



FREYSTROP COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

December 2023



**The Pride of Freystrop
Midway Motor, Vintage Show, Crymych
Summer 2023**

*Image by Stuart Ladd
Originally published by the Tivy-Side Advertiser*

Freystrop Community Council

Having started the year 'business as usual' ill health has meant that Chair David Thomas has had to step aside from duties and Esme Utting take over as Acting Chair. It is pleasing to report that at the time of writing David's health is improving and Councillors and clerk look forward to his speedy recovery.

Community Council Audits

Audit Wales finally returned their deliberations on the Council audits for 2019/20 and 2021/22. Clean bills of health were noted. In August the documentation for the very first Full Audit of FCC were submitted for investigation. Council knows of one area of failure which was pointed out to Audit Wales and is already being addressed. It is hoped that this is the only item of 'interest'.

Speeding

This remains a constant complaint from residents. FCC encourage all residents to report incidents to 101. Traffic monitoring will only take place when reports from individuals become significant. The clerk to FCC has application forms for any resident to apply to volunteer to join the Community Speedwatch Scheme.

The costs of installing radar speed signs have been investigated by Councillors. The costs have been found to be far more than the costs of signage. Infrastructure installation and planning vastly increase the costs. Funding will be sought in 2024.

Community Review

Pembrokeshire County Council are reviewing community arrangements within Pembrokeshire as part of their statutory duties.

Initial proposals would see the merger of several Community Councils in 2027. Freystrop Community Council is one that is affected and would become a part of Hook Community Council. Both Hook and Freystrop Community Councils are opposed to this merger.

The Boundary Commission for Wales is currently carrying out a consultation which ends on 13 December. If any resident registered elector has any comments on the proposal, either for or against, they may submit their comments in writing/email to any Councillor or clerk to be included in FCC's response. The Boundary Commission will only accept written evidence.

This review highlights the importance of all those eligible to vote registering as an elector whether they wish to use their democratic right to vote or not. So many decisions are based on the total numbers.

Freystrop Village Hall

Major subsidence has been observed in the hall's structure. Insurer's have refused to cover the cost of the substantial repairs required citing evidence of problems existing for over 15 years. The works planned for 2023 have been abandoned. FCC is determined that Freystrop will not lose a hall as a valued community asset and is working hard to provide the best solution.

Freystrop Community Council send Seasons Greetings to All

Monday 8 January 2024

18:45-19:30

Freystrop Village Hall

It's time to look forward to summer 2024

It's time to start planning for 'Frey-Fest' (provisional name!)

It's time to come along to a short meeting

It's time to plan for some summer fun

Come along to find out more

FREYSTROP VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall continues to be used very regularly. As Freystrop is so well placed in the county we have had a number of bookings that take advantage of this.

We have a number of regular bookings new and old also one-off bookings:

WI

Craft Group

Pilates

Tai Chi

Dance

Canine Club

Various Bands use the hall for practice sessions

Picton Painters

First Aid Courses

Local Council bookings

Local Photographer

Private Parties

During the winter of 2022-2023 the Hall hosted a Community Warm Room. This was held every Friday afternoon and proved popular with a number of residents.

We were treated to a number of interesting presentations including a talk by David Thomas highlighting a number of buildings in Haverfordwest and surrounding areas. Normally I would walk along streets without thought, after the talk I have been taking more time and looking with far more interest.

Our local PCSO Adam Thomas presented a talk on Cyber Security highlighting a number of things to consider.

We had demonstrations of pyrography techniques by Becky Davies. Janette Locke brought her photo albums which include a fascinating modern history of Freystrop and its people including many community events.

Increased running costs have meant the hourly rate for the hire of the hall has been raised to £7.50 per hour. This is still a very competitive rate.

If you would like to make a booking please contact Anna Simpson on 07478281535 or email stackrocks24@gmail.com



County
Council
Report
by
Cllr
Michael
John

or by email. Closing date for any comments is 1st December 2023.

Don't lose your right to vote Residents are being asked to check their registration details to ensure they are correct. The annual canvass allows PCC to keep the electoral register up to date. More people can vote in Welsh elections than ever before, so this is an important opportunity to update the register. Also, anyone over 16 can vote in Welsh Government and Senedd elections. The easiest way to check you are registered or update is online at: www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

Also, it should be noted that there is now a legal requirement to show photo identification when voting at some elections.

