



**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Freeland Village Hall in the Newell Room at 19:30 on Monday 8th January 2024**

The councillor chairing this meeting was Robert Crocker.

**Members Present:**

Cllr P Foster (PF), Cllr A Bird (AB), Cllr M Canning (MAC) Cllr R Crocker (RC), Cllr B Phillips (WP), Cllr V Baker (VB), Clerk Fay Friend (FF), District Cllr A Al-Yousuf County and Cllr L Walker. Additionally 1 member of the public was in attendance.

**1. To receive apologies for absence** – Apologies have been received from Cllr S Ainsley (SA), Cllr P Holt (PH), and District Cllr L Arciszewska.

**2. To receive Declaration of Interest in agenda items** – Rob Crocker on VHMC

**3. To approve minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023**– It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes were signed as a true record.

**4. Public Participation session**  
No members of public wished to speak.

**5. To discuss and agree any actions for urgent business**  
There were no matters of urgent business raised.

**6. Update on progress from previous minutes.**  
There were no matters to discuss

**7. Planning**

**(a) New planning applications –**

There were no new planning applications to discuss.

**(b) Village Design Statement update**

PF reported on progress. In process of drafting history section – information requested from residents of older properties.. Also getting the views from residents as to why they choose to live in Freeland, how long have you lived in the village and other interesting information to support the document. Flooding and sewage will also be included in relation to future planning applications. Lyndsey Harrison is editing. VB offered to help with proof reading. More to go in February Grapevine.

At this point there was some discussion on current situation on fields behind Church View – need to collate a map of sewer pipes within the village. **Action:** FF to request from Thames Water.

**(c ) Response to Botley West Solar Farm Consultation**

The Parish Council's response needs to be in by the 8<sup>th</sup> of February. It was **RESOLVED** that the scale was unacceptable, as well as the visual impact. The Council will convey this in their response to PVDP. **Action:** MAC to draft the statement and send it round to all councillors to agree prior to submission.

**8. To receive updates from District and County Councillors.**

Liam- County Council is currently setting their budget, but have large deficit. There is currently now no majority as the coalition has divided. Pigeon House Lane entrance works will be funded from Liam's fund. Thank you for all your support to move this forward. Oxfordshire Yeoman won the Pub of the year in Liam's competition.

Alaa- there was nothing to update.

**9. To discuss and approve financial matters.**

(a) To approve invoices for payment. - It was **RESOLVED** to pay the account presented, proposed by MAC, seconded by PF and all in favour.

The following invoices are requested to be approved for payment:

BACS Ref Number	To whom paid	Details	Amount (£)
BACS 66	Fay Friend	Salary	
BACS 67	HMRC	NI payment	£122.52
BACS 68	Freeland Village Hall	hall hire	£12.50
BACS 69	waterplus	water bill	£15.31
BACS 70	parish online	subscription renewal	£118.80
BACS 71	eibe	Toddler Swing	£5,996.44
BACS 72	Nigel green	mowing	£860.00
BACS 73	Fay Friend	a4 Paper	£9.50
BACS 74	Bill Philips	litter picking	£250.00
		<b>Total:</b>	<b>8,508.05</b>

(b) To approve bank reconciliation. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliation. This was signed by WP.

(c) To review the financial reports. Reports were circulated and presented.

(d) To Discuss additional tree works quote. It was **RESOLVED** to get a 2<sup>nd</sup> quote for works to large oak in Village hall garden only and go with the cheapest comparable quote. **Action:** RC to obtain another comparable quote

**10. Working Groups update**

**Community group:** There is now no community group.

**Sustainable energy group:** the thermal imaging camera work is starting this month. The project manager of the Low Carbon Hub is on long term sick leave, and as a result there has been little progress on this aspect of the group's work since the last meeting.

**11. PARISH COUNCIL STANDING ITEMS:**

(a) Play Areas/Playing Field/Play Equipment Book – toddler swing repair has finished.

Blenheim lane track and gate - it was **RESOLVED** to buy the materials approximately £1.5k to rectify the ongoing issues with the walkway and gate. **Action:** RC to arrange invoice from supplier for the materials

(b) Village Maintenance and Highway Matters- OCC consultation on 20mph limits is about to go out to all residents of Freeland. This will cover Wroslyn Road from Oaklands Close to Pigeon House Lane, as agreed following the 2022 consultation carried out by Liam in preparation for our application.

**Action:** MAC to confirm with OCC

(c) Village hall sustainability. Further to a request from a resident RC outlined the current situation: the Low Carbon Hub was to carry out an assessment of the hall, but see item 10 above concerning sick leave. The Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) do have a substantial reserve but this is purely for maintenance to the hall and not for capital investment. The Sustainable Energy Group and VHMC are looking into grants towards increasing the Village hall resilience, including solar panels/ battery/ ground source heat pump, although none have been identified as yet.

(d) Little Free library trip hazard reported. – this will be rectified when other small maintenance jobs are being carried out around the Village hall. **Action:** RC to organise.

(e) To note the date on the Annual Parish Council Meeting- Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May. Format agreed as a hybrid from the previous format and a more informal discussion around topic tables over coffee.

(f) Planning for May Election – these are being held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May for local Parish and 1/3 of the District Council. Need to seek out potential new Councillors. **Action:** VB, FF and RC to agree wording for Grapevine/ Facebook.

**12. To receive reports from Councillors representing the Council on outside meetings**

WP read out minutes from last VHMC meeting. It was agreed to request that the Parish Council be included on the circulation list for the minutes in future. **Action:** RC to arrange for this.

**13. To note the date of next meeting: 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 in the Newell Room.**

**Meeting Closed at 21:23**