

**Minutes of a virtual Meeting of Frilsham Parish Council held on
Wednesday 13th January 2021 (via Zoom).**

Present

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

1 To receive apologies for absence.

There were no apologies for absence.

2 To receive declarations of interest.

Cllr. Lyon declared an interest in funding for the Clubroom.

3 To approve minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 11th November 2020.

The minutes of the meeting of Frilsham Parish Council (FPC) held on Wednesday 11th November 2020 were agreed as a true record of the meeting and will be signed by Cllr. Allum.

4 Matters arising from the minutes.

4.1 Deer numbers.

There have been two recent newspaper reports on increase in deer numbers; due to COVID there is a significant reduction in the demand for venison. The numbers being culled have reduced to about 20% of what they were pre COVID. Vickers Game were selling approximately 200 carcasses a week; this is now reduced to between 40 and 50. Naturally, the deer population increases by approximately 30% a year. The RSPB are concerned about the damage the deer are doing to woodland. There has been a suggestion that female deer should be culled during the winter months. Mr. Hole commented that deer numbers are a problem. The stalkers can continue, but the market has gone. The Estate is actively continuing to manage the deer numbers, with particular emphasis on muntjac.

4.2 Beechfield Drains.

WBC has dug out the drains between Beechfield and the garden of Holly Cottage. The work has been carried out to a high standard and they appear to be working well.

5 Report from Yattendon Estate.

Mr. Hole reported that the Christmas Tree season had gone well and that customers had appreciated the COVID arrangements. The hotels, restaurants and pubs are closed due to COVID. The Yattendon Village stores is busy and supporting as many residents as possible. The Estate is also providing support to the community where it is needed.

6 Planning.

6.1 20/02534/FUL – Homerstead House, Hawkridge Hill.

Replacement dwelling.

FPC had **no objection** to this application, which with an amendment reducing the amount of glazing in the southern elevation has been **approved** by WBC.

It was noted that work is taking place on the dog kennels, but it is not clear what the end result will be.

7 **Report from West Berkshire District Cllr Carolyn Culver.**

District Cllr. Culver reported that the West Berkshire Vaccination centre at the Newbury Racecourse is due to start vaccinating the over 80s from the Downland Surgery next week. Weekly meetings for the co-ordinators of COVID support groups within the Ridgeway ward are taking place. These are a good way of communicating ideas; one issue has been about how people can get to the Racecourse for their vaccinations. It was noted that if you are taking someone to the vaccination centre, you are doing it as a friend/neighbour and not as part of a formal service; this is to ensure there are no insurance issues.

The WBC Local Plan Review is currently at consultation and includes the proposal for 2,500 new homes to the NE of Thatcham accessed from Harts Hill. There is a consultation taking place about the centre of Newbury and how it might be developed.

Collection of green bins has been suspended until the end of January. There was a question about whether contracts would be extended to cover the missed collection.

District Cllr. Culver asked whether any Frilsham businesses had received any of the COVID grants; Mr. Hole will enquire with local businesses.

8 **Playpark and Facilities around the Clubroom.**

8.1 **Safety items picked up on weekly checks.**

Cllr. Lyon reported that he has been checking the playpark on a weekly basis. The caps have been replaced with the help of Cllr. Arnold. The latches on the gates are still not working properly. There are some branches which need pruning back and the moles are back in a small way.

The COVID signage needs to be replaced on a regular basis.

Cllr. Lyon reported that he is happy to continue to check the playpark because he has to check the Clubroom regularly.

8.2 **To receive an update on the Toddler Swings.**

The replacement leg and horizontal beam have been delivered to Holly Cottage; they are of a much better quality than the originals. The existing leg and beam are being tested on a regular basis. It was suggested that when the leg is installed it is wrapped in a new material which will give the wood some protection from the soil.

9 **The Clubroom and surroundings.**

One of the electrical circuits for a small heater in the Clubroom has tripped. The extension/rebuild of the Clubroom is currently on hold because most grants available are COVID related. Cllr. Lyon is trying to organise meeting up with Graham Bell who was involved with the development of Beech Hill Memorial Hall.

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

Cllr. Lyon reported that the Yattendon Fete is unlikely to go ahead this year, although there are discussions about holding it later in the year, but this is likely to clash with the harvest. No discretionary grants will be allocated this year. The Trust are looking at the possibility of raising money in other ways.

11 **Mains Water Supply.**

Cllr. Goodenough reported that he had attended the virtual meeting of the Pang Valley Flood Forum (PVFF) and has since joined the group. The PVFF website is very informative. It was agreed that Cllr. Goodenough would become the flood warden for Frilsham. The Clerk will inform WBC.

Thames Water has commented that it is cheaper for them to repair burst pipes in the valley than to replace the main.

The leaks in Beechfield Lane have been repaired.

12 **Clerks Report.**

12.1 **Meeting dates for 2021.**

Meetings in 2021 will continue to be on the 2nd Wednesday of alternate months. The dates

have been advertised on the website.

12.2 Visit from Laura Farris MP.

It was suggested that Laura Farris be invited to attend the March meeting of FPC (10/3/2021). A meeting could be held during the week or two preceding the meeting to plan the session and identify questions.

12.3 Items for The Broadsheet.

The Clerk will write a summary of this meeting to be included in The Broadsheet.

13 Finances.

13.1 Financial Statement.

The Financial Statement was circulated to those present prior to the meeting and showed a balance of £37,993.46 once all payments have cleared.

Payments since the last meeting:

100850	West Berkshire District Council (Library Contribution)	£300.00
DD	Gigaclear (December Broadband)	£35.00
SO	Helen Pratt (November salary)	£213.49
100851	Post Office Ltd (SSE 8/8/20 – 12/11/20)	£25.34
100852	Yattendon and Frilsham PCC	£650.00
100853	West Berkshire Countryside Society	£100.00
DD	Gigaclear (Broadband)	£35.00
SO	Helen Pratt (December salary)	£213.49

A reconciliation to the last bank statement dated 15th December 2020 with a balance of £38,667.29 was shown. A sum of £21,000 is ringfenced as a donation to the Clubroom for the refurbishment/rebuild project, including funds for FY20/21.

13.2 Budget for FY21/22.

The budget for FY21/22 was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. Proposed expenditure items for the coming year were reviewed and agreed as acceptable. The total budgeted expenditure for the year is £9,531.92. The budget as presented was approved unanimously.

13.3 Precept for FY21/22.

It was unanimously agreed to a precept request of £9,000. The Clerk will complete the form and submit it to WBC.

14 AOB

14.1 Burnt out Vehicle on byway BUCK 19/1.

Mr. Hole commented that the burnt-out vehicle in Highwood on restricted byway BUCK 19/1 has been reported. It is currently too wet to extract the remains of the vehicle.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 10th March 2021 –7.30pm.