



**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Freeland Village Hall  
in the Newell Room at 19:30 on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023.**

Members Present:

Cllr R Faulkner (RF), Cllr A Bird (AB), Cllr B Phillips (BP), Cllr M O'Callaghan (MO), Cllr P Forster (PF) and Clerk Fay Friend (FF). Additionally 2 members of the public were in attendance.

- 1. To receive apologies for absence** – Apologies have been received from Cllr M Canning (MAC), Cllr P Holt (PH), District Cllr A Al-Yousuf, District Cllr L Arciszewska and County Cllr L Walker
- 2. To receive Declaration of interest in agenda items** – nothing to be added.
- 3. To approve minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023** – It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes were signed as a true record.
- 4. Public Participation session**  
No members present wished to speak.

**5. To discuss and agree any actions for urgent business.**

Amy Jackson has sadly handed in her resignation. She will be missed and the council appreciate all the hard work she has done on behalf of the Parish Council

Action: Clerk to notify the monitoring officer.

**6. Matters arising from the minutes.**

(a) Additional noticeboard – funding for one noticeboard from Freeland Charitable Foundation has been received with thanks. To arrange a quotation from Freeland Fencing for installation. Letter of thanks to be sent for the money.

Action: FF to arrange quote and send letter of thanks

(b) To buy microphone and speaker for the Annual Parish Meeting- FF meeting Arthur this week to confirm PA arrangements.

(c) To confirm coronation events- the Parish Council have decided not to host any arrangements but have approached local running groups about the possibility of hosting a fun run.

(d) Litter picking equipment- after some confusion about what was actually being offered MO has collected the litter pickers from WODC but will return them as we will not be organising a litter picking event.

(f) Freeland mobile phone coverage- PF is still awaiting an update as a planning application has still not been submitted for approval.

(g) Weight restriction on Freeland roads- it was **RESOLVED** for the 3 sites in Freeland and the enquiry to be submitted.

Action: MO to submit request.

**7. To discuss and receive update on new/existing planning applications**

**New application:** 97 Wroslyn Road – to add a comment that we are concerned about building in front of the established building line especially with it being 2 storey.

**New Application:** 151A Wroslyn Road– No comments to be submitted.

**Inspired villages-** the high court appeal is still ongoing and will continue to do so over the next few months. An update will be provided once received.

**Botley West Solar Farm** – currently received 4 for and 3 against. We still urge the village to participate when the next consultation happens. The next consultation is looking likely to take place shortly. The council are looking to submit their comments in May.

**Salt Cross-** there has been no update on the Salt C  
ross/ park and ride.

**Spitfire Homes** – Our response was submitted and we are awaiting the decision from the Uplands Committee. There is a potential for the application to be heard at the end of this month. The council will keep Freeland Against Speculative Development Group updated. If the application is a refusal there is a likelihood that Spitfire Homes will appeal.

**8. To discuss letter to Witney Town Charity re Spitfire Homes –**

A brief discussion took place about the tone of the letter and history of previous engagement letters being sent to Witney Town Charity by various groups and residents in the village. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the letter to be sent to Witney Town Charity with minor grammatical changes.

Action: FF to sent letter

**9. To discuss the possibility of establishing Conservation Area Status**

This item is to be deferred to the May agenda and meeting.

**10. To receive a report of the Working Groups meeting and discuss how to proceed**

Two meetings have been set up on the 17<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup> of April for the community and sustainability working groups in which Amy has said she will kindly lead on both occasions. An update to be given the at the APM and the next Parish Council meeting.

**11. Discuss arrangements for Annual Parish Meeting**

After discussing the agenda we have the following planning speakers, Chairs report, First and Last Mile to update, Evenlode Catchment Partnership, reports from working groups, an update from the District and County Councillors. Additionally an update on all of the housing development applications. This will be followed by a question and answer session.

Actions: FF to contact WI for refreshments, sort out PA, write and post agenda, contact Andrea re salt-cross.

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

There were no councillors present at this meeting.

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

(a) To approve invoices for payment.- It was **RESOLVED** to pay the account presented, proposed by MO, 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 1	Fay Friend	Salary	
BACS 2	HMRC	NI payment	£52.99
BACS 3	Fay Friend	stamps	£5.44
BACS 4	Ubico	bin emptying oct22-march 23	£558.62
BACS 5	ubico	Bin emptying oct22-march 23	£226.37
BACS 6	Amy Jackson	HDML for projector	£15.87
BACS 7	Rendall	Mowing, moss and swing repair	£195.00
BACS 8	Freeland village hall	hall hire	£62.50
		Total:	2,131.77

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

(c) To review the financial reports year to date.- Reports were circulated and presented.

(d) To discuss support for Freeland Primary school- it was **RESOLVED** to buy 2 of the little people signs and meet any of the short fall from the Teddy Girls contribution should they still be wanting these on condition that the existing cones are removed.

Action: Roger to contact Freeland Primary School

(e) The OCC funding for the First and Last Mile bus- letter of understanding has been signed and money is expected in shortly.

(f) The cricket club and football club- It was **RESOLVED** for a donation of £250 to go to each of these local sports clubs

(g) To discuss and approve new internal auditor- It was **RESOLVED** to appoint the new internal auditor Rachel Brown and we thank Brian for all the hard work he has done to support the Parish Council over many years.

Action: FF and RF- letter of engagement to be signed. Letter of thanks to be send and £25 voucher to be brought.

(h) To approve the signing off of our external audit. – It was **RESOLVED** to sign off the external audit this was proposed by MO seconded BP.

Action: FF to complete and send off audit.

(i) Any other financial business- It was **RESOLVED** to approve FF training course.

**15. PARISH COUNCIL STANDING ITEMS:**

(a) Play Areas/Playing Field/Play Equipment Book – it was **RESOLVED** to approve the new play inspector. After a brief discussion it was decided that **RESOLVED** to go with Sawscapes subject to MAC approval.

(b) Village Maintenance- the tap in the Garden of Remembrance still waiting for a quote from the contractor but looking like we will need 2 more. MAC to speak to Nigel re grass coming onto the pathway. Many trees on the A4095 have been removed due to ash dieback. It was noted that replacement plantings were already taking place. Eynsham Estates agreed to replace the white gates between the Freeland and North Leigh boundary. Blenheim have now opened their new permissive footpath from Hanborough to Bladon. Marilyn is looking into a map for all of the permissive footpaths for Blenheim. Additionally, they are looking at funding the second two gates between Freeland and Hanborough Parish. Liam Walker has already agreed to match fund.

Freeland House fence- the broken fence has now been removed. A meeting between the Council and Eynsham Estates is being set up to speak about all their permissive footpaths.

St Mary's grave yard- is nearly at full capacity once full will start the closure process. This will take time to follow the process. The Council need to decide whether we take on full responsibility or pass it onto WODC.

(d) Village Hall- meeting between VHMC and FPC to be held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April. A rough agenda is to be arranged and sent out to all parties.

**17. To receive reports from councillors representing the Council on outside meetings.**

There was nothing to be reported

**18. To note the date of next meetings: Annual Parish Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> April in the Village Hall, 9<sup>th</sup> May in the Newell Room which will include the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.**

**Meeting Closed at 22:07**