

Minutes of the Meeting of Froxfield & Privett Parish Council
held at Privett Village Hall on
Thursday 17th November 2022 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr David Rymer, Cllr Peter Doyle, Cllr John Ellis, Cllr Chris Skinner, Cllr Teresa Brown, Cllr Vanessa Christie and Cllr Phoebe Hiscock. In attendance: County Cllr Russell Oppenheimer, District Cllr Nick Drew and the Clerk

22.7.1 Apologies for absence All councillors were present

22.7.2 Approval of the minutes of the minutes of the meeting of 13th October 2022 were agreed and signed.

22.7.3 Matters Arising No matters arising

22.7.4 Declarations of Pecuniary Interests No declarations received

22.7.5 Comments from the Public or Press A letter had been received from the chair of the Friends of Froxfield School asking for Speed Limit Reminders for High Cross Lane to reduce the speed to 20mph. Cllr Drew said that Stroud PC are considering selling their share of the camera which they own along with Steep PC. SpeedWatch camera which he suggested should be taken over by the parish. Cllr Rymer asked to be kept informed however he reminded all that on the numerous occasions a Speedwatch scheme had been propmoted previously but no voluteers had stepped up to attend training then commit to actively man the camera.

22.7.6 Parish Council Vacancy Cllr Rymer said that one application had been received and the vacancy is to be advertised

22.7.7 To Elect a Vice Chairman A vote was held for the position of vice-chairman from two candidates. Following the outcome Cllr Teresa Brown was nominated by Cllr Vanessa Christie, seconded by Cllr Chris Skinner and she was duly elected.

22.7.8 Update on C18 Motorbike Noise and the CRG (C18 Road Group) A meeting has been arranged for mid December with Ian Janes (HCC) and 2 members of C18 road group will be present. Cllr Drew reminded the councillors that residents from Privett wished to be included in discussions.

22.7.9 Fuel Tankers parked at Quin Hay Farm The PC had received several complaints over a number of weeks, of fuel tankers being parked on the farm. There were also concerns regarding the smell of fuel and that spillages could result in contamination. Planning enforcement officers are aware of the problem and are in communication with the landowner.

22.7.10 Report on Response to the SDNP TAN Consultation Cllr Rymer explained that the TAN document concerns equine uses. The parish council had submitted a comment in response to the consultation.

22.7.11 To review and agree quotes for purchasing a Christmas Tree and some Lights. Quotes for trees received by Cllr Skinner were £100 for a 12-14ft tree, £30 for a wooden box to hold the tree and £121 for lights. It was agreed that £250 could be spent unless a suitable tree with roots could be sourced in which case the amount could be raised to £500. Cllr Skinner to investigate further.

22.7.12 Replacement Picnic Table It was agreed that opening an account to buy a Wynnstay table shouldn't be necessary and spending £90 for delivery was equally unnecessary. Mole Valle would be approached.

22.7.13 County Councillor's Report Cllr Oppenheimer's full report had been circulated prior to the meeting and can be accessed via the website. He highlighted these points from his report

- a) The Leader of HCC had written to the Prime Minister making it clear that Local Government is facing a cliff edge over the next year as they are not funded to deliver crucial services such as social care and highways maintenance.
- b) Hampshire Forest Partnership: Emily Roberts, the dedicated tree planting officer at HCC, can help with Expressions of Interest and to develop community tree plans for the creation of mini forests. She can be contacted at treeplanting@hants.gov.uk
- c) Grants are available, up to £5000 for local warm hubs.
- d) Cllr Oppenheimer has been visiting HC owned farms. The Government has been lobbied regarding the urgent need to offer financial assistance to our farmers.
- e) Waste prevention community grants are being offered again this year.
- f) He would appreciate grant applications of around £750 to support reaching out to the community in various ways. Newsletters were a suggestion.

22.7.14 District Councillor's Report Cllr Drew reported that:

- a) EHDC has sandbags available for residents to use to prevent flooding
- b) Grants for small amounts were available
- c) More compliance officers have been hired at EHDC and Cllr Drew had noticed more activity recently.
- d) He thanked Cllr Doyle for laying a wreath on behalf of the council at the Remembrance Day service at Froxfield Green. Cllr Drew attended the service at Steep.
- e) The district council has new offices at New Barn which should enable them to be more sustainable.
- f) 85,000 trees have been planted as part of the Green Initiative. The aim is for 120,000 but the DC needs to be careful as to where they are planted.
- g) Residents attending the drop-in club had voiced their keenness to have a wind turbine in the village and he had suggested to them that they identify a suitable site. The Chairman raised the question of financial feasibility saying that a wind turbine would be considerably more expensive the PV panels installed on houses and maybe this could be investigated further. Cllr Rymer also said that he had asked those that had written in support of the initiative to get together as an action group to investigate in more detail. In correspondance with the group the PC has also asked to be kept informed and confirmed that councillors would be willing to assist where possible although could not head up the group due to other commitments. The Clerk is mainatining a log of all local residents who have written in support
- h) 14 people in the parish have been nominated to receive his Christmas hampers

22.7.15 Planning Applications

SDNP/22/04791/FUL Parkwood Arts, Bordean Lane, Bordean. Change of use of an existing agricultural barn to B8 (commercial storage). It was resolved to OBJECT to the application

22.7.16 Update on Promoting the Parish Council on Social Media Cllr Christie and Cllr Brown had composed and distributed a questionnaire and were waiting for the feedback. Some progress had been made on making the website more informative. This work would continue. Finding creative ways of linking between groups was being discussed.

22.7.17 To review and agree quotes for cutting trees in the Village Hall Car Park Cllr Skinner recommended the acceptance of a quote from an approved contractor for cutting a reshaping 2 trees both adjacent to the Village Hall car park at £450 and a further quote of £250 for spraying the weeds and reseeding with grass next spring at the southern end of the recreation ground

22.7.18 To review and agree quotes for replacing the Recreation Ground Fencing The item will be postponed until the next meeting

22.7.19 To review the Playground Inspection Report Cllr Skinner said there were no problems. The bark is still to be topped up and he will remove the hand sanitisers

22.7.20 Finances

- a) **To approve future payments:** the payments were approved
- b) **To consider the bank interest rates for opening a savings account:** to be considered at the next meeting

- c) **Finalise the Budget 2023/24** The re-drafted budget was agreed
- d) **Set the Precept for 2023/24** It was agreed that as the precept had remained the same for the last 3 years. As a consequence, an increase of 8% to raise the precept to £27000 was approved.

Correspondence An email had been received from a resident asking whether the community would consider a wind turbine in Froxfield (Also minuted in Item 14(g) above). Matters not included on the agenda cannot be resolved but some fact-finding communication is on-going.