

FRESHFORD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 7.00PM AT THE MEMORIAL HALL FRESHFORD.

Present:

Councillors: John Adler (Chairman), Jean Hawker (Vice Chairman), Nick Stevens, Annabel Batchelor-Wylam, Jonelle Daniels, Tom Maddicott, Jacob Heatley-Adams.

Apologies for Absence:

Councillors Martin Walker and Julian Carpenter.

100/19 Declarations of Interests and Requests for Dispensations:

Cllr. Stevens declared an interest regarding the Memorial Hall.

101/20 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 12th August 2019:

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 12th August were duly agreed and accepted.

102/19 Open Forum:

No members of the public attended.

103/19 Planning Applications:

There were no Planning Applications to be considered.

104/19 Community Right to Build Order:

The Planning Officer for BANES is now in receipt of the Community Right to Build Order. The consultation process will end on the 4th October 2019. The Planning Inspectorate will then have to consider whether or not all legal obligations and planning rules have been adhered to. Once confirmation has been made the contents of the Right to Build Order will come back for the Community to vote for or against the plans by way of a referendum.

The Parish Council resolved to comment to Tessa Hampden, Case Officer at the Planning Department, as set out below.

Freshford Parish Council strongly supports this application which is entirely in accordance and consistent with the Freshford and Limpley Stoke Neighbourhood Plan 2014 – 39. The Parish Council would like to suggest that the design is updated in line with the development of sustainable technologies so the building will be the most sustainable it can be in terms of energy use and generation at the time of its completion.

105/19 Roles and Responsibilities:

To agree the terms of reference for a working group to consider Planning Applications before they come before the full Parish Council.

The PC considered Nick Stevens paper and the Chairman's report as regards the Planning Group Working Party.

The PC voted 6-1 to accept the approach of using a Planning Working Group to address Planning Applications.

The Working Group will forward their considerations by way of a Report to the Parish Council. It was proposed that the ToR reflected that:

1. Membership of the Working Group will consist of two Parish Councillors and two Non-Councillors.
2. Parish Council agreement would be needed for any change to membership of the Working Party.
3. PC Councillor to take the lead.
4. Non-Councillors to be made aware of process. Councillors to notify Non-Councillors of the group of all Planning Applications received.
5. PC Councillors only have powers to interact with the Banes Planning Department.
6. Both sides of the argument and all views of any Planning Applications made by the Working Group must be put to the Parish Council who will make the final decision on all Planning Applications. All individual views of Working Group members are to be put to the Parish Council and not purely a majority view.
7. The Working Group will be advised of process in due course.
8. Declarations of interests to be declared by members of the Working Group.
9. Application can be made at any Parish Council meeting to change members of the Working Group.

Comments made by Councillor Stevens were duly listened to and discussed. The Working Group terms of reference are to be updated to include comments and ratified at the October PC meeting. Working Group membership will also be formalised at the same time.

106/19 Finance:

The following payments were approved:

CDM Payroll Services Ltd.	£ 40. 50
Memorial Hall Hire.	£700. 00
James Lock – August cut as	
Per maintenance contract.	£300. 00
Alan Duck – 3 cuts in July.	
3 x £70.	£210. 00

Bank Reconciliation:

AGAR Audit update - Audit was passed and signed off with comments. The main comment was that the Year Start balance was different to the Final Balance of the previous accounts. The reasoning for this was accepted. The correct process is that any correction is applied AFTER the Year Start balance is stated as being the same as the previous year End Balance and not applied TO the Year Start balance with a reasoning note.

107/19 Village Hub bus stop:

Councillor Carpenter, with input from Councillors Stevens and Walker, submitted his Report regarding moving two bus stops down to the outside boundary wall of the village hub which would support a bus stop serving both directions. It was considered that with improvement to the area a new seat could be placed with a new hard standing plinth for wheelchairs and pushchairs with a dropped kerb. It was recommended that hoggins would improve the drainage of the area and compact down well.

As the Parish Council could not afford to finance a scheme of this size, (estimated to be £3k - £4k) Councillor Stevens has submitted a funding request to the Great Western Railway Customer and

Communities Improvement Fund. It was unanimously agreed that Councillor Carpenter should continue to investigate support for the scheme from Banes together with any further funding opportunities.

108/19 Memorial Hall Update:

Councillor Stevens gave an update regarding the ongoing plans for the Memorial Hall, stating that the new plans should provide for much greater sustainability compared to the existing hall. The new plans cater for a well-constructed and insulated building producing a 15% drop in the overall overhead.

109/19 Parking Issues:

The overall problems with parking within the Village were discussed.

It was agreed that one of the biggest problems was concentrated around the Inn especially at weekends. Councillor Stevens will investigate to see what, if anything, can be done to reduce this.

110/19 Budget for 20/21

Consideration will need to be made regarding commitments for the forthcoming financial year by Nov/Dec of this year.

J.H to follow through regarding the cost of maintenance for street lighting

111/19 Natural Environment:

It was felt that the cemetery, Tynning and trees needed a comprehensive re-look as how we could improve on the existing maintenance of all, together with all costs which are incurred on a yearly basis. Contact has been made with an enthusiastic woodsman, who is happy to come and give us his opinion regarding the condition of the trees on the Tynning and in the wood. Councillor Stevens provided a much-needed map which gave information regarding the boundaries of the Tynning Wood. Councillor Batchelor-Wylam together with Cllrs. Daniels, Stevens and Hawker felt there was a need to improve the overall look of the cemetery. Ash saplings have taken root everywhere and all will need to be removed. The possibility of engaging volunteers to help with the ongoing maintenance and general upkeep of the cemetery is something which needs to be considered.

112/19 Recruitment of a new Clerk and RFO:

Councillor Carpenter is thanked for his work in advertising and following through with updated information regarding the need to find a new Clerk.

Two applicants have applied for this position and Councillor Adler will now organise interviews in the hope that we can have a new Clerk and RFO in place as soon as possible.

113/19 External and other meetings:

Heart of Wessex – date to be confirmed.

Cam Valley – Wednesday 18th September.

ALCA – AGM.

114/19 Exchange of further information:

Councillor Stevens' actions regarding a recent burial were approved and thanks given to him for his considerable work in helping out in the absence of a Clerk who would normally take on this responsibility.

115/19 Date of next Meeting:

MONDAY 14th OCTOBER 2019 at 7pm.