



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

Members Present:

Cllr M Canning (MAC), Cllr A Bird (AB), Cllr B Phillips (BP), Cllr A Jackson (AJ), Cllr M O'Callaghan (MO), Cllr P Forster (PF) Cllr P Holt (PH) District Cllr L Arciszewska and Clerk Fay Friend. Additionally 5 members of the public were in attendance. This meeting was Chaired by the Vice Chairman Mary-Ann.

1. To receive apologies for absence – Apologies have been received from Cllr R Faulkner (RF) and Cllr A Al-Yousuf.

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

3. To approve minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th February 2023 – It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes were signed as a true record with minor adjustments.

4. Public Participation session

One member of the public wished to speak about Chapel Meadow (Spitfire Homes) and how they believe the development will severely harm the village, in terms of human cost, landscape and environment. There are currently 178 objections lodged and it was requested that the Parish Council object to the application.

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

Break-in at the allotments - after a brief discussion it was suggested that Thames Valley Police should be pressed to attend the APM due to increased crime rates and nonattendance previously. Additionally, allotment holders might consider obtaining cheap trail cameras to discourage or help with reporting further break ins.

The allotment bees have died in the recent cold snap. PF has a contact for swarm recovery.

Action: Clerk to send a letter to PCSO to attend to the Annual Parish Meeting to address villages concerns. PF to find out name of bee organisation and sent to clerk.

Inspired Villages - have appealed to the High Court to challenge the decision of the planning inspector. It was agreed that FPC should investigate possible actions FPC could take in addition to gaining a copy of the grounds for the challenge.

Action: AJ to progress above.

OCC Weight restriction study - it was agreed to register as an interested party and engage with the study to pre-empt through traffic of heavy construction vehicles through the village in future.

Action: MO to register our interest and participate in study.

6. Matters arising from the minutes.

(a) Additional noticeboard to be installed by the bus stop on A4095 - Highways approved our request as long as conditions started are met.

Action: Clerk to source the contractor to deliver the work.

(b) To buy microphone and speaker for the Annual Parish Meeting - AJ, Mark and Bill met with a contractor and have a detailed quote. The contractor has agreed to come out and show the equipment functioning and further clarify the quote, as it is higher than anticipated. Meanwhile we need to locate the village hall microphones in time for APM and also ask Peter if his microphone can be fixed as a back up.

Action: Clerk to locate the VH microphones. MAC to contact Peter re microphone repair.

7. To discuss and receive update on new/existing planning applications including Spitfire Homes and Botley West Solar Farm

New application: 19 Pigeon House Lane – No comments to be submitted.

New Application: Heath Farm Barn, Blenheim Lane – No comments to be submitted

New Application: 162 Wroslyn Road – No comments to be submitted

Botley West Solar Farm – currently received 2 for and 2 against. We still urge the village to participate when the next consultation happens.

Spitfire Homes – The draft Council response to this application has been circulated to the council. It was **RESOLVED** to approve this, subject to minor modifications in the summary. Councillors would like to thank AJ for all her hard work on preparing this following working group discussions.

Action: AJ to amend and recirculate; Clerk to submit final response to WODC.

Freeland Gate Footpath – contact has been made with the industrial estate owner and they have passed our initial contact onto the relevant party. Clerk is awaiting a response.

8. To discuss the possibility of establishing Conservation Area Status

The Parish Council are investigating achieving for conservation status for the historic part of the village. MAC has circulated an outline of the process involved. The Combe “Village Design Statement” may also be worth replicating, as once adopted it will be a material consideration for planning applications and therefore help protect the village from further speculative development. This would consolidate the work already carried out for the village survey and in preparing our evidence for the Inspired Villages Appeal hearing. AJ, MO, PF and MAC will help with progressing this forward.

Action: AJ to contact Astrid Harvey, WODC planner, as a first step.

9. Discuss arrangements for Annual Parish Meeting

First and Last Mile have been contacted and are happy to speak. Additional topics: river pollution (feedback awaited from Cllr Walker for Robert Courts MP attendance; other options are the Lib Dem parliamentary candidate, or Vaughan Lewis); actions/opportunities arising from the newly formed working groups; an update on planning and development, including Salt Cross.

Publicity – it was **RESOLVED** not leafleting the whole village this year.

Actions: Lidia to ask if potential new Lib Dem MP candidate would attend. AJ to contact Green Tea group about speaking on sustainability. MAC to contact Evenlode Catchment Partnership for a speaker. Kenny to include A5 poster in April Grapevine. Clerk to contact Andrea Clemson from WODC about a Salt Cross update. AJ and Clerk to arrange for A4 posters for noticeboards, plus two A2 posters for A frame boards.

