

FROXFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council

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Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14th March 2022 at the Memorial Hall The meeting began at 7.25pm

Present: Cllr Vanya Body (Chairman), Cllr Arran Miles, Cllr Rob Smith, Esther Cope (Clerk), Cllr Stewart Wheeler (Chairman, Pewsey Vale East), Ellie Morton and 4 members of the public were present.

1) Apologies for absence, declarations of interest and dispensations

Apologies were sent by Cllr Steve Heppenstall and Cllr Claire Wilson. There were no declarations of interest or dispensations.

2) Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 10th January 2022 were approved by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

3) Co-option Interview

Mrs Ellie Morton introduced herself to the Council, explaining her reasons for applying. Cllrs asked questions regarding her application. Cllr Body proposed to co-opt Ellie Morton, which was approved by all.

4) Public Question Time

There were no questions from the public, the meeting continued without adjournment.

5) Matters Outstanding

5.1) To update clearance of the blocked drain Church Lane

Cllr Body reported Wiltshire Council Highways Team visit to jet the drain on the 28th February, although progress was made to clear the blockage, it soon became apparent that the team will need to return in due course to avoid future flooding issues. Cllrs discussed the possibility that diversion works completed by the previous owners of Truant House, may be exacerbating the problem. It was agreed to monitor and that the Clerk would advise a return date.

5.2) To update plans for the Queens' Platinum Jubilee celebrations

Cllr Body confirmed the planting of a Linden Tree, which was chosen as it provides blossom, scent and winter colour, with the Community Payback Team yet again stepping up to the task. The Council would like to thank them publicly for another excellent job. Cllr Wheeler advised to add the new tree with the Queen's Green Canopy, it was agreed to do so.

Plans for a Hog Roast are in progress, with any profit being donated to support the Church with their Bell Tower appeal.

The Froxfield Community Group are organising a traditional British afternoon tea, hoping to encourage Parish residents young and old to join in the fun. The Council will assist with advertising the event within the Parish newsletter and by printing posters for display in the village.

5.3) To report progress Church Lane parking project

Cllr Body reported attending the recent CatG meeting to discuss options for discouraging the continued parking at the junction with the A4/Church Lane by the Green. Approval was given for white lines. Low cost but effective, it was agreed work should be completed during April/May 22. The next phase of laying protective matting along the Green would be actioned once the weather stabilises.

5.4) To provide an update of the review of Wiltshire Council's Community Environmental Toolkit, Draft Climate Strategy

Cllr Smith felt the document was complex, but believed that Froxfield had worked hard to improve the Parish environment. The revitalisation of natural habitat on the Water meadow, monitoring of the river Dun and tree planting mean that the Parish is taking positive steps. Cllr Smith will collate his findings, with the new 5 year plan being circulated to all Cllrs once completed.

Cllr Smith advised that residents would need to consider the move from oil and gas to more environmentally friendly but seemingly more expensive heating systems. Ground source heat pumps, solar and other options would need to be explored. Residents suggested speaking to David Hilton at the Self Build Centre in Swindon. It was agreed to arrange a visit to the Parish for a public meeting to help residents to become better informed about the options.

5.5) Consider quotes for completion of tree survey

Copies of the 3 quotes received were circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting. Cllrs discussed the quotes and approved Bawden Tree Care. Clerk to arrange a suitable date and confirm to Cllrs.

6) New Matters

6.1) To report the requirements for the use of Parish Council owned land for public events

The Clerk advised that the Public Liability insurance held by the Council only serves to cover the Council for its land and assets. With immediate effect any organised events held on Parish land, including for example those run by the Church, Memorial Hall and Froxfield Community Group should where applicable provide their own Public Liability insurance and in all cases complete a risk assessment. It was agreed the Clerks' office would provide groups with a standard event form, for completion and return prior to the event. Copies of applicable insurances and licences would be held on file. The new event template will be posted to the website and noticeboard within the village.

6.2) To report changes to payments, work completed by the Community Payback Team

The Clerk reported receiving correspondence from Roy Benfield, Community Payback Team Organiser. Changes to payment structure were discussed, with a request for the Clerk to investigate further and report findings.

6.3) Great British Spring Clean 2022

Ellie Morton and the Clerk offered to organise volunteer teams to complete the litter pick

6.4) Wiltshire Best Kept Village 2022

Suggestions to approach local businesses for support, Ellie offered to coordinate and complete the entry. Ideas to spruce up the village were discussed, the Clerk and Ellie will organise a small team of volunteers to complete the work.

7) Planning Applications since the last meeting.

Cllr Miles reported no new applications.

8) Finance

8.1) To receive a finance report from the Clerk and approval of the bank statements

A report of income and expenditure was circulated by the Clerk to the Cllrs prior to the meeting. Copies of the bank statements also being circulated to the Chairman prior to the meeting. bank statements were signed after the meeting.

8.2) To report the National Salary Award 2021/22

The Clerk noted an agreed 1.75% pay rise backdated to 01.04.21. Calculating an additional cost to the Council of £11.40/quarter.

8.3) To report year-end timetable FY2021/22

The Clerk reported the expected timetable for the financial audit.

9) Any other business/correspondence received

9.1) Yorke Farming - Trees for water meadow

The Council thanked resident Harry Yorke and his team for supplying and planting more than 40 young saplings on the water meadow. A mixture of native alder, aspen and willow will help establish wildlife friendly copse and replace lost trees from the recent storms.

9.2) Damage to the Western entry gateway A4 Oka

The damage has been reported to Wiltshire highways.

9.3) Wiltshire Council grass cutting schedule 2022/23

Cllrs discussed the ongoing issues of ensuring adequate verge cutting, particularly the A4 west to the Pelican Pub, whilst trying to avoid overlapping with the Wiltshire Council team. It was agreed to continue to monitor the work. Wiltshire Highways are yet to provide a copy of the cutting schedule.

9.4) Wiltshire Council Grants for planned events for older people for the Queens' Jubilee

It was agreed to contact Brendon Care and the College to advertise the planned afternoon tea.

9.5) To discuss change of date for May meeting

Cllrs discussed and agreed to move the May meeting to Monday 23rd May at 7pm. Plans are to hold the Annual Meeting followed by the Annual Electors meeting and to invite local groups of interest to speak.

9.6) Defibrillator update

Replacement pads have been purchased, a new record sheet is in place with Cllr Claire Wilson kindly completing the monthly checks. The Council are hoping to organise training, date to be confirmed.

9.7) Requirement for the removal of low tree branches on the Village Green

Cllr Smith and residents offered to assist with removing low branches, which will allow the contractor to complete the grass cutting more easily.

10) Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 23rd May at 7pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.13pm