

FRESHFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Freshford Parish Council
9 January 2023, 7pm, Freshford Village Memorial Hall

Parish Councillors Present: John Adler (Chairman), Annabel Batchelor-Wylam, Elli Bate, Julian Carpenter, Jean Hawker, Richard Tibbles, Ben Walters

Apologies: John Putt

In attendance: Selina Jobson (Parish Clerk)

Members of the Public: None

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

None.

115. **Minutes of Meeting**

Resolved: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2022 as a true record.

116. **Review of Actions**

Cllr Carpenter had contacted B&NES about additional dog waste bins and was awaiting a response.

117. **Open Forum**

No members of the public were present.

118. **Planning Applications**

None.

119. **Tree Applications**

22/05196/TCA Dunkirk Mill Cottage , Rosemary Lane, BA2 7UD: Willow - Pollard 7 branches to main trunk and remove 2 parasitic sycamore trees.

Resolved: No objection. Request that two replacement trees be planted.

23/00012/TCA 2 The Old House, The Hill, BA2 7WG: Yew Tree (T1) - Reduce by 3 metres and reshape crown.

Resolved: No objection.

22/05130/TCA Parcel Cs Fr99, The Tynning: Ash (G01)- Fell. Ash (T37)- Fell. Ash (T38)- Fell. Ash (T41)- Fell. Oak (T45)- Remove major deadwood. Oak (T47)- Remove major deadwood. Walnut (T49)- Remove major deadwood. Ash (T50)- Fell. Ash (T51)- Fell. Ash (T52)- Fell. Ash (T53)- Fell. Sycamore (T55)- remove major deadwood.

22/05141/TCA Parcel 7600: Sycamore (T14)- remove major dead wood. Sycamore (T17)- remove Ivy to allow for inspection.

Both of these applications related to works on land owned by the Parish Council and therefore no comment was made.

120. **Planning decisions**

None.

121. **Finance**

121.1 **Resolved:** to approve the following payments -

- £706.16 Selina Jobson for administration
- £150 Alan Duck for grass cutting
- £100 Chloe Alexander for internal audit

- £6367.20 BWCE for community energy scoping study (contributions had been received from FLISCA and Limpley Stoke Parish Council, with Freshford Parish Council contributing £1856 from CIL monies).

121.2 **Resolved:** to approve the bank reconciliation, noting the following payment –

- £113.96 SSE for electricity supply (Direct Debit)

122. **Co-option of a Councillor**

With local elections taking place in May 2023 there was no requirement for the Parish Council to co-opt a new councillor, although the Parish Council could co-opt if it wanted to. It was agreed that the role would be advertised to see if it was possible to co-opt someone from February until May 2023.

123. **Street Lighting**

The community survey on the proposal to change some street lamps to LEDs and to switch off other street lights was being finalised. It would be launched on the community website and would be open for two weeks. Paper copies would be available where needed. Results would be reviewed at the February Parish Council meeting and taken into account when reaching a decision on the details of the street lighting project.

A quote for changing the lamps to LEDs and switching some lamps off had finally been received from SSE and would be reviewed.

124. **Highways and Transport**

A speed radar camera had been ordered from Elan City and would arrive shortly. B&NES had not yet installed a post for the camera. When the camera was ready to be used a communication would go out to residents. The local Community Speedwatch group would be informed of the speed radar purchase.

Cllr
Carpenter

125. **Community Renewable Energy Project**

B&NES had confirmed that there were no alternative groups to Bath and West Community Energy that could run a community energy project in this locality. Other groups might be able to support the Parish Council in undertaking a community energy project, but could not run a project. Commercial companies would not be interested in such a small scale project. In light of this information, Limpley Stoke Parish Council had confirmed that they supported the project going ahead with BWCE. Hinton Charterhouse Parish Council were also interested in being involved in the project.

A project initiation meeting would be set up. Although BWCE would undertake the majority of the project work, there was communication and engagement work to be undertaken by the parish councils.

Cllr Adler

126. **Natural Environment**

Bawden Tree Care were putting together a revised quote for the next phase of the agreed works. Tree works would be undertaken before the bird nesting season.

127. **Budget and Precept 2023/24**

Councillors considered final figures for the 2023/24 budget. The street lighting project was a significant potential budget spend for 2023/24 but would bring savings in the longer term. Other potential projects – legitimising the hedge entrance to The Tynning and replacing the fence in the Cemetery with a metal fence - would be deferred until it was clear that there were sufficient funds.

Resolved: to approve the budget figures for 2023/24.

The need to fund the street lighting project and to budget for inflation was discussed. The budget provided for a significant increase in street cleaning costs and other costs

were expected to rise during the year. The Band D precept rate had been unchanged for the past three years. It was considered preferable to raise the precept by a small amount this year to reduce the risk of a more significant increase next year.

Resolved: to approve a 5% increase in the Band D charge for 2023/24, resulting in a total precept of £35,854.34.

128. **Clerk's Report**

Emails requesting articles for the Spring edition of the Bulletin would go out shortly to organisations and the community. Businesses would also be approached about advertising, to cover some of the costs of production.

The B&NES Conservation Officer had been asked to check that building works at the Old Doctors Surgery had not breached planning regulations for a Conservation Area.

B&NES had proposed felling a willow tree that was leaning over the path to the Galleries and deemed dangerous. Councillors had contacted B&NES to see if there were alternative solutions to make the tree safe and prevent it being felled.

A company had been in touch about taking on the Village Steward work and a meeting had been arranged for this Friday to discuss what was involved.

129. **Exchange of Information**

The Beavers were looking for ideas for voluntary work they could undertake.

A child with an interest in local politics wanted to attend a parish council meeting.

Councillors discussed the possibility of setting up a 'youth voice' initiative.

130. **Dates of meetings 2023**

All on Mondays at 7pm in Freshford Village Memorial Hall:

| | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 6th February | 10th July |
| 13th March | 11th September |
| 17th April | 9th October |
| 15th May | 13th November |
| 12th June | 11th December |

(No meeting in August unless required.)

Meeting ended 8.25pm