

FRESHFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Freshford Parish Council Meeting 10 June 2024, 7.10pm, Freshford Village Memorial Hall

Parish Councillors Present: John Adler, Rob Kilgour, John Putt

Apologies: Elli Bate, Julian Carpenter, Jennifer Clamp

In attendance: Selina Jobson (Parish Clerk)

Members of the Public: None

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

None.

21. **Minutes of Meeting**

Resolved: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13 May 2024 as a true record.

22. **Matters Arising**

The Chair of Freshford Village Memorial Hall Committee would contact the Parish Council about raising funds for the car park resurfacing once other Hall projects had been completed. The resurfacing would be discussed at the next Memorial Hall Committee meeting on 18 June 2024. There was currently no Parish Council representative on the Hall Committee.

Resolved: Cllr Kilgour to be the Parish Council representative on the Freshford Village Memorial Hall Committee.

In response to a resident's enquiry about the restoring or raising the social and amenity value of the Freshford Mill development, a B&NES Planning Officer had reported that there were no current applications or pre-application enquiries relating to the site. If approached with a formal application or enquiry the Planning Officer would direct the developer to engage with the Parish Council.

23. **Open Forum**

None.

24. **Planning Applications**

24/01949/FUL & 24/01950/LBA Freshford Hall, Staples Hill, BA2 7WJ: Erection of conservatory following demolition of conservatory.

24/01889/FUL & 24/01890/LBA Woodside House, Staples Hill, BA2 7WJ: Internal and external alterations to remove garage and porch, reconfiguration of the east elevation and a new porch. Reinstatement of a hipped roof, replacement of a felt roof, renewal of the slate roof, alterations to the south projecting bay and new window and door joinery. New garden wall and garden store. Installation of an air source heat pump.

24/01874/FUL & 24/01875/LBA Walnut Cottage, 4 Rosemary Lane, BA2 7UF: Erection of single storey extension following demolition of lean-to at property and rear of replacement of existing front door.

Resolved: No comment on the applications listed above.

Cllrs Carpenter and Putt had attended a B&NES online meeting on 'Working with Planning on Rural Parishes'. The Local Plan consultation had identified Freshford as a sustainable village and had allocated a potential requirement for the provision of 15 dwellings. Planning Officers acknowledged that it would be difficult to identify an additional housing site in Freshford due to Greenbelt. Completed dwellings at the Freshford Mill site would contribute to meeting this requirement; individual infill dwellings would not. Information

had been circulated to all councillors following the meeting and B&NES Planning Officers were arranging meetings with all parish councils where villages had been identified for a housing allocation.

25. **Tree Applications**

None.

26. **Co-option of Councillors**

No applications had been received. The Parish Council would continue to publicise the vacancies. Councillors considered advertising particular tasks that could be supported by residents, without residents having to join the Parish Council.

27. **Renewable Energy Project**

Bath and West Community Energy (BWCE) had held a community information event on 5 June at the Freshford Memorial Hall. BWCE had provided initial information about the potential solar development in Hinton Charterhouse, next to Pipehouse. The landowner had signed an agreement for the land to be used for the project. Many details were still to be explored and confirmed. BWCE were repeating the meeting in Hinton Charterhouse on 20 June.

28. **Highways and Transport**

Cllr Carpenter had provided a report on the issue of Centurion coaches dropping Ralph Allen students living in Freshford by the A36, with children having to cross the A36. This was because of the bus repeatedly getting stuck in Freshford due to drivers poor parking. The decision to drop children by the A36 had been taken by Centurion with support from B&NES Education Services.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would write to B&NES expressing concerns about the safety of schoolchildren crossing the A36.

29. **Matting on The Tynning**

Councillors had received a summary of the situation with the matting on The Tynning and the recent comments from residents who supported the retention of at least some of the matting. Cllr Bate had agreed to explore the issues with the School and with residents.

Cllr Bate

30. **Natural Environment**

James Lock had confirmed he would install a post for the kissing gate in the Cemetery on 11 July.

A decision still needed to be made on whether or not to replace the internal fence in the Cemetery.

31. **Finance**

Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023/24

31.1 Councillors received the completed Internal Auditors report for the Annual Governance and Accountability Review (AGAR) and noted that no issues had been raised.

31.2 **Resolved:** to approve all statements relating to the preparations of the Accounting Statement in Section One of the AGAR.

31.3 **Resolved:** to approve the figures provided in the Accounting Statements in Section Two of the AGAR.

31.4 **Resolved:** to approve the declaration that there were no conflicts of interest with the external audit company.

The period of the Exercise of Public Rights would take place from 17 June to 26 July 2024.

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

- £513.65 Selina Jobson for administration
- £495.00 Alan Duck for strimming and grass cutting (Mar-May)
- £120.00 Chloe Alexander for internal audit

31.6 **Resolved:** to approve the bank reconciliation, noting the following payments, receipts and transfer of money between accounts since the last meeting: –

- £210.58 SSE electricity supply (Direct Debit)
- £146.81 APM refreshments (payment)
- £305.55 James Lock for grass cutting (payment)
- £60.00 Cemetery fees (receipt)
- Transfer of £10,000 from the Current Account to the Instant Access account.

32. **Clerk's Report**

Issues with a number of street lights had been reported to Enerveo.

SSE had been supplied with details of the new LED lamps and had been asked to revise the unmetered charges accordingly.

A resident had copied the Parish Council into correspondence with B&NES Planning Enforcement about the use of a field by Homewood Park as a car park, despite planning agreement that this area would be restored to a field.

33. **External Meetings**

The Parish Liaison Meeting due to take place on 26 June 2024 had been postponed due to the election.

The BANES / Avon Local Council Association meeting due to take on 11 June 2024 had been postponed.

Avon Local Council Association were running Essential Councillor training on Tuesday 25 June and Introduction to Planning on Thursday 27 June.

34. **Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 8 July, 7pm, Freshford Village Memorial Hall.

Meeting ended 8.20pm.