

**Minutes of a Meeting of Frilsham Parish Council held on
Wednesday 9th March 2022 in Frilsham Clubroom.**

Present

Cllr. M. Allum (Chairman)

Cllr. A. Arnold

Cllr. D. Benning

Cllr. M. Goodenough

Cllr. B. Lyon

Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk)

Mr. J. Hole (Yattendon Estate)

Fiona Miller – Chair of Beechfield Lane Residents Association

Wendy Grogan – Treasure of Beechfield Lane Residents Association

Mike Helme – Secretary of Beechfield Lane Residents Association

Seventeen Parishioners from Beechfield Lane.

1 Public Session.

1.1 Beechfield Lane Residents Association (BLRA).

Fiona Miller gave a presentation on the history of Beechfield Lane, the current problems and the proposed solution.

Beechfield Lane is an unadopted road serving thirty-five properties, five of which belong to Sovereign Housing Association. Of the remaining thirty properties, twenty-five belong to the BLRA and therefore contribute to the maintenance of Beechfield Lane. Five properties do not belong to BLRA and thus do not contribute. The number of houses and the number of residents represent roughly 30% of Frilsham.

In the past residents have carried out ad hoc repairs by hand with a wheelbarrow and shovel. More recently day contractors have been used with varying success. About six years ago, the track benefitted from a full scarify, addition of new material and then a roll. Being essentially a dirt track it wears badly and once potholes are established, they never go. To date, all repairs have been funded by residents.

A more permanent solution is needed, to improve the Health and Safety of the road, to withstand the current use and to enable the elderly, small children and emergency services to use it with ease. A permanent solution is essential and urgently needed.

FPC has a sum of £2,500 set aside for a permanent solution. Hazel and Jefferies have provided a quote of £14,400 (£17,280 including VAT) to scarify and recompact the existing stone, lay road plannings before adding a double surface dressing of bitumen emulsion followed by granite chippings. This should have a life span of 8 to 10 years before significant repairs are needed. With additional support from FPC, BLRA believe it is possible to raise the required funds. Almost 100% of members of BLRA are in support of this proposal.

BLRA have £7,200. Any contribution from Sovereign Housing Association has not been included in these figures, but their proportion is estimated to be £2,800 which could cover the VAT element of the project. Timely contributions from Sovereign Housing Association cannot be relied upon, so it was requested that FPC additionally contribute this element, with the knowledge that it will be refunded when Sovereign Housing Association make their contribution.

It was suggested that the CIL money received from Oaken House could be used for the project.

All residents of Beechfield Lane are Council Tax payers and contribute towards the precept, yet there has been no contribution towards Beechfield Lane. The 8 to 10 years, before

significant repairs are required will enable the BLRA to build up reserves to cover the cost of repairs, thus there should be no future requirements for FPC to contribute.

Since knowledge of the project was made known to residents, there has been great support; one young girl is thrilled at the prospect of not arriving at school with muddy shoes, having walked up the lane, and an elderly lady is delighted that she may be able to walk on the lane again.

Councillors asked a number of questions and confirmed that the new surface would go from the top to the bottom, but not include the two spurs. Drainage was raised as a concern; WBC are carrying out work to improve the drainage at the top of Beechfield Lane and Hazel and Jefferies have discussed the camber of the surface to improve drainage. To discourage vehicles from speeding there will be three speed bumps and radar is being considered for the future.

FPC cannot decide on this proposal at this meeting. It was agreed that an Extra Ordinary Meeting be held on Wednesday 30th March at which a contribution will be considered.

2 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies of absence were received from Cllr. G. Barber and District Cllr. Culver.

3 To receive declarations of interest.

There were no changes to the register of interests or in any agenda items.

4 To approve minutes of meetings:

4.1 Wednesday 12th January 2022.

The minutes of the meeting of Frilsham Parish Council (FPC) held on Wednesday 12th January 2022 were agreed as a true record of the meeting and were signed by Cllr. Allum.

4.2 Matters arising from the minutes.

There were no matters arising from the minutes which aren't covered elsewhere on the agenda.

5 Report from Yattendon Estate.

Mr. Hole reported that it had been a quiet January and February on the Estate. The Estate has joined the Pang Valley Cluster Group of farms looking at options on how to reduce their carbon footprint. WBC are looking at conservation issues with farmers.

As life is returning to normal after COVID, the village has become quieter.

The Estate was congratulated on becoming the owner of the biggest brewery (37 employees) in Berkshire.

6 Planning.

6.1 Planning applications which WBC has consulted FPC on:

No applications for consideration.

6.2 Planning decisions made by WBC:

6.2.1 21/01224/FULMAJ – Frilsham Lime Quarry.

Four new residential dwellings (Use Class C3) of exceptional quality and design, a residents shared energy and home working hub building, hard and soft landscape enhancements and associated works.

Frilsham PC **objected** to this application which has been **withdrawn**.

6.3 Other Planning Matters.

It is understood that a new application for the quarry with two houses is being considered by the applicants.

7 Report from West Berkshire District.

District Cllr. Culver submitted a written report to the meeting covering the following:

- The WBC Members' Community Bid scheme is now open. Each member can apply for up to £5,000 for match funding in their ward.
- On 23rd February, planning for 160 houses on the Institute site at Compton was

approved by the Western Area Planning Committee. District Cllr. Culver voted against the application because it didn't give sufficient attention to the Compton Neighbourhood Development Plan.

