**FROXFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Clerk to the Council**  Lynn Casey-Sturt  2 The Limes, Froxfield, Wiltshire SN8 3LB | **Contact Information**  Telephone Number: 07590 637165  Email: clerk@froxfield.org |

**The Minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting**

Froxfield War Memorial Hall, The Green, Froxfield

Monday 15 May 2023 at 7.00 pm

|  |
| --- |
| **Present** |
| Cllr V Body (Chair), Cllr S Heppenstall (V-Chair), Cllr C Wilson, Cllr A Miles, Cllr E Morton, Mrs L Casey-Sturt (Clerk) |
| **Invitees** |
| Cllr Stuart Wheeler, Pewsey Vale East, Richard Fradgley, Memorial Hall Committee and Phoenix Brass Band |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Agenda item** | **Minutes** |
| EM 001/2023 | **Introduction and Welcome by the Chairman, Vanya Body**  The Chairman welcome everyone to the Annual Electors Meeting with introductions made. |
| EM 002/2023 | **Presentation by local community groups**  Cllr Stuart Wheeler, Pewsey Vale East, summarised the key areas of note contained within the ‘Wiltshire Council Annual Town and Parish Council Report (2023/23)’. The full report can be found here: [Froxfield Parish Council](https://froxfield.org/document-category/minutes/).  Looking forward to 23/24, we are pleased to note the following additional grant funds:   * £3.6m additional investment for repairing potholes * £6.98 Safer Road Fund for A3102 * Over £1.1m for Active Travel including development of Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) and schemes at Salisbury River Park (footbridge), Hilperton and Amesbury to Larkhill cycleway. * £93k Environment Agency funding for flood scheme feasibility in Salisbury and Amesbury (confirmation received last week) * £86k Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) to support two roles to deliver Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI)   Richard Fradgley, Froxfield Memorial Hall Committee and Phoenix Brass Band representative provided an update in relation to the Memorial Hall Committee and the Phoenix Brass Band. Key areas of note are as follows:   * Phoenix Brass celebrated their 30th birthday with an afternoon of music at Marlborough Town Hall on 14 May 2023. * The Band is a community band and consists of players ranging from 9 years to 88+, with four of its members from Froxfield. * The Band is self-financing and relies on donations and engagement fees. * For more information about the band please visit: [Phoenix Brass Band in Froxfield, Wiltshire](https://www.phoenixbrassband.co.uk/) * The Hall: The hall has been recently refurbished, with all appropriate insurance and PAT testing requirements in place. The Hall is a useful asset for the community and is currently underutilised. For information about the hiring of the hall please visit: [Froxfield War Memorial Hall – Froxfield Parish Council](https://froxfield.org/froxfield-war-memorial-hall/). |
| **EM 003/2023** | **Annual Report presented by Vanya Body – Chairman Froxfield Parish Council**  The Chairman reported on its key activities and work carried out by the Council during 2022/23.  Water Meadow Nature Reserve. The Parish Council is responsible for the public areas of the village — the Green and the water meadow. Funding is received from Wiltshire Council to allow us to carry out our activities, known as the Precept.  The Village Green Play Area: The last playground inspection revealed that the swings frame had deteriorated to the extent that safety could not be guaranteed; and was subsequently dismantled. The swings have proved to be a huge asset to the green and much loved by local children. Plans were immediately put in place to replace these, however, the costs involved were surprisingly high. We therefore applied for a Lottery Grant to cover the costs of replacing the swings. We are still waiting to hear back, but a decision is imminent.  Platinum Jubilee: Last year saw the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, with a fitting village celebration organized for the celebratory weekend. We hosted an Afternoon Tea on The Green and planted a commemorative Lime Tree, and the sponsoring of a hog roast at the Beer & Music Festival the following day.  Traffic Calming: Work continues to secure road calming measures on the A4. Efforts focused on having the speed limit (near The Pelican) reduced from 50mph to 40mph. Following a visit by the WCC Roads Engineer we were recommended for a formal Speed Limit Survey, which was subsequently approved at the Local Highways and Footpaths Improvement Group (LHFIG). This is scheduled to take place in 2023. We have had excellent support for this campaign from our Wiltshire Councilor Stuart Wheeler. During the year we also had white lines painted along the corners of the village green to deter badly parked vehicles which had been causing obstructions.  Tree Safety Survey: This year we commissioned a safety survey of the trees on land we are responsible for, which is to be carried every five years. The survey identified a significant amount of work that was needed on various trees on the water meadow. This work was carried out using approximately £2000 from the residual water meadow nature reserve development grant monies.  Overgrowing Verges: We worked with WCC to get a solution to the ongoing issue of overgrown verges along the A4 towards The Pelican. At first it appeared that this verge was not the responsibility of the County, but after a site visit by the Andrea Begent from WCC, a joint approach was worked out between WCC Highways and Streetscene and a Ringway team was called in to cut back the overgrowth and push back the edge of the verge. We have an understanding that this process will be repeated this year to avoid recurrence of the problem.  Community Payback: The council continues to have a great working relationship with Community Payback, who are part of the Probation Service, and who are led by local team leader, Roy Benfield. The Payback team continue to maintain the Churchyard, have taken over the grounds of the Memorial Hall and have worked with the PC on numerous jobs including keeping the boardwalk on the water meadow cleared; strimming the edge of the water meadow once the wildflowers have died back; and tidying around the edges of the village green (sweeping leaves). During the year a CP team restored the edge of the village green with reinforced mesh, as well as replanting the grass and installing bollards to protect the edge from badly parked vehicles.  All Saints Church: Although not responsible for storm water drainage, we have worked with a local property owner to come up with a solution for a historical and long-standing drain blockage which has caused severe damp issues in All Saints Church. We are currently liaising with the WCC on this matter but initially we engaged the help of the Community Payback team to dig down and clear the mouth of the blocked drain which immediately relieved the pressure on the drainage at the Church. This is ongoing. |
| EM 004/2003 | **Open Forum**  Pat and Barry Adams, Froxfield Social Committee  A summary of the events taking place during 2023/23 and to date:   * 4 June: The successful Beer Festival * September: Barn Dance was held to raise funds for the church. * November: Wine Tasting   For 2023 diary dates, please refer to Appendix 1 (below)  Jan Heppenstall – All Saints Church  Jan provided on update on the Churches activities including some historical background.   * Whitton is a rural Benefice with 6 Churches, including the village of Aldbourne, Axford, Baydon, Chilton Foliat, Froxfield and Ramsbury * All Saint’s Church is a ‘Chapel of Ease’, it is named so, as it does not have a legal church warden. * The Church holds regular carol services – with a shoutout to ‘Toby’ in appreciation of his support. * The Church Organ is currently not working, with alternatives being put in place until a long-term solution can be put in place. * As previously reported, the Church yard is maintained by Community Payback * Owl boxes have been placed in trees to protect and encourage wildlife. * Plants and bulbs to be planted to attract bees. * The Church is actively looking to raise funds to cover its financial costs commitment (£8k per year) by holding events and organised trips. * The Church is looking to recruit a kind volunteer to take over the management of the Accounts. * Congratulations to David Wilson, who is to be commissioned as a Lay Preacher on the 23 July.   **Action:** At the request of those present, Cllr Body agreed to find out whose responsibility it fell to, to maintain the area of land around the Froxfield bus stop.  The meeting concluded at 8.03pm |

**Appendix 1**

A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated