



**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Freeland Village Hall in the Newell Room at 19:30 on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023.**

Members Present:

Cllr R Faulkner, Cllr M Canning, Cllr A Bird, Cllr B Phillips, Cllr A Jackson, Cllr M O'Callaghan, District Cllr A Al-Yousuf, County Cllr Liam Walker and Clerk Fay Friend. Additionally 4 members of the public were in attendance.

**1. To receive apologies for absence** – Apologies have been received from Cllr P Foster and District Cllr L Arciszewska

**2. To receive Declaration of interest in agenda items** – nothing to be added.

**3. To approve minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023** – It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes were signed as a true record with some minor amendments.

**4. Public Participation session**

A resident from Freeland came to speak about Spitfire homes. He is opposed to the Spitfire proposal and dissatisfied with the plans. It was mentioned that Spitfire were originally a bespoke homes company but are now much larger and build houses in volume opposed to bespoke.

**5. To discuss and agree any actions for urgent business.**

Co-opting of a new councillor. A bio from a resident in Freeland has been sent through showing interest in the vacancy. This would be until the next election in May 2024. It was **RESOLVED** that Phil Holt is co-opted onto the Council. Phil Holt was congratulated and welcomed to the meeting.

**6. Matters arising from the minutes.**

(a) To add an additional noticeboard up the northern end of the village- Highways have responded to our request and cannot see any issue as long as the conditions listed in their email are met. Clerk to check underground utilities. It was **RESOLVED** to buy the second noticeboard.

(b) To buy microphone and speaker for the Annual Parish Meeting.- Amy is looking into this and has contacted suppliers. She will provide the council with a proposal.

(c) Update on Freeland house- Roger has previously written to the manager and has now sent a second email but has still not received a response.

**7. To note the meeting for Inspired Villages inquiry.**

The council have now heard back from the inspector - the appeal was **DISMISSED**. Thanks were given again to Mike, all the councillors, members of Freeland Friends and all others that were involved. Inspired Villages have until 1<sup>st</sup> of March to take it to the High Court.

**8. To discuss and receive update on new/existing planning applications.**

New application: 3 Chalfont, Wroslyn Road – No comments to be submitted.

New Application: 102 Wroslyn Road- No comments to be submitted

New Application: 64 Wroslyn Road- No comments to be submitted

Botley West Solar Farm- If the Parish Council choose to be involved we would comment in the second round of consultation. Currently the Council has received 2 comments 1 for and 1 against.

Spitfire Homes public information meeting- Spitfire Homes are holding an information meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> February. This will consist of a brief introduction, a presentation by Spitfire Homes and a question and answer session. The Council will need to agree a response by 13<sup>th</sup> March at the next Parish Council Meeting. Alaa will keep the council updated when it is due to be heard at the Uplands Committee.

Brize Norton changes to the flightpath- Brize are considering possible changes to their airspace. The Council would like to stay engaged with Brize as this process moves forward.

Freeland Gate Footpath – the case has now been closed. The footpath finishes prior to the boundary which was the original design. Additionally, landscaping is being completed for the site. Clerk to contact owner of the industrial estate about land and adding a footpath.

#### 9. Discuss arrangements of Annual Parish Meeting

Amy has designed leaflets for the Annual Parish Meeting (21<sup>st</sup> April) and village working group meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> March). Potential topics were discussed including: Thames Water, update on working group meetings, garden village, Park and ride, spitfire, new bus route s7. Clerk to contact first and last mile, Liam to contact PCSO and Robert Courts.

#### 10. King Charles III Coronation

On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May, the day before the coronation, it has been suggested to hold a big lunch/ afternoon tea. This will be raised at the working group meeting.

#### 11. Power cuts in the Village

There are ongoing localised issues in Freeland Gate, Blowings and Woodlands with power cuts. The Council encourage all residents to keep reporting and raising the issues directly with SSE.

#### 12. To discuss conservation status

The Council is looking into the process that is required. This will be discussed at the next meeting. Mary-Ann to update at the next meeting.

#### 13. To receive updates from District and County Councillors.

Alaa Al-Yousuf- WODC's budget will be discussed for approval on Wednesday. The Council is still not able to demonstrate 5 year land supply and was challenged as to what are they going to do about it. The potential for the levelling up Bill is still in hope. In September 2023 the plan will not be up to date and it leaves the district very vulnerable. S106 has now been put in place for the Northfield site.