Anyone who does not have an accepted form of photo ID can apply for a free voter ID document, known as a Voter Authority Certificate. More information is available via The Electoral Commission website.

Review of Town & Community Councils in Pembrokeshire

The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales are reviewing the Town & Community Councils of Pembrokeshire with a view to considering and formulating proposals for their future arrangements. This could see the reduction of councils or some mergers. The Commission would welcome any comments on their proposals in the consultation which residents may wish to make. The 8-week consultation period began on the 23 October 2023 and closes on 17 December 2023. The Commission will consider any representations made to them during the consultation period before they collate their Draft Proposals.

Review of Polling Stations

The Local Authority is conducting this regular review and is keen to hear what electors think about the convenience of polling stations used for elections.

The Council welcomes the views of all residents, and anyone wishing to make comments or suggestions should, if possible, give alternative venues that could be used as polling places.

Information regarding the current arrangements and proposals for changes can be found on PCC's "have your say" page or can be seen at: Electoral Services, Unit 23, Thornton Industrial Estate, Milford Haven, SA73 2RR. Comments can be added online

Welsh Government 20 mph roll out

This was implemented in September as planned and has brought a large response across the County and Wales. Whilst 20mph may suit many narrow roads in the area, there are some where the need for 20mph would seem debatable. The council has the power to make "exception" roads and if anyone has any comments, please feed these back to PCC and they can consider reviewing those areas.

A new Youth Enterprise Fund offers young entrepreneurs and their businesses a start-up grant funded by the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund.

PCC has an Economic Development Officer set up to promote the new funding, and support people with their application and sourcing other business support. The aim of the fund is to support applicants aged 16 to 21 to create new businesses in the county. Grants between £250 and £1,000 are available, and each award will be based on 50% of eligible costs. Details of eligibility for the grants can be found on the PCC website. You can also email Alex.Evans@Pembrokeshire.gov.uk for further information.

2nd Home & Empty Property Council Tax

A consultation has recently been undertaken regarding these two taxes following a change in legislation from Welsh Government. Following the consultation, options are being discussed within PCC and any alterations could be implemented as part of the budget setting process for the 2024-25 tax year. PCC currently adds a 100% levy to 2nd homes but the new legislation allows for up to 300%. Welsh Government have also changed the legislation for holiday lets implementing a 182-day rule to be eligible for small business rates. If anyone has any queries on these, please give me a call.

The Fflecsi Bus Service has now been operating for several months and offers a more flexible service. The existing 308 07.45am and 04:10pm journeys remain in place and do not need to be booked. Other trips do need to be booked and can be made up to 1 month in advance, either using the App or through the Contact Centre (03002340300). It enables travel to/from locations in Neyland, Milford Haven and the West Coast. Also, anywhere within Haverfordwest. Those who have mobility issues can be designated Door 2 Door Passengers and can be picked up from their property (if suitable for the bus) and taken directly to their required destination. It is also available on Saturdays. Bookings are prioritised based on first come first served. The system will try to book people onto existing bookings if they are within 1 hour of each other.

WISE (Waste Investigations Support & Enforcement) have been appointed by PCC to tackle a range of environmental crimes that have a negative impact on the county. Fixed Penalty Notices can be issued for littering, dog fouling and breach

of byelaws relating to dogs on beaches. The aim is to drive behaviour change in the small percentage of people who cause a big impact on the local environment. By issuing these Fixed Penalty Notices, the message sent is that this sort of behaviour will not be tolerated. Any problem areas can be emailed to: enviro-crime@pembrokeshire.gov.uk to highlight areas of particular concern.

Pembrokeshire County Council is ceasing the provision of grey bags and reverting to each household providing their own black bags for residual, (non-recyclable) waste collections. The provision of grey bags was introduced in 2019 along with major changes to the waste collection service, which has seen Pembrokeshire named the best county in Wales for recycling for the last 3 years. However, as part of saving measures agreed in March, no further deliveries of grey bags will be made. Households will continue to be able to place out 3 bags of residual waste every 3 weeks, and there is no change to the other recycling arrangements or collection days.

