

Frithelstock Parish Council

Clerk and RFO: Alan Matthewman
26 Fairways View, High Bickington. EX37 9BZ
01769 560740 / Email: frithelstockpc@gmail.com

Minutes of the Frithelstock Parish Council Meeting
Held on Wednesday 20th March 2024
In the Village Hall, Frithelstock

Present: Cllrs. A Hardwick, M Thomas, Bob Lewis-Basson, Sam Wood,
Also present:
Alan Matthewman (Parish Clerk) and 3 members of the public

In accordance with The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, members of the public are welcome to attend.

1. Election of Chairman

In the Absence of Cllr. Stevens (Business Commitment) and Cllr Hunkin (Family Commitment), members present were invited to nominate and elect a chair for the current meeting. Proposed by Cllr Hardwick and Seconded by Cllr Wood, Cllr Thomas was unanimously elected to serve as chair of the meeting

2. Reports from Outside Bodies

Public Participation: the chair invited Marcelle Paton-Smith to present her case for the use of the hall in support of Resilience Issues as part of the developing Community Emergency Programme. It was hoped to use the hall for storage of equipment needed as well as emergency accommodation when necessary. The Clerk told of his experience at Ilfracombe when the practicalities of an emergency (flooding in this case) inconveniently happened at a bank holiday weekend and designated staff were not available at the time. So the details of how the plan would be delivered in such confused circumstances would need to be addressed. Bearing this in mind the council unanimously supported the idea of developing a plan to execute a place of refuge centred on the Village Hall and need to work through the requirements in the coming months. There was £250 grant available for initial planning and up to £1500 for supplies.

Ideally the members agreed that a procedure be set up, by a motion under the last item under the final section of the meeting at which a formal motion would be moved.

A member of the public complained that the agenda had not been placed on public display. The clerk reported that the Parish Council chair had told him unequivocally that it had and he was unable and refused to choose between the two statements.

There was then a discussion about regularity of publication which the clerk acknowledged and pointed out the ongoing uncertainties. The member of the public continued to raise issues which were outside his area of influence and they should move on. A point was raised regarding a request that had been made to District Councillor Pennington concerning how TDC would advise electors when bin collection times were changed to avoid mistakes and confusion. Although the request was almost 6 months old, no response had been received.

3. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Chris Stevens, Lizzie Hunkin and John Burrill

4. Declarations of interest

To receive any Declarations of interest and DPIs. Members are reminded that all interests must be declared at the beginning of the meeting and prior to the item being discussed. None Declared

5. Approval of Minutes

To approve and sign as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting held on 17th January 2024. Available via the website. The minutes were approved, proposed by Cllr Hardwick, seconded by Cllr Wood with all members in favour.

6. Matters Arising

To consider any matters arising from the minutes not dealt with in the present agenda. None relevant.

7. Planning Issues

None received

8. Matters Concerning the Playing Field

Cllr Stevens had tabled split on the costs between the various sector. There were questions regarding the relative costs of cutting the church and the graveyard and regarding the decision on the overall costs. The overall decision was regarded as reasonably in line with other council contractors. There was a discussion regarding the options of paying the full cost of the grass-cutting as it can become an expectation removing choice from the councillors. It might be better in future to decide on a grant annually and be clear that there is no prior commitment to cover the whole cost.

The Chair had suggested that a litter pick be undertaken, excluding the main roads for safety reasons. They had been organised successfully with 50% of litter being taken from a single lay-by. Needed to be done in late April, early May. Date suggested and agreed was 12th May. Email to be circulated and format as the previous year's efforts. Organiser designated as Chris Stevens on the day.

9. Website

The existing site is very hard to use and urgently needs updating. Existing data has been collected by Cllr. Bob Lewis-Basson ahead of building a new site together with councillor e-mail address. He had identified the number and location of the visits during 2023. The Pages visited were also identified and the frequency of visits. Not available were pages not visited. The cost and availability of the service maintenance was unclear and the site was not been updated regularly. Agreed that councillors should e-mail their thoughts and what is desirable to them with a view to establish the way forward on

10. Payments and Receipts to date and report on Bank Situation

To approve Payment and Receipts. The negotiations and agreement with a new mandate had now been done and should be operational before the next meeting.

11. Urgent Matters for Consideration

The chair moved an emergency motion, seconded by Cllr. Hardwick that the council apply for a grant from the County Community Fund of £150 as start-up funding.

Date of Next Meeting: Annual Parish Meeting: Wednesday 10th April

Parish Council Meeting is Wednesday 15th May 2024 at 7pm

Alan Matthewman, Parish Clerk
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