Liam Walker- OCC budget day is tomorrow and looking to increase by around 4.99%. Another new solar farm to potentially go up in Hailey. New bus services to start 5<sup>th</sup> of March (S7) from Woodstock to Witney. Wroslyn Road roadworks to be finished by this week. Potholes need to keep being reported on Fix My Street. Once the pothole has been circled Oxfordshire County Council have 28 working days to fix the hole. Super users can be trained for Fix my Street to reduce the time if anyone wishes to be trained to use the system.

#### 14. To discuss and approve financial matters.

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

The following invoices are requested to be approved for payment:

BACS Ref Number	To whom paid	Details	Amount (£)
BACS 144	Fay Friend	Salary	
BACS 145	Rendall Graden Services	leave clearance	£60.00
BACS 146	Mary-Ann Canning	refund- expenses	£90.80
BACS 147	HMRC	NI payment	£32.39
BACS 148	Parish online	subscription renewal	£118.80
BACS 149	scribe	renewal	£606.56
BACS 150	play inspection	annual inspection	£180.00
BACS 151	freeland village hall	hall hire- Feb	£25.00
BACS 152	Amy	fliers	£50.00
		Total:	1,163.55

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

(c) To review the financial reports year to date.- New reports were circulated and presented.

(d) To approve annual financial review- The annual financial review was carried out by Roger, Peter and the Clerk. It was **RESOLVED** to Approve the new statement.

(e) To discuss additional funding for the First and Last Mile bus. It was **RESOLVED** that the council would again be the go between for the funding.

(f) Any other financial business- The Teddy Girls have an upcoming event and would like the proceeds to be given to the Parish Council. It was proposed that this could go towards the cost of "children no parking signs" by the school if it is agreed to proceed with these. Roger to approach the Head Teacher and the Teddy Girls to see if this is suitable.

The cricket club are looking for some new equipment and are currently raising money. Roger to find out more information and update the Council.

Increase in mowing cost- one supplier has increased costs by £30 per visit. Clerk to find out more about why the costs have gone up so much.

## **15. PARISH COUNCIL STANDING ITEMS:**

(a) Play Areas/Playing Field/Play Equipment Book – the play park annual report has been carried out and circulated to the councillors. The council are looking to build up a fund to replace some of the older equipment. Mary-Ann and Clerk to progress further.

(b) Village Maintenance- the tap in the Garden of Remembrance has had another leak and needs a more permanent solution for the winter months. Clerk to speak to Arthur.

Parish Tree - we have been given a cherry tree which will be planted outside 91 Wroslyn Rd.

The picket fence on Wroslyn Rd at the entrance to Freeland House is now in a dire condition. Roger spoke to the Freeland House handy man who asked for a brick wall and Eynsham Estate said no. Roger to contact Eynsham Estate to explore the situation.

Replace the plaque for memorial tree missing name is Walter Scraggs- clerk to contact Graham Lay in sourcing a replacement.

(c) EV Charging- at previous meetings the VPMC didn't like the idea of EV charging.

(d) Defibrillator- the ambulance service used the defibrillator and it has now been returned. New pads are required for both as now out of date. Training session for just defib training doesn't exist as it needs to be completed with CPR, costing upwards of £1000 for 8 people via St Johns. Clerk to look into alternative.

(e) St Marys graveyard- Roger to speak to PCC and Clerk to speak to Eynsham PC with procedure for closure.

## **16. Primary School Parking**

The problems with vehicles parked outside the school are increasing. The Chair met with the Headteacher who confirmed that a request to ensure people park legally and considerately had been included in the school magazine on a number of occasions. It was suggested that the Chair and the Headteacher place a joint article in the March edition of the Grapevine and that each day during the week commencing 27<sup>th</sup> February a copy of this would be placed on the windscreen of cars in the vicinity of the school. After a lengthy discussion it was decided not to proceed with this proposal but that we would explore with the Headteacher alternative "no parking" signs with images of children. If this was accepted Cllr Liam Walker thought there might be some financial support available from OCC.

## **17. To receive reports from councillors representing the Council on outside meetings.**

It was suggested that the village hall sustainability group might like to link in with the sustainability working group.

## **18. To note the date of next Parish Council meeting 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**Meeting Closed 22:30**