

FRESHFORD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
26TH APRIL 2018, MEMORIAL HALL FRESHFORD

PRESENT:

Cllr Andrew Orme (Chairman), Cllr John Adler, Cllr Nick Stevens, Cllr Roger Paine, Cllr Martin Walker, Cllr Tom Maddicott, Cllr Jean Hawker. Members of the Public.

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME:

Cllr Orme welcomed everyone to the A.P.M.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Cllr Peter King, Steph Jenkins, John and Lizanne Pettit.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES 27th APRIL 2017:

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

CLERK: Cllr. Orme stated that the Parish Council's Clerk had resigned at the end of March and that Jamie Colston had accepted the position of clerk starting in May.

RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER:

In the absence of a clerk Cllr Orme had taken on this position on a temporary basis until the new clerk was in place.

Cllr Orme detailed the income and expenditure items, the balance in the accounts; the precept for the next financial year and the reserves.

Expenditure for last year covered the costs of tree works, street lights, Tyning support etc. together with £2000 for the village hall.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Cllr Orme introduced members of the Parish Council and gave his thanks to Cllr Neil Butters for all his help over the past year. Thanks were also given to Graham Jenkinson for his work as co-ordinator of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme, and to Malcolm Shirley for his work as the co-ordinator for flooding. Cllr Orme stated that although the Precept for this year had been increased by £1,000, because of the larger Tax Base, the amount payable by Freshford Council tax payers would actually decrease by 0.7%. Income for 2018/2019 is expected to be £32,712.

Changes within B&NES over the coming year could put our street cleaning in doubt and if so we would need to look as to how this cost could be

covered.

Expenditure for the coming financial year will include the cost of covering such items as the clerk's salary, regular mowing of the Tyning, street lighting, the cemetery, together with 5% of the cost of work to the War Memorial. The replacement of two street lights at the cost of £7,800, the re-painting of finger posts, subscriptions and donations, the passing place on the Tyning and the cost of opening up the view from the bench on the Tyning.

The Community Infrastructure Levy which is charged on all new builds will have brought in a total of £30,000 which will be transferred to the village hall fund.

Cllr Orme described how data protection must now have clear 'opt in' choices. Emails had gone out requesting if residents wished to opt in or out.

Avoncliff Wood.

Interest is being shown by the Woodland Trust regarding its purchase. The wood has been untouched for a long time and if logging paths are eventually found these could be opened up to the public as footpaths for local use.

VILLAGE HALL DEVELOPMENT:

A presentation of the new plans for the village hall was given by Cllrs Stevens and Walker.

Consultation of the new plans started on the 16th April. Hard copies being available at the village shop.

OVERVIEW: The Trustees now have charitable status which enables a Community Right to Build Order to come into effect. If after consultation and a referendum on the plans, with 50% of voters agreeing, planning permission to build can go ahead.

Thanks were given to Claudia Towner for her outstanding Chairmanship together with her achievement of securing a grant of £32,500 towards the ongoing costs of the redevelopment. Initially infrastructure will take some time to complete which will include the clearing of trees, rerouting of overhead cables to underground, drainage and new car parking and creating a space for the new Doctor's surgery.

Re-roofing of the hall will take place in May, the work is anticipated to take three weeks to complete.

St. Peter's Church:

Penny Murray (Church Warden) and Martin Walker gave a presentation explaining the need to update St. Peter's. The Church is an iconic building

but not seen fit for the 21st century . The heating is in need of updating as it is expensive and ineffective. Decorating is needed throughout. It is felt that the pews stop the area from being used for other activities. The original building is 15th century with areas being added on until 1911.

Plans are to remove some of the pews, add a new toilet, remove the font to a more accessible place, enable tea and coffee facilities in the vestry and to re-design the path from the road to the entrance of the church.

The Church is not in a position to fund these plans and so St. Peters will be solely reliant on voluntary contributions to enable the changes to go ahead.

Questions from the floor:

Would the re-development of the hall go ahead if the Beckington Family

Practice decided not to continue providing a service to the village?

Cllr Orme confirmed that there was a need of assurance from N.H.S

England that they are prepared to pay the rent for the new surgery.

Dr. John Beaven has prepared a paper which has been sent to N.H.S

England setting out his thoughts for the need to continue a service for

Freshford and surrounding areas. There was no plan 'B' for the further re-development of the hall.

Candy Harrison felt that the roof over the entrance to the hall as depicted in the new plans was far too high and would substantially alter the view.

Candy was urged to make known her comments during the consultation period.

It was questioned whether the plan for 20 parking places for the hall was enough.

There is obviously a need for far more parking but nobody could answer the question as to how this could be achieved.

Lighting: It was observed that lighting from the Inn towards the Hill was pretty dismal, what could be done about this?

Parking: It was noted that the bus coming through the village is often stuck by people parking on New Road. This is something that the Parish Council could have a further look at. It was confirmed that yellow lines for Abbey/Rosemary Lane is going through the process and will hopefully be clarified in the foreseeable future.

Parking outside of The Inn in Freshford was raised.

There are times, especially at the weekends, when it is near impossible to get a car through because of the inconsiderate parking of people using The Inn. Any ideas for tackling this problem would be appreciated.

Sat Naps: Tessa Moriarty advised that the HGV sign at the top of the hill going down by the Church had been removed and that lorries were descending the hill getting stuck and causing damage to properties.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would look again at reinstating the

H.G.V sign.

Gordon Edwards confirmed that speeds of up to 41 miles an hour had been logged on New Road within the 20mph speed zone. John Jenkins confirmed that he and a number of volunteers had logged speeds in excess of 20 mps with use of their speed gun. These findings had been sent to the Police who are considering their findings.

Inconsiderate parking along Station Road and at the Station was brought up by Richard Blamey who wondered if pinch points might be the answer.

A question was put enquiring if there were monies put aside for projects that needed doing. It was felt that the pump at Park Corner needed work doing to it together with a paved area around it. The P..C will have a look at this.

Neil Butters thanked the Parish Council for their presentations and for the work they had done over the past twelve months. Neil also thanked Cllr Orme in the way he had coped with the many hats he had worn over the recent months.

The meeting ended at 9.00pm.

Signed by the ChairmanDate