

FRESHFORD PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the Freshford Parish Council Meeting 10Th March 2025, 7.00pm, Freshford Village Memorial Hall

Parish Councillors Present: John Adler (Chair), Julian Carpenter, Rob Kilgour, John Putt, Penny Williamson, Jennifer Clamp

Apologies: Elli Bate

In attendance: Kirsty Clark (Parish Clerk), Ward Cllr Fiona Gourley

Members of the Public: 1

Commenced 19:05pm

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

Nothing to note.

103. **103.1 Minutes of Meeting**

Resolved: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10th February 2025 as a true record.

103.2 Review of action form the last meeting

- Proposed Hinton Notice board – Cllr Carpenter reported that Hinton were happy to contribute and would like to make the recommendation that the board is double the proposed size. Cllr Carpenter offered to meet with the resident to discuss other options for the site of the board and has received no response to several emails. This has now been placed on hold and will be revisited once the house purchase is complete. Cllr Carpenter
- **Resolved:** Cllr Carpenter has reported safety concerns to Highways regarding Park Corner
- No updated from Cllr Clamp regarding school safety measures
- Decision around use of MS office differed and Cllr Clamp and Cllr Adler will revisit the gov.uk addresses

104. **Open forum**

A question was asked about Freshford being earmarked for development and a query arose from a perceived comment made by Ward Cllr Matt McCabe during the February meeting.

It was suggested that Ward Cllr McCabe had said that 500 houses were due to be built in Freshford. This misunderstanding was clarified by Cllr Adler and Ward Cllr Gourley, reassuring that was not accurate figure from B&NES and merely an example number to demonstrate the point of 'need' within the local authority area and was by no means suggesting that number of homes would be considered or even viable for Freshford area.

Ward Cllr Gourley identified that part of the problem is B&NES have not yet needs or sites and they do not want sites to be put up 'ad-hoc' and that allocation will comprise part of a wider housing strategy. It was also highlighted that parishes across the area need to be involved in the planning process to be informed and help council identify sites that could be brought forward for development and properly planned.

Ward Cllr Gourley reiterated that at this stage of the planning process no allocation for the local authority area has not been decided.

105. **Co-option of Councillors**
Resolved:
 No further interest to Co-opt at this stage. The remaining vacancies would continue to be advertised.
106. **Councillor roles and responsibilities**
Resolved: All councillors have approved their proposed responsibilities and Cllr Adler will update the 5 year plan and circulate. It was also agreed it would be prudent to revisit the roles once the Neighbourhood plan review structure is agreed.
Action: Clerk to email Matt Snelgrove and copy in Cllr Williamson to introduce them as Cllr Williamson will be the PC contact going forward.
Action: Councillors agreed to talk through approach to Neighbourhood plan review outside of the meeting. Cllr Adler to arrange dates.
Action: Clerk to set up the One drive to centralise the folders for Councillors and add documentation from the website. It was noted the Freshford website should not be used for storing such files.
107. **Planning application**
25/00695/HEDGE
Resolved: No comment from regarding the hedgerows. The Council were happy to defer to B&NES Officer on the matter.
 A further planning application was received today that didn't make the agenda and has 21 days to respond and would be before our meeting.
Action: Clerk to seek extension.
108. **Tree application - TPO**
 Cllr Carpenter had asked the B&NES councillors to investigate the reasons behind this TPO. The result from this was the no further information could be provided from B&NES for the origins/reason for the TPO being sought, due to data protection.
 The Council took a largely neutral position on this TPO. However, suggested that comments are made back to planning that whilst the Council hold a neutral stance on this particular TPO, they are not in support of trees being felled and should this be the case, remain fully in support of replanting 2 trees for everyone that has been felled.
109. **Housing Needs Survey**
 The initiation meeting with CNB Housing to kick off the survey has taken place. Full funding through WERN has been confirmed and available to the PC and as such we will not need to approach B&NES for additional funding. Funding form will be returned to WERN by the end of the week.
 Cllr Williamson raised that the survey did not include provision for mobile homes in Q15, which was
 It was raised that the questionnaire should be made consistent as regards mobile homes. Q15 wording to be changed to include mobile homes as it was noted this housing solution was a viable choice that should be included and thus making the question responses consistent.
Action: Cllr Adler to request that the questionnaire is updated to reflect the inclusion of mobile homes and improve the consistency of the responses.

110. **Neighbourhood Plan**

It was noted that Limpley Stoke Parish Council have made initial draft amendments to update to the Neighbourhood plan, with particular reference to their amended definition of 'infill'. Councillors agreed that both Councils should meet discuss how we move ahead and hope to achieve a revised joint plan.

The Council are hopeful to have results of our Housing Needs survey prior this meeting taking place.

Action: To review the neighborhood plan policies and documents and identify which need to be changed and updated. This is not contingent on the survey results being returned and can be carried out alongside the survey project.

Action: Cllr Adler to approach Limpley Stoke again about carrying out their own Housing Needs Survey

Cllr Adler

111. **Highways**

A36 is now partially open. No issues noted with the current traffic lights system.

However, a large number of signs remain at the bottom of Pipehouse Lane, which Cllr Carpenter has requested these be collected

Cllr
Carpenter

Action: Cllr Carpenter to raise complaint to Highways regarding the damage to Park Corner which is in need of repair. Cllr Carpenter will be seeking the area is surveyed to assess the damage and repair plan, with view to also seeking compensation for various damaged areas such various pot holes and damages to not only Park Corner, but Midford lane, Freshford Lane and Church Corner.

It was noted that a resident suggested we have a radar speed sign in 'High street' but there were considerable logistical challenges around implementing one at this stage.

112. **Finance and personnel**

112.1 **Resolved:** to approve the following payments:

- £1427.18 Selina Jobson – net payment of back pay
- £431.63 Kirsty Clark – Clerks pay
- £312.31 Enerveo lighting repair
- £103.49 Kirsty Clark – Bit Defender reclaim of anti-virus and PC protection

Clerk

110.3 **Resolved:** to approve the bank reconciliation, noting the following payments and receipts since the last meeting:-

Campaign to protect	Subscription	£36.00
Selina Jobson	Clerks Pay	£529.93
Kirsty Clark	Clerks Pay	£281.93
Dorothy House	Wild Waters meeting room	£30.00
Enerveo	Light maintenance and repairs	£836.77
Unity Trust	Service Charge	£6.00

113. **Noticeboard**

Project placed on hold, pending the sale of the property concerned.

Cllr
Carpenter

114. **Homewood Solar Farm project**

Nothing to note at this stage.

Cllr Williamson voiced concerns about the project and suggested going to Marksbury to view the solar farm there.

115. **Newsletter**

Draft will be finalised and approved on Tuesday 11th March and sent to printers by the end of the week Cllr Pratt

116. **Clerks Report**

Cllr Adler updated on a Copyright issue regarding an image that was used by the Horticultural Society and published via our website. The licence for the image has now been purchased. Clerk

Clerk noted that access to PC online banking is now active.

Clerk has received various complaints regarding the dog waste bin by the Freshford Inn not being emptied and has raised the issue with B&NES on health grounds. The Council agreed to empty the bin and were looking to add to the regular collection round.

117. **External Meetings**

Nothing to note

118. **Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 14 April 2025, 7pm, Freshford Village Memorial Hall.

Meeting ended 21:15pm