



FREYSTROP COMMUNITY COUNCIL & FREYSTROP VILLAGE HALL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11 November 2024 at 19:30 in the Village Hall, Freystrop

1. Attendance & Apologies

- Freystrop Community Councillors: W D Thomas (Chair), E Utting (Vice Chair), A M Simpson, T F Holder, M R Harries
- Freystrop Community Council Clerk: R D Lavis
- Pembrokeshire County Councillor (Llangwm Ward): M J John
- Apologies: Councillor D S Harries (Vacation)

2. Welcome

- The Chair welcomed everybody to the last meeting of 2024
- The Chair requested the death of Glyn Thomas, former trustee of Freystrop Playing Field, be recorded

3. FCC Policy on Declarations of Interest

- It was requested that interests are declared at appropriate points in discussions

4. Presentations & Questions from the Public

- No members of the public were present and no questions had been submitted in advance

5. Minutes of the 14 October 2024 Monthly Meeting

- The minutes of the meeting were passed as a true representation
 - Proposed: A M Simpson. Seconded: M R Harries

6. Matters Arising

- Members of the public had brought to the clerk's attention that a meeting concerning the Whim Hill Field had been held. The Chair and Vice-Chair were both in attendance. The Chair informed Council that Bethel Middle Hill Chapel and Messrs Locke had agreed to be represented by him at planning meetings. The Chair requested FCC's agreement to also represent Freystrop Community Council's interests
 - Proposed: T F Holder. Seconded: M R Harries

7. Correspondence

- Various newsletters had been received by email. Several had been forwarded to Councillors

FREYSTROP COMMUNITY COUNCIL

8. Highways & Rights of Way

- Speed Signs
 - Comments received from the public at the Future Freystrop consultation reflected a large body of concern relating to speeding
 - Elan City Speed Signs sale information had been forwarded to Councillors
 - Chair to follow up with Darren Thomas, PCC
- Resident suggestion to stop garden waste being dumped alongside Silverstream footpath
 - Councillor A M Simpson had been approached to request that the resident cutting the grass be provided with a brown bin
 - Enquiries to be made

9. Planning Matters

- 24/0528/CI Windyridge
 - Declaration of interest previously lodged by Councillor A M Simpson
 - Proposed porch to front elevation
 - Refused
- 24/0567/PA Greenfields
 - Re-use of welfare caravan approved under 17/0615/PA for affordable housing unit in perpetuity with ecological enhancements
- 24/0557/PA Bower House
 - Proposed replacement & repositioning dwelling, with additional design changes to previous approval 20/0095/PA & with ecological enhancements
- 24/0523/PA High Tor
 - Timber gazebo with slate roof
 - Conditionally approved
- 24/0470/NM 3 Poplar Meadow
 - Non-material amendment to planning permission 15/1113/PA (Construction of new pool house (revised design from approved application 14/0380/PA) to allow for re-orientation of plant room and omission of false chimney stack
 - Conditionally approved



10. Cemetery

- Continuing overflowing of water but it quickly clears when blockage cleared

11. Bus Shelters, Kiosk & Other Assets

- Thanks were given to Councillor D S Harries for repainting the bus shelter and to Clive Harries for the repairs
- Bench outside 207 New Road not repaired. Estimate for repair to be sourced

12. Training/Seminars & Presentations

- OVW Funding, Grants & Precept Setting
 - Recording of training session available
- Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Planning Training
 - 21 November 2024, 19:00
- Working Better Together
 - 26 November 2024, 19:30

13. FCC Administration

- No matters raised

14. FCC Financial Matters

- Receipts September to October
 - Interest £17.29
- Payments made October to November
 - Bank charges
 - Councillor D S Harries reimbursements
 - Audit Wales 2023/24
 - Grass cutting
 - ICO
 - Freystrop Village Hall reimbursement
- Upcoming Payments
 - Zero at present
- Clerk's salary
 - 2024/25 pay rate £14.13/hour
 - Tax refund 2023/24 received
 - Next payment due 25 December 2024 to be submitted for approval and payment at 13 January 2025 meeting
- 2025/26 Budget
 - Changes to first draft
 - PCC deadline of 20 January 2025 received
- Bank accounts
 - Current Account Balance: £1,096.71 at 03/11/24
 - Deposit Account Balance: £10,639.00 at 03/11/24

15. Community

- CLT
 - Thanks for arranging a meeting between PLANED, Bethel Middle Hill Chapel & FCC were given to the clerk
 - It was unanimously agreed that the setting up of a CLT would be beneficial to the Freystrop Community. The clerk was requested to progress the matter
- 2024 Newsletter
 - Ongoing
- Future Freystrop
 - The consultation had closed at the November Freystrop Get Together. The results would be collated and published. Initial impressions are that few comments had been received about the future of the community and that speeding occupies the thoughts of the majority of respondents

