

FREYSTROP COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2020

Present. Councillors D. Thomas, E. Utting, D. Harries, R. Harries, G. Hughes, County Councillor M. John, C. Griffith.

1. Apologies. Cllr. R. John.
2. Declarations of Interests.
None were declared.
3. Questions from the Public.
No members of the public were present and no written questions had been received.
4. Minutes of the March Meeting.
The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9th March 2020 were passed as a true record.
Proposed by Cllr Utting and seconded by Cllr Hughes.
5. Matters Arising.
Will be dealt with under respective headings.
6. Correspondence.
Clerks & Councils Direct. Newsletter
7. Highways & Rights of Way.
 1. Little Milford. Road patch repairs carried out but appears that intended surface dressing has been postponed. PCC have been requested to implement traffic calming measures on this narrow road which is currently in a 40mph zone.
 2. New Road. PCC thanked for erecting 2 x 30mph repeater signs on bends near Freystrop end.
 3. Silverstream. Excavation by Sycamore Lodge which was open for a long period(with roadworks signs all the way down the hill from the Cross). This was due to restrictions on workmen having to be in close proximity to complete the work. Now completed. Damaged areas of concrete pavement also reported to PCC following injury to a resident of Silverstream.
 4. The right of way from the end of Moorlands road to Dredgemans Hill. PCC have resurfaced long sections and erected lockable gates to restrict vehicle movement.
 5. New bus shelter at Lower Freystrop. The community council were successful with their application for a Community Highways Grant. The award is for £12000 of which the community council will contribute £1500. Cllr,s Thomas and Hughes had met with PCC officers in August and work was expected to commence soon.
 6. Moorland Road. Complaints had been received about the speed of agricultural vehicles.
 7. Cllr Thomas thanked Cllr R. John for painting the bus shelter at the Cross.
8. Planning.
 1. Bower House, New Road. Application for an extension. The community council had offered no objections to the proposals but had commented on poor viability in the vicinity of the site due to the wide hedge of the property opposite.

8. Planning(continued)

2. The community council had reported the installation of a new gateway off the highway to Middle Hill Farm fields. PCC had instructed the landowner to apply for retrospective planning permission
3. Clayston Garage. Permission had been granted for an MOT and service centre submitted by Gareth Hughes Motors, Sardis. A certificate of Lawful Development had been granted in respect of prospective garden centre at Clayston.
4. Local Development Plan. No direct updates had been provided during lockdown.
5. Summerhill site, New Road. Site clearance and drilling work had been carried out on the site, possibly in preparation of a planning application. The community council had written to the firm concerned to complain about the lack of information given to residents and requesting the firm to attend a future council meeting to outline their proposals if they intended proceeding.

9. Village Hall.

1. Business Recovery Grant. Cllr Thomas had applied for and received £10,000 under this funding arrangement. There are no restrictions on how the money should be spent.
2. The hall has been professionally deep cleaned at a cost of £280 plus VAT and is now equipped with sanitizing stations and cleaning products.
3. The pre lockdown hall users have been notified that the hall was reopening from the 14th September and all have been issued with a list of precautions for their clients to comply with.
4. Cllr Thomas said that he had advised the insurance company that the hall was re-opening with precautions in place.
5. Bank Accounts. Current Account. £12925.18. Deposit Account. £1602.16.

10. Playing Field.

1. Cllr Thomas said that prior to lockdown the council had agreed to set aside £7500 to go towards replacing the climbing frame and slide. The cost of the new equipment will be about £18000.
2. Cllr Thomas said that PCC had removed 1swing to ensure social distancing. This hopefully would be replaced when it is safe to do so.
3. The Chair said that new coping stones and signs were required.
4. CllrR. John had cut the grass and had it baled. This had saved using an outside contractor.

11. Financial Matters.

1. Cllr Thomas said that the annual accounts had been internally audited and were ready to go to the external auditor.
2. The internal auditor had recommended that when the council allocates funds for a particular project the money should be transferred into a reserve account. Cllr Thomas had transferred £13000 into the councils saving,s account which was not in use. The £13000 covers £7500 for play equipment, £1500 for the Lower Freystrop bus shelter and £4000 for any future community council election
3. Bank Accounts. Current account. £4449.92. Deposit account. £13000.05.

12. One Voice Wales and PCC Liaison Meetings.

1. No meetings had taken place with PCC and only one zoom remote meeting with One Voice Wales.
2. Cllr Thomas said that he had expressed concern that One Voice Wales had not taken the opportunity to discuss with the Welsh Government the annual financial return. English

12/Continued.

Councils with income of less than £25000 per annum only had to prepare a simple income and expenditure statements.

13. County Councillors Report.

Cllr. M. John said that he had tried to get an update on the gate into fields at Middle Hill Farm and a newly opened gate at Troopers Inn with no success. He will follow up on both. There was an issue with Targate Road as a large vehicle sign had been removed from the Basleford Cross side. He will raise the matter with Highways.

He said that the area had been lucky during the pandemic and he was grateful to Cllr Thomas in Freystrop and others in Hook and Llangwm for coming forward to set up and organise volunteers. Local business had also played their part.

The Community Hub had been and was continuing to be very successful

Cllr Thomas said he wanted to record his thanks to Cllr. M. John for assisting in various matters regarding highways and planning and for providing feedback where necessary.

14. Members Requests.

Cllr Thomas said that at the beginning of lockdown he had asked for volunteers who were willing to help elderly, vulnerable and shielding residents with food deliveries, prescriptions, etc. He said that 15 people had come forward and he wished to place on record his thanks to those volunteers and how proud he was of them. He hoped that the community council would at some time in the future be able to show its gratitude in some tangible way.

Cllr. Thomas said that Cllr Roy John was a patient at Morriston Hospital and he wished him a speedy recovery.

15. Date of the Next Meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 12th October 2020