

# FRESHFORD PARISH COUNCIL

## DRAFT: Minutes of the Meeting of Freshford Parish Council

held remotely at 7pm on Monday 11 January 2021

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**Parish Councillors Present:** John Adler (Chairman), Jean Hawker (Vice Chairman), Julian Carpenter, Tom Maddicott, Tania Pascoe, Nick Stevens, Martin Walker, Ben Walters

**Apologies:** Annabel Batchelor-Wylam

**In attendance:** Selina Jobson (Parish Clerk)

**Members of the Public:** One

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

None.

154. **Minutes of Meeting**

**Resolved:** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2020 as a true record.

155. **Review of Actions**

An update on actions arising from previous meetings was reviewed. It was noted that:

- A report considering traffic issues on Dark Lane would be brought to the next meeting.
- A report on the costs and possible sources of funding for the relocation and improvement of the bus stop area would be brought to the next meeting.

156. **Open Forum**

A resident spoke to raise the following matters:

- Libra Travel had given notice that they would terminate provision of the 94 bus service due to the introduction of Bath's Clean Air Zone (CAZ). Funding was available to convert the buses used on this route to meet the requirements of the CAZ, but Libra Travel had declined this as other converted buses had proved to be less reliable. BANES were considering provision of this bus service. Cllr Butters would follow this up with BANES.
- He hoped that the Parish Council would not increase the level of the precept this year, following increases in the precept in the past two years.
- The resident had been unable to locate new 'local access only' road signs installed by BANES. It was confirmed that these signs had been installed at the top of Church Hill and without reference to the Parish Council. The resident reported on a local authority who had successfully campaigned to have a road removed from Sat Nav so that traffic was not directed down an unsuitable. He asked if the Parish Council and BANES could make a similar request in relation to Dark Lane. Cllr Adler reported that this had been raised previously with BANES, but that it would be worth raising again. Cllr Butters asked the resident to provide him with further details so that he could take this up with BANES.

157. **Local Plan Partial Update**

BANES were holding an open consultation until the 18 February 2021 on the partial update of the Local Plan. Details had been circulated to councillors.

**Resolved:** That the Planning Advisory Group co-ordinate the drafting of a Parish Council response to the Local Plan partial update for consideration at the February Parish Council Meeting. All councillors were asked to look at the consultation and forward any comments to Cllr Walters.

158. **Planning Applications**

None.

159. **Tree Applications**

None.

160. **Decision Notifications**

None.

161. **Chairman's Report**

- The Chairman reported on an initial engagement meeting held with Bath and West Community Energy (BWCE) following a general online presentation from BWCE to Freshford, Limpley Stoke and Winsley parish councils. Exploring possible projects with BWCE, who work with communities on energy demand management and renewable energy projects, was in line with the Parish Council's Climate Emergency Declaration. Details and costs of a possible Options Analysis that could be undertaken by BWCE were being sought. Any proposals would be brought to a future meeting of the Parish Council.
- Information had been received from BANES on the National Census which would be undertaken on 21 March 2021. The Census would be online for the first time. Parish Councils had been asked to help with publicising the Census to residents.

162. **Finance and Personnel**

162.2 **Resolved:** to approve the following payments:

- £416.73 Selina Jobson for administration
- £60 ALCA for Councillor training
- £30 Advertising boards for the Climate Emergency Forum

162.3 **Resolved:** to approve the bank reconciliation & note the following payment:

- £300 Ian Croker for street cleaning (SO)

163. **Budget 2021/22**

Following discussion at the December meeting, councillors received updated budget figures with estimated costs of high, medium and low priority projects. The relocation of the bus stop close to the Galleries and improvement of this area was considered a high priority project; revised costs and possible sources of funding were being investigated and details would be brought to the next meeting. Some funding by the Parish Council is likely to be required; any funding requirements would be considered at a future meeting when more details were available.

It was noted that the Parish Council held £16,550 in uncommitted Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds and it was agreed that consideration of the use of CIL funds would be undertaken at a future meeting.

**Resolved:** to approve the budget for 2021/22.

164. **Precept 2021/22**

Having considered the budget requirements for 2021/22, Councillors considered figures relevant to setting the precept, including current levels of reserves, CIL monies held and the precept requested in recent years.

