

Minutes of the Meeting of Froxfield & Privett Parish Council
held at Froxfield Village Hall on
Thursday 9th February 2023 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr David Rymer, Cllr Teresa Brown, Cllr Vanessa Christie, Cllr John Ellis, Cllr Phoebe Hiscock and Cllr Chris Skinner. In attendance: County Councillor Russell Oppenheimer, District Cllr Nick Drew, 2 members of the public and the Clerk

Mr Michael Orchard gave a short presentation as Catriona Cockburn from Energise South Downs was unable to attend the meeting. Mr Orchard advised that he has volunteered to head up an action group to investigate the provision and use of renewable energy within the Parish.

Mr Orchard's presentation focused on options and categorised each in terms of how achievable they might be. Those forms of alternative energy that would be preferred included PV panels on existing roofscapes. It was stressed that each form would have to be thoroughly investigated and feasibility studies drawn up to test how viable each would be.

Cllr Oppenheimer said that HCC has granted significant funding to Community Energy South and that other grants may be available to assist the group.

Cllr Rymer suggested that the group progress further but to possibly consider widening their objectives to consider all green initiatives and maybe not just focus on renewable energy. At that point it would probably be useful to arrange a public meeting to secure opinion.

Cllr Drew made it clear that he would support the parishioner's choice however it was re-iterated that ultimately any public alternative energy schemes would require unanimous local support.

23.10.1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Doyle

23.10.2 Approval of the minutes the minutes of the meeting Thursday 12th January 2023 were approved and signed

23.10.3 Matters Arising There were no matters arising

23.10.4 Declarations of Pecuniary Interests No declarations received

23.10.5 Comments from the public or press No comments were made

23.10.6 County Councillor's Report County Cllr Russell Oppenheimer

- a) Highways are working through repairing the potholes in order of severity
- b) Natural England is advising on the ash dieback on land overlooking the area of Stoner Hill and the immediate surrounds it is likely that ash trees close to the highway showing signs of die back will have to be removed
- c) The Councillor was questioned as to whether tree clearance works adjacent to The Shoulder of Mutton was being undertaken by HCC. The land is in private ownership, and it is likely that the landowner will have secured consent.
- d) HCC's planned investment programme for schools, including special needs, of £221m has been approved.

23.10.7 District Councillors Report District Cllr Nick Drew

- a) A re-structuring of the bin collections is expected to be announced soon.
- b) No road sweeping or cleaning has been carried out. The litter on Stoner Hill will be cleared by EHDC.

- c) Cllr Drew has asked for the planning application for the piggeries at SDNP/22/05056/FUL Land and Farm Building, South of Gosport Road, Privett to be referred to committee.
- d) EHDC committed to plant a tree per house. Time and money have been invested with 56 thousand trees having been planted.

23.10.8 **Approve the cost of £100 to design a Parish Council logo** This option is longer available; therefore, other options are being considered. Approval was given to spend up to £250 on a logo.

23.10.9 **Update from Cllr Pitman on his initiatives for community engagement** Cllr Pitman suggested a social evening as a community event to bring together representatives from the parish organisations. The new residents will also be invited to an event. Cllr Pitman is looking into restarting the Literati group.

23.10.10 **Tasks for the lengthsman Due** to ill health Cllr Skinner left the meeting early.

23.10.11 **Grounds Maintenance Contract.** Cllr Ellis agreed to put out to tender and secure three quotes for the contract.

23.10.12 **Latest notification from HALC** regarding summoning the councillors to the meetings. The clerk will re-introduce this with the agendas. Cllr Rymer took the opportunity to remind councillors of the importance of attending meetings.

23.10.13 **Nominations to attend EHAPTC's quarterly meetings** Cllr Christie expressed an interest in attending the meetings.

23.10.14 **Finances**

- a) To approve the financial statement including future payments: The bank statement had been circulated prior to the meeting showing that no money had changed hands.
- b) To approve the updated and revised Standing Orders: To be presented at the next meeting.
- c) To approve the Statement of Internal Control 2022/23: To be approved at the next meeting.
- d) Two small donations were approved for Privett. £150 for the Flower Festival and £100 towards the hall rental for the Coronation Party.

23.10.15 **The Next Meeting will be Thursday 16th March, 7.30 at Froxfield Village Hall**