

## **FREELAND PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF FREELAND PARISH COUNCIL, HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM DUE TO THE ONGOING CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, ON THE 21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2021, IN THE COUNTY OF OXFORDSHIRE AT 7.30PM.**

**PRESENT:**

Chairman:	Roger Faulkner
Vice-Chairman:	Mary Ann Canning
Councillors:	Peter Foster, Amy Jackson (from 8.10pm)
District Councillors:	Alaa Al-Yousuf (till 9.03pm)
County Councillor:	Liam Walker (from 8.50pm till 9.03pm)
Clerk:	Lisa Smith

At the time of this meeting taking place, the UK and rest of the world were still experiencing a Coronavirus (Covid -19) pandemic, and legislation and rules around social distancing were being updated regularly. The current Government advice was to not allow virtual meetings from 6<sup>th</sup> May, but concerns had been raised about meeting in person on the very day the Government extended restrictions, plus not all Councillors were 3 weeks' past their second vaccination. The Clerk also had a query about whether she would have to self-isolate, so the Council therefore agreed to hold the meeting remotely.

#### **1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

Four members of the public were present for this session – Kenny Wylie who wished to listen to the meeting, and the three potential Parish Council candidates Andy Bain, Andrew Bird and Tony Tomkys,

**2. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Bill Phillips – away, Amy Jackson – would be late due to another meeting, Marilyn Davies – ill.

#### **3. CODE OF CONDUCT:**

##### **3.1 TO RECEIVE ANY AMENDMENTS TO THE REGISTER OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

There were no amendments to the Register of Members' Interests. All Councillors signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office on camera and the Clerk asked for them to be posted to her so that she could then sign them as well.

##### **3.2 TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS FROM COUNCILLORS FOR MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE MEETING**

Mary Ann Canning (personal) as a member of Freeland Charitable Foundation.  
Roger Faulkner (personal) as Vice Chair of Freeland Community Benefit Society.

#### **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

##### **4.1 To approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 were approved and would be signed by the Chairman (outside of the meeting) as a true record of those proceedings.

##### **4.2 To approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 were approved and would be signed by the Chairman (outside of the meeting) as a true record of those proceedings.

#### **5. URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business to report.

#### **6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

##### **6.1 Mobile coverage in Freeland – to receive an update on progress to improve mobile signal.**

A brief report was given. A multi skills site visit and survey had been carried out and a report had been sent to CTIL. The site design was now being investigated which would include things like height

of mast, technologies to be incorporated, coverage etc. The target date for this to be completed was 5<sup>th</sup> July, after which a planning application would be drawn up and submitted for approval. Peter would keep the Council updated on any further developments.

## **6.2 Community Led Plan review – to receive an update on the CLP review.**

An addendum to the Transport section of the Community Led Plan (CLP) had been emailed around, this had been produced by the Freeland Transport Representative, Peter Leigh. Following a brief discussion, Council agreed to approve the addendum after removing the sentence under the Public Transport paragraph that read:

*“It was clear from the experience of running village buses in this way that it was a service desired by about 1% of residents, the other 99% preferring to stay with using their cars.”*

Mary Ann would amend the document and then it was agreed that it could be placed on the village website.

**Action:** Mary Ann to amend document and email around, and place on village website.

## **63 List of land ownership around Freeland – to note contents of list of landowners around the village.**

The Clerk had made a start on the list and had emailed it to Robert Crocker for checking. A response was awaited.

**Action:** Clerk to chase Robert re list if necessary.

## **6.4 Parish Council vacancies - Co-option of new Councillors – to approve co-option of new members to the Parish Council.**

The three candidates were sent to the waiting room whilst this item was discussed. The Chairman plus a Councillor had met with all 3 candidates and all three were recommended for co-option to the Council as they all could bring different skills and experience. Therefore, it was proposed by the Chairman, and seconded by Peter Foster and unanimously agreed to co-opt Andy Bain, Andrew Bird and Tony Tomkys to the Parish Council with immediate effect. The candidates then returned to the meeting.

## **6.5 Membership of working groups – to review membership for Planning, Financial Audit and Garden of Remembrance Working Groups**

The membership of the above groups was reviewed and it was agreed to add the following new members to the Groups:

Planning Team: Amy Jackson and Andrew Bird were both added to this group.