10. To receive a report of the Working Groups meeting and discuss how to proceed

The first meeting was held on the 3rd March for two of the groups- Sustainability and Community. AJ has circulated notes from these groups. The sustainability group suggested to break the topic down into sub groups as too wide – e.g. energy, nature recovery, recycling etc. Ideas to implement quickly included borrowing a thermal imaging camera to detect heat loss from houses, as well as a repair café and swap shop. The Community group ideas included reinstatement of the Tuesday club in the pub, a monthly business breakfast, contacting Freeland house to see if their café could reopened to the public again, and to reinstate the cinema in the hall. Follow up meetings required. It was recognised that the PC would put 6 months support into driving these forward with reassessment of the situation.

Actions: PH to progress with the cinema. PF and MO to look into the thermal imaging. AJ to investigate monthly business breakfast held in Banbury, arrange follow up meeting and to talk to the pub about this and the Tuesday club.

11. King Charles III Coronation

The council have decided that, due to the number of demands on councillors’ time at present, they cannot commit to arranging anything for this celebration, which is less than 2 months away. However the Council will support any volunteers who come forward to arrange events.

Actions: AJ to speak to those who might wish to organise a fun run and the pub for the opportunity to organise an event of some kind.

12. To receive updates from District and County Councillors.

Lidia Arciszewska reported that the inspector has sent the final response about Salt Cross to WODC.

-Good news is that biodiversity and net gain policies have been supported along with the proposed cycle path from Eynsham to Hanborough station.

-Bad news is that the policy on zero carbon has not been supported. WODC are considering options on how to respond.

Supporting spring clean initiative- Parishes can apply to WODC for loan of litter picking equipment.

-The council are in support of 100% tax on empty and second homes. Additionally the definition of an empty house policy will reduce from 2 years to 1 year.

-The contract for waste and recycling has continued with Ubico for another 2 years, following a value for money assessment.

-A joint parish meeting on the environment was held recently exploring ways WODC can assist in sharing ideas and knowledge. Future forums will be set up and Lidia will request that Fay is on the circulation list so that we can be involved in future events.

13. To discuss and approve financial matters.

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

BACS Ref Number	To whom paid	Details	Amount (£)
BACS 153	Fay Friend	Salary	
BACS 154	HMRC	NI payment	£32.19
BACS 155	OALC	subscription renewal	£344.27
BACS 149	Freeland Hall	hall booking	£12.50
BACS 150	water plus	water bill	£9.13
BACS 151			
BACS 152			
		Total:	398.09

(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.- Reports were circulated and presented.

(d) To discuss support for Freeland Primary school- this item has been passed forward to the next meeting

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

(f) The cricket club- this item has been passed forward to the next meeting

(g) To discuss the increase in mowing fee- after a brief discussion and conversations on “No Mow May”, the increases in charges by mowing contractors has been accepted. The areas to be left unmown in May are to be agreed in consultation with the nature watch group.

Actions: Clerk to confirm acceptance of costs with contractors, MAC to speak to nature watch group to confirm locations of seeded areas again.

(h) Any other financial business- there was no other financial business to be resolved

15. PARISH COUNCIL STANDING ITEMS:

(a) Play Areas/Playing Field/Play Equipment Book – it was agreed not to proceed with the sandpit enlargement and save the funds towards replacement of ageing equipment. A long term plan needed to replace the deteriorating timber toddler equipment.

Action: MAC to come up with a next stage plan for remaining S106.

(b) Village Maintenance- the tap in the Garden of Remembrance has had the repairs carried out. A long term plan is required to replace exposed copper pipework with plastic.

Action: Clerk to find contractor and get quotes.

White Gates- requests have been made to Blenheim and Eynsham estates to fund replacements at both boundaries on the A4095. Additionally Clerk has placed them on Fix My Street to see if OCC can replace.

c) Village Hall- issues with hall availability for local groups and storage. It was agreed to request a meeting between VHMC and the PC to clarify how the VHMC was formed and operates, their vision, goals, to address mutual concerns, shared equipment, storage and safeguarded for mutual benefit; and progress with the sustainability group. We also require the key code for where the key holder was indisposed.

Action: Clerk to arrange meeting with the Village Hall Management Committee, with all parish councillors invited to attend. Clerk to request key code.

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

MAC and RF met with Marilyn Davies, Community Lead at Blenheim. They asked questions previously raised by councillors. Marilyn set out ways in which Blenheim is assisting other Parish Councils bordering the estate, e.g. new footpaths and cycle ways through the park. A list of questions and answers will be circulated once Marilyn has come back to us.

18. To note the date of next Parish Council meeting 3rd April 2023

Meeting Closed at 22:07