

**Cyngor Cymuned Freystrop  
Freystrop Community Council**



**FOURTH  
ANNUAL REPORT**

**2024/25**

# Freystrop Community Council Annual Report 2024/2025

*as required under The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021*

## GOVERNANCE

Freystrop Community Council (FCC) comprises of six Councillors – the maximum number allowed based on the population within the Community.



*The Lime Kiln at Little Milford. One of the Freystrop Community's listed buildings*

At the AGM in June Cllr. David Thomas was happy to continue as Chair and was unopposed. Cllr. Esme Utting continued her role as Vice Chair.

Thomas Holder was co-opted as a new member of Council.

The FCC meetings were all held on a “face to face” basis at Freystrop Village Hall. There were 10 meetings held during the year.

Matters regularly discussed at meetings related to Highways/Planning responses/Community facilities/Finance. Member of the public were also able to attend to raise issues of concern. County Councillor Michael John attended all meetings to update the FCC on county-wide matters.

### Liaison with other Authorities and Organisations

The FCC is represented on the liaison body of Pembrokeshire Town and Community Councils which meet with PCC and third sector bodies, e.g. PAVS and PLANED. These meetings, now entitled “Better together”, are still being held online.

The FCC Chair is Vice Chair of One Voice Wales (OVW) Pembrokeshire Area Committee and is their Representative on the OVW National Executive Committee and currently sits on their Policy Committee. This Committee provides input to and receives feedback on wide-ranging issues related to Welsh Government, Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA), Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) and Audit Wales.

## FINANCE

The FCC obtains the majority of its operating funds from the Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC) by way of the annual precept. The application for each years precept is based on a budgeting process prepared in the previous November and after ratification by the FCC submitted to PCC in January.

The budget for 2024/25, as detailed in the appendices, was for £9,461. A precept of £9,000 was requested of PCC with FCC using its reserves or underspend to fund the shortfall.

The 2024/25 budget increase relates to inflationary pressures and the adding of a budget line for Community Maintenance. Included is grounds maintenance at Parc Hamdden Freystrop Recreation

Park, repairs to FCC assets e.g. the bus shelters and ad-hoc items (such as the clearance of overgrowth on the pavement between Freystrop Cross and Silverstream in 2022/23).

### **Audits**

FCC is required to submit an Annual Financial Return to Wales Audit. Prior to submission this return is audited by our Internal Auditor and approved by the FCC.

Audit Wales completed the 2019/20 and 2020/21 audits during 2023/24 with no comment. The 2021/22 submission remains extant.

### **Banking**

The FCC Bankers are HSBC Bank in Haverfordwest which holds both the current and deposit accounts. Bank charges are imposed on the current account of £5/month plus 40p/cheque transaction. Nominal interest is received on the deposit account. Bank statements are received on a monthly basis.

Responsible managers of the account are Councillors W D Thomas, E Utting, A M Simpson and the clerk, R D Lavis.

### **Freystrop Community Council Accounts**

- Bank Balances at 31 March 2025 were
  - Current a/c £752.90
  - Deposit a/c £10,703.71

## **MAJOR ITEMS OF NOTE**

### **Highways**

FCC continued to be concerned about speeding problems in the area particularly at Freystrop Cross, along Targate Road past the Playing Field, New Road and at Lower Freystrop. This also remains a constant complaint from residents.

Results of a formal speed survey on Targate Road were extremely worrying. A Minor Works Fund application was made to PCC to initiate the installing of physical speed deterrents.

The Council did everything in their powers to curb the parking on the pavements on Targate Road. An effort was made by the residents to alleviate the issue for a short time but the problem has returned. This is a serious safety risk to pedestrians.

### **Community Review**

Pembrokeshire County Council reviewed community management within Pembrokeshire as part of their statutory duties.

Freystrop Community Council worked with Hook and Llangwm Community Councils to put forward a united case giving reasons why the 3 Councils should not be merged into 1.

The Boundary Commission for Wales accepted the 3 Councils' arguments and recommended that the status quo be maintained.

### **Planning**

A consultation has been held for a proposed Solar and Storage Facility spread over White House and Middle Hill farmland. There will be a second consultation in the autumn where it is hoped more detailed plans will be revealed. FCC proposed facilitating a meeting where the public could discuss the proposal following that consultation.