Financial Audit: It was agreed that the Chairman and Peter Foster would carry out the review this year.

Garden of Remembrance: Tony Tomkys would join this group.

It was also suggested adding a couple of additional members to the Traffic Calming Working Group, this was agreed as follows:

Traffic Calming Group: Andy Bain and Tony Tomkys would join this group.

## **7. PLANNING - Applications received & WODC Decisions plus:**

### **7.1 Applications Received:**

**21/01735/HHD                      137 BROADMARSH LANE, FREELAND.**  
Side extension for Mrs Emma Stoppani.

After reviewing the above application, Council agreed there were no objections or comments they wished to make regarding the proposed changes to the property.

**21/00961/FUL                      LAND SOUTH OF SHASTON, THE GREEN, FREELAND.**  
New Build Chalet Bungalow with detached double Garage for Mr & Mrs Neil and Catherine Tregear.

This application was carried forward from last month as there had not been sufficient time to view it last month. The Clerk had contacted WODC to obtain an extension to submit comments, and this had been agreed. As Andy Bain lived in very close proximity to the site, he did not vote on this application.

Concerns were raised about the inappropriate access to the site, intrusion to neighbouring properties and the loss of a valuable wildlife site, plus the fact that the ecology survey had been carried out in winter which would not give a true reflection of the ecological state of the land as it should have been carried out in the spring/summer months. Council therefore resolved to object to the planning application on the basis of the access to the site, environmental impact on land that had been empty a long time and was an old part of the original village and not in keeping with the character of the Green. The Clerk would submit these objections to the WODC Planning Officer.

**Action:** Clerk to submit objections to the WODC Planning Officer as above.

**7.2 Applications Approved: None.**

**7.3 Applications Refused: None.**

**7.4 Applications Withdrawn: None.**

**7.5 Applications Awaiting Decision:**

**20/01734/OUT**

**LAND NORTH OF A40, A40 SECTION FROM BARNARD GATE TO EYNHAM ROUNDABOUT, EYNHAM (NEIGHBOURING PARISH)**

Outline application with means of access for a mixed-use Garden Village, comprising residential, retail, food and drink, health and community facilities, hotel, class B1, B2 and B8 employment uses, education provision, burial ground, public open space with sports pitches together with ancillary facilities, landscaping and associated infrastructure and works for Grosvenor Developments Ltd.

**R3.0057/19**

**LAND WEST OF CUCKOO LANE AND ADJACENT TO THE A40, EYNHAM, WEST OXFORDSHIRE, OX29 4PU**

Construction of a park & ride car park providing 850 car parking spaces, cycle spaces, motorcycle spaces, electric vehicle charging points, bus shelters, landscaping, external lighting, public open space, toilets, seating, fencing, habitat creation, drainage features, new access from Cuckoo Lane, new roundabout with access onto A40, an eastbound bus lane approximately 6.5km in length from the park & ride site to the A40 bridge over the Dukes Cut canal, two sections of westbound bus lane (each approximately 500m in length), new shared use footway/cycleway, widening of Cassington New Bridge, junction improvements, new crossings, new footbridge alongside Cassington Halt Bridge, and associated works for Oxfordshire County Council.

**7.6 Salt Cross Garden Village Area Action Plan (AAP) – to review Inspector's Notes and Guidance and Hearing Programme**

An email about the above had been circulated containing lots of information contained within numerous documents. The hearing dates for the examination of the Area Action Plan had been set for a 2-week period between 28<sup>th</sup> June and 9<sup>th</sup> July 2021. Representations to the Planning Inspector had been made and these comments had been included in the documents.

Concerns were raised about the Future Housing Need section in which Inspired Villages raised concerns about the housing need requirement for elderly residents had been underestimated. It was clear Inspired Villages had a commercial interest in the Garden Village as a possible alternative option to get a retirement village built if their planning proposals for the site near Freeland Stables was unsuccessful. It was also reported that Inspired Villages had raised concerns about the WODC Local Plan being deficient in retirement facilities, again with a clear commercial interest.

