

FRESHFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Freshford Parish Council 10 January 2022 7pm, Freshford Village Memorial Hall

Parish Councillors Present: John Adler (Chairman), Elli Bate, Jean Hawker, Tom Maddicott, Ben Walters

Apologies: Annabel Batchelor-Wylam, Julian Carpenter

In attendance: Selina Jobson (Parish Clerk)

Members of the Public: None

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

None.

124. **Minutes of Meeting**

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

125. **Review of Actions**

An update on actions was received.

The Freshford Village Memorial Hall Trustees had decided that it was not possible to accommodate the old Freshford Station sign in the Hall. Councillors wanted the sign to be displayed in the village if possible and alternative locations would be considered.

126. **Open Forum**

No members of the public were present.

127. **Councillors Resignations**

Councillor Nick Stevens had resigned. As a long serving councillor, Cllr Stevens had undertaken many projects for the Parish Council and residents of Freshford. Of particular note was his central involvement in drawing up the Neighbourhood Plan with Limpley Stoke. Cllr Stevens was also instrumental in the purchase of The Tynning and had worked hard on many aspects of traffic management and transport issues in the village, not least in bringing in the 20mph speed limit. Councillors thanked Cllr Stevens for all his work for the Parish Council and for residents of Freshford.

Councillor Tania Pascoe had resigned at December's meeting. Cllr Pascoe had been involved in Climate Change and Environmental activities, widening the Parish Council's Climate Emergency Resolution to include the local ecology, creating the Community Climate Forum and being instrumental in work on The Tynning, the cemetery and the wildflowers by the Memorial Hall.

Notices of vacancies for both positions have been issued by B&NES. Unless ten or more electors requested an election councillors agreed that they would start the process of advertising the two vacant roles as soon as possible and co-options could be made from the February meeting onwards if applications had been received by that point.

128. **Planning Applications**

- 21/05419/FUL Southview, High Street, Freshford, BA2 7WE: Single-storey rear infill extension. The proposed extension was at the rear of the property and would have low visibility. The overall increase in volume was given as 15%.

Resolved: To Support.

129. **Planning Decisions**

- 21/03824/FUL Building To North Of Laughing Snakes, Midford Lane, Freshford:
Conversion of redundant existing gatehouse building into a one bedroom holiday let. *Permitted.*

130. **Chairman's Report**

There were no updates to report since the last meeting.

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

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

- £955.66 Selina Jobson for administration
- £57.60 Jean Hawker reimbursement for wheelbarrow

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

- £300 Ian Croker for street cleaning (SO)
- £113.96 SSE for electricity supply (DD)
- £725 Alan Duck for grass cutting and cemetery clearance
- £525 Valletta Surfacing for contribution to car park repairs

132. **Budget 2022/23**

Councillors discussed a proposed final version of the budget for 2022/23. It was noted that the Parish Council currently held just under £20,000 in Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money and consideration would be given to suitable projects to be funded from this money. CIL money could be spent on infrastructure projects and should be spent, or allocated for spending, within five years of receipt.

Resolved: to approve the budget for 2022/23.

133. **Precept 2022/23**

Following discussion of the budget requirements for 2022/23, Councillors considered figures relevant to setting the precept, including current levels of reserves, CIL monies held and the level of precept requested in recent years. Councillors did not feel there was any significant justification for increasing the precept.

Resolved: to approve that the current Band D charge remain unchanged for 2022/23, resulting in a total precept of £34,394.

134. **Climate and Nature Emergencies**

Bath and West Community Energy (BWCE) were making progress with identifying possible sites for a potential community solar farm. There was a need to submit requests for funding for the feasibility study element of the project to the Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF) by the end of February 2022. Funding opportunities after February had not been confirmed.

A survey on the principle of undertaking a solar farm project was required by BWCE to demonstrate community support for the potential project. It was emphasised that at this point views on the principle of such a project were sought and that there would be further engagement and consultation with the community about the details of any proposed project. It was recognised that it would be important to share information with the community about any potential solar energy scheme.

Resolved: to undertake a community survey about the principles of renewable energy and solar energy generation schemes.

135. **The Cemetery**

A quote from the current contractor for revisions to the maintenance contract in the Cemetery was awaited and would be considered at the March meeting.

136. **Natural Environment**

Friends of Freshford Tynning Update Report

No new activity to report on.

Temporary matting on The Tynning had been adjusted.

137. **External Meetings**

Bathavon Area Forum on 8 February 2022.

The Chair was meeting with a representative from WERN about the Village Agents Scheme and with B&NES' new Director of Sustainability.

138. **Correspondence Received**

The School had reported that the water trough situated adjacent to the School on The Tynning was leaking. A local plumber was looking at the problem and would advise on whether the leak could be fixed or whether it would be best to stop the water flowing into the trough.

A resident had reported that increased traffic on Rosemary Lane was causing significant problems for residents. It was noted that the Parish Council planned to consider traffic issues across Freshford at a Parish Meeting in the Spring.

139. **Exchange of Information**

To consider what celebrations were planned in Freshford for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations and the Parish Council's possible role in coordinating these at the next Parish Council meeting.

140. **Date of next meeting**

Monday 14 February, 7pm, Freshford Village Memorial Hall

Meeting ended 8.35pm