

FRESHFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Freshford Parish Council 13 March 2023, 7pm, Freshford Village Memorial Hall

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

Apologies: None

In attendance: Selina Jobson (Parish Clerk)

Members of the Public: Two

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

None.

150. **Minutes of Meeting**

Resolved: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2023 as a true record.

151. **Review of Actions**

Cllr Adler was arranging to meet a resident who had suggested seeking bathing status for local rivers.

152. **Open Forum**

A resident raised a number of points:

That the Parish Council should look into what's happening with the 94 bus service.

That problems with large vehicles using Dark Lane continued, with more damage caused to the resident's wall.

That he'd submitted written comments in response to the Parish Council's street lighting survey. Noting that the proposals were partly aimed at reducing costs, he suggested that electricity prices were predicted to fall by summer 2023 and that making sure faulty lights were not on overnight would help reduce costs. He believed that the Parish Council's survey of street lights to switch off had not been undertaken on an objective basis. He felt that footfall at night should be surveyed. He also suggested that the Parish Council should undertake a risk assessment in relation to switching off lights and consider the impact on women's safety. He requested that the final proposal be published sufficiently ahead of a meeting to allow people time to consider the proposals and make representations.

In response it was clarified that streetlights were on an unmetered electricity supply, so that faulty lights that remained on did not incur additional costs.

153. **King's Coronation Weekend, 6-8th May 2023**

A group was organising a picnic on the field behind the Memorial Hall on Sunday 7 May. This location meant that the Memorial Hall could be used in the case of bad weather. People would be asked to bring their own picnic and encouraged to book a table in advance so that numbers were known. Some entertainment would be provided and was being funded. Any donations from those attending would go towards Village Hall funds.

Resolved: that the Parish Council would pay for boards to publicise the event and would arrange to cover any costs of hiring the Memorial Hall if required.

154. **Planning Applications**

None.

155. **Tree Applications**

None.

156. **Planning decisions**

22/04395/FUL Fringethorpe, Freshford Lane: Erection of oak-framed garage at the front of property. *Permitted.*

23/00110/SOLPA, The Galleries Shop, BA2 7UR: Installation of 45 solar panels to roof of The Galleries Shop. *Approved.*

157. **Highways**

The radar speed sign had been installed. Statistics from the radar would be downloaded after a few weeks. The speed sign could be turned round to measure traffic in the opposite direction. Other locations could be considered, but the speed sign had to be located on a straight road and new poles, approved by B&NES, would be needed for other locations.

Roundels and give way signs had been repainted by B&NES at the request of the Parish Council. Several 20mph signs had not been repainted and this would be followed up with B&NES. Clarification of the speed limit at Pipehouse would also be requested.

Cllr Carpenter had reported damaged signs at the top of Ashes Lane by the A36 to National Highways.

Funds were available from the Police to improve public and road safety and these could be considered for any future road safety initiatives.

Residents had reported issues with excessive parking by the Inn at Freshford. Cllrs Carpenter and Hawker would bring details of a request for yellow lines to the next Parish Council meeting.

A resident had raised concerns about parking by the water pump on Park Corner. There were no parking restrictions here, but vehicles should not be parked within 10m of a junction. It was suggested that any ongoing problems should be reported via B&NES Report It.

A resident had raised an issue with potholes. Cllr Carpenter was liaising with B&NES to see if a pothole team could visit Freshford to repair potholes across the village.

Cllrs
Carpenter
& Hawker

Cllr
Carpenter

158. **Communications**

Cllr Putt and Jessie Forbes were thanked for their work on publishing the Spring edition of the Freshford Newsletter. Copies had been delivered to residents and were available from the Galleries. Advertising and a donation had covered nearly all the costs of the publication.

159. **Street Lighting**

Cllrs Adler and Tibbles had surveyed street lights in Freshford to assess the risks associated with proposals to switch off lights and to consider survey responses.