It was noted that the Inspector's Hearing for the Garden Village would be live streamed on the WODC Facebook page and was open to the public so anyone could attend, and Councillors were encouraged to listen in to the comments.

**Action:** Councillors encouraged to listen to Salt Cross Garden Village Inspector's Hearing as above.

## **8. REPORT OF COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL BUSINESS**

Alaa offered his congratulations and a warm welcome to the newly co-opted Councillors and to the recently elected and re-elected Councillors.

In Alaa's report he confirmed his re-appointment as Chair of the Environment Committee, and he was also continuing as a member of the Finance and Management Committee and the Climate Action Working Group. The top issue reported at the meeting of the Environment Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> June was flooding, and there was lots of work being done to create policies and procedures to help alleviate problem areas for flooding and to try and reduce flood risks in the District. Alaa also provided an update on the Climate Action Group's work in devising a land management strategy to help the ecology and biodiversity of the local area. An audit and survey of all land owned by WODC (which amounted to 102 hectares) was being carried out and it was anticipated that the land management strategy would be approved around November time.

A new sustainability checklist had been devised for the Planning Department to ensure more environmental factors were incorporated into the planning process, and this work was ongoing. Alaa also provided an update on the old GP surgery site in Long Hanborough for which a planning application had been submitted by Blenheim to demolish the existing building and build 5 small apartments aimed at elderly residents who perhaps wished to downsize, with a ground floor space for a community facility as a shared working hub/café. This would tie in with Blenheim's aim to reduce their carbon footprint strategy, by offering an alternative to commuting and working from home by providing a community workplace hub with workstations plus a café. The car park would remain as it was currently. The planning application was currently out for consultation so comments could be submitted to WODC.

Alaa also provided a brief update on the Community Bus which has ceased to operate due to the current Covid restrictions in place. Amy fed back an elderly resident's experience of feeling very isolated and trapped and their wish to maintain their independence rather than having to rely on others for lifts etc. This was duly noted, and information provided regarding the Good Neighbour Scheme via Volunteer Link Up. It was also reported that funding to keep the Comet Bus running would prove difficult as usage was very low, so to obtain a grant would mean trying to increase the numbers, which in the current climate with restrictions still in place would prove extremely difficult.

In Liam's report he provided information about a boundary review which would mean a change of constituencies for Freeland which would become part of a Bicester constituency.

Liam also advised that he had forwarded the information regarding the preferred location for the black boxes for the traffic survey to the appropriate team but had not heard anything back from them so he would chase this up. It was noted that it was approaching school holiday time, so if the traffic survey was likely to be done over August time, it was requested for it to be delayed until September to provide a more accurate reflection of vehicle movements in the village as school holidays had a big impact on the amount of traffic through the village.

Liam was also asked if he could chase up the bus shelter on the A4095 which was being provided by S106 funding that had been sent to OCC but as yet the shelter had not been ordered. He agreed to look into this.

Some suggestions from the Traffic Calming Group were also put to Liam such as the installation of a new pavement on the South side of the A4095 to go from Wroslyn Road down to the new doctor's surgery, which would prevent residents having to cross the A4095 twice, especially at the junction crossing island which was felt to be quite dangerous. Liam advised that there was very little chance of being able to get a new pavement installed, as a location in North Leigh that he was already working on would take priority. However, the Traffic Calming Working Group were due to hold a meeting and Liam would be invited along.

Alaa and Liam were both thanked for their reports, and both left the meeting at 9.03pm.

## **9. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **9.1 Presentation of the monthly financial report**

The monthly financial report was presented to the Council showing details of the bank balance at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021 and the receipts and payments received or paid out in the last month. The bank statement was checked as agreeing with the figures on the finance sheet and would be signed by a councillor outside of the meeting.

### **9.2 Presentation of the final annual accounts and the annual accounts notes**

The notes that accompanied the draft final annual accounts were presented to the Council showing four overspends at the end of the financial year. These were for Mapping Software, Printer Items, Bank Service Charges and Seat Repairs. Explanations had been provided as to why these had

become overspent in the year, and these would be deducted from the General Reserves fund at the beginning of the financial year. This was all duly noted and accepted by the Council.

