

FRESHFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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

Parish Councillors Present: John Adler (Chairman), Annabel Batchelor-Wylam, Elli Bate, Julian Carpenter, John Putt, Richard Tibbles, Ben Walters

Apologies: Jean Hawker, Tom Maddicott

In attendance: Selina Jobson (Parish Clerk)

Members of the Public: None

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

None.

78. **Minutes of Meeting**

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

79. **Review of Actions**

An update on actions from the previous meeting was received.

A complaint had been received about consideration of a planning application at the previous Parish Council meeting. This had been responded to.

80. **Open Forum**

None.

81. **Planning Applications**

None.

82. **Tree Applications**

22/04306/TCA Leigh Cottage, Sharpstone Lane, BA2 7UA: Holly tree – reduce by 30%.

Resolved: No objection.

22/04481/TCA Temple Court, The Hill, Freshford, BA2 7WG: Strawberry T1 - prune overall by 1m and remove limb over the lawn. Beech & Scot's Pine G2 - prune back the branches growing towards the neighbour to the north by 3m and prune clear of the BT cables by 1m. Beech T3 - prune back the southern low long limbs by 3m on tertiary growth to reduce the over weighted lower canopy. Beech T4 - crown clean and prune back the branches growing over the southern neighbour's wall by 2-3m.

Resolved: No objection.

83. **Finance**

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

- £492.69 Selina Jobson for administration
- £350 James Lock for grass cutting
- £920 Alan Duck for grass cutting & additional works, May-Oct
- £770 Memorial Hall for hire & donation

83.2 **Resolved:** to approve the bank reconciliation, noting the following payments and receipts –

- £121.27 SSE for electricity supply (Direct Debit)
- £994.39 Public Works Loan Board for The Tynning (Direct Debit)
- 75.20 HMRC for tax
- £136 Ashes interment (Receipt)

83.3 Councillors considered a request from Midsomer Norton & Radstock Branch of Dial-A-Ride for a donation of £30 towards their services for the financial year 2023/24.

Resolved: to award a £30 grant to Dial-A-Ride and to publicise this service to Freshford residents.

83.4 Councillors were asked to consider any budgetary requirements for 2023/24 and to let the Clerk know ahead of budget discussion at the December meeting. All cllrs

84. **Natural Environment**

84.1 Mowing Schedule on The Tyning

It had not been possible to find someone to reliably collect long grass on The Tyning. It was therefore proposed that the grass maintenance regime would return to the original schedule, with most of the grass cut three times a year. Alan Duck would be contacted to confirm the extent of the area he mowed. There was discussion about leaving the hump alongside the road at the top of The Tyning uncut, with some concerns about the impact this had on visibility for drivers. The possibility of making this road pedestrian priority had been discounted previously by the B&NES Highways Engineer. Signage was suggested, although its effectiveness was questioned. The hump had been identified as one of the most biodiverse parts of The Tyning.

Resolved: to reinstate the previous grass cutting regime, and to give further consideration, with Friends of Freshford, about the mowing regime of the humps.

84.2 A Tap on The Tyning

Councillors considered a request from the Friends of Freshford to install a tap on the Tyning next to the current water trough, to help with watering of trees and hedge plants on The Tyning.

Resolved: that Friends of Freshford could install a tap on The Tyning, noting that they would need to confirm that the work had been completed to a compliant standard.

84.2 Consideration of Further Tree Works

Cllr Bate had met with Bawdens to consider an alternative approach to the felling of 15 Ash trees that were suffering from Ash dieback. Bawdens had endorsed a plan to ground fell only completely dead trees or those that were so close to the footpath they could potentially drop branches. Other Ash trees would be managed by cutting them back to a safe level. This approach would involve monitoring the trees and would be more expensive in the longer term. An alternative approach was to divert the footpath so that the Ash trees were not a safety concern and could be retained. Some of the trees with Ash dieback were by the open area at the top of the Tyning where children played and it was felt that these needed to be removed for safety reasons.

Advice from the insurers would be sought on whether signage would be a sufficient safety measure to allow some of the Ash trees to be left. Clerk

The process for diverting a footpath would be investigated and, if it was viable to pursue this option, a proposal would be brought to the next meeting. Cllr Bate

The need for engagement with the community on any proposed action was noted, given the ecological impact of removing 15 Ash trees and the impact it would have on this prominent part of the village skyline.

Resolved: That works to the Ash trees by the open area on the Tyning (T37, T38, T41 in the Bawdens survey) be undertaken given the use of this area and safety concerns.

84.3 Further Trees Inspection

The tree survey had included a recommendation that four trees undergo further inspection. Three quotes to undertake this inspection had been sought, but only Bawdens had provided a quote.

Resolved: That Bawdens undertake further in-depth inspection of four trees as recommended in the trees survey. The original quote for this inspection had been received some time ago and an increase of up to 10% in costs if requested was agreed.

85. **Street Lighting**

Only one quote for changing lamps to LEDs or switching off some lights had been received to date, despite repeated requests for other quotes. Comparison figures for running costs and savings would be prepared based on this quote.

A walking review of the streetlights had been undertaken, and options had been drawn up for turning off some lights. Whether the lights could be switched off on a temporary basis would be investigated. Streetlamps would not be removed.

Resolved: To undertake a community consultation via an online questionnaire with paper copies available at the Galleries and on request. Proposals for the consultation would be brought to the December meeting.

CLlr Tibbles

86. **Communications**

Having considered the production of a monthly Freshford newsletter, it was noted that the online Limpley Stoke News already covered a significant number of Freshford events & activities. It was proposed that the News be promoted to Freshford residents, rather than producing another newsletter specifically for Freshford.

Mailchimp emails about local events and news would continue as they were currently. Consideration would be given to widening the next edition of The Bulletin, in Spring 2023, to cover both Freshford and Limpley Stoke communities.

An email about parish communications would be sent to residents.

87. **Highways and Transport**

CLlr Carpenter had attended a site meeting with the B&NES Highways Engineer and the Ward Councillor to review highway maintenance in Freshford. All painted speed sign roundels would be renewed and two new roundels would be added. Costs would be covered by B&NES; a date for these works was awaited.

A leaflet would be given to parents about parking behaviours around the School. CLlr Carpenter and a School Governor had observed the school run parking one morning and no significant issues had been identified.

Information had been obtained from the local Community Speedwatch group about speeding in the village. B&NES had identified four suitable locations for radar speed signs. Two poles were available for use at two of these locations and confirmation was being sought about the use of poles owned by Scottish and Southern Energy at the two other sites. Three quotes for radar speed signs had been obtained and a proposal would be brought to the next meeting.

CLlr
Carpenter

88. **B&NES Warm Spaces Scheme**

B&NES had set up an online directory of Warm Spaces, and local organisations would be contacted to see if any could off a local Warm Space.

89. **Community Renewable Energy Project**

Progress with this project would be discussed at the next meeting.

90. **Policies**

Councillors considered adopting four new policies on Complaints, Grievances, Disciplinary and Dignity at Work. All the policies were based on templates provided either by the National Association of Local Councils or the Society for Local Council Clerks.

Resolved: to adopt the following policies: Complaints, Grievances, Disciplinary and Dignity at Work.

91. **Correspondence Received**

A request had been received for additional dog waste bins and this would be looked into.

Cllr
Maddicott

92. **Exchange of Information**

Cllr Adler would be attending a Parish Liaison Meeting focusing on Climate Emergency Actions on 16 November 2022 in Keynsham.

93. **Date of next meetings**

Monday 12 December, 7pm, Freshford Village Memorial Hall.

Meeting ended 9.10pm