

FRESHFORD PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of Freshford Parish Council 17 June 2021
7pm, Freshford Village Memorial Hall

Parish Councillors Present: John Adler (Chairman), Jean Hawker (Vice Chairman), Annabel Batchelor-Wylam, Julian Carpenter, Tania Pascoe, Nick Stevens, Ben Walters

Apologies: Tom Maddicott, Martin Walker

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

Members of the Public: None

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

None.

22. **Minutes of Meeting**

Resolved: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 5 May 2021 as a true record.

23. **Review of Actions**

Councillors noted an update on actions arising from previous meetings. A response to the Government's consultation on remote meetings would be submitted.

24. **Open Forum**

No members of the public were present.

25. **Planning Applications**

Noted that the following comments had been submitted since the last meeting, as consultation deadlines had now ended:

- 21/02061/LBA Rowley Cottage, Iford Manor, BA15 2BA: Internal alterations to create ensuite bathroom; removal & partial replacement of flammable fibreboard and studwork with lime alternative.

Support: no concerns raised.

- 21/01526/FUL Wayside, Park Corner, BA2 7UP: Erection of a single car port, a storm porch and workshop; addition of render and cedar cladding; replacement of windows with double glazed sash frames.

Support: the proposals are sympathetic and would improve both the look of the building and its level of energy consumption.

26. **Tree Applications**

21/02446/TCA Sharpstone Cottage, Sharpstone Lane, BA2 7UA: Yew T1 – reduce by 2-3m; Yew T2 – reduce by 2-3m; Bay T3 – reduce by 2m.

Support.

27. **Decision Notifications**

21/01305/FUL The Surgery, Dark Lane, BA2 7TT: Change of use from doctors surgery to a dwelling (Use Class C3). *Permitted.*

28. **Chairman's Report**

28.1 Bristol River Avon Bioregion Group

A request had been received for two councillors to attend an ecology walk arranged by the Bristol River Avon Bioregion Group. Cllrs Carpenter, Walters and Adler (if available) would attend.

28.2 ALCA Meeting

The next ALCA meeting would take place on 30 June 2021. The current Chair of ALCA, Dawn Drury, was stepping down and a new Chair was sought.

28.3 Communications

It was proposed that councillors resume consideration of providing an online version of the Bulletin newsletter. Previous ideas about the future of the Bulletin would be considered. Consideration would be given to how residents who were not online could access the information.

Councillors agreed to see if there was a member of the community who wanted to be involved in establishing an online version of the Bulletin.

28.4 The Tynning

Some issues had been raised with the potential impact on safety and visibility of the long grass alongside the road on The Tynning.

Councillors agreed that these issues would be considered by Cllrs Carpenter, Hawker, Meneheott and Pascoe and representatives from Friends of Freshford.

Concerns were raised about a perceived increase in the speed of some vehicles using the road on The Tynning. It was suggested that establishing pedestrian priority on this road should be considered.

Councillors agreed that Cllr Carpenter would investigate possible options for establishing pedestrian priority on the road on The Tynning.

29. Finance

Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020/21

29.1 Councillors received the completed Internal Auditors report for the Annual Governance and Accountability Review (AGAR) and noted that no issues had been raised.

Resolved: to approve all statements relating to the preparations of the Accounting Statement in Section One of the AGAR (excepting Trust Funds, which do not apply to Freshford Parish Council).

29.2 **Resolved:** to approve the figures provided in the Accounting Statements in Section Two of the AGAR.

It was noted that the period of the Exercise of Public Rights would take place from 1 July to 11 August 2021.

Payments and Bank Reconciliation

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

- £416.73 Selina Jobson for administration
- £300 James Lock for grass cutting

29.4 **Resolved:** to approve the bank reconciliation, noting the following payments and receipt:

- £300 Ian Croker for street cleaning (SO)
- £164.75 SSE for electricity supply (DD)
- £200 FLISCA for Freshford station grant (receipt)

30. Natural Environment: Friends of Freshford Proposals

30.1 Quotes for revised grass cutting regime on The Tynning

Councillors considered quotes for a revised cutting regime on the main part of The Tynning. The main part of grass would be cut twice a year and the grass removed in line with the Friends of Freshford proposal to enhance biodiversity.

Five companies had been contacted; two had provided quotes.

Resolved: to approve a quote of £800 a year from David Horler for undertaking two cuts a year of the main grass on The Tynning and removing the cut grass.

There was a small, steep area of grass that David Horler could not cut; confirmation was needed of who would trim this.

30.2 Update report from Friends of Freshford on The Tynning proposal

Councillors noted a report.

30.3 Proposed way of working between the Parish Council and the Friends of Freshford

Councillors considered a proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), based on a document drafted by the Friends of Freshford, with some additions by the Parish Council. The Friends of Freshford had questioned whether a point about notifying the Parish Council before work was undertaken on The Tynning was required as this was felt to be covered elsewhere in the MoU. Councillors felt it was important to include this specific point for clarity.