16. Other Matters

- County Councillor's Report
 - Pembrokeshire County Councillor M J John update
 - PCC reminder for secondary school placement applications
 - Pension Credits - reminder to claim
 - Community Hub resource for information
 - Shortage of foster carers
 - More Public participation requested on committees
 - Second home tax reduction
 - Refuse lorries – 2 off road plus staff shortages
 - No response to the Targate Road traffic survey as yet



- One Voice Wales
 - Response by OVW to the Senedd Inquiry into Community & Town Councils received

FREYSTROP VILLAGE HALL

17. Village Hall

- "Warm Room" Grants
 - It was thought these were not applicable at present
- Supervisor & Bookings Clerk reports
 - Very busy. Lots of enquiries

18. Parc Hamdden Freystrop Recreation Park

- Keep Wales Tidy Garden Packs
 - Details on the orchard extension pack were still awaited
- Creating Connections Fund
 - The Boardwalk application had been submitted
- Working parties
 - The last WP of the year is to be the last Saturday of November

19. FVH Administration

- Request to separate FVH meeting from the joint meeting
 - It was generally agreed that the current joint meeting was becoming lengthy and that FVH items were not being given the attention they deserved. A trial split of the FCC & FVH meetings would start in January. FVH meetings will be held on the first Monday of the month at 19:00
- Short Mat Bowls Equipment
 - The mats have been sold and are awaiting collection
- Cleanliness
 - No issues
- Safety checks
 - Monthly
 - Fire alarm check
 - No issues
 - Subsidence measurement
 - Recorded on 4 November
 - Play park inspection
 - Annual Report carried out 10 October 2024
 - Monthly reports 22 October 2024
 - Quarterly
 - Defibrillator check
 - Due shortly
 - Annually
 - PATS testing due in December

20. FVH Financial Matters

- Insurance renewal
 - Renewed with Norris & Fisher
- Annual Return
 - The Charity Commission reporting is complete
- FVH Treasurer Report
 - No problems with change to Hall Hourly Rate
- Bank accounts
 - Current Account Balance: £552.27 at 08/11/24
 - Deposit Account Balance: £16,961.70 at 08/11/24

21. Date of Next Meeting

- Freystrop Village Hall meeting 6 January 2025 in Freystrop Village Hall at 19:00
 - Items for inclusion on any agenda should be received by the clerk by Friday 3 January 2025
- Next scheduled meeting 13 January 2025 in Freystrop Village Hall at 19:30
 - Monthly meeting of Freystrop Community Council and Freystrop Village Hall
 - Items for inclusion on the agenda should be received by the clerk by Wednesday 8 January 2025



R D Lavis

Clerc & Swyddog Ariannol Cyfrifo, Cyngor Cymuned Freystrop/
Clerc & Responsible Financial Officer, Freystrop Community Council
Ysgrifennydd, Neuadd Bentref Freystrop/Secretary, Freystrop Village Hall
Ebost/Email community.clerk@freystrop.wales

Approval proposed by: *Tenny Holder*

Seconded: *KFme Ulling*

Signed: *[Signature]*

Date: *13/1/25*

[Faint, mirrored text from the reverse side of the page, including items like '17. Village Hall', '18. Parc Hamdden Freystrop Recreation Park', '19. FVH Administration', '20. FVH Financial Matters', and '21. Date of Next Meeting']

Subject: Declarations of Interest - 14 October 2024

From: Freystrop Community Council Clerk <community.clerk@freystrop.wales>

Date: 22/10/2024, 12:38

To: Cllr Anna Simpson <cllr.anna.simpson@freystrop.wales>

Dear Councillors,

This item is being emailed such that a record can be retained and all Councillors will see the exact same form of words.

I must stress that there is no suspicion or evidence of bad intent in the following. This process is intended to maintain transparency and protect Councillors.

Freystrop Community Council has a relatively relaxed policy and implementation towards the declaration of Councillors' Interests at meetings. The clerk, as a matter of inclusion, also declares interests and abstains from discussions and actions where applicable. This facilitates smooth meetings in a small community and where all participants are considered friends but may not be entirely to the liking of, say, Audit Wales and regulatory bodies.

Councillors' Interests are a matter of public concern and strictly all should be posted publicly. At FCC it is considered that minuting of interests as they arise in meetings is generally sufficient action.