The move to end the provision of grey bags brings Pembrokeshire into line with the vast majority of Welsh Local Authorities, including neighbouring Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire Councils who also require households to provide black bags for non-recyclable waste collections. Residents should continue to use up any existing grey bags as normal and then use standard black bin bags (60litres) for non-recyclable once their grey ones are used up. More information is available via the Waste & recycling pages of the PCC web site.

I can be contacted on 01437 890175
or cllr.michael.john@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

You can also contact PCC direct on 01437 764551
or pembrokeshire.gov.uk/resident

St Justinian's Church News

It's been a busy year at church, you might have seen the scaffolding. We have had roof repairs and are currently awaiting vestry repairs to be done.



Gardening has proved challenging this year with the amount of rain and everything growing so quickly, but we plod on despite this.

We've still held our weekly services throughout. Sunday attendance is getting a bit

quiet, so if you're available for an hour from 11.30am, why not join us, you'd be very welcome. We're very friendly and informal.

Our special services are well attended and the church always looks beautiful. After the harvest service a light lunch was provided.

The Christmas Candlelight Service is on Sunday 10th December at 5pm.

If you never go to any other service, this is the one not to miss, it's beautiful.

Afterwards we have mulled wine and mince pies.

Everyone is welcome



*Prospective articles for the December 2024 Newsletter may be submitted at any time by emailing newsletter@freystrop.wales.
Hardcopy may be left with the FCC Clerk or any FCC Councillor.
Deadline for all submissions is 30 October 2024.*

Bethel - Middle Hill Chapel

This year the members of our Chapel have been extremely busy.

In the summer we held a small fete. Due to the inclement weather the tables had to be placed in the chapel. We raised £336 for Church funds.

Then, in October, we organised a Macmillan Coffee Morning in Freystrop Village Hall. We raised £770 for cancer support.

Esme Utting says: "I would like to thank all the villagers and friends who supported these events. It was so heartwarming to see so many people".



In September we had our Harvest Festival. Reverend Martyn Evans gave the Harvest Address.

*Harvest Festival
2023*

Along with seeing each other on a Sunday we socialise by going out to lunch. This is organised by Brian and we have spent many enjoyable hours together.

Our next special service is the **Christmas Carol Service on Sunday 17th December at 2:30pm**. All are welcome.

From all of us at Middle Hill Chapel we would like to take a moment to wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

During the season we will be celebrating Hope, Peace, Love and Joy.

Services in the first quarter of 2024

January - 7th & 18th All Services at 2:30pm
February - 4th & 18th March - 3rd & 17th

Easter Sunday is 31st March. We shall celebrate at 10:30am.

Parc Hamdden Freystrop Recreation Park

Working Parties

Willing bands of volunteers has been active throughout the year. It has been a pleasure to mix with a varying crowd of residents.

In March – More native trees were planted along the boundary in an effort to create a windbreak along the western border. More fruit trees were planted to extend the community orchard. As all trees were very small when planted it will take a few years for them to make a real impact.

In April – The rainbow picnic bench was installed, this has proved popular for picnics.

In July – A new bench was donated to the field by a local resident. A band of 4 volunteers laid the concrete base and sited the bench facing south. This bench has proved to be very popular as it really is in a lovely spot and is really comfortable. Thank you Jen.



Also in July - The entrance to the new walk through the trees at the bottom of the field was created. This walk had been worked on for a while, the main work had been carried out in an earlier work party by volunteers so it was great to be able to get it opened up. The intention is to continue this path through the trees – perhaps next year, with the help of volunteers.

In August – A net was sourced for the goal post. This is now well used for practice by all ages!

In September – The field was been visited by a Local Places for Nature Officer and the Regional National Forest Officer from NRW. They were able to make many suggestions and gave some really useful advice on how to manage the site.

The path through the trees has started to be extended, thanks to the working party on 30th September. Trees have been pruned and a number of willows removed to give the oaks more light. A diversion to the normal path was made to avoid the wet corner of the field, whilst being an improvement it is still wet.

In October – The working party concentrated on raking up the cut grass



from the Lane Park meadow areas. This has proved to be a huge task and more work is needed on this. The new entrance to the path extension has been started.

In November – We learned that we will be receiving a grant to extend our community orchard. While this grant includes a small number of trees it will also supply various tools which will be welcome for the continued upkeep of the park as a whole.

