

**Minutes of the Meeting of Frilsham Parish Council held on
Wednesday 13th November 2024 at 7.30pm in Frilsham Clubroom.**

Present

Cllr. M. Allum (Chairman)

Cllr. G. Barber

Cllr. I. Coxhead

Cllr. M. Goodenough

Cllr. B. Lyon

Cllr. R. Morley

District Cllr. Culver

Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk)

Mr. J. Hole (Yattendon Estates)

Public Session.

No matters were raised during the public session.

1 To receive apologies for absence.

There were no apologies for absence.

2 Declarations of Interest.

2.1 To receive declarations of interest.

There were no updates to the Register of Interests.

2.2 Declaration of Interest in Agenda Items.

Cllr. Allum and Cllr. Coxhead declared an interest in the allotments.

3 Minutes

3.1 The meeting of FPC on Wednesday 11th September 2024.

The minutes of the meeting of FPC which took place on Wednesday 11th September 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4 Matters Arising from the minutes, not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

4.1 Frilsham Football Club.

The Football Club are reported to understand that the fence they were considering erecting would have to go on the line of the existing fence (not immediately next to the football pitch) and that it would only be acceptable for advertising to be displayed during matches.

5 To receive a report on Yattendon Estate from Mr. James Hole.

Mr. Hole reported that there had been 175mm of rain in September, three times the average. As a consequence of the rain, not all of the Winter crops have been planted and yields will be down.

It was difficult digging Christmas trees for pots in October, but a significant number have been dug. Cut trees have been harvested and are being distributed.

Whilst there are some vacancies in residential properties, there is a huge demand for them. Commercial properties are fully occupied.

In January, it is planned to plant approximately 2km, of hedgerow.

There is a project being planned on the river Pang, to the west of Frilsham Mill and into Hampstead Norreys, which will reestablish the old route of the river with the potential to flood the water meadows. Once the design for the project is in place, it will be shared with FPC.

The 5km Santa Fun run will take place on the 22nd December. To date 145 people have signed up to take part in the event which will support two local charities.

To date, no complaints have been received about parking at The Pot Kiln.

- 6** **Planning.**
- 6.1** **Planning applications upon which FPC which been consulted by WBC:**
FPC has not been consulted on any planning applications since the last meeting.
- 6.2** **Decisions made by WBC:**
- 6.2.1** **24/01206/HOUSE – Willow Cottage.**
Demolition of conservatory and side extension. Extension of dwelling to sides, and rear and alterations.
FPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- 6.3** **Other Planning Matters**
- 6.3.1** **23/02569/FUL - Atrium.**
Proposal for a replacement dwelling with widened entrance drive, landscape and biodiversity enhancement.
This application is still waiting to be determined. District Cllr. Culver will investigate.
- 7** **Report from District Councillor Carlyne Culver.**
The WBC budget consultation for 25/26 is open until 23rd December.
Ground water flood levels are currently at 56% and just 4% away from a flood alert situation. Warnings have been issued that flooding is expected before Christmas. Joseph Holmes has been appointed as interim chief executive of WBC following the departure of Nigel Lynn.
Complaints have been received about the state of some Sovereign Housing properties and the fact that a number are being sold off when they become empty.
Councillors reported that Pot Kiln Lane has been improved and WBC should be complimented on the work. Opposite the southern end of Pot Kiln Lane, WBC are going to dig drains from the road into the field, which should alleviate the flooding of the road.
WBC Members bid applications can be submitted up until the 3rd January 2025. There was a discussion about submitting an application for a replacement defibrillator for the telephone box which will tolerate lower temperatures.
- 8** **Playground and Facilities around the Clubroom.**
- 8.1** **Weekly inspections of the Playground.**
Cllr. Allum reported that there are no new issues. The occasional mole is visiting the area, but not causing any serious problems.
- 8.2** **Replacement Surface Quotes.**
Cllr. Lyon reported that he is still awaiting the quote for the wet pour surfacing and will chase it up.
Cllr. Lyon has reapplied for a grant for some funding towards the work and should hear later this month (November). Lets Get Active grants are currently open for application and will be applied for. A WBC Members Bid could be submitted for this project, but details of the project (including quotes and how the whole project is to be funded) need to be confirmed
- 9** **Allotments.**
- 9.1** **Thoughts and Aspirations of the Allotment Trust.**
A tenant is sought for the allotment paddock on School Lane. The Frilsham Allotment Trust (FAT) will put an advert into The Broadsheet.
Cllr. Coxhead reported that as Chairman of FAT he will get the hedges cut and the gate replaced before he stands down as Chairman in the Spring.
There needs to be a fence on the Pot Kiln Lane site between the allotment gardens and the community orchard in addition to signage welcoming the community into the orchard. It was agreed that the community orchard should fall under the jurisdiction of FPC rather than FAT.

