

FRESHFORD PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of Freshford Parish Council 14 February 2022, 7pm, Freshford Village Memorial Hall

Parish Councillors Present: John Adler (Chairman), Annabel Batchelor-Wylam, Elli Bate, Julian Carpenter, Jean Hawker, Tom Maddicott, John Putt (from minute 146), Ben Walters

Apologies: None

In attendance: Selina Jobson (Parish Clerk)

Members of the Public: Two

141. Declarations of Interests and Requests for Dispensations

None.

142. Minutes of Meeting

Resolved: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 22 as a true record.

143. Review of Actions

An update on actions was received.

A revised quote for laying hoggins outside the entrance to the Galleries by the proposed new bus stop was awaited from Green Trees Surfacing. A revised quote for this work and a quote for a new bench would be brought to the next meeting. B&NES would be contacted again about moving the bus stop.

Cllr
Carpenter

144. Open Forum

The Manager of the Galleries spoke about the proposed extension to the Galleries, planning application 22/00088/FUL. There were three parts to the application: a café extension; additional storage space; and a covered walkway along the front of the Galleries. Following pre-application advice the plans had been revised to change a proposed pitched roof to a flat roof.

145. Planning Applications

22/00088/FUL The Galleries, Freshford Lane, BA2 7UR: Erection of extension to Galleries to provide shop storage, staff facilities and an extended café and community hub. External covered walkways and a timber pergola sun shade.

It was noted that The Galleries was situated within the Green Belt and that development within the Green Belt must be either 'appropriate' in scale with the original host structure, or must be for 'very special circumstances'. Councillors noted the considerable value of The Galleries to the community and the strong argument provided for the need for an extension to better serve the community. Therefore councillors felt that the proposal should be considered as 'very special circumstances' and that the additional volume should be considered as acceptable.

The appropriateness of the curved grey powder coated fascia on the walkway part of the extension was questioned. It was suggested that it might be better to use the same finish that was proposed on the back of the extension. The Manager of the Galleries agreed to consider this point.

Resolved: To support the overall application, and to support the application being considered under very special circumstances.

146. **Co-option of Councillors**

One candidate spoke to introduce himself. A second candidate was unable to attend due to a prior commitment.

Resolved: to co-opt John Putt and Richard Tibbles to the role of councillors.

John Putt signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined councillors at the meeting.

147. **Planning Decisions**

- 21/05419/FUL Southview, High Street: Single storey rear infill extension.
Permitted.

148. **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman had provided a report and it was noted that:

- The Freshford Station Sign had been removed from the station platform and the replica sign was being made. A possible location for the old sign in the Galleries extension was being discussed. Advice would be sought on maintenance required to the old sign to prevent further deterioration. The Parish Council's insurance company would be contacted about any insurance implications with relocating the sign.

Cllr Adler,
Clerk

Resolved: to approve the location of the old Freshford Station sign within the Galleries new extension.

- A Village Agent had been recruited for Freshford and surrounding villages and was due to start in May. The role would provide advice and help link people with secondary health services.
- Zonkey had been contacted about setting up an events calendar on the website.
- Bathavon Forum had met on 8 February 2022. Parish Councils had been asked to report on issues to bring to B&NES' attention, so that common issues could be identified. Councillors were invited to bring forward any such issues. The Bathavon Forum Climate and Nature Group had held its first meeting.

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

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

- £488.29 Selina Jobson for administration
- £35.36 Annabel Batchelor-Wylam for printer costs
- £650 Alan Duck for grass cutting, grave clearance and tree works

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

- £300 Ian Croker for street cleaning (SO)

150. **Community Meeting on Transport and Highways**

Cllr Carpenter outlined the potential scope of a community meeting on transport issues in the village. The meeting was intended as an opportunity to listen to the ideas of residents on all aspects of traffic issues facing the village. A list of actions required ahead of the meeting was considered, and in light of these it was agreed to reschedule the meeting to a later date, ideally in April.

Resolved: that Cllrs Adler, Bates and Carpenter would meet to discuss undertaking preparations for the community transport meeting.

Cllrs Adler,
Bates,
Carpenter

151. **A36 Pedestrian Crossing Proposals**

The Parish Council had been asked to comment on proposals, drawn up by a highways design company, for two pedestrian crossings on the A36. The designs would then be

put to National Highways for consideration. Comments from a previous councillor about the proposed designs had been received and circulated to councillors.