Grass Cutting & Paths

Freystrop Village Hall has been funding cutting the grass on the pitch area to make it usable for all. Please do not allow dogs on this area which has been set aside for sports.

The grass paths around the perimeter and through the middle of the field are being really

well used. These paths are being cut regularly by a local volunteer.

Ideas & Volunteering

Parc Hamdden Freystrop Recreation Park is for the use of all and while we need to maintain the sports field area suggestions for further improvements on other parts of the field are welcome. If you have any ideas please get in touch. If you can spare a few hours to help please come along. Further work parties are planned.

Grants are available for projects but we need to know what the community wants and to have your support, please make your suggestions known. For those of you who are unfamiliar with the current improvements please pop along and see. If you want improvements in your community please come along and help them to happen!

Keep Wales Tidy – Litter Pick along Target Road from the Recreation Park to Bastleford Cross

This was at the end of April and was well attended.

The local PCSO Adam Thomas helped by collecting the Keep Wales Tidy kits from Milford and also helped gathering the litter.

Nine bags of rubbish were collected. It's just a shame that so much more rubbish has appeared since then! Homemade cakes and soft drinks were appreciated by the pickers and the working party, who were also active that day in the park, at the end of the litter pick.



Keep up to date with all things Parc Hamdden Freystrop Recreation Park on the Facebook page at facebook.com/FreystropPark which can be viewed without a Facebook id

**Freystrop Community
Get Together**

All welcome at the Village Hall
Join friends & neighbours

Tea, Coffee, Biscuits and maybe Cake

1.30pm – 3.30pm

Monday 6th November 2023
Monday 4th December 2023
Monday 8th January 2024
Monday 5th February 2024
Monday 4th March 2024



GET TOGETHER

This winter the Hall will be open once a month welcoming all to a relaxed afternoon of refreshments and chat.

This is a community space and can change to fit its needs. More dates, more activities.

Come along, spread the word and join in and let's hear your ideas.

Tuesday Craft Group

An active craft group meets in Freystrop Village Hall every Tuesday between 12:30 and 15:30.
Tea and cakes are served.

We are extremely lucky to go on outings during the year.

Please come and join us.

TAI CHI

There are believed to be many benefits to Tai Chi. It is great for overall wellbeing.

Physical - Strength, Flexibility & Balance
Emotional, Mental, Social – Stress, Anxiety, Depression, Improved Memory

Members of the class have seen improvements to their mobility and balance.

At the end of a Tai Chi class you can feel very calm.

It is a great class with lovely people. There is a lot of laughter. It is suitable for all abilities and ages.

If anyone is interested in joining please contact Olwyn on 07436019123



£5 Freystrop Hall £5

Tai chi Chuan

太極拳

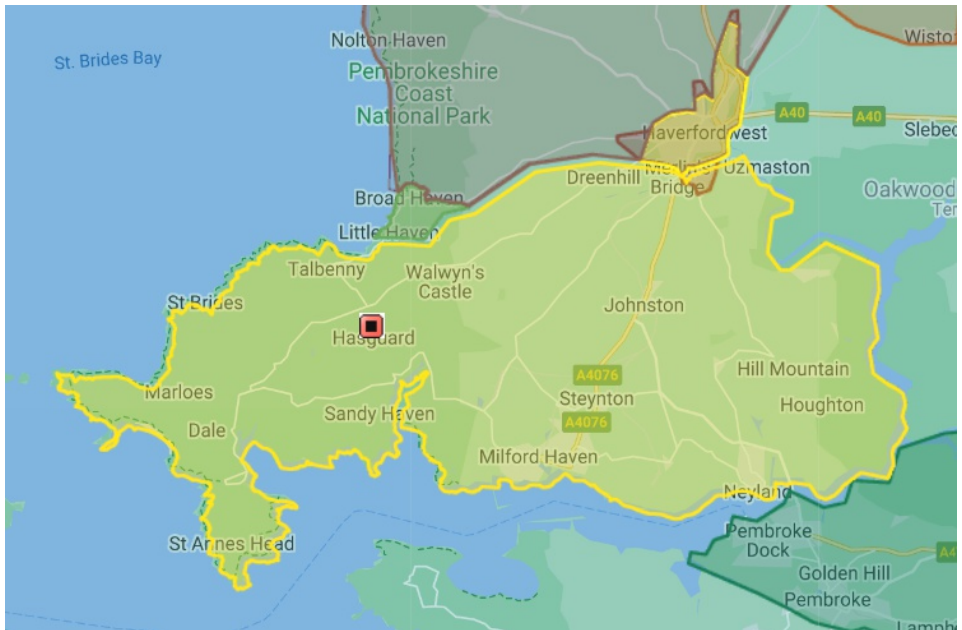
Friday 10.30-12 noon
Tel: Olwyn-07436019123

