

**Minutes of a virtual Meeting of Frilsham Parish Council held on
Wednesday 21st September 2020 (via Zoom).**

Present

Cllr. M. Allum (Chairman)
Cllr. G. Barber
Cllr. D. Benning
Cllr. B. Lyon
Cllr. A. Arnold
Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk)
District Cllr. Carolyn Culver
Mr. James Hole

1 Notices.

1.1 Appreciation for the life of Christine Kettlewell.

Cllr. Allum asked that those present take a few minutes of silence to remember Christine Kettlewell who served as a parish councillor in Frilsham for a number of years. Appreciation was given for Christine's contribution to both the community as a whole and to this council.

1.2 Welcome to James Hole.

James Hole was welcomed to Frilsham Parish Council. He has taken over as Managing Director of Yattendon Estate from David Slack.

2 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies of absence were received and accepted from Cllr. Goodenough.

3 To receive declarations of interest.

There were no declarations of interest in any agenda items.

4 To approve minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 8th July 2020.

The minutes of the meeting of Frilsham Parish Council (FPC) held on Wednesday 8th July 2020 were agreed as a true record of the meeting and will be signed by Cllr. Allum.

5 Matters arising from the minutes.

5.1 Drainage in Beechfield.

As a result of the meeting in February 2020, WBC were going to dig out the outflow of the drains behind 9 and 10 Beechfield. To date this has not been done. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Stuart Clark for an update.

6 Report from Yattendon Estate.

Mr. Hole thanked FPC for the warm welcome. He has been in his new role for just over two weeks. The harvest is very nearly complete. The commercial portfolio is going well and there are a few enquiries coming in. Some businesses have been impacted by the pandemic more than others and the Estate is trying to support them. Preparations are being made for the Christmas tree season.

The Royal Oak is now fully open, and business is good. The Pot Kiln is open for reduced hours with good trade. The village store is going from strength to strength, although it is tailing off a little with the lifting of lockdown.

The residential units are nearly fully occupied.

7 Planning.

7.1 20/01010/HOUSE – Appledown, School Lane.

Proposed two storey side alteration, single storey side alterations, new pitched roof over bay window, application of render and replacement windows, new Velux window.

FPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

7.2 Planning for the Future - Consultation.

WBC has submitted comments on the planning consultation about planning in the future.

The proposals will give less opportunity for applications to be called to committee and less time for people to submit comments. More emphasis will rest with Neighbourhood Plans and Village Design Statements.

It is proposed that the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) would be based on the selling price of homes and then only paid when they are occupied.

Land will be split into three categories: growth, renewal and protected. Frilsham and 75% of West Berkshire would be protected (as a result of being in the AONB).

8 Report from West Berkshire District Cllr Carolyn Culver.

District Cllr. Culver paid tribute to Christine Kettlewell who had been a good friend.

Her time is currently spent on case work (mainly in the other parishes of the Ridgeway ward) and controversial planning applications including the proposal for 250 homes on the Pirbright Institute site at Compton.

WBC will be publishing its Environment Strategy on the 15th October. The Community Municipal Investment in solar panels has received a lot of interest.

From October, members of the public will be able to attend online virtual meetings of WBC, allowing questions to be asked and answers given.

Challenges have been made to the reopening of Northbrook Street to vehicles from early evening through to the following morning.

8.1 Payment for Green bins.

Cllr. Benning reported that he had issues paying for his green bin and that the system was not satisfactory. He asked why the system couldn't use the council tax reference number; it seems unnecessarily complicated.

9 Mains Water Supply.

The Clerk reported that Thames Water has responded that they have no plans to replace the pipe in the valley which has ruptured a several times over a short stretch of pipe.

It was agreed that the Clerk would consult with Kay Lacey about the best way forward.

10 Muntjac Deer Numbers.

Muntjac deer have striped crops in the allotments, despite them being surrounded by stock fencing. During the pandemic, there has been an increase in the number of allotment holders, but their crops are being decimated. It was noted that muntjac are also causing havoc in gardens.

Mr. Hole reported that the Christmas trees on the Estate are protected with rabbit wire dug into the ground and 6ft high metal fencing. There are a number of shoots and stalkers on the Estate who will be looking into the problem.

Cllr. Allum will also speak to Ian Coxhead about the problem in the allotments.

11 Anti-social Behaviour in the Parish.

There was a discussion about potential drug dealing in the parish and the impact this has on behaviour. As far as anyone present understands any drug dealing is on a small scale.