- On the 3rd March, WBC held its annual budget meeting and agreed that Council tax will increase by 1%(core).
- West Berkshire Healthwatch have visited the ward offering covid testing kits and assisting residents to test in the Ridgeway ward. Venues in Frilsham where they could visit should be sent to District Cllr. Culver.
- On the 17th March at 6pm there will be a protest outside the WBC offices on Market Street about Thames Water discharging sewage into local rivers.
- WBC is inviting major landowners to discuss how they can help WBC to deliver the council's objective to be carbon neutral by 2030. Their stewardship of large swathes of land makes them important stakeholders.
- District Cllr. Culver will no longer be collecting crisp packets for recycling because the Terracycle scheme ends on the 31st March. The scheme is ending because most supermarkets, including Tesco, Sainsbury's and Co-op have recycling schemes.
- Problems, including fly tipping, unemptied bins, and pot holes can be reported by searching for "West Berkshire Report a Problem" on the internet or visiting www.fixmystreet.com. Please contact District Cllr. Culver if you do not get a satisfactory response or if you have any problems with planning applications, road and verge management, waste or recycling.

Cllr. Allum will send photographs of the parking issues in Beechfield Land to District Cllr. Culver, for her to help resolve the problem.

8 Playground facilities and area around the Club Room.

The RoSPA inspection will take place during April.

Cllr. Lyon reported that all of the equipment looks ok on a visual inspection. The posts of the fence behind the zip wire platform have rotted off. This is probably caused by the high water table in this area. There have been issues with water from Yattendon Estate land in this corner. It was agreed that the posts would be replaced in the summer when the water table should be lower.

Despite the rain, the area continues to be well used.

Twigs have been cleared from the area after each of the storms. Cllr. Arnold and Cllr. Lyon will clear the intruding brambles.

The matting does need to be replaced.

A box of CDs was flytipped in the Clubroom carpark. Details of the vehicle involved were picked up on the CCTV and sent to WBC. The CDs have been passed to a charity shop.

The bins are being emptied every 2 to 3 weeks which is acceptable at this time of year but will cause problems in the heat of the summer.

Lunch Club will resume from the 1st April.

9 The Clubroom.

A draft plan has been drawn up of a replacement Clubroom. Work now needs to take place on the feasibility of the project and on cost estimates. Once these have been done, the proposal will be shared with the whole village.

10 Environment.

10.1 The Impact of Recent Storms on Power supplies.

As a result of storm Eunice, much of Frilsham was without power for 24 hours. In relation to some parts of Yattendon, who were without power for 7 days, generally it was felt that Frilsham had not been seriously affected.

Concern was raised that many of the power lines in the area were installed 70 years ago. The design of the power system, at that time was for maximum wind speeds of 50mph.

Questions were asked about whether SSE have the resources to repair the network in these storm scenarios. It was also questioned whether there is an underlying problem with the network. The issue needs to be raised with the District Cllr. Culver, Laura Farris MP and the regulator.

10.2 Emergency Plans.

WBC has an emergency plan covering the whole area. Frilsham itself has a very good WhatsApp group which was used to support parishioners during Covid and following the storm. Those parishioners not on the WhatsApp group are known about and independent contact can be made with them when necessary. No additional Emergency Plan was considered necessary.

11 Yattendon and Frilsham Sports and Social Trust.

The Yattendon and Frilsham Sports and Social Trust are holding their AGM on Monday 21st March at 8pm in Yattendon Village Hall. The fete is scheduled to go ahead on Saturday 4th June; more helpers would be welcomed.

The Trust will be offering discretionary grants this year.

12 Platinum Jubilee.

Mrs. Allum is working with parishioners to determine how people would prefer to celebrate the Jubilee. The options are:

1. Frilsham parishioners join with Yatendon parishioners at a street party, hopefully, to be held in the square running from 12 noon to 3/4pm on Sunday 5th June. There is some uncertainty about the format of this event, but it has been suggested that the school have been invited to attend. Th school are also running a competition.
2. Hold a lunchtime activity in Frilsham on Sunday 5th June.
3. A flexible event involving afternoon tea or an early evening BBQ on Sunday 5th to follow the Yattendon event.
4. Do nothing.

13 Clerk's Report

13.1 Annual Parish Assembly – Wednesday 18th May.

Councillors were asked to consider a suitable subject or speaker for the Annual Parish Assembly.

It was agreed that the event would be advertised using flyers hand delivered by councillors.

13.2 Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA)

As a result of studies to obtain the CiLCA qualification, the Clerk has become aware of additional and revised policies and procedures which should be in place for FPC. These new and revised documents will be bought before FPC for ratification over the next two or three meetings.

13.3 Items for The Broadsheet.

It was agreed that a report from this meeting would be submitted to The Broadsheet.

14 Finances.

14.1 Financial Statement.

The Financial Statement was circulated to those present prior to the meeting and showed a balance of £41,045.63 once all payments and credits have cleared.

Payments since the last meeting:

Gigaclear (February and March Broadband)	£70.00
Salaries (January and February 2022) & expenses	£450.98
Frilsham Clubroom (rent for meetings)	£24.00
Post Office Ltd	£30.83
Bank charges (15/11/21 to 14/2/22)	£31.00

A bank reconciliation to the last statement dated the 15th February 2022 with a balance of £41,384.95 was circulated prior to the meeting. A sum of £22,500 is ringfenced as a

donation to the Clubroom for the refurbishment/rebuild project, up until 31st March 2022.

15 Any other business.

15.1 Defibrillator.

It was noted that Cllr. Arnold is taking over as a guardian of the defibrillator.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Extra-ordinary meeting of Frilsham Parish Council: Wednesday 30th March 2022 at 7.30pm.

Annual meeting of Frilsham Parish Council: Wednesday 11th May at 7.30pm.

Annual Parish Assembly: Wednesday 18th May at 7.30pm.