

**Minutes of the Meeting of Frilsham Parish Council held on
Wednesday 8th November 2023 at 7.30pm in Frilsham Clubroom.**

Present

Cllr. M. Allum (Chairman)
Cllr. G. Barber
Cllr. I. Coxhead
Cllr. M. Goodenough
Cllr. B. Lyon
District Cllr. Culver
Mr. J. Hole (Yattendon Estate)
Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk)

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| 1 | <u>To receive apologies for absence.</u> | |
| | Apologies of absence were received from Cllr. Morley and Mr. Hole. | |
| 2 | <u>Declarations of Interest.</u> | |
| 2.1 | <u>To receive declarations of interest.</u> | |
| | There were no updates to the Register of Interests. | |
| 2.2 | <u>Declaration of Interest in Agenda Items.</u> | |
| | Cllr. Allum and Cllr. Coxhead declared an interest in the allotment fencing.
Cllr. Lyon declared an interest in the Clubroom as Chairman of the Clubroom Committee. | |
| 3 | <u>To approve minutes of meeting.</u> | |
| | The minutes of the meeting of FPC held on 13 th September 2023 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by Cllr. Allum. | |
| 4 | <u>Matters arising from the minutes.</u> | |
| 4.1 | <u>Verges.</u> | |
| | Many of the verges were cut about two days after the last meeting. However, Wellhouse Lane remains uncut, District Cllr. Culver will follow up on this. | |
| 4.2 | <u>Public Rights of Way (PROW).</u> | |
| | The Clerk has obtained a map of the parish, from WBC, which shows all the PROW signage and way markers. This will be forwarded to Cllr. Allum and Cllr. Lyon who will carry out a survey.
A horse rider continues to use a route including part of a public footpath near the Nook. | |
| 5 | <u>Report from Yattendon Estate.</u> | |
| | Mr. Hole reported that farming things had been looking very promising until 120mm of rain fell.
The Christmas Tree harvest is well underway, and retail starts on the 10 th November. There was the suggestion of a sign at the entrance to the Clubroom for the Football pitch which met with a mixed response.
The flood on the road at Shockendon has been reported to Thames Water. Water is frequently a problem at this location. It was agreed that a French drain would improve the situation and prevent the road from being an ice rink in the Winter. Councillors were encouraged to report it to Thames Water too.
Hedge cutting around the Estate has started. The Estate is exploring what further farming grants may be available. | |
| 6 | <u>Planning</u> | |
| 6.1 | <u>Planning applications on which FPC has been consulted by WBC:</u> | |
| 6.1.1 | <u>23/02160/LBC & 23/02161/HOUSE – The Cottage, Magpie Farm.</u> | |
| | <i>Proposed kitchen door canopy, HV oil tank on brick plinth and fluepipe additions to</i> | |

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rear elevation, replacement entrance door and alterations to two window openings, replacement windows, and internal works.

It was agreed that FPC has **no objection** to these applications.

6.2 Planning Decisions made by WBC:

6.2.1 **23/01686/FUL – Orchard Day Nursery, Everington Bungalow (Adjacent Parish).**

Change of use of the existing building from a day nursery to a residential dwelling and erection of extensions following the demolition of the existing conservatory.

FPC **objected** to this application which was **approved** by the Western Area Planning Committee with extra conditions.

6.3 WBC Decisions taken to appeal.

6.3.1 **23/00695/HOUSE – Willow Cottage.**

Demolition of conservatory and side extension. Extension of dwelling to sides and rear alterations and porch.

FPC had **no objection** to this application which was **refused** by WBC. The applicant has taken the decision of WBC to appeal.

7 **West Berkshire District Councillors Report.**

WBC will be launching a Rural Prosperity Fund for grants of between £10,000 and £40,000 which are aimed at village halls and community facilities. The surfacing for the play area may be an eligible project.

Finances are a concern within WBC and as a result there is a freeze on recruitment.

There are problems with the retention of staff.

WBC held a Community Speed Watch (CSW) seminar giving information about how the system works. The process for WBC CSW is different to the Thames Valley Police CSW, although the aim of both is obviously a reduction in speed. There is believed to be a speed issue on Hatchetts Lane past the top of Beechfield, particularly when there are football matches in Frilsham. The Clerk will contact WBC about setting up a Speed Indicator Device (SID) location at the top of Beechfield.

Thames Water attended the October meeting of the WBC Scrutiny Committee to answer questions about the state of the river Pang and the flooding issues. There have been lots of additional conversations with Thames Water. The Scrutiny Committee is looking into the sale of the WBC property portfolio, the relationship between free school meals and learning achievements, and children's wrap around care.

WBC has made the decision not to proceed with the Monks Lane pitches, but to develop the Faraday Road pitch which will save money.

8 **Playground and Facilities around the Club Room.**

8.1 Update on the bin situation.

The new contractor is providing a much better service, although it is thought that one week may have been missed.

8.2 Vegetation and fencing parallel to the Zip Wire.

Cllr. Allum has cleared the vegetation and repaired the fencing. Cllr. Lyon reported that there is no longer an issue.

8.3 An update on the replacement timbers and the multi-play platform.

Following a clerical error which resulted in the cancelling of the Frilsham order, AE Evans has now been reinstated the order and FPC awaits confirmation about when the timbers will be ready for collection. Cllr. Allum will arrange for their collection.