At the 14 October 2024 meeting of FCC Councillor A M Simpson declared an interest as the owner of a property with a submitted planning application to PCC. This application is not the subject of a consultation but was brought to Council's attention as a matter of interest. Nevertheless, Councillor Simpson correctly declared her interest and offered to withdraw from the meeting should there be a discussion of the application.

Under the LDP2 Agenda item multiple, possibly complex, declarations of interest were required viz: FCC as a future owner of an excluded candidate site (with 4 Councillors being named trustees), Councillor E Utting also as a trustee another excluded candidate site and Councillor W D Thomas as one of the FCC Trustees, a consultant on the original submission of candidate sites and having been approached to act as consultant on the consultation upon the latest LdP2 Deposit. As per FCC precedent these declarations would be minuted only.

Councillor Thomas spoke at length and in detail about the situation with LDP2. It is my recollection that there was no or minimal discussion about LDP2 but items of information were added by others. During Councillor Thomas' talk I was having difficulty understanding the context in which he was speaking particularly when there was mention of letters to owners of excluded candidate sites and the offer to donate any monies received for consultation work to Freystrop Village Hall funds. Councillors did not seek clarification upon these items and I therefore did not interject at the meeting.

Village rumour is rife with a story of a meeting being held between the owners of the Three Corner Field and half of Whim Hill plus Councillors W D Thomas and Councillor E Utting. The exact status of the latter 2 attendees at this meeting is not known. It is assumed that such a meeting took place although the context and discussions are unknown.

The concerns raised are that:

- a) No discussion of the exclusion of FCC's future portion of Whim Hill was discussed at the 14 October 2024 meeting and there was no indication of a 'landowners' meeting was indicated
- b) No 'independent' Councillor represented the interests of FCC at the meeting since neither of the 2 FCC Councillors attending were in a position to present the views of the Council
- c) Rumours are circulating, based on nebulous information, on what is a contentious community issue.

I propose Councillors W D Thomas and E Utting complete a full declaration of Interest form (attached) for filing and publication to the Pembstcc website to comply with regulations and to show the public that they are fully aware of the responsibilities as a Councillor. If any Councillor has any objections or comments to this remedial action please respond. Discussion will have to be on the agenda of the next meeting of FCC, I do not believe an extraordinary meeting is required unless requested.

Regards,

Russell

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R D Lavis
Clerc & Swyddog Ariannol Cyfrifo, Cyngor Cymuned Freystrop/
Clerc & Responsible Financial Officer, Freystrop Community Council
Ysgrifennydd, Neuadd Bentref Freystrop/
Secretary, Freystrop Village Hall
Ebst/Email community.clerk@freystrop.wales

Please update your contact lists with the new email address above

[PembstCC](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Freystrop Village Hall](#)

[Parc Hamdden Freystrop Recreation Park](#)

— Attachments: —

FCC Declaration of Interest Form - Blank.pdf

71.5 kB

Subject: Re: Declarations of Interest - 14 October 2024

From: Es&G <gutting@pobroadband.co.uk>

Date: 24/10/2024, 18:01

To: Freystrop Community Council Clerk <community.clerk@freystrop.wales>

Dear Russell ,

I refer to your email regarding a private meeting in my house attended by Keith Locke , Richard and Amanda Morgan and myself.

Mr David Thomas attended as an advisor as he is a chartered civil engineer .He brought Mrs Thomas with him .

Consequently the parties in attendance have offered to pay Mr. Thomas for his professional services . Mr Thomas and myself were certainly not attending this private meeting as community councillors.

I have to state that I agree with the final sentence of Mr Thomas"s letter to you of 24th October 2024 i. e. " I do not consider that any further Declaration of Interest are required on my behalf in respect of my duties and responsibilities as a Community Councillor .

Esme Utting .

----- Original Message -----

From: Freystrop Community Council Clerk <community.clerk@freystrop.wales>

To: Esme Utting <gutting@pobroadband.co.uk>; David Thomas

<wdavidthomas207@gmail.com>; Thomas Holder <thomasholder05@gmail.com>; Cllr

David Thomas <cllr.david.thomas@freystrop.wales>; Cllr Anna Simpson

<cllr.anna.simpson@freystrop.wales>; Cllr Dawn Harries@freystrop.wales

<cllr.dawn.harries@freystrop.wales>; Cllr Ross Harries

<cllr.ross.harries@freystrop.wales>; Cllr Esme Utting@freystrop.wales

<cllr.esme.utting@freystrop.wales>; Cllr Thomas Holder

<cllr.thomas.holder@freystrop.wales>

Sent: Tue, 22 Oct 2024 12:46:52 -0000 (UTC)