A policy and further details of the reasoning for switching off some street lights would be drafted ahead of the next Parish Council meeting so that residents had time to consider proposals and make representations.

Councillors would meet to review the detail of the street light proposals ahead of bringing a proposal for approval to the next meeting.

All Cllrs

160. **Energy Projects**

160.1 Update on Renewable Energy Project

Bath and West Community Energy (BWCE) had been given formal notification that Limpley Stoke and Freshford parish councils supported the project going ahead with BWCE. BWCE had approved a business case to fund the project through to development although the level of funding was not yet clear.

The next step would be a project initiation meeting with BWCE, Limpley Stoke, Hinton Charterhouse and Freshford parish councils.

160.2 Annual Review from Freshford & Limpley Stoke Home Energy Group (FLHEG)

Councillors received the annual review from FLHEG. Through talks and meetings the group had undertaken a significant amount of communication and action with residents and other groups and organisations during the past year.

161. **The Cemetery**

Councillors considered a review of fees and costs for cemetery maintenance.

Resolved: that fees would remain unchanged.

A review of the space within the cemetery would be undertaken.

Cemetery
Adv Group

162. **Natural Environment**

Treeworks had been undertaken on The Tynning to make safe trees suffering from Ash dieback.

Hedge cutting along the bottom of The Tynning had been undertaken.

Cllr Bate was arranging a meeting with the Friends of Freshford about the grass maintenance schedule. Concerns about the impact on road safety of the grass hump along the top of The Tynning were discussed. Various road safety measures were discussed and it was agreed to install a sign highlighting to drivers that the road was used by pedestrians and children.

163. **Matting on the Tynning**

In liaison with Freshford School's PTA, it had been decided that it was not possible to remove the matting by hand and quotes to remove the matting were being sought.

Resolved: that the removal of the matting could be undertaken by a contractor if a quote for under £500 was received.

164. **Annual Parish Meeting, 19 April 2023**

BWCE would be invited to give a talk. Updates would be given on Parish Council activities.

165. **Local Elections, 4 May 2023**

Local parish councillor elections would be publicised and residents would be encouraged to consider standing as a parish councillor.

166. **Finance**

166.1 Councillors considered a revised contract for grass maintenance for 2023-24.

Resolved: to approve the grass maintenance contract with James Lock for 2023-24.

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

- £516.52 Selina Jobson for administration
- £6264 Bawdens for tree works on The Tynning
- £1015 Alan Duck for hedge cutting
- £342.50 PMP Printing for Freshford Newsletter

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

- £110.29 SSE for electricity supply (Direct Debit)
- £36 CPRE annual subscription (Direct Debit)
- £21.34 Water2Business for water rates (Direct Debit)
- £162 Oliver Potts from FLHEG for radiator foil (payment)
- £323 Donations & advertising towards the Freshford Newsletter (receipts)
- £1470 DJ Bewley for burial fees (receipt)

167. Clerk's Report

- A resident had reported an issue with a blocked footpath at the back of Freshford station. It was confirmed that this path was not a Public Right of Way.
- Councillors had been invited to the opening of the Galleries extension on 31 March.
- Some bollards on The Tynning had been knocked over.
- The Village Steward contract with MP Snelgrove would begin on 1 April and councillors were asked to report areas across the parish that required attention.
- Cllr Carpenter was continuing to liaise with B&NES about a potential new bin for the playground.

168. External Meetings

Cllr Adler had attended the Bathavon Forum Meeting. The West of England Combined Authority (WECA) would be launching a Demand Responsive Transport system from 3 April 2023 which would include Freshford. Further details about the scheme would be publicised once available.

169. Dates of Future Meetings

Monday 17 April, 7pm, Parish Council meeting.

Wednesday 19 April, 7pm, Annual Parish meeting.

Monday 22 May, 7pm, Parish Council meeting

All meetings in Freshford Village Memorial Hall.

Meeting ended 9.05pm