

**Minutes of the Meeting of Frilsham Parish Council held on  
Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7.30pm in Frilsham Clubroom.**

**Present**

Cllr. M. Allum (Chairman)  
Cllr. I. Coxhead  
Cllr. M. Goodenough  
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. Barber 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 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

The minutes of the meeting of FPC which took place on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

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

There were no matters arising.

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

Mr. Hole reported that rainfall for the last twelve months has been less than average. All of the Spring crops will be sown by the end of the week. Work has started on shaping Christmas trees.

The announcements by the government on the various funding schemes for farming are causing a state of flux in agriculture. The policy changes are far reaching.

There has been some movement of tenants in the residential properties.

More solar panels have been installed, notably at Haw Farm where the power produced is being used in the estate office and for grain drying. Power from solar panels is now being used in the Village Stores.

Preparations are well underway for the annual classic car event, to be held on the 30<sup>th</sup> June. On the 8<sup>th</sup> May, starting at 6.30pm or 7pm there will be an event to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day with a beacon being lit at 9.30pm. Work is being undertaken to clean all the war graves in Yattendon Churchyard.

In the Summer (30<sup>th</sup> August) there will be an event to celebrate 100 years of the Estate.

**6 Planning.**

**6.1 Planning applications upon which FPC which been consulted by WBC:**

**6.1.1 25/00453/FULMAJ – Frilsham Lime Quarry.**

*S73 Application to vary condition 2 (Approved Plans) of approved 22/03123/FULMAJ – Two new residential dwellings (Use Class C3) of exceptional quality and design, garaging, access, hard and soft landscape enhancements, biodiversity improvements and associated works.*

Following a discussion on identifying the changes between the approved application and this application, it was agreed that FPC has **no objection** to this application, but with the same comments as for the previous approved application.

**6.2** Decisions made by WBC:

**6.2.1** **23/02569/FUL - Atrium.**

*Proposal for a replacement dwelling with widened entrance drive, landscape and biodiversity enhancement.*

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

**7** **Report from District Councillor Carlyne Culver.**

District Cllr. Culver submitted a report in advance. A summary is as follows:

- The FPC application for a WBC Members bid for £1,155 for a replacement defibrillator and cabinet has been successful.
- WBC has voted for their FY25/26 budget, supported by a Council tax increase of 4.99%. WBC has been successful in its application to central government for £16million of “exceptional financial support” which will have to be repaid. This is to assist with revenue costs and shore up the reserves. Black bin waste will be collected every three weeks, but details are still awaited.
- In response to central government’s wish to reorganise local government into unitary authorities of 500,000 residents, WBC has been working with South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse on a proposal for them to merge and form Ridgeway Council. If accepted by central government, the indicative timeline sets out that the new council could go live in 2028.

FPC consider that the current proposal for Ridgeway Council is the best option and are in support of the proposal.

**8** **Playground and Facilities around the Clubroom.**

**8.1** Bins.

Emptying of the dog waste bin and the litter bins around the Clubroom has generally been an acceptable level, however, the bins were not emptied last week and have not yet been emptied this week. The Clerk commented that the company has been suffering with illness with a member of staff.

**8.2** Weekly inspections of the Playground.

Cllr. Allum reported that there have been a few moles in the play area.

The rot to the floor areas of the multi play unit is getting much worse. No issues have been identified with any other equipment.

**8.3** Plan for resurfacing works.

The full quote to put Tiger Mulche under most of the equipment is approximately £25,000.

The Clerk will contact Alex O’Connor at WBC to try and find out what funds might be available through WBC. The Clerk will register with Greenham Trust with a view to applying for funds.

**8.4** Flytipping around the Football Club Container.

There is a lot of material by the container, which may have been flytipped. Some of it may have originated from the Football Club.

The Clerk will contact the Football Club and request that any items they have put by the container are removed.

**8.5** Football Club fencing.

Generally, people are happy for the Football Club to have fencing on the far side of the pitch, however, it needs to be on the original fence line and of a rural style with wooden posts; it should not be plastic or painted white. There must be a gap in the fence line for the permitted path.

Advertising from the fence is thought to be acceptable, providing it is only during matches.

If the pitch was to be moved towards the boundary fence line, it would enable the carpark to be made bigger and take an extra row of cars. This would reduce the number of cars which sometimes have to park in the road.

Cllr. Lyon and Cllr. Morley will relay the views of FPC (and the community) to the Yattendon and Frilsham Sports and Social Trust.

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**Allotments.**

Cllr. Coxhead reported that a date next week has been set for the AGM of the Frilsham Allotment Trust (FAT). It is likely that there will be plots available.

Cllr. Coxhead has purchased new gates, and posts to square off the paddock and make it slightly larger. The broken posts in the paddock have been replaced. Costs of the fencing are being covered by FAT. There is a new tenant for the paddock who is on an annual tenancy agreement with a three month trial.