### 9.3 Annual audit - To note the internal audit report 2020/21, and to approve Section 1 and Section 2 of Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2020/21

The internal audit report for 2020/21 had been received and circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. This report was duly noted and accepted with no issues arising or causing concern. The completed AGAR had also been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. Council **resolved** to approve Section 1 and then Section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020/21. The Clerk was working on the explanation of significant variances and hoped to have this completed shortly. Everything had to be submitted to the external auditors by 30<sup>th</sup> June.

**Action:** Clerk to complete audit work and submit to external auditors.

### 9.4 Village Hall Insurance Renewal – to approve the insurance renewal premium for the Village Hall & changing rooms

Allied Westminster had confirmed the insurance renewal premium for the Village Hall and changing rooms to be **£1,231.64** (£1,207.14 last year).

The premium included a 7% discount for the policy being subject to a 5 year long term agreement which was taken out last year. The current long-term agreement was now due to expire on

The renewal premium included cover for Trustee Indemnity at £250,000 based on our gross annual income of £27,869 listed on the Charity Commission website for the year ending the 31st December 2019 and the assumption that the accounts have been checked by an independent examiner. The buildings sum insured has been index linked by 1.0% and the contents sum by 1.2% this year. The public liability limit indemnity has remained at the current level at £10,000,000. The renewal premium also included cover for Trustee indemnity at £250,000.

Allied Westminster had confirmed that there were no changes to the policy wording since our last renewal and no changes to their terms of business since our last renewal.

After a brief discussion, Council **resolved** to approve the insurance renewal premium of **£1,231.64** from Allied Westminster. The Clerk had also sent the insurance renewal documents to the Village Hall Management Committee Chairman and Treasurer to confirm that the indemnity limits and contents cover were adequate – confirmation had been received that the current cover did not need to be amended.

**Action:** Clerk to renew insurance policy as above.

### 9.5 Approval of invoices for payment

The Council approved invoices for payment as listed on the invoices for payment sheet distributed with the meeting. These invoices would all be paid by BACS online via the bank account with Unity Trust. Council therefore **resolved** to approve all of the following invoices for payment:

The following invoices are requested to be approved for payment:			
BACS Ref Number	To whom paid	Details	Amount (£)
BACS 053	Lawnsience (Oxford) Ltd	Village Hall Spring lawn treatment	42.00
BACS 054	Lisa Smith	Clerk's salary - May*	950.42
BACS 055	Allied Westminster	Village Hall insurance renewal	1,231.64 tbc
BACS 056	JF Gardening & Maintenance	Mowing April/May/June	300.00
BACS 057	Nigel Green	Mowing March/April/May	580.00
BACS 058	Royal British Legion Industries Ltd	Tommy Soldier statue	210.00
		<b>Total:</b>	<b>3,314.06</b>
<b>Plus:</b>	NEST pension payment of £33.09 (employee & employer contributions). The amount of £18.91 has been deducted from Clerk's salary for June salary payment.		
	*Pay award pending for Clerk's salary - negotiations still taking place so previous salary continued.		
	NI rate has slightly decreased so £23.50 has been deducted this month (rather than £24.10).		

#### **9.6 Any other financial business – to receive an update on change of bank signatories –**

As many of the departing Councillors were authorised bank signatories, it was noted that new signatories were required. Council **resolved** last month to add the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Peter to the bank account, and to remove the outgoing Councillors. The Clerk had completed the necessary forms and was awaiting confirmation that the requested changes had been made. Council **resolved** to also add Tony Tomkys as an additional signatory to the bank account and the Clerk would arrange this.

**Action:** Clerk to ensure above changes are confirmed with bank and to arrange completion of forms to add Tony to as authorised signatory to the PC bank account.

### **10. PARISH COUNCIL STANDING ITEMS**

#### **10.1 Play areas/Playing Field – to receive any reports:**

##### **10.1.1 Play area reports – damaged zip wire chain sleeve, damaged trampoline tile, barbed wire in hedge behind play area, cricket balls entering resident's garden.**

Pink book/defibrillators - Mary Ann had the pink book (passed on from Roger) and there were no problems to report. It was noted that the defibrillators also needed to be checked as part of the play park checks and the code for the cabinet was not known by the new Councillors. The Clerk would email the code and instructions on what to check on the defibrillators around to the Councillors and ensure it was placed in the pink book. It was also suggested arranging some face-to-face training on how to use the defibrillators, which could be extended to residents and the pub who may also find it useful. The Clerk would investigate arranging some training. It was also noted the instructions on checking the play equipment needed updating. Mary Ann would photograph the current instructions and email them to the Clerk for updating.

