

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

Present

Cllr. M. Allum (Chairman)
Cllr. A. Arnold
Cllr. D. Benning
Cllr. M. Goodenough
Cllr. B. Lyon
District Cllr. Culver
Mr. J. Hole (Yattendon Estates)
Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk)

1 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies of absence were received from Cllr. Barber.

2 To receive declarations of interest.

Cllr. Allum declared an interest in the agenda items on drainage and in relation to the allotments, as an allotment holder.

Cllr. Benning declared an interest in the agenda item on the allotments as an allotment holder.

3 To approve minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 28th September 2022.

The minutes of the meeting of FPC held on Wednesday 28th September 2022 were agreed as a true record of the meeting and were signed by Cllr. Allum.

4 Matters arising from the minutes.

4.1 Website.

Cllr. Lyon reported that, following the increase in cost of the current website, he is exploring options for a new web site, which have included iNex. He is also following the progress of Bradfield Historical Society who are about to move to a new website.

5 Report from Yattendon Estate.

Mr. Hole reported that the Christmas Tree harvest is well underway, and the Christmas barn will be open from the middle of November.

Commercially, all properties are fully let. Residential properties are in much demand as lots of people are interested in moving to the area.

Farming on the estate had a good Autumn, which is now turning much wetter.

Councillors requested an update on the tree/forestry plans for the Estate in the next

Broadsheet. Mr. Hole commented that the Estate reviews its plans for trees and forestry in January and that generally the health and wellbeing of the woodland is the primary aim.

Concern was raised about the fire risk posed by the confers in Sulham's Copse.

6 Planning.

6.1 To receive an update on decisions made by WBC:

6.1.1 22/02182/FUL – Unit 12, Frilsham Home Farm Business Units.

Change of use from Office to Beautician.

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

6.1.2 22/01318/FUL – The Garage, Chapel Lane (Yattendon Parish).

Supply and erection of Victorian style lamp post within front boundary of Yattendon Garage forecourt. Set back 1.2m from front boundary.

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

7 Report from West Berkshire District.

There have been issues with the delivery of food waste bins to a significant number of

properties; the contractor responsible has apologised for the errors. Some residents have complained about the increase in plastic use, but the separate collection of food waste is a government directive.

WBC is in the process of contracting a new grounds maintenance contractor, which will increase the cost of emptying bins. A new system is also being adopted which will show what areas are scheduled to be cut and when.

Rural business forums have been set up to try and support rural business. Some village pubs, which play a really important role in village life are on the verge of closure due to the increases in costs.

WBC has rebranded the Ukraine hub as the Cost of Living Hub which provides a phone help line and website giving lots of information and initiatives on warm hubs (providing residents with somewhere warm to go).

Warm home grants, to improve home efficiency are available to those households with an income of less than £30,000 and whose houses are in energy band D or lower. People paying for electricity and gas on pre-payment meters can claim vouchers, but they need to know about them

WBC has a lot of staff vacancies, particularly in the planning department. At the meeting of WBC on the 1st December, an updated draft of the Local Plan will be considered which is scheduled to go to consultation in early January.

At the elections in May 2023, photographic ID will be required from electors.

Concern was raised that budgets for grass cutting in future years will be based on recent experience where there has been little rain and therefore little grass growth requiring less cutting.

8 Playground facilities and area around the Club Room.

Facilities around the Clubroom.

The emptying of bins continues to be erratic, with a four week stretch during which the bins weren't emptied. This now appears to be rectified.

Cllr. Lyon reported that he has cleared a number of small branches which had come down in the play area as a result of the storms.

A work party is needed to clear the brambles in the corner, remove some overhanging branches and to repair the fence.

Various options are being considered for the surfacing. Wetpour had been considered, but this tends to shrink. Tiger Mulch is currently being explored.

Replacement post from A E Evans.

The replacement post (being supplied under warranty) is over 3m long. Whilst A.E. Evans have provided a quote to deliver it, Cllr. Allum will obtain a second quote.

9 Environment.

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

Cllr. Allum reported that the detailed report he requested about the incident on the 9th/10th September is still outstanding.

Most of the bursts occur around the dairy in Wellhouse Lane. It is understood that it would cost more for Thames Water to replace the pipe than it does to send out emergency crews each time there is a problem.

The Clerk needs to clarify exactly when leaks have occurred so that evidence can be presented to Thame Water demonstrating that a new water main is needed.

9.2 Emergency Plan.

Cllr. Goodenough will put together a draft Emergency Plan which can be discussed in early 2023.

9.3 Beechfield Lane parking and verges.

District Cllr. Culver and Cllr. Allum have met up to discuss the situation. The garages

behind Beechfield Lane are privately owned and whilst some of the land still belongs to WBC, access is over land belonging to a third party. The WBC land is supposed to be public open space. A number of vehicles have been parked on the WBC land, some without insurance and tax, for a significant period of time; these have been reported to WBC.