**Resolved:** to approve no change to the current Band D charge, resulting in a total precept of £32,024 for 2021/22.

165. **Natural Environment: Update on the Friends of Freshford Tynning Project**

Cllr Pascoe reported that revised proposals for The Tynning Project from the Friends of Freshford would be available shortly. It was proposed that this document would be circulated to councillors as soon as it was available so that any matters could be raised and responded to ahead of consideration at the February Parish Council meeting. It was recognised that there was a need for the community to be consulted on these proposals. It was proposed that because of the current Covid-19 restrictions community consultation should be undertaken via an online community meeting.

In discussion it was noted that:

- The proposals were in line with the Parish Council's declarations of a Climate and Ecological Emergency and it was suggested that the proposals should therefore be viewed as requiring urgent action.
- Some of the proposals related to projects that needed to be carried out in the Spring and if these projects were to be started this year approval would need to be given relatively quickly.
- The Tynning was a significant community asset and it was important that there was meaningful community engagement and support for the proposals, and that a decision on the proposals should not be rushed.
- It was suggested that community consideration of the proposals should be delayed until a physical community meeting could be held and a delay in implementing the plan would therefore be necessary.
- Proposals relating to the Cemetery needed to be given careful consideration due to the sensitive nature of this area.
- The proposals could be split into smaller projects to enable approval of some elements before others, as had happened with the planting of bulbs on The Tynning.

**Resolved:** that the Friends of Freshford's proposals for The Tynning would be circulated to councillors once available. Consideration would then be given as to how to proceed with the process of seeking Parish Council and community approval.

166. **Climate Emergency**

Cllrs Adler, Pascoe and Walters had held an online meeting with representatives from BANES to progress details of the online Climate and Nature Emergency Community Forum on 28 January 2021, and two more meetings with BANES were planned.

The intention of the Forum was to bring forward a Climate and Nature Emergency action plan that was meaningful, actionable and relevant to Freshford. The Forum would start with presentations, including talks from Cllr Sarah Warren from BANES and Merlin Hyman from Regen. In the second half of the Forum small discussion groups would focus on particular issues. Residents could attend the Forum to listen to the information rather than participate in break-out groups if they preferred.

Residents were being encouraged to complete a Climate and Nature Emergency Questionnaire, the results of which would inform the Forum and the action plan. A hard copy of the questionnaire had been sent to every residence in Freshford and it was also available to complete online via the Freshford community website.

Councillors were asked to help with advertising the event, encouraging completion of the survey and running break-out groups at the Forum if possible.

All cllrs

167. **Communications**

A verbal update on progress with redeveloping the website was given, noting that Cllr Adler and the Clerk continued to liaise with Zonkey who were undertaking the work. Although progress was slower than hoped, the draft website was taking shape and looked good.

168. **Parish Council Assets**

Cllr Walker gave a summary of the state of the Parish Council's four noticeboards.

**Resolved:** That Cllr Walker prepare detailed proposals about the work needed to the noticeboards to bring them up to a reasonable standard.

Cllr Walker

169. **External Meetings**

Cllrs Adler, Pascoe and Walters would be attending online meetings with BANES about setting up the Climate and Ecological Emergency Forum.

Cllrs Adler and Pascoe were attending a Parish Council Carbon Footprint online event run by the Centre for Sustainable Energy.

170. **Correspondence Received**

The Clerk reported on correspondence received.

Running water at the end of Rosemary Lane had been reported by residents and could become an increasing issue if conditions became icy. Cllr Carpenter had reported this on the BANES FixMyStreet reporting tool. The BANES Area Highways Inspector had visited the site but no feedback had yet been received. Cllr Carpenter would follow this up with BANES. Cllr Butters also asked for details of the issue so he could take the matter up with BANES.

Cllr Carpenter

In response to the Parish Council's paper on Rural Transport issues submitted to the West of England Combined Authority, the Chairman of the Severnside Rail Partnership had contacted the Parish Council. He'd offered to discuss local support arrangements for Freshford Station and a response had been drafted.

171. **Exchange of Information**

The Clerk confirmed that BT were aware that the empty phone box in Church Lane in Freshford needed removing, but that current Covid-19 restrictions meant that such works were severely delayed.

A broken wooden bollard on The Tynning was reported.

The Parish Council's shed had been secured with a new lock.

172. **Date of next meeting**

Monday 8 February 2021, 7.00pm.

Meeting ended 8.45pm