

FRESHFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Freshford Parish Council 19 February 2024, 7pm, Freshford Village Memorial Hall

Parish Councillors Present: John Adler (Chairman), Elli Bate, Julian Carpenter, Jennifer Clamp, Jessie Forbes, John Putt

Apologies: None

In attendance: Selina Jobson (Parish Clerk), Ward Cllr Fiona Gourley

Members of the Public: None

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

None.

133. **Minutes of Meeting**

Resolved: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2024 as a true record.

134. **Matters Arising**

None.

135. **Open Forum**

None.

136. **Co-option of Councillors**

No applications had been received for co-option and three councillor vacancies remained. Flyers had been produced and distributed through The Galleries.

137. **Planning Applications**

24/00417/FUL Chapel House, Pipehouse, BA2 7UJ: Painted timber summerhouse with an octagonal base.

The Design and Access Statement had been reviewed and no issues raised.

Resolved: To support.

138. **Tree Applications**

24/00304/TCA Fairlawn, High Street, BA2 7WF: T1, multi stemmed strawberry tree (Arbutus unedo) - fell.

Resolved: No comment, but to request that a native tree was planted to replace this one.

139. **Highways and Transport**

139.1 Number 94 bus service

Cllr Gourley was pleased to report that WECA and B&NES had identified funding to cover half of the costs (split equally with Wiltshire Council) of the 94 service for a year. Cllr Gourley felt that the lobbying and efforts of the Parish Council and residents had helped to resolve this situation.

The Parish Council thanked Cllr Gourley for her significant campaigning work in support of the 94 bus service.

139.2 'Playing Out' event, 22 March 2024

Information about the School's 'Playing Out' event on 22 March 2024 had been put on the community website and sent out via a community email. A community meeting was being held on Wednesday 21 February in the Freshford Village Memorial Hall.

The next meeting between the School, B&NES Officers and Parish Councillors to discuss road safety initiatives was on 21 February 2024.

139.3 Other Highways updates

There had been a significant road traffic accident at the Pipehouse junction on the A36 in January. Cllr Carpenter had reported this to National Highways with a request to consider lowering the speed limit here. National Highways had outlined their criteria for reviewing speed limits and that two accidents had been reported here during the past five years. It was felt that not all accidents had been reported.

Cllr Carpenter and the B&NES Highways Inspector had reviewed the potholes along Freshford Lane between Park Corner and The Galleries. The potholes did not currently meet B&NES criteria for immediate fixing. However, a patching machine would be scheduled for the Spring to address issues with the road. Residents were encouraged to report potholes via the Report It page on the B&NES website.

The road at the bottom Staples Hill was impassable due to significant damage caused by flooding at the weekend. B&NES had been contacted for an update on the situation.

The small bridge at the bottom of Rosemary Lane was closed for up to 18 months for repairs to be undertaken.

There were overnight road closures on the A36 for three nights from 21 February and on Winsley Hill from 24 February to 6 March. Details would be sent out via a community email.

140. **Planning**

140.1 Neighbourhood Plan Review

Limpley Stoke Parish Council were going to review the joint Neighbourhood Plan and were proposing to have a separate Neighbourhood Plan. Advice was being sought from B&NES Planning Officers and a meeting of the Chairs and Clerks of the two councils was being arranged.

Cllr Adler /
Clerk

140.2 Local Plan Options Consultation

B&NES was running a Local Plan Options consultation until 8 April 2024.

The Bathavon South Ward Councillors were holding a briefing for local parish councils in March to provide guidance on the Local Plan Options consultation process.

141. **Freshford Village Memorial Hall Car Park**

Works were being undertaken to unblock a drain running alongside the Memorial Hall car park. An initial attempt to unblock the drain had been unsuccessful and a quote had been received to use more powerful equipment. The Parish Council had been contacted about paying a third of the costs (split with the Memorial Hall and The Galleries).

Previous car park maintenance costs had been split as outlined above, because of the car park's benefit to the community, although no formal agreement in was place. The Parish Council paid an agreed annual donation to the Memorial Hall for general maintenance. It was agreed that the Parish Council would need more details of the works being undertaken and the contribution requested before a decision about payment could be made. The Chair of the Hall Committee would be contacted for further information.

Clerk

142. **Annual Parish Meeting**

It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Wednesday 8 May. The format of the meeting would be decided. Local groups would be invited to attend.

Clerk

143. **Natural Environment**

143.1 Updates

Cllr Bate reported on a meeting of climate and nature representatives from local parish councils and nature groups that had taken place on 2 February 2024. Outcomes from this meeting would be followed up.

A Dark Skies policy had been drafted and would be considered at the March meeting.

All of the unstable wooden fence in the Cemetery had been removed. A kissing gate would be retained, although the future of the gate would need consideration.

143.2 Maintenance contracts and quote

Councillors considered a quote for renewal of the Village Steward contract. The Village Steward contract was reported to have worked well over the previous year.

Resolved: to approve the renewal of the Village Steward contract with Matt Snelgrove.

Councillors considered a quote for renewal of the grass maintenance contract. The price was lower than last year because more of the grass areas in the Cemetery would be maintained by volunteers, following a trial in 2023.

Resolved: to approve the grass maintenance contract with James Lock.

Councillors considered a quote for removing the temporary matting on The Tynning and the re-seeding of the grass path. More quotes would be sought, but unless another less expensive quote was received councillors agreed to accept the quote received to date.

144. **Energy Project**

Nothing to report.

145. **Communications**

The Spring edition of the Bulletin was being put together, with a good number of articles and adverts. The community organisations list was being updated for inclusion. The deadline for articles was Sunday 25 February.

146. **Street Lighting**

Enerveo had estimated that the upgrading of 11 street lamps with LED lights should be undertaken by the of March 2024.

Repairs had been undertaken to street lamp 14, on the junction close to the School. SSE continued to investigate an electricity supply issue with streetlamp 39 on the High Street.

147. **Finance**

147.1 Unity Trust Bank account

The setting up of the Unity Truty bank account was almost complete, with all signatories approved and details of online banking received. The transfer of all monies and payment details was due in the next day or so.

A transfer of £500 into the new account had been made as per the requirements of Unity Trust Bank.

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

- £525.05 Selina Jobson for administration
- £247.48 Enerveo to repair streetlight 14
- £35.99 Selina Jobson reimbursement for flyers

147.3 **Resolved:** to approve the bank reconciliation, noting the following payments and receipt –

- £210.05 SSE electricity supply (Direct Debit)
- £199.04 HMRC Quarterly PAYE (Payment)
- £4,425.91 Enerveo for 11 LED streetlamps (part 1 of 2) (Payment)
- £480.00 James Lock removal of internal Cemetery fence (Payment)
- £200.00 Cemetery fees (Receipt)

148. **External Meetings**

The next Parish Liaison Meeting was at 6.30pm on 28 February in Keynsham and councillors were encouraged to attend.

149. **Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 11 March 7pm, Freshford Village Memorial Hall.

Meeting ended 8.50pm.