Councillors supported the principal of pedestrian crossings on the A36, but they had strong reservations about these proposals which encouraged people to cross a 60mph road. Councillors wanted the speed limit to be reduced from 60mph to 40mph at a point south of the proposed Pipehouse crossing. There were additional concerns about the lack of a central refuge at the Pipehouse crossing and the proposed design was felt to provide minimal protection of pedestrians.

In reviewing the Midford Lane / Church Lane crossing, councillors questioned whether sufficient account had been taken of large vehicles using this junction to access the stone mine. The new crossing must not interfere with the sight lines of vehicles turning right out of Midford Lane. It was suggested that a proposed new crossing point on Midford Lane should be further up the lane as this was a safer crossing point. Putting pavement on the south side of Midford Lane would encourage people to use the proposed crossing point. Concerns were raised over the illuminated globes at the crossing and potential light pollution.

Resolved: Cllrs Carpenter and Adler to draft comments based on the above points for submission to the highways design company.

Cllrs Adler,
Carpenter

152. **B&NES Consultation: Journey to Net Zero**

The B&NES 'Journey to Net Zero' consultation, was looking at ways of reducing the environmental impact of transport in Bath. The consultation set out a strategic overview of the policies and projects B&NES would pursue to deliver more sustainable transport choices for the people of B&NES. Much of the consultation focused on Bath, although there were elements that would impact Freshford residents.

Resolved: that a response would be drafted and circulated to councillors for agreement ahead of the submission deadline of 21 February 2022.

Cllr Adler

153. **The Cemetery**

The Parish Council had requested revisions to the agreed maintenance contract for the Cemetery and The Tynning in light of enhanced environmental management of these areas.

Resolved: To approve a quote from the current contractor for revisions to the agreed maintenance contract.

Positive comments from residents had been received on the current state of the cemetery, following additional works requested by the Parish Council.

154. **Climate and Nature Emergencies**

The survey on community energy and a potential solar scheme in Freshford was closing this week.

Bath and West Community Energy (BWCE) contacted SSE to check the spare capacity on the local grid. The response from SSE was too vague. To overcome this BWCE have requested a Connection Surgery to identify the spare capacity. The lead time for this may be protracted (from BWCE's experience).

This means that the RCEF (Rural Community Energy Fund) deadline will be missed. Whilst this is the last round of current RCEF funding, there are options being worked on for Local Energy Hub funding both by central Government and others.

155. **Natural Environment**

Councillors received and noted a Friends of Freshford Tynning update report.

Freshford Primary School had asked the Parish Council if an oak tree they had received as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations could be planted on The Tyning.

Resolved: to ask the School to put forward a proposal for planting a Jubilee tree on The Tyning, that would then be put to a community vote.

Cllr
Batchelor-
Wylam

156. **Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, June 2022**

A number of local groups had been contacted about potential ideas for village celebrations and responses were awaited. The Clerk had attended a B&NES meeting about hosting jubilee celebration events. It was proposed that a village event be held at the top of The Tyning over the Jubilee weekend. An official road closure request would be required.

Cllr Batchelor-Wylam agreed to help coordinate preparations for events.

157. **External Meetings**

The next meeting of the Bathavon Area Forum Climate and Nature Group is being planned for late February or early March.

Cllr Carpenter had attended the last Valley Parish Alliance (VPA) meeting which had considered the views of all member parishes about the future of the VPA. It had been agreed to hold one face-to-face meeting and one virtual meeting a year. A Treasurer would be retained and the constitution would be re-written. It was felt useful to retain the VPA as an alliance of parishes to liaise with B&NES on issues as required.

158. **Correspondence Received**

Two residents had raised concerns about a replacement waste bin being installed in the wrong location outside the entrance to the Galleries. B&NES had stated that the replacement bin had been installed in the same location as the previous one because of a problem with the proposed new location. Councillor Carpenter was meeting B&NES about this and would liaise with the Memorial Hall and The Galleries as necessary about a new location.

159. **Exchange of Information**

Councillors would meet to create a prioritised action list and to identify roles and responsibilities of councillors in light of the co-option of two new councillors.

160. **Date of next meeting**

Monday 14 March, 7pm, Freshford Village Memorial Hall

Meeting ended 9.00pm