Resolved: to approve the MoU setting out how the Friends of Freshford and the Parish Council would work together on The Tynning proposal.

31. **Highways and Transport**

31.1 The Tynning

Comments from the B&NES Highways Engineer about safety aspects of recent changes alongside the road on The Tynning were noted and would be discussed further in conjunction with the Friends of Freshford.

31.2 Dark Lane / Church Hill

Cllr Carpenter reported on a meeting with B&NES Highways Engineer to consider the suggestions, agreed by the Parish Council in February 2021, to try to prevent through traffic using Church Hill / Dark Lane. The Highways Engineer felt that the current signage was adequate and the changes to signage were unlikely to have a significant impact on the problem.

It was suggested that Dark Lane should be reported as unsuitable for through traffic on NavTech. This information would not be available on all route finding devices and it was felt that this action might help reduce problems but was unlikely to resolve them.

The Highways Engineer suggested possible solutions of implementing a road closure on Dark Lane and installing a mini-roundabout at the junction of Freshford Land/ New Road/ Dark Lane to mitigate the poor sight line when exiting from Dark Lane.

These suggestions differed to the approach that the Parish Council had agreed to explore in February 2021. Potential costs and difficulties of implementing these proposals were noted. These were long term solutions which could only be considered after a community consultation.

It was agreed that Cllr Carpenter would investigate the process for contacting NavTech to indicate that Dark Lane was not suitable for through traffic.

Cllr
Carpenter

Cllrs Carpenter and Stevens to give further consideration to the proposals put forward by the B&NES Highways Engineer.

Cllrs
Carpenter
& Stevens

31.3 Quote for Village Bus Stop

B&NES had confirmed that hoggin could be used to surface the area by the proposed new bus stop, rather than tarmac, if the Parish Council took on responsibility for maintenance of this area. Quotes were being sought and would be brought to the next meeting.

Cllr
Carpenter

31.4 Outcomes of Rosemary Lane Traffic Monitoring

Traffic monitoring had been undertaken by B&NES at five sites and results of this had just been received. The number of vehicles recorded at site 4, the bottom of Dunkirk Lane, were very low and it wasn't clear if these were accurate. B&NES had indicated that they would rerun monitoring at this site if the Parish Council felt it necessary. Cllr Carpenter to ask B&NES to rerun the traffic monitoring at the bottom of Dunkirk Lane, if this was at no additional charge to the Parish Council.

Cllr
Carpenter

31.5 Signage for Passing Place

Quotes for a 'No Parking, Passing Place' sign to be situated in the passing place on the road on The Tynning road were considered. A resident had kindly offered to pay for the sign.

Resolved: to approve the quote from The Oak House for a wooden sign and to organise the ordering and installation of the sign.

Cllr Pascoe

32. Parish Council Assets

32.1 Renewal of electricity supply for street lamps

SSE had provided two quotes to renew the contract for supplying unmetered electricity for the street lamps. One quote was for a green energy tariff & one for a standard tariff. There had been a significant price rise since the last contract, that SSE attributed to the impact of Ofgem's Targeted Charging Review. Quotes for other green energy tariffs would be sought, although it was noted that many energy companies did not provide contracts for unmetered electricity supply. The renewal deadline was 1 July 2021.

The Clerk would check whether the SSE quotes reflected the recent change of two LED lamps.

Resolved: That other quotes for green energy contracts would be sought, but that councillors would approve the green energy quote from SSE in the absence of any other comparable quote by 1 July 2021.

Clerk

32.1 Quote for a installing a shield on Lamp 4

Resolved: to approve a quote of £137+VAT from SSE for installing a shield on Lamp 4, Jasmine Cottage, to reduce light spill reaching roosting bats.

33. The Cemetery

Councillors noted a report on the Cemetery and a number of proposed actions.

34. Upcoming External Meetings

Parish Liaison Meeting on 14 July 2021.

35. Correspondence

A resident had requested that the area alongside Radicott Farm be left untrimmed, and had spoken to the Parish Council's contractor about this.

Two residents had raised concerns about poor and excessive parking around the Freshford Inn area in good weather, and the difficulties this created for vehicles, especially larger vehicles, using the road. The Parish Council was aware of problems occurring at certain times but there were not any easy solutions that were not likely to result in creating problems elsewhere in the village.

Concerns about the increasing recreational use by members of the public of a piece of private land by the river had been raised by the landowner's solicitors. It was not felt that the Parish Council was in a position to help with this matter.

36. **Exchange of Information**

Issues with hedges and vegetation from private residences growing over pavements were reported. It was agreed that a communications email would be sent out about the issue, including reference to the fact that hedges should not be cut if birds were nesting.

Ward Cllr Butters reported on potential subsidence problems on the A36, Limpley Stoke Hill. The extent of traffic works required was being confirmed.

37. **Date of next meeting**

To be confirmed.

Meeting ended 9.10pm