

**Minutes of the Meeting of Frilsham Parish Council held on  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023 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)  
One member of the public.

**1 To receive apologies for absence.**

Apologies of absence were received from Cllr. Barber.

**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 declared an interest in drainage because the water flows onto his land.

**3 To approve minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022.**

The minutes of the meeting of FPC held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022 were agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by Cllr. Allum.

**4 Matters arising from the minutes.**

**4.1 Website.**

There was a brief discussion on the options for the website.

**5 Report from Yattendon Estate.**

The Christmas season was a little quieter than previous years. Work continues on the Estate with hedge cutting and drainage. The main tree felling work is essentially completed, but the ground is now too wet to tidy up and replant, so this will take place in the spring.

Domestic properties remain in demand. Some commercial businesses on the Estate are feeling the results of the economic situation.

**6 Planning.**

No new planning applications have been received since the last meeting and no decisions have been made on any applications on which FPC has been consulted.

**7 Report from West Berkshire District.**

**7.1 Sustainable Warmth.**

District Cllr. Culver reported that she was aware of a number of people who had applied for sustainable warmth grants but was not aware of anyone who had received one. She would be interested to hear of any successes.

**7.2 Community Cafes/Warm Hubs.**

Various groups and buildings are now opening Community Cafes across Newbury on each weekday. There is also a Community Café open in Compton on Mondays.

**7.3 Speeding.**

Speed indicator devices are showing a significant number of drivers travelling at prosecutable speeds through East Ilsley and Hampstead Norreys.

**7.4 Big Switch Off.**

The Big Switch Off will see the end of the fixed line telephone network and all BT lines will switch to a digital service with some form of router. In a power cut, this system is

unlikely to work and therefore people will be dependent upon mobile devices without any routers. In locations, like Frilsham, where there is poor mobile signal this will result in people not having a working telephone network.

## **8 Playground facilities and area around the Clubroom.**

### **Facilities around the Clubroom.**

Cllr. Lyon reported that the bins around the Clubroom have not been emptied. It was noted that the new WBC contract came into effect on the 7<sup>th</sup> January, so it is possibly more to do with the contract changeover.

Damage has occurred to one of the platform floors on the multi-play unit. It is unclear whether this is vandalism or squirrel damage. The damage was reported to Cllr. Lyon by a resident. Cllr. Lyon will ask A E Evans about a replacement piece, which could be delivered at the same time as the replacement post.

Cllr. Lyon has been in conversation with a RedLynch Leisure who supply a TigerMulch surface, which is the premier bonded rubber mulch surface available in the UK. They have asked for measurements of the area to be surfaced and will then supply an estimate. If the estimate is considered positively, they will make a site visit and supply a formal quote. A E Evans agreed to supply a replacement post under warranty but had quoted £300 for delivery. Cllr. Allum has obtained a much more reasonable quote for delivery, which it is hoped can cover both the post and the replacement platform surface.

## **9 Environment.**

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

The Clerk reported that she is working on a list of bursts, which can be used as evidence for the need to replace the main.

### **9.2 Emergency Plan.**

Cllr. Goodenough has drafted an Emergency Plan based on the WBC template. It was unclear who would have a copy of the document and how to proceed with names of people who could assist in cases of an emergency. It was suggested that the document would be available on the website and to members of FPC.

There was a general discussion about names/numbers for people and the emergency committee. Essentially it was agreed that members of FPC would form the emergency committee. Cllr. Goodenough will continue work on the plan.

### **9.3 Beechfield Lane parking and verges.**

The truck being parked in Beechfield hasn't been there for the last week or two. The vehicles parked by the garages, which have been reported to WBC, remain. Whilst one of them is now being used, the other is blocked in by multiple vehicles. An IBC, which contains unidentified liquid has also been parked in the vicinity.

### **9.4 Drainage Issues.**

The drainage works including a pipe under Hatchetts Lane have now been completed, but there are mixed opinions on how successful it has been.

### **9.5 School Lane Allotment Fencing.**

A WBC members bid has been secured to provide half of the funding to cover the fencing and posts required for this project.

Cllr. Allum, Cllr. Goodenough and the Chairman of the Allotment Trust will have a site meeting to agree an implementation plan, after which an order can be placed for the fencing and posts.

## **10 The Clubroom/FFIG.**

Cllr. Lyon reported that work is still going on to estimate the costs of the project.

An application for CIL funding was submitted but declined. It was suggested that another application is made when more details are known.

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

The annual fete will take place on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May. More volunteers are desperately needed.

**12 Coronation of King Charles III.**

Cllr. Lyon will ask the BBQ committee who are organising a coronation themed BBQ on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May if there is anything FPC might be able to do to assist.

There was a discussion about improvements to make the community orchard more inviting to all, including a pedestrian gate, signage and a bench or picnic bench for the area containing the flowering cherry trees. The Clerk will circulate details and pictures of the recycled benches recently purchased elsewhere.

**13 Clerk's Report**

**13.1 Correspondence.**

**13.1.1 The Downs School Community Forum.**

The Community Forum is to discuss support and enrichment for young people in the community. It will take place at the Downs School on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January from 6pm to 7pm.

**13.1.2 West Berkshire Climate Forum**

The next West Berkshire Climate Forum will take place via Zoom on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 12.30pm.

**13.2 Annual Parish Meeting – Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

It was agreed that the next Annual Parish Meeting would take place on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm in the Clubroom.

A change of format for the meeting, to encourage a greater attendance, was discussed. No firm conclusions were reached, and it was agreed to ask for input from parishioners via the Broadsheet.

**13.3 Annual Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023.**

It was agreed that the Annual meeting of FPC would take place on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30pm. If business warrants a second meeting in May, it will be on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May.

**13.4 Items for the Broadsheet.**

It was agreed to submit an article including information about the Annual Parish Meeting and also to encourage anyone to consider finding out more about FPC with a view to applying to be a councillor.

**13.5 Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA).**

The Clerk reported that she has now been awarded the CiLCA qualification.

**13.6 General Power of Competence.**

In order for a council to claim the General Power of Competence, the Clerk needs to be qualified and at least 2/3 of councillors need to have been elected (rather than co-opted). Whilst the Clerk is now qualified, only three of the existing councillors have been elected and therefore FPC is not eligible at the current time.

**14 Finances.**

**14.1 Financial Statement.**

The Financial Statement was circulated to those present prior to the meeting and showed a balance of £40,877.67 once all payments and credits have cleared.

Payments since the last meeting:

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| West Berkshire Countryside Society         | £100.00 |
| Yattendon and Frilsham PCC                 | £650.00 |
| Post Office Ltd (SSE for the phonebox)     | £35.54  |
| Gigaclear (December and January Broadband) | £70.00  |
| Salaries (November and December 2022)      | £426.98 |
| Bank charges (15/10/22 to 14/12/2022)      | £21.00  |

A bank reconciliation to the last statement dated the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022 with a balance of £41,239.16 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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

**14.2** Verification of the Financial Statement.

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

**14.3** Budget for FY23/24.

A budget showing expenditure of £11,045.04, including £1,500 for improvements to the play area, £1,000 for the Clubroom and £600 to mark the Coronation was approved.

**14.4** Precept for FY23/24.

It was agreed to increase the precept from £9,000 to £9,500. This is the first increase for 10 years.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

**Next meeting of Frilsham Parish Council: Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.30pm in the Clubroom.**