

FROXFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

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The Minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting

Froxfield War Memorial Hall, The Green, Froxfield
 Monday 13 May 2024 at 7.00 pm

Present
Cllr V Body (Chair), Cllr P Cowans, Cllr S Heppenstall, Cllr A Miles, Cllr E Morton, Cllr R Smith Cllr C Wilson Minutes: Mrs L Casey-Sturt (Clerk)
Invitees
Cllr Stuart Wheeler, Pewsey Vale East; Richard Fradgley, Phoenix Brass Band; Caroline Taylor, Froxfield Memorial Hall Committee; Jan Heppenstall, All Saints Church; Pat and Barry Adams, Froxfield Social Committee; Lorraine Saville, Froxfield Morris Dancers (The Pelicans) and U3A Geology Group.

Agenda item	Minutes
EM 001/2024	Introduction and Welcome by the Chairman, Vanya Body The Chairman welcome everyone to the Annual Electors Meeting with introductions made.
EM 002/2024	Presentation by local community groups 1. Cllr Stuart Wheeler, Pewsey Vale East: summarised the key areas of note contained within the 'Wiltshire Council Annual Town and Parish Council Report (2024/25)'. The full report can be found here: Froxfield Parish Council . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A balanced budget for 2024/25. • To keep library and leisure centres open. • Affordable Housing Delivery: 5.5k Council Houses (Salisbury/Amesbury area). • Allocating £179m towards Adult Social Care. • Home building programme – zero-carbon standard reducing energy costs. • Highways: in 2023/24, 11453 potholes have been filled across the country. • have filled 11453 potholes across the county. • Wiltshire Connect: Passenger Transport to be expanded with a £1.1m UK grant. • Balanced budget achieved for next two years. • Waste: Successful Campaign carried out in 2023 reducing waste contamination.

2. **Richard Fradgley, Froxfield Phoenix Brass Band** representative: provided an update as follows:
 - Band formed in 1993.
 - The Band is a community band and consists of players ranging from 7 years to 88+, with four of its members from Froxfield.
 - The Band is self-financing and relies on sponsorship, donations, and engagement fees.
 - Engagements for the Summer Season include: D-Day events.
 - For more information about the band please visit: [Phoenix Brass Band in Froxfield, Wiltshire](#)

3. **Caroline Taylor, Froxfield Memorial Hall Committee** representative provided an update as follows:
 - The hall recently undertook an Asbestos Survey, with no risks identified.
 - An annual Froxfield Memorial Hall – Tidy Up’ day is to be launched.
 - 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.](#)

4. **Lorraine Saville, Froxfield Morris Dancers** representative, provided a summary as follows:
 - Froxfield Pelicans Morris Dancers formed in 2017.
 - The Pelicans now comprises a mixed group of 10 dancers and a group of between 5-7 musicians.
 - Meet most Friday evenings throughout the year at 7.30pm in the Froxfield Memorial Hall to practice.
 - Has danced during the winter months for the local WI groups in Chilton Foliat, Ramsbury and Marlborough
 - If you are interested in dancing or play a melodeon, accordion, violin/fiddle, whistles or drums (or any other instrument) you are most welcome to come and join. Please contact: The Squire, Froxfield Pelicans Morris at: chriscarlon@btinternet.com

5. **Lorraine Saville, Hungerford U3A Geology Group** representative, provided a summary as follows:
 - Started in January 2017 is now in its 8th year with 25 members.
 - Meets in the Froxfield Village Hall on the second Thursday in each calendar month, from 2 until 4pm.
 - The group has met 57 times to discover and investigate all aspects of the geological sciences. There have also been a number of field excursions.
 - For further information or to become a new member, contact the Geology Group through the Hungerford U3A Website, by emailing chriscarlon@btinternet.com