fflecsi Pembrokeshire - Dale Peninsula

The 308 bus service now runs only twice a day Monday to Friday:
From Freystrop Cross catch the 08:16 to travel to Haverfordwest
Bus Station.
From Haverfordwest Bus Station Bay 2 catch the 16:10 to
Freystrop.

For a better travel experience use the fflecsi Pembrokeshire service.

It runs 07:30 to 18:30 Monday to Saturday.
You can book a bus journey to and from anywhere within the yellow
bordered area on the map.



To book, phone 0300 234 0300, Monday to Saturday, 07:00 – 19:00,
and Sunday, 09:00 – 18:00. Alternatively download the fflecsi app.

Travel passes are accepted but all payments must be by card.
On boarding you will be asked for your name to check against the
booking.

On your day of travel you'll be kept informed of the location and ETA
of your bus.
Your pick up spot may vary slightly. At Freystrop Cross the bus may
appear from any of 4 directions depending on its last journey and
updated bookings.

Do not confuse this service with the fflecsi Bwrcaibus

The Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way

All public rights of way in Pembrokeshire – footpaths, bridleways and byways are recorded in the Definitive Map and Definitive Statement. If a way is shown on the map then it is conclusive evidence of public rights along the way unless there has been a legally authorised amendment. However, the fact that a way is not shown on the map is not proof that the public has no rights over it and thus, the map may be subject to change.



PCC Definitive Map areas 73, 74, 82 & 83 cover the Freystrop Community. This image covers all 4 areas. A larger image was posted to the Freystrop Facebook Group.

The Definitive map is accompanied by the Definitive Statement. This is a description which may contain more information about individual paths, such as the start and end points, width of the way, etc.

The Definitive Map & Statement is on the PCC website or be inspected at County Hall during normal office hours. No prior appointment is necessary.

1903

FREYSTROP COLLIERY CO.,
Limited.

THIS COMPANY IS NOW
PREPARED

To Ship at the Milford Docks,
**BEST TIMBER-VEIN
MALTING COAL
AND CULM.**

For Prices, apply to the MANAGER,
FREYSTROP COLLIERY,
HAVERFORDWEST.

Patrol Leader T. Guarneri, 15, of the 1st **Freystrop** Troop, Pembrokeshire, has been awarded the Scouts' Silver Cross for rescuing Scout B. John from drowning in the River Gledau.

Sir Phillip Mitchell, Governor of Kenya, has arrived in London for consultations.

A local hero in good company on Page 1, above the Governor of Kenya!

24 October 1945

Nottingham Evening Post

John Cousins, licensee of the Travellers' Rest at **Freystrop**, near Haverfordwest, summoned two policemen for doing £5 damage to his crops by trespass. When the case was dismissed he exclaimed, "English justice."

Above:

31 July 1916

Western Mail

Right:

16 March 1877

The Welshman

PARISH OF FREYSTROP, PEMBROKESHIRE.

TO TIMBER MERCHANTS, COLLIERY PROPRIETORS, &c.

LITTLE MILFORD WOOD,
3 miles from Haverfordwest.

TO BE SOLD by AUCTION, at the Castle Hotel, Haverfordwest, in one lot, on Thursday, the 22nd March, at Three o'clock in the afternoon, the Wood at Little Milford, west of the incline, and containing about 50 acres, principally Oak Poles, suitable for colliery purposes.

It abuts on the Tidal River West Cleddau, and affords first-class water carriage.

Half the purchase money down, and the remainder secured by note of hand at nine months.

Apply to John Harvey and Sons, 6, Victoria-place, Haverfordwest.