There was a discussion about how to prevent people from parking on the grass on Beechfield Lane; WBC had suggested planting trees, but the tree officer has responded that this is not an option due to the services which are laid under the grass.

9.4 Drainage Issues.

Hatchett's Lane will be closed for drainage works from the 14th to the 18th November from 7am to 7pm. This is assumed to be for the installation of the pipe under the road.

Cllr. Allum reported that the work on the exit pipe from his property had been completed.

9.5 School Lane Allotments.

It was agreed to apply for a WBC Members Bid for 50% of the cost of deer netting fencing to protect the allotments. Cllr. Goodenough will obtain a quote for clipex posts and tensioning wire from McVeigh Parker. Cllr. Goodenough will arrange for three telegraph fence posts for the middle, and both ends.

There was a discussion about whether the number of allotments should be reduced, and the size of the field increased in order for it to be more viable.

10 The Clubroom.

Plans have been sent to a building company to verify the feasibility of the proposed new hall and to obtain a cost estimate. The design is similar to the new village hall in Beech Hill. A local builder content with the proposals is obtaining costs for some parts of the project. Details of the expected costs are likely to be shared in the New Year.

Cllr. Lyon is working on raising funds for the project.

11 Yattendon and Frilsham Sports and Social Trust.

This year the Yattendon Fete was reasonably successful with takings being approximately 80% of previous years. Funds of £14,700 raised by the event have been passed to the trust which has enabled fixed grants to be made to the village halls, local churches, the cricket club and the pensioners' Christmas lunch, and discretionary grants to the Downland volunteer Group, the Friends of Yattendon School and to Yattendon Parish Council for refurbishment of the Well House.

Possibilities of a small play area in Yattendon are being explored.

12 Coronation of King Charles III.

It has been decided that the annual St. Frideswide BBQ traditionally held on the first bank holiday in May will be moved to Monday 8th May and will have a coronation theme.

There was discussion about installation of a picnic bench, or ordinary bench in the community orchard. It was suggested that a pedestrian gate would make the area more appealing.

13 Clerk's Report

13.1 Correspondence.

13.1.1 **Increase in cost of bin emptying.**

WBC is changing the contract for emptying of bins, as a result there is an, expected, increase in price. The emptying of the dog bin will increase from £26.11 to £177.34 per year and the emptying of two litter bins will increase from £47.88 to £272.00 per year. It was agreed to respond to WBC accepting the increased prices and anticipated better service.

13.1.2 **WBC Enforcement training.**

WBC are running two virtual enforcement training sessions for parish councillors on 23rd and 30th November. Cllr. Lyon will attend one of these sessions.

13.1.3 **BALC training courses.**

The Clerk advised councillors of the training courses run by BALC, which are free to member councils (including Frilsham).

13.1.4 **WBC Free transport for shoppers running up to Christmas.**

WBC has organised various initiatives to help residents of WBC to do their Christmas shopping. These include a service from rural parishes on a request basis and free bus travel both on designated days.

13.2 Items for the Broadsheet.

It was agreed not to put anything into the next edition of the Broadsheet.

13.3 Certificate in Local Council Administration (CILCA).

Of the thirty learning outcomes comprising the qualification, twenty-nine have been successfully completed and one needs further work.

14 **Finances.**

14.1 Financial Statement.

The Financial Statement was circulated to those present prior to the meeting and showed a balance of £42,180.19 once all payments and credits have cleared.

Payments since the last meeting:

Gigaclear (October and November Broadband)	£70.00
Salaries (September and October 2022)	£426.98
Bank charges (15/8/22 to 14/10/2022)	£19.00
Frilsham Clubroom (rent for meetings)	£64.00

The second half of the precept, £4,500 has been received.

A bank reconciliation to the last statement dated the 15th October 2022 with a balance of £42,595.44 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.

14.2 Verification of the Financial Statement.

Cllr. Arnold verified the Financial Statement against the bank statement.

14.3 Summary or expenditure against budget for the first half of FY22/23.

A summary of expenditure against budget to the 30th September 2022 was circulated to members. It was agreed that the budgeted sums of £100 for the West Berkshire Countryside Society, £650 for Frilsham Parochial Church Council and £300 for West Berkshire Council for libraries should be made. (*Note that the payment to WBC for the libraries cannot be made unless FPC is eligible and claims the General Power of Competence because S137 funds have been entirely spent on the donation to Beechfield Lane Residents Association*).

14.4 Draft budget for FY23/24.

Initial figures for the budget for FY23/24 were considered.

15 **Any other business.**

15.1 Gates at The Dairy, Wellhouse Lane.

It was reported that five bar gates have been put across the entrance to the dairy on Wellhouse Lane, across the restricted byway. The Clerk will report this to WBC.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Next meeting of Frilsham Parish Council: Wednesday 11th January 2023 at 7.30pm.