6. **Jan Heppenstall, All Saints Church** representative, provided an update on the Churches activities including some historical background.
 - All Saint’s Church is a ‘Chapel of Ease’, it is named so, as it does not have a legal church warden; however, weddings, funerals, baptisms etc can still take place.
 - David Wilson is the new Lay Preacher, and his wife Cllr Clare Wilson manages the flower rota.
 - Three Services and ‘Hymns and Pimms’ takes place each month.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Quinquennial inspection took place on 13 May 2024; awaiting the report. • As previously reported, the Church yard is maintained by Community Payback • The Church is actively looking to raise funds to cover its financial costs and to recruit a kind volunteer to take over the management of the Accounts. • This year, a concert was held at the Church in January, as was the Quiz night and Barn Dance (Feb & April). • Funds raised from future events will go to a new electric piano/organ and these include A gardens outing to Somerset (2 July 24); boundary walk (4 Aug 24); Quiz Night in November – date to be confirmed. <p>7. Pat and Barry Adams, Froxfield Social Committee provided an update on the activities carried out on behalf of the 'Action for the River Kennet (ARK).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once monthly – water monitoring to count Invertebrate (8 species that are accountable) • Thousands of shrimp (top species) are counted and scored. • A Mural has been painted on the T H Whites building in Hungerford. • The Water Meadow of River Life Official Opening is taking place on 1 June 2024. • For more information please visit: Home - ARK River Kennet
EM 003/2024	<p>Annual Report presented by Vanya Body – Chairman Froxfield Parish Council</p> <p>The Chairman reported on its key activities and work carried out by the Council during 2023/24.</p> <p>This year the Froxfield Parish Council has achieved one of its key aims as laid out in its report of 2016 — Reconnecting Froxfield — a copy of which can be found on the Froxfield Parish Council website. This report then led to a series of priorities which were delivered to Wiltshire Council and have framed our work with the Local Highways and Footpaths Improvement Group (LHFIG). A copy of this is also available on this village website link.</p> <p>The top priority was to install village gates and reposition the 'Welcome to Froxfield' signage in order to clearly designate the village envelopes, and this was achieved in the summer of 2020. We then turned our attention to the issue of speeding through the village, particularly at the Pelican end of the village.</p> <p>Last year, the WCC agreed to carry out a formal Speed Limit Review which led to its consultants agreeing to remove of the 50mph at the eastern end of the village and extending the 40mph limit between the two sets of village gates.</p> <p>We were pleased to note that a more straightforward Traffic Survey carried out earlier in the year revealed that the average speed through Froxfield had in fact dropped by more than 6mph — which could be attributed to the enhanced sense of entering a community derived from the village gates.</p> <p>We have now bought a Speed Indicator Device which will be installed at the same time as the work is carried out to change the speed limit signage.</p> <p>We were dismayed when the swings on the village green were condemned as unsafe at the end of 2022 and launched a project to get them replaced. With the very generous donation from Grain Handling Engineers in Froxfield, combined with funding from The Lottery Community Fund, we are able to install excellent new swings from Wickstead, which are</p>

	<p>constructed of high-quality sturdy metal, and it is hoped will be enjoyed by the village's children for decades to come.</p> <p>In June, the village came together (in the rain) to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III with a picnic on the green and the Parish Council arranged for and presented commemorative mugs to the village's children. We also raised £500 which went into the village Community Fund to help pay for the swings.</p> <p>This year we hosted a very successful and well-attended meeting with the Community Policing team in the village hall. These will be regular events going forward and a change for villagers to discuss policing and security concerns with a Police Community Support Officer. The next of these public meetings will be held on Tuesday May 21st at 7pm at the chapel of The College.</p> <p>We continue to maintain the wild Water Meadow Nature Reserve in line with the five-year management plan which was agreed in 2022. This year we held a community bulb-planting morning and a community hedge maintenance day. We continue to rely on the excellent support of the Community Payback Teams supervised by Roy Benfield, under the auspices of the HM Prison & Probation Service. Froxfield PC was nominated by the local CP co-ordinators for the regional 'Golden Spade Award', in the Swindon area, as a re-reflection of 'the diverse range of tasks that you have asked engaged with the CP teams to complete, the impact and relationship we have with you linked with the communities we serve.'</p> <p>The Community Payback Teams continued to maintain the Church grounds to a very high standard and this year took over maintenance of the Memorial Hall grounds on a regular basis, all supported financially by this council.</p> <p>More generally on Highways, a successful 'pothole' survey was carried out at. The request of Wiltshire Council and subsequent repairs were carried out on road within the village. The Parish Council also requested that Wiltshire CC carry out work to repair the degraded surface of the footpath down the side of the A4 to the Pelican and were delighted to see the whole length was relayed and the verge cut back.</p> <p>Meanwhile, we provided support to a Froxfield resident in putting forward a request for Wiltshire Council Highways Department to review and consider high-way calming measures on the narrow but busy road at Oakhill. Although the resident did not achieve the outcomes initially desired, an alternative solution was put forward and subsequently agreed.</p> <p>Vanya Body Chair of Froxfield Parish Council, May 2024</p>
EM 004/2004	<p>Open Forum</p> <p>The meeting concluded at 8pm.</p>