

FRESHFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Freshford Parish Council 8th November 2021 7pm, Freshford Village Memorial Hall

Parish Councillors Present: John Adler (Chairman), Elli Bates, Annabel Batchelor-Wylam, Jean Hawker, Tom Maddicott, Tania Pascoe, Ben Walters

Apologies: Julian Carpenter, Nick Stevens

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

Members of the Public: Two

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

Cllr Adler declared an interest in planning application 21/03824/FUL.

88. **Minutes of Meeting**

Resolved: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2021 as a true record.

89. **Review of Actions**

It was reported that:

- The Clerk would follow up details of a bench to replace the one at the front of the Galleries. Clerk
- Revised quotes for the bus stop works had been sought.
- The Freshford Village Memorial Hall Committee would consider the possible relocation of the Freshford Station sign to inside the Hall. Ward Cllr Butters had sought alternative solutions if it was not possible to rehouse the sign in the Hall.
- Cllr Carpenter had submitted details of the Parish Council's proposals for new and replacement public bins to B&NES and was meeting the B&NES officer later in November to discuss these.

90. **Open Forum**

Two residents raised concerns about planning application 21/04590/FUL Homewood Park Hotel and whether all neighbours had been notified of the application. The application included a significant amount of documentation which took time to review. It was agreed that the Clerk would raise potential issues with notification processes with the Planning Officer and would ask if the deadline for public comments could be extended. Clerk

91. **Planning Applications**

- 21/04237/FUL 1 The Old House, The Hill, BA2 7WG: Erection of a temporary 'feather edge' fence behind newly planted yew hedging on a raised garden area, in front of southern elevation of property (Retrospective).
Resolved: to support the application. Noting that the application stated that the fence was to be a temporary structure, councillors requested that the removal of the temporary fence be made a condition of approval.
- Revisions to 21/03824/FUL Building to North of Laughing Snakes, Midford Lane, Freshford: Conversion of redundant existing gatehouse building into a one bedroom holiday let.

Cllr Adler left the room and Cllr Hawker took over as Chair.

Whilst revisions to the proposals addressed concerns about the size of the proposed extension and parking area, other concerns remained. Councillors agreed to reiterate the comments submitted on the original application.

Resolved: To object to the application on the grounds of adverse impact on the openness of the Green Belt and on the potential impact on a nearby major bat roost.

If the proposal was approved then the Parish Council requested that a condition be included to ensure the property could only ever be used as holiday let.

Cllr Adler returned to the room and resumed the charring the meeting.

- 21/04590/FUL Homewood Park Hotel, Homewood, Hinton Charterhouse, BA2 7TB: Rear, side and front extension to existing spa, 6no new guest suites, new meeting / events space, admin office and ancillary accommodation following demolition of existing stables, garage and other outbuildings. Provision of additional on-site car parking, soft landscaping and associated external works, drainage and services provision.

The Parish Council had received an extension to the consultation deadline. Discussion of the application was therefore deferred until the December meeting. The Parish Council had not been notified of a second application at Homewood Park, 21/04790/FUL, but this would also be considered at the December meeting. Homewood Park was in the parish of Hinton Charterhouse and the Hinton Charterhouse Parish Council would be considering the application at their November meeting; they had received an extension to the deadline for submitting comments.

92. **Chairman's Report**

Councillors received and noted the Chairman's report.

93. **Finance - Payments and Bank Reconciliation**

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

- £424.53 Selina Jobson for administration
- £300 James Lock for grass cutting

93.2 **Resolved:** to approve the bank reconciliation, noting the following payments -

- £300 Ian Croker for street cleaning (SO)
- £113.96 SSE for electricity supply (DD)
- £994.39 Public Works Board Loan repayment (DD)
- £480 WH&D Horler for cutting The Tynning

94. **Access to Freshford Church School**

The School continued to use The Tynning for drop-off and pick-up. The temporary matting and steps were therefore still required to provide a safe path and to protect The Tynning.

Resolved: to retain the temporary matting and steps on The Tynning until the School was confident these were no longer needed.

It was agreed that this decision, and the reasons for it, would be communicated to the community.

Cllr
Batchelor-
Wylam

95. **The Cemetery**

95.1 Cemetery Advisory Group Terms of Reference

Councillors received proposed Terms of Reference to establish a Cemetery Advisory Group. The Group would assist the Parish Council in its consideration of matters relating to the maintenance and enhancement of the Cemetery, by obtaining views

from members of the Freshford community. The Group would include councillors and residents.

Resolved: to approve the Terms of Reference of the Cemetery Advisory Group.