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On the Pot Kiln Lane site, all the allotments are occupied, although many are used as gardens and contain structures. FPC are supposed to be consulted prior to any structures being erected. It was suggested that Pot Kiln Lane allotmenters might like to attend the next FPC meeting to discuss the future of the allotments.

On the School Lane site, there are now only one or two allotments being used to grow vegetables. A number are still occupied where they are adjacent to gardens, but not used as allotments.

It was questioned whether anyone else would come forwards to stand as Chairman/woman of FAT when Cllr. Coxhead stands down.

9.2 The Management Agreement.

Whilst the future of FAT is in question, it was agreed not to ask HALC/HCC to redraft the agreement between FPC and FAT.

10 Environment.

10.1 Beechfield Lane Parking by the Garages.

One vehicle parked by the garages has been confirmed to be on WBC owned land, with a known owner, who has been asked to move it. One other vehicle is parked on land not owned by WBC.

11 Clubroom.

Cllr. Lyon reported that plans with the rebuild project are moving forwards slowly.

12 Yattendon and Frilsham Sports and Social Trust.

At the October meeting of the Sports and Social Trust, all the grant applications were approved with the exception of the Clubroom which has been deferred and Frilsham Football Club's application for funds for the fencing for which more information has been requested before a decision can be made.

The Sports and Social Trust has agreed to an increase in the maintenance fund to reroof the Yattendon Sports and Social Trust building.

13 Clerk's Report.

13.1 Correspondence.

13.1.1 West Berkshire Heritage Forum.

It was agreed not to support the WB Heritage Forum.

13.1.2 Consultation on Remote Attendance & Proxy Voting.

The proposals would have no impact on FPC.

13.2 Expenditure on a replacement laptop.

It was agreed that the Clerk could spend up to £350, excluding VAT on a new laptop.

13.3 Items for the October Broadsheet.

A summary of this meeting will be submitted for The Broadsheet.

13.4 Clerk's Terms of Employment.

It was agreed that the Clerk should be paid against SCP (Spinal Column Point) 27 of the LGA pay scale as per her contract.

The Clerks salary will be revised in line with the latest agreement which is back dated to the 1st April 2024.

14 Finances.

14.1 Financial Statement and Cheques.

The Clerk circulated a finance report prior to the meeting showing a balance, once all payments and lodgements have cleared of £48,214.30. This was reconciled back to the bank statement dated 15th October 2024, which showed a balance of £48,736.10.

Payments made since the last meeting:

Bibby Financial Services	£87.05	Emptying bins during September & October.
TSOhost (website)	£86.26	Existing website.
Frilsham Clubroom	£88.00	Rent for meetings – April to November ‘24
Gigaclear	£74.00	24/9/2024 to 23/11/2024.
Bank charges	£19.00	15/8/24 to 14/10/2024.
September and October salaries	£426.98	

The second half of the precept (£4,750) has been received from WBC.

14.2 Expenditure to date and budget for FY25/26.

Prior to the meeting, the Clerk circulated an expenditure against budget to the 30th September (first half of the financial year) and to the 14th November. It was agreed to pay the annual subscription to CCB, to make a contribution of £650 to Yattendon and Frilsham PCC for the maintenance of Frilsham church yard, and to make a donation to the West Berkshire Countryside Society of £100. It was agreed not to support WBC libraries.

In the draft budget for FY25/26, it was agreed to put a further £1,000 towards resurfacing the play area. It was agreed to apply for a WBC Members bid and to Greenham Trust to fund a new defibrillator and cabinet.

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

Date of next meetings:

Frilsham Parish Council: Wednesday 8th January 2025 at 7.30pm in the Clubroom.