

FREYSTROP COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE VIDEO MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 8th MARCH 2021.

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

Members of the Public. None present.

1. Apologies. All the councillors were present.

2. Declarations of Interests. None declared.

3. Questions from the Public.

No members of the public were present and no written questions had been received.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the video meeting held on Monday 8th February 2021 were passed as a true record. Proposed by Cllr. Utting and seconded by Cllr Harries.

5. Matters Arising.

Matters arising would be dealt with under their respective headings.

6. Correspondence.

The Clerk had received a letter from Patch, thanking the council for their donation.

7. Highways & Rights of Way.

Bastleford Cross. The sign indicating *unsuitable for long vehicles* had finally been erected.

Silverstream. Cllr. Thomas reported that complete footpath reconstruction was underway.

Targate Road. Cllr. Thomas said that an online petition had been set up by residents of St. Clements Park for speed restrictions on Targate Road. Cllr. Thomas suggested that the Clerk write to PCC asking them to look again at the matter, particularly as children leaving the play park have to cross the road to access the footpath. This was agreed.

Litter Pick. Cllr. Thomas said that on behalf of the council he would like to thank the volunteers who did a litter pick on Targate Road. 16 Bags of rubbish had been collected, along with car wheels, etc.

8. Planning Matters.

Cllr. Thomas said that the Bower House planning application was still pending.

9. Village Hall.

Bank Balances.

Current Account. £13,296.77

Deposit Account. £1,602.42.

Payments made. Electric £59.01, Fire Safety Inspection £132.27. Water Rates £4.

10. Playing Field.

Cllr. Thomas had suggested to PCC that a joint inspection be held in April so that the community council can better understand what PCC look for during an inspection. No reply had been received, but Cllr. Thomas said he had then received a copy of an inspection carried out on behalf of PCC in February 2021.

Repairs to entrance walls. Cllr. Thomas said he hoped repairs would be started soon

11. Cemetery.

Cllr. Thomas said that the gate between the two car parks had been repaired.

Cllr. Hughes said that the cemetery is in need of a clean up.

12. Financial Matters.

Bank Balances. Current Account. £5564.92. Deposit Account. £13000.81.

Accounts for payment.

PCC. £1500 for the Councils contribution to the Lower Freystrop Bus Shelter.

Clerks Wages. Jan, Feb., March.

It was proposed by Cllr. Utting and seconded by Cllr D. Harries that the accounts be paid.

Audit. The Clerk reported that closing date for the 2019 – 2020 audit had been extended to August 2021. The closing date for the 2021 – 2022 audit was December 2021.

13. OVW & PCC Liaison Meetings.

Cllr. Thomas said that a OVW area committee meeting had taken place on 03/03/2021. The first for a year. Topics mainly related to reviewing how Town & Community Councils had operated during the past year's pandemic. Most councils were using zoom for their digital meetings with better than expected attendance.

Welsh Government would soon require every Town & Community Council to prepare an Annual Report and a training plan for councillors. The OVW training modules were now all virtually online.

13./Continued.

Cllr. Thomas said that a second PCC online liaison meeting was held on 25/02/2021 and a rehire was scheduled for 25/03/2021.

OVW quarterly National Executive Meeting had been held on 05/03/2021. Cllr. Thomas said that by holding the meetings digitally OVW were making substantial savings on the cost of travel, etc. It seems likely that all future meetings would be held online.

14. County Councillor Report.

County Councillor M. John said that the Covid vaccination programme was going well in Pembrokeshire.

Council Tax. Cllr. John said that a full council meeting the previous Thursday had approved a 3.75% rise in council tax for year 2021 – 2022. There had been a counter proposal of 3% but this was defeated.

New High School. This was scheduled to open in September 2022.

Smoke Free Areas. A new law came into force on 01/03/2021 which made it an offence punishable by a £100 fine to smoke in children's play area, hospital grounds, etc.

Elections & Census. Cllr. John said that residents should be encouraged to support both.

Burton C.C. Have just installed two digital speed awareness signs and have produced a fact sheet on how to raise money to pay for them.

15. Members Requests,

Cllr. Hughes mentioned the problem of excessive speed on the road to Little Milford. Clerk will write to PCC.

Cllr. D. Harries said that another litter pick is planned for the village.

16.Date of Next Meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 12th April 2021.