95.2 Planting and Maintenance in the Cemetery

Councillors received a report from the Cemetery Advisory Group on proposals for planting and maintenance in the cemetery. Proposals took into consideration feedback from residents. Smaller areas of grass would be left unmown and for shorter periods of time. It was agreed that there should be clarification of the extent of grass to be left unmown between May and July in the main part of the cemetery. Signage would be put in the Cemetery to explain the proposals.

Resolved: to approve the plans for planting and maintenance of the Cemetery, subject to confirmation of the area of grass to be left unmown between May and July.

Cllr Pascoe

96. Natural Environment

96.1 Friends of Freshford Tynning Update Report

Councillors noted an update report from the Friends of Freshford on The Tynning projects. It was confirmed that, once planted on The Tynning, any sponsored trees would be the property and responsibility of the Parish Council. Particular laws relating to Village Greens might need consideration in the future.

96.2 Quotes for a professional survey of trees on Parish Council owned land

Three companies had been asked to provide quotes for undertaking a survey of the state of all trees on Parish Council land; two quotes had been received. It was considered important that the Parish Council was provided with a map detailing the trees, the condition of the trees and any potential short or longer term issues. Bawden Tree Care were considered to provide a more comprehensive service.

Resolved: to approve the quote from Bawden Tree Care, subject to receiving an example map that included the detailed tree information expected by councillors.

97. Climate and Nature Emergencies

97.1 Updates on Climate and Nature Emergency Projects

Cllr Walters provided an update on the Freshford and Limpley Stoke Home Energy Group. Home energy information had been added to the Freshford Community website. A survey would be undertaken to ascertain interest in and support required for home energy initiatives.

Electric Blue and Bath and West Community Energy (BWCE) were carrying out a feasibility study of electric car charging points at locations in the village such as Browns Field, Freshford School and Freshford Village Memorial Hall. BWCE had asked for a survey to be undertaken to ascertain levels of support and need for publicly available electric charging points in Freshford.

Cllr Maddicott to arrange a meeting with Electric Blue, BWCE and other interested parties in the village to progress this.

Cllr
Maddicott

97.2 Terms of Reference for Bathavon Forum Climate & Nature Group

Councillors received proposed Terms of Reference for a Bathavon Forum Climate and Nature Group, intended to achieve successful projects through the local communities working together.

Resolved: to support the Terms of Reference.

Cllrs Bates and Pascoe to represent Freshford Parish Council on the Bathavon Forum Climate and Nature Group.

98. **Communications**

Councillors considered current Parish Council communications and how these could be extended or improved.

The future of The Bulletin had been considered by councillors in early 2020. Since then the Parish Magazine had ceased operating and councillors felt there was a need for a local newsletter. The Limpley Stoke Newsletter was noted as a good example. It was suggested that those previously involved in the Parish Magazine and those involved in the Limpley Stoke Newsletter could be contacted for ideas and advice. A request should be made for help from residents with putting together a newsletter. The details of any newsletter, such as length, frequency and potential sponsorship, were to be decided.

Consideration would be given to communication with residents who were not online.

It was agreed that the noticeboards should be used more extensively by the Parish Council and that The Galleries should be asked about having a dedicated space on their noticeboard for Parish Council notices.

Cllr
Batchelor-
Wylam

99. **Councillor Responsibilities**

The following responsibilities were agreed, noting that all councillor responsibilities would be considered at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May 2022:

- Finance, Lighting – Cllr Bates
- Assets – Cllr Maddicott (from March 2022)
- Communications – Cllrs Hawker and Batchelor-Wylam
- Freshford Village Memorial Hall representative – Cllr Stevens

100. **Parish Meeting, 7pm Wednesday 8 December**

Arrangements for the Parish Meeting were discussed.

101. **Upcoming External Meetings**

Bathavon Area Forum, 7.30pm, 24 November 2021
Valley Parish Alliance, 12.30pm, 18 November 2021

102. **Correspondence Received**

The following correspondence with residents was noted:

- Ward Cllr Butters and Cllr Adler had responded to a resident's concerns about roadworks notifications and signage.
- Concerns had been raised about flower containers encroaching on the road outside the Freshford Inn; it was confirmed that highway issues were the responsibility of B&NES and could be reported via the B&NES Report It tool.
- A resident who had concerns with a new structure at the Freshford Inn had been told that planning issues were the responsibility of B&NES and could be reported to B&NES Planning Enforcement.
- Concerns about the safety of stakes used to hold the logs in place on The Tynning were reported; it was suggested Alan Duck might be able to advise on this.

103. **Exchange of Information**

Cllr Hawker reported on works to survey the culvert from West View Orchard to the river.

104. **Date of next meeting**

Monday 13 December, 7pm, Freshford Village Memorial Hall

Meeting ended 9.30pm