Haverfordwest, March 13, 1877. [5837]

KING CHARLES III

CORONATION
CELEBRATIONS

6 MAY 2023

Moorland Road got
together for an afternoon
of friendship

*Images (right) by
Janette Locke*



Targate Road
1 November 2023
12 hours before Storm Ciaran

Image (left) by Louise Canning

The Fantastic Cake Stall at November's MacMillan Coffee Morning

Image by Carol Legg



Freystrop Fare

BOILED FRUIT CAKE

Many of you will have tasted Mrs Simpson's boiled fruit cake at the Warm Rooms over last winter. This year it's making an appearance at the monthly Get Togethers in the hall.

If the monthly gap is too much to bear here's the recipe for you to get your fix of this delicious cake.



Twists:

- * Use self raising flour if you prefer. BUT reduce the bicarbonate of soda to 1/2 a teaspoon
- * Swop the margarine for butter
- * Soak your fruit before cooking in an alcohol of choice
- * Up your fruit quantities by 25g (1oz) each, or to your preference. It's got to be healthier but only if you skip the alcohol!
- * Serve with salted butter

125g (4oz) Margarine plus a little extra for greasing the tin
175g (6oz) Sugar, dark or light brown or white
175g (6oz) Currants or Raisins
175g (6oz) Sultanas
50g (2oz) Candied peel
225ml (8 fl oz) Water
1 level teaspoon Bicarbonate of Soda
1 heaped teaspoon Mixed Spice
2 Beaten Eggs
125g (4oz) Plain flour, whole-wheat or white
125g (4oz) Self raising flour, whole-wheat or white
Pinch of Salt

1. Place margarine, sugar, fruit, water, bicarbonate of soda and mixed spice into a saucepan. Bring to the boil and simmer for 1 minute. Pour into large mixing bowl and allow to cool.
2. Line a 18 cm -7 inch square or 20 cm - 8 inch round tin, or use loaf tins with greaseproof paper.
3. Add eggs, flours and salt to cooled mixture, mix well and pour into a greased tin.
4. Bake in the centre of a moderate oven, Gas 4, 180 C for 1 ¼ hours until dark brown and a skewer inserted into the middle comes out clean. Leave to cool in the tin for 10 mins, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely. Cut into slices to serve.

Freystrop Community Council
and
Freystrop Village Hall Management Committee

Joint meetings of Freystrop Community Council and Freystrop Village Hall are held on the second Monday of the month, except for the months of August and December.

The meetings are held at the Village Hall, Freystrop, and commence at 19:30.

All residents are welcome to attend.

Please contact the Clerk for further information.

Community Councillors

W David Thomas

Chair, Trustee of Freystrop Village Hall,
207 New Road, Freystrop, SA62 4LQ.
01437 890297, wd.thomas1@btinternet.com

Esme Utting

Vice Chair, gutting@pobroadband.co.uk

Dawn S Harries

Councillor, dawnsharries@gmail.com

Rebecca A Beedon

Councillor, beccasgemspyro@yahoo.co.uk

M Ross Harries

Councillor, ross@mrhcs.co.uk

Anna M Simpson

Councillor,

Treasurer to Freystrop Village Hall, FVH Bookings Clerk,
07478281535, stackrocks24@gmail.com

Pembrokeshire County Councillor - Llangwm Ward

Michael J John

23 Main Street, Llangwm. SA62 4HP

01437 890175

cllr.michael.john@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer to the Community Council
Secretary to Freystrop Village Hall

Russell D Lavis

Sivalrid, Moorland Road, Freystrop. SA62 4LE

freystropcc@yahoo.com

Statutory Community Council Documents

View them online at pembstcc.co.uk/freystrop-community-council

Select documents may be published on the Freystrop Village Hall external noticeboard

Notifications may also be found at the following locations:

FCC Facebook page: facebook.com/FreystropCommunityCouncil (Public)

FVH Facebook page: facebook.com/FreystropVillageHall (Public)

Parc Hamdden Freystrop Recreation Park: facebook.com/FreystropPark (Public)

Freystrop Community Annual Newsletter

Freystrop Facebook Group: facebook.com/groups/Freystrop (Private)

Freystrop Village Hall is a registered charity number 508498. Its activities are the operation and maintenance of the Village Hall and Playing Field for the benefit of the Community of Freystrop. The Playing Field is owned by Freystrop Community Council and is trusted to use the area for sporting, social, entertainment and recreational activities.