

**Minutes of the Meeting of Frilsham Parish Council held on
Wednesday 28th September 2022 in Frilsham Clubroom.**

Present

Cllr. M. Allum
Cllr. G. Barber
Cllr. D. Benning
Cllr. B. Lyon
District Cllr. Culver
Mr. James Hole (Yattendon Estates)
Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk)
Three members of the public.

1 To receive apologies for absence.

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

2 To receive declarations of interest.

There were no changes to the register of interests. Cllr. Allum and Cllr. Benning declared an interest in the allotments as allotment holders. Cllr. Allum also declared an interest in the item on drainage.

3 To approve minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 13th July 2022.

The minutes of the meeting of FPC held on Wednesday 13th July 2022 were agreed as a true record of the meeting and were signed by Cllr. Allum.

3.1 Matters arising from the minutes.

3.1.1 Large Oak Tree.

The large oak tree with dead branches thought to overhang the road has been looked at more closely. The dead branches at the top of the tree overhang garden land and therefore have not been reported to WBC.

4 Report from Yattendon Estate.

The harvest has now finished and was better than had been feared.

Work is underway preparing for the Christmas tree season and 75% of the work has been done marking trees. Last year 80% of the new trees planted were lost due to the weather conditions.

Residential properties are fully occupied, except for three dwellings which are being renovated. One commercial property is available, and another is the subject of an application for change of use. The brewery is going through the process of rebranding.

The shooting season has started.

5 Planning.

5.1 Planning applications which WBC has consulted FPC and decisions made by WBC:

5.1.1 22/01820/HOUSE – The Mallows, Beechfield Lane.

Proposed front in-fill extension following demolition of existing entrance lobby.

It was ratified that FPC submitted **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

5.1.2 22/02182/FUL – Unit 12, Frilsham Home Farm Business Units.

Change of use from Office to Beautician.

It was agreed that FPC has **no objection** to this application.

6 Report from West Berkshire District.

District Cllr. Culver submitted a written report prior to the meeting.

District Cllr. Culver continues to be a member of the ‘user journey’ group looking at how WBC interacts with residents and will be joining a group considering healthcare provision on

new developments.

Greenfest, in Hampstead Norreys, was very successful with a wide range of talks, local organisations (including groups campaigning to protect wildlife and tackle climate change) and stalls selling sustainable goods.

For the WBC Full Council meeting on the 6th October, District Cllr Culver has submitted questions about local plans to offset carbon, biodiversity and nutrient neutrality and whether WBC has any concerns about the impact of recent government planning policy announcements on the WBC evolving draft Local Plan. Plans are anticipated about how the cost of living crisis will be tackled. Meetings have taken place to discuss community initiatives including 'warm hubs' for people who cannot afford to heat their own homes.

7 Playground facilities and area around the Club Room.

Facilities around the Clubroom.

Bins around the Clubroom were not being emptied and were reported to WBC on the 11/8/22. They were reported again on the 2/9/22 and in both cases were emptied a few days later.

No issues have been identified with the play equipment. The latches on the gates have been adjusted over the summer as the wood has shrunk due to the weather. Work on the fence next to the zip wire needs new posts and a work party.

One of the downpipes on the Clubroom has broken and Cllr. Lyon has the necessary replacement parts for a repair.

The use of wet pour surfacing was suggested as an alternative to the matting for durability.

Replacement post from A E Evans.

A.E. Evans have agreed to provide a replacement timber under warranty. They have quoted for delivery and Cllr. Allum will obtain a second quote.

8 Environment.

8.1 To receive an update on the burst water main and ways forwards.

Following the most recent burst of the water main in the valley, the majority of Frilsham was without water for over 24 hours. Cllr. Allum continues to await a formal apology from Thames Water and details of what caused the problem (and the delay in the repair). Any household without water is due a rebate of £30 for the first 12 hours and each subsequent 12 hour period.

The pipe in the valley needs to be lined or replaced.