Zip wire/trampoline tile - Two quotes had been obtained for the damaged trampoline tile and zip wire chain sleeve, one was for supply only and one included fitting as well. After a brief discussion, Council **resolved** to approve the quote that included fitting as well, as this would work out cheaper. Some issues that had been highlighted in the last inspection had also been requested on the quote and this also included inspecting the zip wire cable and checking the Junior Multiplay. The jet washing of the safety surface was deemed unnecessary, and the Councillors would try and sweep the surface when it was dry or arrange the jet washing themselves.

New rota - A new play equipment rota was also needed and the Clerk would arrange this.

Barbed Wire - The barbed wire in the hedge would be checked and removed if necessary. It was noted that permission may need to be sought from the landowner at Heath Farm before any wire was removed. This would be checked.

Cricket Balls - The Clerk had been made aware of a cricket ball once again entering a resident's garden and the Chair of the Cricket Club had been in contact with the resident. No further action was deemed necessary at this point.

**Action:** Clerk to do new play equipment rota, update play equipment instructions and to investigate defibrillator training, Mary Ann to send photo of instructions to Clerk.

##### **10.1.2 New storage building on field – to receive an update on progress.**

Mary Ann gave a brief update. The shed was finally complete, and it was suggested leaving the green fencing in place for now around the new landscaping plants to protect them whilst they bedded in. Mary Ann would arrange to put up a few signs to advise people that the area had been planted by the Parish Council and to not trample on them. Further underplanting around the area would be arranged in due course. The Sports Clubs were due to arrange removal of some rubbish by the shed, the Clerk would chase this up.

The two new warning signs had been installed inside the shed and on the gate.

**Action:** Mary Ann to arrange signs as above., Clerk to chase up rubbish removal.

##### **10.1.3 Water for cricket square – to update on progress with adding a water supply to the new storage shed.**

Robert Crocker had advised he would be sorting this out this coming week and would advise the Clerk when it had been done.

**Action:** Robert to arrange connection to pipework.

**10.1.4 Play equipment replacement for wooden climber and toddler area development – to receive an update from working group and to discuss first design proposals and layout.**

Mary Ann was currently obtaining further quotes, so it was agreed to carry this item forward to the next meeting.

**Action:** Clerk to add to next month's agenda.

**10.1.5 Cricket Scoreboard – to discuss an amended proposal to erect a scoreboard via concreted wooden posts by the hedge by VH garden.**

A request had been received for the Cricket Club to erect two wooden posts for a cricket scoreboard by the hedge to the right of the metal railing of the village hall garden (as you look from the field). They would be about 5ft above the ground and during winter the scoreboard would be taken down.

The Parish Council had previously given permission back in February 2021 for a swing out style board to be attached to the wooden post by the fence/boot wash near the Newell Room. However, the Cricket Club advised that the wooden post was rotten and there were concerns about the strain the board would place on the wooden fence over time. Instead, they now wished to erect two wooden posts in a new location which would be completely taken down during autumn and winter and re-erected at the start of the season. The posts would be concreted in but would be made so they are removable for the off season so nobody would know it was there. Estimated height 1.6m, width about 1.2m.

After a brief discussion, Council was happy to approve the request, subject to the fact there would be no negative impact on the neighbouring properties and also it was queried whether this may possibly require planning permission so the Club would need to investigate this.

**Action:** Clerk to advise Cricket Club of decision.

**10.2 Village Highway Matters – to receive any reports: Hedge trimming required in Pigeon House Lane; potholes in Blenheim Lane; uneven pavement between church and garden centre; Overgrown weeds in footpath between Walkers Close and Blenheim Lane.**

Hedge trimming - A resident had reported in April that a branch was sticking out of the hedge near the top end of Pigeon House Lane that needed cutting back as it was hitting cars. Robert Crocker had agreed at the time to get this cut back. The Clerk would chase this up.