It was noted that over the summer, there have been several incidents of loud music being played.

12 Impact of horse riders using footpaths.

Cllr. Lyon reported that a parishioner had made general comments about horses being ridden on footpaths. A suggestion was made that there be signs saying no horses on footpaths. It was agreed that the situation be monitored for the time being.

13 Playpark and Facilities around the Clubroom.

13.1 Safety items picked up on weekly checks.

Cllr. Lyon reported that a parishioner had reported a branch hanging from a tree over the playpark. Cllr. Lyon has removed the branch which was hanging, but the whole branch needs to be removed from the tree. Ownership of the trees was determined as the Yattendon and Frilsham Trust who own the land, but they delegate management to the Clubroom

Committee. It was agreed that Cllr. Lyon and Cllr. Allum would have a look at the trees.

13.2 To receive an update on the Toddler Swings.

Cllr. Lyon reported that A.E. Evans have 2 timbers ready to be transported to Frilsham. It was agreed that Cllr. Lyon would seek a quote from A.E. Evans for their transportation.

13.3 Quotes for replacement swings.

The Clerk has been in contact with Sovereign Playgrounds who will come out and give a free assessment/quote on the various options for the toddler swings. It was agreed the Clerk would organise a site meeting with Sovereign Playgrounds.

14 **The Clubroom and surroundings.**

The Clubroom is open again with a number of restrictions in place. Hirers have to agree to comply with the new restrictions. To date there is one repeat booking on Tuesday evenings and one other group which is expected to restart imminently. Cllr. Lyon commented that it had been a lot of work to meet the reopening Covid requirements.

Plans for the work on the Clubroom have not progressed.

15 **Frilsham Futures Implementation Group.**

Most grants which are currently available are in response to Covid, making it difficult to raise funds for other things.

16 **Yattendon and Frilsham Sports and Social Trust.**

The public meeting of the Trust in September was cancelled. Grant applications are normally discussed at the September meeting and money, raised at the annual fete distributed. Given there was no fete this year, no grants have been allocated, with the exception of fixed grants which can be covered by existing funds. There will be a report in The Broadsheet from the Trust.

There are two football clubs scheduled to use the Frilsham pitch; a Saturday afternoon group who are currently at the top of their league and a Sunday morning group who have not actually played yet.

17 **Clerks Report.**

17.1 Review of Assets.

Cllr. Barber agreed to clear the top of St. Frideswide's well and tidy the immediate area for 19th October (the feast day of St. Frideswide).

Cllr. Allum reported that all of the grit bins are full.

17.2 Items for The Broadsheet.

The Clerk will provide a short report on this meeting for The Broadsheet.

18 **Finances.**

18.1 Financial Statement.

The Financial Statement had been circulated to those present prior to the meeting and showed a balance of £35,767.96.00 once all payments have cleared.

Payments since the last meeting:

100846	C. H. Hyde (Internal audit)	£50.00
DD	Gigaclear (Broadband)	£35.00
SO	Helen Pratt (July salary)	£213.49
100847	Post Office Ltd (SSE)	£26.69
DD	Gigaclear (Broadband)	£35.00
SO	Helen Pratt (August salary)	£213.49
100848	Bob Lyon (TSO hosting of the website)	£17.99

A reconciliation to the last bank statement dated 15th August 2020 with a balance of £36,111.20 was shown. A sum of £18,000 is ringfenced as a donation to the Clubroom for the refurbishment/rebuild project, excluding any money for FY20/21.

Cllr. Benning asked whether any funds had been allocated to the Beechfield Lane Residents Association for resurfacing the road. The Clerk suggested that the Residents Association

should give some idea of the sum they are looking to spend and how much they would like FPC to consider contributing.

18.2 To consider a donation to West Berkshire Libraries.

It was agreed that a contribution of £300 be paid to West Berkshire libraries.

19 AOB

19.1 Smells from the reedbed at the Tap Room.

It was reported that for the last few months there have been nasty smells from the reed bed at the Tap Room. The smells are as a result of the increase in capacity at the Tap Room and the reed bed simply cannot cope. As a result, the Tap Room has connected to the mains sewer, but ultimately would like a more environmental solution to the problem.

19.2 Trees.

Cllr. Benning raised concern about the cedar tree in Beechfield Lane, the oak tree opposite Pightles on Beechfield Lane and the oak tree at Five Oaks. It was agreed that Cllr. Allum would have a look.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 11th November 2020 –7.30pm.