

# FRESHFORD PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Freshford Parish Council 13 May 2024, 7pm, Freshford Village Memorial Hall

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**Parish Councillors Present:** John Adler, Elli Bate, Julian Carpenter, Rob Kilgour (from Minute 5)

**Apologies:** Jennifer Clamp, John Putt

**In attendance:** Selina Jobson (Parish Clerk)

**Members of the Public:** Three

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1. **Election of Chair**

**Resolved:** to appoint Cllr Adler as Chair.

2. **Election of Vice Chair**

**Resolved:** to appoint Cllr Carpenter as Vice Chair.

3. **Declarations of Interests and Requests for Dispensations**

Cllr Carpenter declared a non-pecuniary interest in planning application 24/01532/FUL.

4. **Minutes of Meeting**

**Resolved:** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8 April 2024 as a true record.

5. **Co-option of Councillors**

Councillors considered an applicant for co-option to the Parish Council.

**Resolved:** to appoint Mr Rob Kilgour to the Parish Council.

Mr Kilgour signed the Declaration of Office and joined the meeting.

Councillors noted the resignation of Cllr Forbes from the Parish Council. She had been thanked for her input into parish council matters, particularly her role in putting together the Freshford Newsletter.

6. **Matters Arising**

None.

7. **Open Forum**

A resident reported that Centurion coaches, who provided transport for children from Freshford and other villages to and from Ralph Allen school, were now only stopping at Pipehouse or Midford on the way back from school. This meant children had to cross the A36. The coach was no longer serving other stops in the village because of roads being blocked by poorly parked vehicles, causing delays. The resident reported that Libra travel had also encountered parked vehicles blocking roads, and reported an increase in the incidents of poor parking on New Road. He suggested that part of the problem was the increasing number of people driving children to Freshford Primary School.

Another resident outlined concerns about the Freshford Mill development, part of which remained incomplete. He provided a report outlining the history of the site and noted that the ownership of the site was about to change. He was concerned about lack of public access to the site and possible contamination of the land. He felt that a previously approved planning application for a wildlife and nature zone indicated that the site could be developed for environmental gain. He had contacted the B&NES Case Officer about the site and suggested that concerns about the site needed to be raised by residents and the Parish Council so that action might be taken.

The Chair noted that there were potential issues and limitations regarding Parish Council involvement in matters concerning privately owned land. It was agreed that Cllr Bate

would liaise with the resident to explore any possible actions and that the response from the B&NES Officer would be reported back to the Parish Council.

Cllr Bate

8. **Planning Application**

24/01532/FUL Chilterns, Park Corner, BA2 7UP: Demolition of existing garage and erection of extension to the same footprint, removal of conservatory, widening of access and revisions to parking, Electric Vehicle charging point, insulation and cladding to the elevations and extension of the front porch. Provision of a home office to rear garden.

The application appeared to be appropriate to the site and similar to other developments.

**Resolved:** No comment.

The redevelopment of Avonpark Retirement Village had been approved at a Wiltshire Planning Committee meeting, subject to a number of conditions.

9. **Tree Application**

24/01746/TCA Dunkirk Mill Cottage, Rosemary Lane, BA2 7UD – fell Ash tree: This application had just been received and would be circulated to councillors for comment.

10. **Annual Parish Meeting**

The evening had gone well with positive feedback. Ideas arising from the meeting would be considered by the Parish Council.

11. **Matting on The Tyning**

In light of feedback from residents, options for the future of matting on The Tyning would be explored, with the aim of undertaking community consultation in the Autumn. A summary of the situation and comments from residents would be put together.

Clerk

12. **Natural Environment**

Councillors had received details of a quote to replace the rotten post that had been removed from the kissing gate in the Cemetery.

**Resolved:** to approve the quote of £143 from James Lock to install a post to reinstate the kissing gate in the Cemetery.

Maintenance of the Cemetery grass and vegetation was being shared between the contractor and volunteers and the Cemetery grounds were being well kept. Volunteers would be thanked for their work here.

It had been suggested at the Annual Parish Meeting that volunteers could lay the hedge at the bottom of The Tyning. Advice would be sought on this.

Clerk / Cllr Bate

Problems with dog waste not being cleared up, hedges growing over footpaths, and nuisance bonfires had been raised. It was difficult for the Parish Council to address these issues. Hedges that were blocking footpaths could be reported to B&NES who would then ask the landowner to cut back the vegetation. The B&NES website included guidance on preventing or reporting nuisance bonfires.