Potholes in Blenheim Lane – It had been reported that only 2 out of around 9 potholes had been fixed at the very bottom end of Blenheim Lane and the residents who lived there felt this was unacceptable. Highways had closed off the original report, so it was agreed to open a new report and log the problem again.

Uneven pavement – Concerns were raised about the uneven state of the pavement between the church and the garden centre, which made it very difficult for wheelchair users and those with pushchairs to navigate this section. It was also noted that the pavement by the entrance to Nash Lane was also in need of repair. The Clerk would report both areas to Highways to see if something could be done.

Overgrown weeds in footpath – A report had been received about a resident on a mobility scooter almost getting stuck in the footpath between Walkers Close and Blenheim Lane due to trying to cut back the weeds in that area. The Chairman agreed to take a look and trim back the area.

**Action:** Clerk to chase up hedge cutting, report potholes and uneven pavements, Chairman to check footpath for overgrown weeds.

**10.2.1 Traffic calming measures – to receive an update from Traffic Calming Working Group, and to discuss the diversion of traffic via Cuckoo Lane (from the A40) and how to implement this, plus to update on the traffic survey, public consultation, 20mph zones and deterring HGVs using Pigeon House Lane**

The Group were due to arrange a meeting so that the various items could be discussed further. It had been agreed to invite Peter Leigh, the Freeland Transport Rep to the next meeting, plus the Clerk had received feedback from a few residents who had expressed interest in joining this group.

It was agreed to circulate the latest report from the meeting to the new Parish Councillors.

**Action:** Mary Ann to arrange meeting of group and circulate report to new Councillors.

### **10.2.2 Parking layby by Village Hall – to consider request to widen parking layby by village hall**

A request had been received to consider widening the parking layby by the village hall. This was already being investigated by the Traffic Calming Working Group.

### **10.2.3 Trees by 149B Wroslyn Road – to consider whether any action needs to be taken re possible dead oak tree on grass verge**

There were 12 or so trees in front of No's 149A, 149B, 151 and 151A Wroslyn Road. A report had been received to advise that one of the oak trees outside no 149B appeared to be almost dead. A few leaves had appeared on some of the branches, but other branches seemed to have no life in them at all and concerns were raised that if they were to fall it could cause an accident or injury.

The Chairman had written to the four households concerned and had received a response from three of them. It seemed to be quite clear from the copies of the Land Registry provided by two of the residents that their property boundary was the green chain link fence which runs part way between their shared access road and the pavement. The tree in question was clearly on the road side of the fence and would therefore appear not to be the responsibility of no 149B.

After a brief discussion, Council agreed to ask a local contractor to have a look at the tree and confirm whether it was in fact dead or not and for their opinion as to whether it represented any danger.

**Action:** Clerk to contact contractor to review oak tree as above.

### **10.2.4 New Preschool Sign on Wroslyn Road opposite Parklands junction – to approve the erection of a new post and sign for the Preschool, and to consider request for donation towards the sign**

This request came in last month but was only received on the day of the meeting so had been carried forward to this month. The village Preschool were trying to raise their profile and had just invested in their on-site signage for the Pre-school to make themselves much more visible for families to find their location and help promote the Pre-school in a competitive market.

The Pre-school relies on attracting families from surrounding villages to help their occupancy levels, so they would really like to have a new road sign installed on Wroslyn Road, and are asking the Parish Council for their permission to install the sign and for a donation towards the costs.

The quote they had received from Highways for the sign is **£430** for supply and erect. This is for a new post complete with 2 signs (approx. size 76mm diameter x 3.3m post... 1 left and 1 right pointing sign mounted back to back).

Whilst the Council really wanted to support the Preschool, concerns were raised about adding more signage to the village when the Traffic Calming Group were trying to reduce the amount of signs and clutter on the roadside. It was felt that a sign on the side of the road was not particularly helpful, but a sign within the school grounds by the corner of Oakland Close may be more beneficial. It was agreed not to approve the sign but to ask the Preschool to talk to the Parish Council about other ways the Council could support them.