8.4 An update on the surfacing.

It was agreed to obtain an extra quote for all the areas which need to be resurfaced.

The Clerk will meet with Cllr. Lyon to organise a revised quote.

8.5 Other matters in the Play area and around the Clubroom.

A meeting is planned to sort out the holes in the Clubroom carpark. There was an

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	<p>incident where a regular visitor to the carpark left two large ruts having parked on the wetter side.</p> <p>There are still some tree branches which need to be pruned back in the Play Area. Concern was raised about the issues the replacement timbers from AE Evans will resolve as some are becoming more serious. Some other issues have been spotted and will be closely monitored.</p> <p>Materials to repair the fence between the carpark and the field have now been clarified and need to be purchased.</p>	BL MA
9	<u>Environment.</u>	
9.1	<u>Beechfield Lane Parking.</u>	
	The vehicles parked on the WBC owned land by the Beechfield garages have not been moved. Both the vehicles are SORN and have been on the land for more than five years. Cllr. Coxhead will attempt to identify the owners.	IC
9.2	<u>Woodland Trust Tree grants.</u>	
	Cllr. Allum has applied for a tree pack from the Woodland Trust for the Pot Kiln Lane allotment site.	
9.3	<u>Deer fencing on the School Lane Allotment.</u>	
	The materials for the fencing remain in Cllr. Goodenough's garage. A working party will be organised to erect the fencing.	MA IC
9.4	<u>Further enhancements to the Orchard on the Pot Kiln Lane Allotment site.</u>	
	The donated, refurbished bench has been installed, although it needs to be stabilised. A walnut tree and two fruit trees have been donated by parishioners for the orchard. There was a discussion about how to manage the bracken; cutting, bruising and chemical control were all discussed.	IC
10	<u>The Clubroom.</u>	
	Development of the Clubroom is awaiting approval of the Yattendon and Frilsham Sports and Social Trust, who own the facility. A document containing the proposed approach has been submitted to the Trust, who have raised lots of comments/questions which Cllr. Lyon is answering.	
	Once approval has been given the Frilsham Futures Implementation Group (FFIG) will meet and attempt to work out how the workload can be shared.	BL
11	<u>Yattendon and Frilsham Sports and Social Trust.</u>	
	At the Trust AGM, all of the grant applications were approved with the exception of the Clubroom, which was deferred for more information. Cllr. Lyon asked if the FPC budget for FY24/25 could include a sum of £1,500 for the Clubroom.	
12	<u>Clerk's Report.</u>	
12.1	<u>Correspondence.</u>	
12.1.1	<u>Frilsham Footpaths Leaflet.</u>	
	Dick Greenaway has contacted the Clerk about the Frilsham footpaths leaflet. Printed Frilsham footpath leaflets have been left in Yattendon Village Stores and he would very much like to know who has helped.	
12.1.2	<u>SSE Transformer in the School Lane Allotments.</u>	
	SSE have contacted the Clerk about replacement of the transformer in the School Lane Allotment paddock. The work is scheduled to take place next year. It was agreed that Cllr. Coxhead would liaise with SSE.	IC HP
12.2	<u>Items for The Broadsheet.</u>	
	The Clerk will write a summary of this meeting, including SID, for the Broadsheet.	HP
12.3	<u>Annual Parish Meeting.</u>	
	Possible subjects for the Annual Parish meeting included Estate management, Connecting Communities in Berkshire, and the Diamond Light Project at Harwell. It	

was agreed that the subject must be something meaningful to the parishioners.

13 **Finances.**

13.1 Financial Statement.

The Financial Statement was circulated to those present prior to the meeting and showed a balance of £46,025.26, after all payments and credits have cleared.

Payments since the last meeting:

Gigaclear (October & November Broadband)	£72.00
Salaries (September and October 2023)	£426.98
Bank Charges (15/8/23 to 14/10/23)	£19.00
Bin emptying (September & October)	£87.05
Replacement fence posts for play area	£53.28
Frilsham Clubroom (meeting rental for April to November)	£59.00
CCB Membership	£42.00

The Financial Statement reconciled the balance to the last statement dated 15th October 2023 with a balance of £46,575.08 which included the second half of the precept (£4,750). The sum of £22,500 is ringfenced as a donation to the Clubroom for the refurbishment/rebuild project.

13.2 Verification of the Financial Statement.

Cllr. Lyon verified the financial statement against the bank statement.

13.3 Expenditure against Budget.

A report of the expenditure from the 1st April 2023 to the 30th September was circulated prior to the meeting.

It was agreed to make the contributions of £650 to the Yattendon and Frilsham PCC for maintenance of the graveyard and £100 to the West Berkshire Countryside Society, both as per the budget.

It was agreed not to make the payment to WBC for libraries unless information is received about library funding under the new council.

13.4 Budget for FY24/25.

An initial discussion took place around the budget for FY24/25.

14 **Any Other Business.**

14.1 Checking the Play Area.

Cllr. Allum will continue to check the Play area on a weekly basis.

Cllr. Lyon noted that one of the bolts at the top of the nest swing had come undone,

Cllr. Allum will investigate and make the necessary repairs.

14.2 Website.

Cllr. Lyon reported that he has subscribed to Fast Hosts who are working on migrating the website.

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There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Date of next meeting:

Frilsham Parish Council: Wednesday 10th January 2023 at 7.30pm in the Clubroom.