on the website.

All cllrs

94. **Built Environment**

No items were reported.

95. **Upcoming External Meetings**

Cam Valley Forum on 13 October 2020.

Valley Parish Alliance on 14 October 2020.

96. **Exchange of Information**

Councillors discussed a proposed logo to be used on the Freshford website. It was noted that the draft logo would be used for the new site development and could be changed before the site went live if necessary.

A potential problem with school children having to queue on a steep part of the Tynning which could become slippery in winter was raised. Cllr Batchelor-Wylam agreed to raise this matter with the School in the first instance.

Cllr B-  
Wylam

97. **Date of next meeting**

Monday 12 October 2020, 7.00pm.

Meeting ended 8.50pm.