Subject: Declarations of Interest - 14 October 2024

<html><head></head><body><p>Dear Councillors,</p><div class="moz-text-html" lang="x-unicode"><p>This matter of concern is being emailed such that a record can be retained and all Councillors will see the exact same form of words.
</p><p>I must stress that there is no suspicion or evidence of bad intent in the following. This process is intended to maintain transparency and protect Councillors.
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- b) No 'independent' Councillor represented the interests of FCC at the meeting since neither of the 2 FCC Councillors attending were in a position to present the views of the Council
- c) The omission of FCC as future owners of a contiguous and enclosed area of land
- d) Rumours are circulating, based on nebulous information, on what is a contentious community issue.

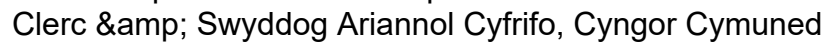
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that the draft minutes, when received, are reviewed such that the recording of this item is as correct as possible.

Regards,

Russell

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	R D Lavis		
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Clerc & Swyddog Ariannol Cyfrifo, Cyngor Cymuned Freystrop

Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer, Freystrop Community Council

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Please update your contact lists with the new email address above

<https://www.pembstcc.co.uk/freystrop-community-council>

[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/FreystropCommunityCouncil/)

[Freystrop Village Hall](https://www.facebook.com/FreystropVillageHall/)

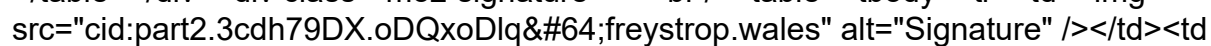
[Parc Hamdden Freystrop Recreation Park](https://www.facebook.com/FreystropPark/)

Attachments:

FCC Declaration of

Interest Form - Blank.pdf	71.5 kB
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	R D Lavis		
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Clerc & Swyddog Ariannol Cyfrifo, Cyngor Cymuned Freystrop

Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer, Freystrop Community Council

Ysgrifennydd, Neuadd Bentref Freystrop
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[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/FreystropCommunityCouncil/)

[Freystrop Village Hall](https://www.facebook.com/FreystropVillageHall/)

[Parc Hamdden Freystrop Recreation Park](https://www.facebook.com/FreystropPark/)

Subject: Declaration of interest Issues.docx
From: "David Thomas" <wd.thomas1@btinternet.com>
Date: 24/10/2024, 19:23
To: <community.clerk@freystrop.wales>

Good Evening Russell
Please see attached my response to Declaration of Interest matter you emailed to me
Regards
David Thomas
Chair.
FCC

— Attachments: —

Declaration of interest Issues.docx

27.2 kB

Declaration of interest Issues

A. October Community Council Meeting

I refer to your email regarding the declaration of interest in respect of my comments on the LDP2 Deposit Plan 2 which I had requested be put on the agenda for the October meeting of the FCC.

At the meeting I declared an interest in this matter as besides being a Community Councillor I had previously been acting as an agent for the late Roy John when submitting applications for number of candidate sites including 053 (Whim Hill) under LDP2 Deposit Plan 1 in 2020.

I considered that Cllrs. should be made aware that part of Candidate Site 053 is now owned by FCC and that Deposit Plan 1 had accepted 053 for affordable housing but Deposit Plan 2 has subsequently rejected it primarily due to the development of the "executive homes " on Wil Meadows.

The consultation period between 21 October and 16th December 2024 affords FCC the opportunity+ to lobby PCC to reconsider this matter if they so choose.

B.Private Meeting with other Parties owning remaining parts of 053 and party owning adjacent candidate site 051(3 Corner Field).

Subsequent to the FCC Meeting I was invited in my professional capacity to appraise the other parties now involved in the ownership of Whim Hill ie. Middle Hill Chapel and Messrs K and K Locke of the situation that had developed between LDP2 deposit Plans 1 and 2.The opportunity was also taken to appraise the owner of 051 Mr.Richard Morgan at this meeting as both 053 and 051 sites had both been linked together by PCC for affordable housing under Deposit Plan1.

This meeting was held to ascertain whether those land-owners wished to lobby PCC on the matter either individually or collectively or to accept the reasons given by PCC for the subsequent exclusion of the sites under Deposit Plan 2.

I am a Chartered Civil Engineer with over 50 years experience and although now on the retired members list am still permitted to carry out design and consultancy work on behalf of clients.

C.Further Declarations of Interest.

In view of the above I do not consider that any further Declarations of Interest are required on my behalf in respect of my duties and responsibilities as a Community Councillor.

David Thomas

24TH October 2024