Plastic sheeting on The Freshford Mill development that had become loose in high winds had now been secured.

A possible River Festival in 2025 would be considered at the June meeting of local nature and climate representatives. Cllr Adler reported that a group involved with the River Avon in B&NES were interested in being involved.

13. **Renewable Energy Project**

A meeting had been held between representatives of Bath and West Community Energy (BWCE), Cllr Adler, and some residents who had raised concerns about the possible location of a solar energy project. BWCE would provide feedback on the meeting and next steps.

It was confirmed that community consultation would be part of the project process.

14. **Highways and Transport**

Cllr Carpenter reported on highways and transport matters raised at the Annual Parish Meeting:

- LINK, a voluntary group offering a transport service to local people, needed more driver volunteers, with a commitment of as little as one lift per month.
- It was reported that not all road traffic accidents on the A36 were being reported by Avon and Somerset Police to National Highways. Cllr Carpenter had written to Avon and Somerset Police about this, as the business case for interventions on any road would take into account accident data.
- That the number of speed roundels on roads in the village should be increased.
- Incidents of speeding on the High Street had been reported with a request for a speed radar device here. The Parish Council had a portable speed radar device which could be deployed here if suitable locations on the High Street were identified. A new pole may be required, which might need to be funded by the Parish Council.

The Chair of FLiSCA had discussed the need for FLiSCA, the Freshford Village Hall committee and the Parish Council to work together on submitting funding requests to external bodies for the resurfacing of the car park.

15. **Review of Standing Orders and Code of Conduct**

The Standing Orders, Financial Standing Orders and Code of Conduct were based on model templates; no revisions had been made to those templates.

**Resolved:** to approve the Standing Orders, Financial Standing Orders and Code of Conduct without amendment.

16. **Finance**

16.1 Councillors noted the renewal of the Parish Council’s insurance policy, which was on a three-year agreement until 31 May 2026.

16.2 **Resolved:** to approve the following Direct Debits and Standing Orders for 2024/25:

Standing order	£305.55	James Lock	Monthly, April to Dec
Standing order	£333.00	Matt Snelgrove	Monthly, April to Dec
Direct debit	Approx £215	SSE Energy Supply	Monthly
Direct debit	Approx £40	Water2Business	Twice a year
Direct debit	£994.39	Public Works Loans Board	Twice a year
Direct debit	£36.00	CPRE	Annually
Direct debit	£35.00	ICO	Annually

16.3 **Resolved:** to approve the following payments -

- £513.65 Selina Jobson for administration
- £25.00 Selina Jobson office expenses
- £585.44 BHIB for annual insurance renewal

16.4 **Resolved:** to approve the bank reconciliation, noting the following payments and receipts since the last meeting: –

- £217.57 SSE electricity supply (Direct Debit)
- £994.39 PWLB for Tynning loan repayment (Direct Debit)
- £333.00 Snelgrove for Village Steward (payment)
- £158.40 HMRC Cumbernauld for PAYE (payment)
- £305.55 James Lock for grass cutting (payment)
- £248.04 Enerveo for light repairs (payment)
- £3070.69 Enerveo for 11 LED lights (payment, 2 of 2)
- £33.27 Julian Carpenter reimbursement for APM stationery (payment)

- £60.00 Candy Harrison for advertising boards (payment)
- £510.00 Cemetery fees (receipt)
- £125.32 B&NES CIL (receipt)
- £315.00 Newsletter advertising (receipt)

17. **Clerk's Report**

A resident had raised an issue with the brightness of a new LED streetlight on the Hill, as the previous light had included a shield to reduce light spill into the nearby house. Two streetlights had been reported as coming on / going off at incorrect times. A community email would be sent out regarding street lights and SSE would then be contacted about all Clerk issues with street lights.

Limpley Stoke Parish Council had engaged a planning consultant to advise on potential revisions to the current joint Neighbourhood Plan and they would update Freshford Parish Council when advice was received.

The Avon Local County Association had stated that they would be offering help with councillor recruitment to all parish councils with long-term councillor vacancies.

The West Link demand responsive transport scheme and the West Local funding scheme for local public transport projects were being promoted by the West of England Combined Authority.

18. **External Meetings**

Cllr Carpenter would attend the Parish Liaison Meeting on 26 June 2024.

19. **Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 10 June, 7pm, Freshford Village Memorial Hall.

Meeting ended 9.15pm.