It was agreed that the community orchard is the responsibility of FPC. Clear definition is needed of the orchard area, possibly with a post and wire fence. Cllr. Allum and Cllr. Coxhead will consider the options. Extending hedging, potentially with whips from the Woodland Trust was discussed.

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**Environment.**

10.1

**Flooding on Brocks Lane.**

Over recent years, when it rains, water runs down Hawkridge Hill and Rectory Hill before pooling along Brocks Lane, particularly in the entrance to the quarry. It then runs on down Wellhouse Lane. In response to this flooding, WBC came out in October and dug grips into the Brocks Lane verge, and into the adjacent paddocks, opposite the quarry and along the affected section of Brocks Lane. In doing this work, services were exposed. From a flooding perspective, the paddocks are now 75% flooded, having not previously been flooded since the 1960s. The grips were dug without the paddock owners being consulted.

In reality, grips should have been dug into the ditches on Hawkridge Hill and Rectory Hill, but for that to work the ditches themselves need to be dug out, which is the responsibility of the landowner and not WBC. The ditches next to Wellhouse Lane also need to be dug out. Landowners don't necessarily understand their responsibility because the ditches are often between their "boundary hedge" and the road.

Revised flood plans have been issued by the Environment Agency and there was a discussion about the implications for some Frilsham.

10.2

**Beechfield Lane Parking.**

There was no update on the Beechfield Lane parking situation.

10.3

**Funding for new defibrillator.**

Following the successful WBC Members Bid application to cover 70% of the cost of a new defibrillator and cabinet for the telephone box, it was agreed that the Clerk should order the new equipment.

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**Clubroom.**

The structural report on the Clubroom was roughly as expected and indicates that the current foundations are unlikely to be able to support a new roof without the existing hall being underpinned.

A simple agreement with the Trust is awaited before the next steps can be taken.

A new bank account needs to be opened purely for the development and the project needs to be set up with Greenham Trust so that maximum benefit can be made of match funding opportunities and gift aid.

BL  
RM

IC  
MA

HP

- 12 **Yattendon and Frilsham Sports and Social Trust.**  
 The AGM of the Trust took place last week and included good reports from the fete committee, the social club and the clubroom. Some groups didn't send any representation to the meeting, which was disappointing.  
 Organisations for the fete are well underway, although more volunteers are needed.
- 13 **Clerk's Report.**
- 13.1 **Website and moving to .gov.uk email addresses.**  
 Cllr. Lyon and the Clerk need to work on getting the website back up. A plan needs to be in place about moving the website and email addresses, for the clerk and councillors to a .gov.uk domain. HP  
 BL
- 13.2 **Bin contract for FY25/26.**  
 It was agreed that Tactical Facilities Management continue to be used for emptying of the dog waste and litter bins at the Clubroom.
- 13.3 **Payroll Situation.**  
 The Clerk advised that there had been issues with the submission and returns to HMRC for a considerable period. As a result, it was agreed to hand the situation over to Autela Payroll Services Ltd to resolve the issues and to undertake the payroll processing going forwards. Autela has already warned that HMRC may impose charges.  
 The standing order to pay the Clerk will be cancelled. HP
- 13.4 **Annual Parish Assembly – Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May – Ben Mitchell – River Barn Farm.**  
 The Parish Assembly will be advertised via flyers to each household which will be distributed just after Easter. The Clerk will print and distribute bundles of flyers to councillors for delivery. HP  
 Verbal reports will be given by FPC, District Cllr. Culver and Yattendon Estate. Written reports will be available on the evening from other reporting parties, which will be requested by the Clerk. HP  
 Refreshments will be organised by councillors and the lunch club glasses will be used. All
- 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 £45,753.54. This was reconciled back to the bank statement dated 15<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and showed a balance of £45,929.48.  
 Payments made since the last meeting:
- |                                  |         |   |
|----------------------------------|---------|---|
| Bibby Financial Services Limited | £123.96 | Emptying bins during January, February and March. |
| Bucklebury Parish Council        | £58.50  | Defibrillator pads.                               |
| Gigaclear                        | £74.00  | 24/1/2025 to 23/3/2025.                           |
| Bank charges                     | £19.00  | 15/12/24 to 14/2/2025.                            |
| January & February salaries      | £426.98 |   |
- Cllr. Morely verified the bank statement against the finance report.
- 15 **Any Other Business.**
- 15.1 **Pang Valley Flood Forum (PVFF).**  
 It was noted that the PVFF are always looking for donations to cover their costs.
- 15.2 **The Broadsheet.**  
 The Clerk will submit a summary of this meeting to the Broadsheet. HP

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.32pm.

**Date of next meetings:**

**Annual Parish Assembly: Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 7.30pm.**

**Annual Meeting of Frilsham Parish Council: Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 7.30pm in the Clubroom.**