

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Freeland Village Hall in the Newell Room at 19:30 on Monday 13th November 2023

The councillor chairing this meeting was Mary Ann Canning

Members Present:

Cllr S Ainsley, Cllr P Foster (PF), Cllr A Bird (AB), Cllr M Canning (MAC) Cllr R Crocker (RC), Cllr P Holt (PH), Cllr B Phillips (BP), Clerk Fay Friend (FF) Districts Cllr A Al-Yousuf, District, Cllr L Arciszewska and County Cllr L Walker. Additionally 1 member of the public was in attendance.

- 1. To receive apologies for absence** – Apologies have been received from Cllr V Baker (VB)
- 2. To receive Declaration of Interest in agenda items** – nothing to be added.
- 3. To approve minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th October 2023**– It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes were signed as a true record.
- 4. Public Participation session**
No members of public wished to speak.
- 5. To discuss and agree any actions for urgent business**
There were no matters of urgent business raised.
- 6. Update on progress from previous minutes.**
 - (a) Village trees** – RC has carried out a visual survey on all trees bordering land owned by Freeland PC, - this has been agreed and forwarded to the Clerk for safe keeping. No urgent action needed, non-urgent actions have been itemised. **Action:** work to be carried out by Summit Trees under RC supervision - max cost of £1500 (based on agreed day rate). SA investigated PC insurance cover for tree liability – see email to Clerk, 19.10.23. All looks in order, subject to adequate duty of care.
 - (b) Notice board**- both new notice boards are now up. The old one remains on the ground by the school - PF offered to remove.
- 7. Planning**
 - (a) No new applications**
 - (b) To receive updates on Freeland Village Design Statement**- RC & PF attended helpful meeting at WODC with Janice Bamsey and Tara Hayek, who will forward information and guidance. It was **RESOLVED** to approve commencing VDS for Freeland. This will be an ongoing project, involving community consultation over the next 12 months until the final document is written for WODC adoption.
 - (c) To consider response to WODC Local Plan 2041-**
Freeland's response to WODC's Local plan has been submitted.
 - (d)** We have had notice from WODC that the Botley West Solar Farm public consultation period will commence on 30th November, running for 10 weeks until 8 February. A briefing meeting is to be held for Parish Council reps on 7 December, which MAC plus any others interested will be attending.
 - (e) Inspired villages** – the failure of the oral High Court Challenge request and the fact that the developers have now paid costs, means there is no chance of a further appeal. A massive thank you to Amy Jackson and Mike Gilbert for all their hard work on this.
- 8. To receive updates from District and County Councillors.**

Lidia- WODC now has a 5.4 year Housing Land Supply (HLS) which allows more control over future speculative planning applications, as the standard methodology is now back in play, with annual target now 570 homes per annum (was 1000pa). This will change once 2041 Local Plan agreed. The Moors, Ducklington was refused planning by WODC, but the developers won on Appeal. Working with the Environment Agency, WODC managed to get the area revised back to flood zone 3 (it had been downgraded to Zone 1). This will make the land effectively undevelopable. The high court case for Salt Cross starts tomorrow (14th) – Lidia is attending and will give an update next month.

Alaa – reiterated HLS situation but cautioned on problems if Salt Cross does not come forward within next 5 years. 2041 Local Plan unlikely to be adopted until mid 2025. He and Liam have run a campaign on mobile signal locally, although no update from suppliers. The Freeland Community Bus Group was nominated for the Kings Award for Voluntary Services, although they didn't win, it was a great achievement to be nominated. Salt Cross High Court Challenge - delivery of homes is being delayed, due to WODC challenge on the Planning Inspectorate's decision, which is based on whether the Inspector misinterpreted NPPG on Net Zero targets.

Liam – A40 Barnard Gate junction – safety campaign launched after a series of severe accidents – last one potentially fatal – roundabout planned as part of A40 dualling, but can't be done separately – only option for now may be a no right turn on each side of junction. Needs public support. Cuckoo Lane closure by P & R in December overnight. Stagecoach has launched a new Oxford Tube route from Carterton to London, stopping at Eynsham. Parking is now an issue in Eynsham – pressing need for the P&R to open once completed, rather than waiting for A40 improvements. Sign on A 4095 to Freeland causing confusion as it directs traffic into Freeland Gate – Liam is working to have this moved. Additionally a brown sign for the pub will be added. Village Gates – will look into getting a new sign for the western gate. Potholes - urge people to keep using 'fix my street'.

9. To discuss and approve financial matters.

(a) To approve invoices for payment. - It was **RESOLVED** to pay the account presented, proposed by PF, seconded by WP and all in favour.

The following invoices are requested to be approved for payment:			
BACS Ref Number	To whom paid	Details	Amount (£)
BACS 48	Fay Friend	Salary	
BACS 49	HMRC	NI payment	£296.00
BACS 50	Freeland Village Hall	hall hire	£12.50
BACS 51	waterplus	water bill	£15.31
BACS 52	lawnsience	lawn care village hall	£46.25
BACS 53	freeland fencing	installing of new noticeboards	£300.00
BACS 54	Bernard stone merch	GOR stonework	£1,930.00
BACS 55	Royal British Legions	wreath	£30.00
BACS 55	Rendell garden	leave clearance	£120.00
		Total:	2,750.06

(b) To approve bank reconciliation. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliation. This was signed by WP.

(c) To review the financial reports. Reports were circulated and presented.

(d) To approve the 24-25 precept. It was **RESOLVED** to approve an increase in the precept of 5%.

(e) To approve quote for tree cutting – it was **RESOLVED** to agree a max value of £1500 – see Item 6a.

(f) To approve the new bin collection supplier- it was **RESOLVED** to approve new supplier

(g) To note the NALC 23-24 salary band for clerk backdated from April

10. Working Groups update

Community group: no update. Please support Race Night on 2 December.

Sustainable energy group: PF to attend next meeting - update to follow at December meeting.

11. PARISH COUNCIL STANDING ITEMS:

(a) Play Areas/Playing Field/Play Equipment Book – toddler swing replacement- quotation has been signed and sent off. Lead in time c. 8 weeks. MAC to investigate options for removal of rotting timber palisade in play area when the new swing is installed. **Action** - MAC. Gate posts- posts at PHL playing field entrance looking rotten. **Action** - RC to investigate and obtain quote to repair from Freeland Fencing. Entrance at top end of Blenheim Lane needs old kissing gate remains removed and replaced with new gate. **Action** - RC to investigate with MAC.

(b) Village Maintenance and Highway Matters- the football club have reported overhanging trees on playing field. RC has offered to speak to them – this work will be included with Summit Trees schedule at Item 6a.

(c) Monthly cinema- PH is still waiting to hear back about the cinema

(d) Change of September 2024 meeting- it was **RESOLVED** to move the meeting to the 2nd of September

12. To receive reports from councillors representing the Council on outside meetings –

None have been attended.

13. To note the date of next meeting: 11th December in the Newell Room.

Meeting Closed at 21:50