

FRESHFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Freshford Parish Council 11th October 2021 7pm, Freshford Village Memorial Hall

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

Apologies: Elli Bates, Tom Maddicott

In attendance: Selina Jobson (Parish Clerk), Ward Cllr Neil Butters (from item 82)

Members of the Public: Two

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

Cllr Stevens declared his role as a Trustee of Freshford Village Memorial Hall.

73. **Minutes of Meeting**

Resolved: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2021 as a true record.

74. **Review of Actions**

Items covered elsewhere on the agenda.

75. **Open Forum**

The applicants of planning application 21/04021/FUL & 21/04022/LBA were in attendance and it was agreed to take any comments under that agenda item.

76. **Planning Applications**

- 21/04021/FUL & 21/04022/LBA Sharpstone Cottage, Sharpstone Lane, BA2 7UA:

Two storey extension with glazed lean-to. Reinstatement of previous porch structure. Internal works to first floor layout. Alterations to existing garage facade. Refurbishment of existing windows.

Resolved: To support. The proposal was felt to be well considered and sympathetic to the listed status of the building. The proposed works to the garage would be an improvement and the scheme would on the whole make a positive addition to the Conservation Area.

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).

Deferred to the next meeting.

- 21/04161/TCA The Old Rectory, Crowe Lane BA2 7WB: Mature Oak (T1) - Remove major dead wood, 15% thinning/ weight reduction on the limbs overhanging retaining wall and Dark Lane towards neighbours' garden Mature Yew hedge (T2) - Reduce height by 2 metres, and bring sides in by 1 metre

Resolved: To support.

Whilst the Community Right to Bid Order (CRtBO) for Freshford Village Memorial Hall could be viewed on the B&NES website, official notification of the outcome of the CRtBO to the Parish Council would be checked.

77. **Local Plan Partial Update Consultation**

Councillors approved responses to B&NES' Local Plan Partial Update Consultation and the Sustainable Construction and Retrofitting SPD Consultation.

The reports would be added to the Freshford website.

78. **Chairman's Report**

Councillors received the Chairman's report, noting that:

- Noticeboards would be left unlocked on one side for community notices.
- B&NES had been contacted about the possibility of the Parish Council obtaining the verge outside the Galleries / FVMH under licence from B&NES.
- Councillors agreed to hold a Parish Meeting on Wednesday 10 December in Freshford Village Memorial Hall. Details of the format to be confirmed.

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

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

- £424.73 Selina Jobson for administration
- £300 James Lock for grass cutting
- £120 Melanie Everard for station gardening (September)
- £14.29 Jean Hawker for maintenance equipment

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

- £300 Ian Croker for street cleaning (SO)
- £113.96 SSE for electricity supply (DD)
- £27.41 Water2Water for water rates (DD)
- £16,012 from B&NES precept (2 of 2) (receipt)

80. **Funding Request for Repairs to the Memorial Hall / Galleries Car Park**

Councillors considered a request from the Freshford Village Memorial Hall Committee for a contribution towards interim maintenance repairs to the car park. Contributions were also being sought from The Galleries and FLiSCA. It was noted that:

- A full renovation of the car park was planned once proposed works to Freshford Village Memorial Hall had been undertaken; currently there is no timescale for these works but it was stated that this is unlikely to be within 5 years.
- The car park was likely to require regular maintenance until a complete renovation had addressed drainage issues;
- There was a clear need for repairs to be undertaken in the short term;
- A plan to manage the car park until full renovation was undertaken would be useful to consider recurring costs over the next five years;

Resolved: to agree a contribution of £525 to fund interim repairs to the Memorial Hall car park on the condition that plans were produced to consider longer term solutions to improve drainage of the car park area.

81. **Highways and Transport - Village Hub Bus Stop Update**

Cllr Carpenter had met with B&NES' Traffic Engineer and Public Transport Officer to discuss the moving of the bus stop to outside The Galleries/Memorial Hall. The bus flag and timetable would be moved to an existing pole near The Galleries.

Additionally, the missing bus stop flag on Rosemary Lane would be replaced.

Councillors discussed the exact area of hoggins required for the bus stop area, noting the need to have enough room for a bench and bus access, whilst also maintaining as much of the wild flower area as possible.

Resolved: that the area of hoggin would be 2.7m wide x 4m depth. This would leave the wildflower area untouched.

A quote of £485 had been received for a replacement bench. The sustainability of the wood used would be checked. The Hobbs plaque would be reinstated on the new bench. It was proposed to site the bench on a plinth of natural stone paving.

Resolved: to purchase a new bench from Memorial Benches UK for £485, subject to confirmation of the sourcing of the wood used.

The bin by the bench would be replaced with a closed bin and moved to the other side of the entrance; the exact location to be agreed between B&NES and The Galleries.

Fly-tipping

Cllr Carpenter had liaised with National Highways about fly-tipping by the small car park on the A36. Although the items had been removed, more fly-tipping had occurred in the same place and the issue had been reported to National Highways.

82. Parish Council Assets

82.1 Replacement of Freshford Station sign

Costs for a replacement Freshford Station sign were higher than GWR had originally estimated. Costs were likely to be in the region of £2200 and the Parish Council had been asked to contribute some funds towards this. A request for funding would also be put to FLISCA. Cllr Butters stated that he might be able to contribute some additional funding from the Ward Councillors funds.

It was noted that there needed to be a firm proposal about the relocation of the old Freshford Station sign, potentially to be relocated in the Memorial Hall. Cllr Stevens to obtain a written proposal from the FVMH Committee.

Cllr
Stevens

Resolved: to contribute up to £650 towards a replacement Freshford Station sign, the exact amount to be dependent on the full cost of the sign and contributions from other sources.

82.2 New and replacement public bins

Councillors considered proposals for new and replacement public bins. Whilst such requests would usually need to be funded by a parish council, B&NES were looking at introducing some new bins and it was possible that the Parish Council's requests would be funded by B&NES. The request included:

- The replacement of bins with larger, easier to empty bins.
- New bins by Freshford Mill and by the Rosemary Lane/Abbey Lane intersection.
- The installation of a replacement bin by the old Doctor's Surgery (the previous bin had gone missing).
- The removal of one bin on The Tynning, (with the replacement of two existing bins on The Tynning with larger bins).
- Moving the bin by The Galleries/ Memorial Hall car park (noted above).

Resolved: to put the proposals for new and replacement bins to B&NES, noting that any changes would be subject to agreement by B&NES.

Cllr
Carpenter

83. Natural Environment

83.1 Friends of Freshford Tynning Update Report

Councillors noted an update report from the Friends of Freshford on The Tynning projects.

Proposals for sponsoring trees were noted and questions were raised about any implications this might have for ownership of trees. Sponsorship would also impact on

a previous proposal by the Parish Council to designate 'bollard' trees as memorial trees. It was agreed that Cllr Hawker would liaise with Friends of Freshford about the details of the sponsorship proposal.

84. **Deferral of Items**

Councillors agreed to defer the following items to the next meeting:

- Quotes for a professional survey of trees on Parish Council owned land
- Updates on Climate and Nature Emergencies
- The Cemetery Advisory Group

85. **Clerk's Appraisal**

Councillors noted a report on the Clerk's appraisal. It was proposed that the Clerk's remuneration should be on a par with previous qualified clerks for the Parish Council.

Resolved: to approve that the Clerk's remuneration should be Band 28.

86. **Date of next meeting**

Monday 8 November, 7pm, Freshford Village Memorial Hall

Meeting ended 9.30pm