It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Thames Water and copy Kay Lacey, Carolyne Culver and Laura Farris.

8.2 Emergency Plan.

Cllr. Lyon reported that the Clubroom has received the final payment of £500 (bringing the total to £825) from SSE as a result of usage of the Clubroom during the power outage earlier in the year.

8.3 Beechfield Lane parking and verges.

A number of vehicles are parking on the grass (between the road and the pavement) of Beechfield on land belonging to WBC. The vehicles include private cars and a light goods vehicle.

The company owning the light goods vehicle has been contacted, and passed the matter to the driver, who then tried to identify who contacted the company. If residents receive abusive threats, it was suggested that they could be reported to the Police. There was a discussion about possible alternative parking locations, but no conclusive decision was reached.

A number of other vehicles appear to have been abandoned on WBC land near the garages which will be reported to WBC.

8.4 Drainage Issues.

Drainage engineers have considered the issues around the top of Beechfield Lane and have agreed to install a culvert which will flow into the pipe with an outfall on the Holly Cottage boundary. Work on the culvert cannot take place until the header above the outlet has been built. Currently there is no header, and the bank is being eroded. The location of the outfall needs to be accessed from the garages and a route will have to be cleared.

8.5 School Lane Allotments.

There is a major problem in the School Lane allotments with deer, particularly roe deer. Frilsham Allotment Trust asked if FPC could assist with the cost of 6-foot deer fencing which would be expected to cost approximately £2,000. Grant funding for the fencing was also suggested.

Cllr. Benning commented that deer numbers have increased dramatically and need to be reduced.

Cllr. Allum will obtain a quote for the fencing.

9 The Clubroom.

Slow progress is being made with plans for a complete rebuild of the facility. Cost analysis of the project is currently being carried out.

10 Yattendon and Frilsham Sports and Social Trust.

A successful fete has provided the Trust with much needed funds to distribute discretionary grants. These will be considered at the AGM of the trust on Monday 3rd October at 8pm in Yattendon Village Hall.

11 Website.

The company hosting the web site was charging £14.99 on an annual basis for a very basic package. Following an upgrade of their servers, they no longer offer the basic package which resulted in a proposed price increase to £71.88 plus VAT. As a result of the company not warning FPC of such a dramatic increase in price, they have agreed to a 40% discount for the first year. However, this discount will not be carried into future years.

Cllr. Lyon is exploring other providers including Parish Online.

12 Clerk's Report

12.1 Items for The Broadsheet.

The Clerk will write up an account of this meeting for The Broadsheet.

12.2 New Bank Account.

The Clerk will progress a new online account with Lloyds.

12.3 Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA).

The Clerk reported that all 30 learning outcomes were submitted by the end of September and 4 have been referred for additional work.

12.4 Small Authorities Audit Appointments (SAAA).

Every five years, the SAAA appoints an external auditor for those councils who do not wish to appoint their own external auditor. It was unanimously agreed that FPC will use the external auditor appointed by the SAAA.

13 Finances.

13.1 Financial Statement.

The Financial Statement was circulated to those present prior to the meeting and showed a balance of £38,260.17 once all payments and credits have cleared.

Payments since the last meeting:

Yattendon PC (Platinum Jubilee entertainment)	£100.00
Gigaclear (August and September Broadband)	£70.00
Salaries (July and August 2022)	£426.98
SSE (18/5/22 to 11/8/2022)	£34.17
CCB Membership	£42.00

Website hosting – TSOhost £51.76

Bank charges (15/6/22 to 14/8/2022) £20.00

A bank reconciliation to the last statement dated the 15th September 2022 with a balance of £38,388.29 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. Cllr. Barber verified the Financial Statement against the bank statement.

14 Any other business.

14.1 Coronation of King Charles III.

It was agreed that a discussion of possible events for the coronation be an agenda item for the next meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm.

Next meeting of Frilsham Parish Council: Wednesday 9th November 2022 at 7.30pm.