

**Minutes of the Meeting of Frilsham Parish Council held on
Wednesday 8th January 2025 at 7.30pm in Frilsham Clubroom.**

Present

Cllr. M. Allum (Chairman)
Cllr. G. Barber
Cllr. I. Coxhead
Cllr. B. Lyon
Cllr. R. Morley
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.**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr. Goodenough and District Cllr. Culver.

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 8th November 2024.**

The minutes of the meeting of FPC which took place on Wednesday 8th November 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

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

No matters were raised from the minutes not covered elsewhere.

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

Mr. Hole reported that the farming team are now working on hedge maintenance, mainly from the field side rather than roads. If anyone is aware of any sections which have been missed, please contact Mr. Hole.

The Christmas tree season was very successful with some new customers. It is the first year Yattendon Estates has ventured into pot grown trees. There were less comments than usual about the increased traffic on the rural road network as a result of the Christmas tree business.

All commercial and residential properties are either occupied or being renovated.

The pubs benefitted from good trade over the Christmas season. Staff at the Pot Kiln are aware of the issues of parking and generally people have been able to drive along the Pot Kiln Lane without hindrance.

Woodland work to thin areas will continue when the ground is a little drier. Spruce trees in Greathouse Wood (Bradfield parish) will be clear felled. Greathouse Wood and land south of the motorway is on the edge of the demarcated area for the larger spruce beetle outbreak where spruce trees cannot be planted without permission of the Forestry Commission.

The closure of Ashampstead Road (in Bradfield) is going to have a huge impact on transport routes.

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:
WBC has not made any decisions on any applications in Frilsham since the last meeting.
- 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.
It is understood that this application has been held up due to drainage issues on which WBC was waiting for more information.
- 7 **Report from District Councillor Carlyne Culver.**
The deadline for WBC Members Bids has been extended until the 17th January. Concern was expressed about the drainage work carried out in Brocks Lane which takes the water into the adjacent field causing flooding. The water coming down Dragon Hill, should go into the ditch on Dragon Hill rather than running down the road and eroding the edges.
- 8 **Playground and Facilities around the Clubroom.**
- 8.1 Weekly inspections of the Playground.
Cllr. Allum reported that no new issues have been identified. The damage to the platform surface of the multi-play is not getting any worse.
- 8.2 Replacement Surface Quotes.
Cllr. Lyon reported that he has received the quote for wetpour surfacing which is approximately £200 cheaper than Tiger Mulche. The full quote for Tiger Mulche was approximately £25,000.
- 8.3 Funding for Replacement Surface.
Cllr. Lyon reported that he has applied for a Community Champions Grant, but has not heard anything back.
There are still some funds available via the Let's Get Active grants scheme. Frilsham Clubroom has pledged some funds towards the project.
Cllr. Lyon and the Clerk will look at what other funds are available and what's still outstanding.
- 9 **Allotments.**
An advert for the School Lane paddock has been submitted for printing in the next edition of The Broadsheet.
The AGM of the Frilsham Allotment Trust is scheduled to take place in March. There has to be enough interest in allotments, for the Trust, which is a Charity registered with the Charity Commission, to carry on.
- 10 **Environment.**
- 10.1 Beechfield Lane Parking.
There has been no change to the vehicles parked on a long-term basis behind the garages. Two white company vans are now parking there too.
Cllr. Allum raised concern about the ivy-covered oak tree which is leaning over the garages. WBC has been consulted, but ownership of the tree is still in question.
Cllr. Allum will send details of the exact location of the tree to the Clerk to pursue with WBC.
- 10.2 Defibrillator.
District Cllr. Culver has submitted a WBC Member's bid, on behalf of FPC, for a new defibrillator and cabinet for the telephone box, which will not require electricity. If the bid is successful, it will cover 70% of the cost of the new equipment (£1,155). The existing cabinet and defibrillator will be redeployed at the Clubroom where there is an existing electricity supply (only needed in cold weather to keep the defibrillator

BL
HP

HP

- at a minimum temperature of 5°C.
- 11 **Clubroom.**
Cllr. Lyon reported that a structural engineer has carried out an assessment of the Clubroom, and the report is awaited.
- 12 **Yattendon and Frilsham Sports and Social Trust.**
There was no new information from the Sports and Social Trust.
- 13 **Clerk's Report.**
- 13.1 **Correspondence.**
- 13.1.1 **Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Consultation.**
Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue are currently running a consultation until the end of the month on an annual increase of £5 for a Band D property, in order to maintain the current levels of service,
- 13.1.2 **Service Delivery Offering from WBC.**
The Countryside Team at WBC has circulated information about the WBC Service delivery offering which includes litter and dog bins, and tree inspections and management.
In Frilsham there are litter bins at the Clubroom and at the top of Beechfield Lane which are emptied by WBC. The other bins at the Clubroom, including the dog waste bin are emptied under a FPC contract.
It was suggested that a dog bin by the church might be useful.
- 13.2 **Items for the October Broadsheet.**
A summary of this meeting will be submitted for The Broadsheet.
Annual Assembly.
It was agreed that the Annual Parish Assembly would take place on Wednesday 7th May. It was suggested that Ben Mitchell be asked to talk about the work he has done and has planned for River Barn Farm. *Ben has been confirmed he is willing to come and talk at the meeting.*
- 13.3 RM
- 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 £46,492.78. This was reconciled back to the bank statement dated 15th December 2024 and showed a balance of £48,042.07.
Payments made since the last meeting:
- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------|---|
| Yattendon & Frilsham PCC | £650.00 | Maintenance of Frilsham Churchyard. |
| West Berkshire Countryside Society | £100.00 | Membership & donation. |
| Bibby Financial Services Limited | £87.05 | Emptying bins during November and December. |
| Tech365 (Expenses) | £365.49 | Replacement laptop. |
| Gigaclear | £74.00 | 24/11/2024 to 23/1/2025. |
| Bank charges | £19.00 | 15/10/24 to 14/12/2024. |
| November & December salaries | £426.98 | |
- 14.2 **Budget for FY25/26.**
The proposed budget for FY25/26 shows an expenditure of £11,800 including the purchase of a new defibrillator and cabinet which it is anticipated will be funded by grants.
Sums of £6,500 (increasing by £1,000 in FY25/26) for resurfacing the play area and

RM

14.3

£25,000 for the Clubroom are allocated from existing funds.

Precept for FY25/26.

It was agreed to raise a precept of £9,500 in FY25/26, this being the same as raised in FY24/25.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

Date of next meetings:

Frilsham Parish Council: Wednesday 12th March 2025 at 7.30pm in the Clubroom.