**Action:** Clerk to feedback response to Preschool.

### **10.2.5 Parking in Oakland Close – to note letter received from resident that has been sent to School Governors**

An email had been received advising of a letter that had been sent to the School Governors about parking in Oakland Close and the problems it was causing at school drop off and pick up times. The contents of the letter were duly noted.

### **10.2.6 Community Bus – to receive an update on the Community Bus and when it will resume operating**

This item had already been covered in Alaa's update in item 8.

### **10.3 Footpath & Bridleway matters/Footpath Book – to receive any reports: None.**

Peter had the book and the only problem to report was a fallen tree but there was an easy way around it. He reported that a new map was required as the current one was out of date and a new



rota was also required. The Clerk would arrange a new footpath rota now that the new Councillors had been co-opted, and Peter agreed to update the map.

**Action:** Clerk to arrange footpath rota and Peter to update map.

#### **10.4 Garden of Remembrance – to receive any reports:**

No reports had been received.

#### **10.5 Freeland Hall Management Committee – to receive any reports:**

Bill was away but had provided a brief report. Since Covid restrictions had been extended, several bookings had had to be changed although the exercise groups were back regularly with restrictions. The cricketers and footballers were happy with the new storage shed but there was uncertainty about whether the goal posts would fit in. This report was duly noted.

#### **10.6 Mowing of The Green and around the memorial trees – to note concerns raised by resident and to confirm if this has now been put right**

Concerns had been raised last month about the mowing of the Green which had become very long and the recent mow had left the Green looking rather untidy. The contractor had since returned to carry out a second mow and Councillors were satisfied that this had greatly improved the area. Concerns had also been received about the memorial trees in the grass verge from Pigeon House Lane to the Green whose brass plaques were not visible due to this verge being left uncut. The Clerk had arranged to have the area around the trees strimmed to ensure the trees were kept tidy and respectful. The Clerk had also noticed a further memorial tree on the island on the Green near the signpost also needed strimming and had asked the contractor to get this done asap. Some extra growth on the memorial trees also needed attention, although it was noted it was best to carry this out in winter months as the trees may bleed and could be left open to infection if done in the warmer months.

#### **11. CORRESPONDENCE – To discuss and agree any actions arising from:**

(a) OALC May update – details had been emailed around, the Clerk would forward this to the new Councillors.

(b) OALC AGM – details had been emailed around.

Plus additional items since agenda sent out:

(c) Pitch Maintenance agreement – email received from Football Club regarding entering into a Pitch Maintenance agreement for the FA – details had been emailed around, but as this had only been received that day, it was agreed to look at it next month.

(d) Email from Rob Crocker re various Green issues: an email had been received from the previous Vice Chairman of the Parish Council regarding a number of green issues. All of the newly planted trees and shrubs had been watered through the dry weather – the rain would keep them going for a while but, watering volunteers were needed, so the Clerk would place a note on social media to request volunteers.

The weeds beside the zipwire/ basketball court and new planting had been sprayed off and these areas would be seeded in due course.

Some possible 'Green' projects to consider were suggested including introducing wildflower patches to The Green (for September sowing) and placing some wildflowers around the two memorial trees alongside the Chapel field (for September sowing) and planting more bulbs on the Spring Walk on the playing field. It was also noted that the village pond needed the willows removing and a reduction in the bulrushes, plus the willow tree by the pond needed pollarding. A suggestion was also made to carry out more underplanting by the new shed on the field.

Councillors were receptive to these ideas but thought it would be helpful to arrange a meeting with Robert, the Parish Council and a few members of the Gardening Club to talk through some of these ideas and see how this could be arranged. The Clerk would arrange a meeting at the village hall, perhaps on the picnic tables so it could be held safely outdoors. In the meantime the Clerk would obtain a quote to pollard the willow tree by the pond.

**Action:** Clerk to arrange meeting as above and to obtain quote for willow tree pollarding.

#### **12. CIRCULATION**

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic, no papers were currently being circulated.

#### **13. TO RECEIVE A MONTHLY UPDATE REGARDING FREELAND PRIMARY SCHOOL**

There was very little to report. Some of the children were having to self-isolate as there had been a positive Covid case at the school.

**14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – FOR PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION ONLY – None.**

**15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting of the Council would be held on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.18pm.