### **Community**

The “Freystrop Community Get Together” organised by Cllr. Anna Simpson continued to be popular and moved to a monthly format.

“Future Freystrop” was an initiative to gather information from residents to form a plan for the next 5 years for the Community. Attendance was low at the open sessions. Ideas for the future were also lacking with the majority of attendees only concerned with speeding issues.

### **Littering in the Freystrop Community**

Like so many other areas in Pembrokeshire Freystrop suffers from a huge volume of litter.

The main problem areas are the road verges with litter being thrown from cars passing along our roads. The litter includes fast food packaging, bottles and cans of alcohol, disposable vapes, plastic bottles and so much more.

There are a number of villagers that have taken it upon themselves to regularly collect litter. This can be a thankless task when more is dropped almost immediately however it is also rewarding and some areas have seen a big reduction in the amount of litter being left.

The Freystrop community is lucky to have volunteers who have taken it upon themselves to remove the debris where it is safe to do so. Hopefully the more this is tackled the more the problem will reduce in the future.

## **PLANS FOR 2025/2026**

### **Community Council**

The precept for 2025/26 has been agreed at £12,000 – based on budget. See appendices.

The AGM will be held in June 2025.

The training programme for the Councillors and Clerk will be reviewed.

The pembstcc.co.uk website currently used by FCC, and other town and community councils, to post statutory documents was discontinued by PCC on 31 March 2025. A new website solution at freystrop.cymru is operational.

Appendix A

## CONTACT DETAILS OF CLERK AND COUNCILLORS

Dawn S Harries	Maddox Moor		<a href="mailto:cll.dawn.harries@freystrop.wales">cll.dawn.harries@freystrop.wales</a>
M Ross Harries	Moorland Road		<a href="mailto:cll.ross.harries@freystrop.wales">cll.ross.harries@freystrop.wales</a>
Thomas F Holder	Maddox Moor		<a href="mailto:cll.thomas.holder@freystrop.wales">cll.thomas.holder@freystrop.wales</a>
Anna M Simpson	Moorland Road		<a href="mailto:cll.anna.simpson@freystrop.wales">cll.anna.simpson@freystrop.wales</a>
W David Thomas	New Road	01437 890297	<a href="mailto:cll.david.thomas@freystrop.wales">cll.david.thomas@freystrop.wales</a>
Esme Utting	Freystrop Cross		<a href="mailto:cll.esme.utting@freystrop.wales">cll.esme.utting@freystrop.wales</a>

Clerk

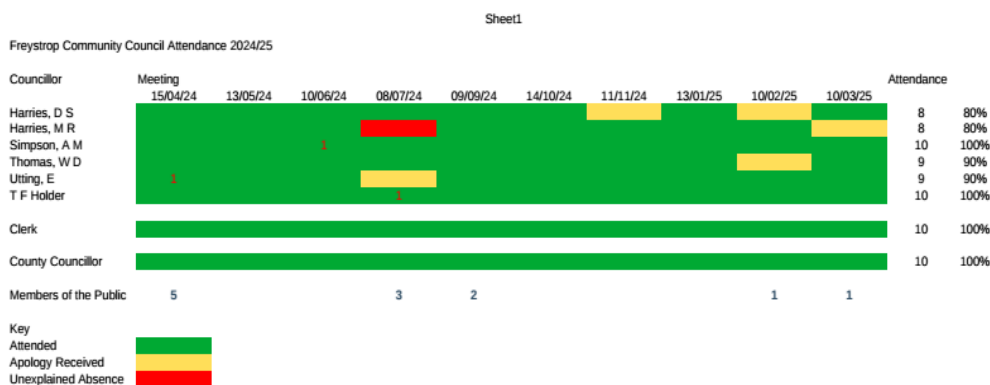
Russell D Lavis	Sivalrid Moorland Road Freystrop SA62 4LE		<a href="mailto:community.clerk@freystrop.wales">community.clerk@freystrop.wales</a>
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Pembrokeshire County Councillor – Llangwm Ward

Michael J John	Millbrook House, 23 Main Street Llangwm SA62 4HP	01437 890175	<a href="mailto:cll.michael.john@pembrokeshire.gov.uk">cll.michael.john@pembrokeshire.gov.uk</a>
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## MEETING ATTENDANCE 2023/24

Meetings are held 10 times in the year. There are no meetings in August and December.



## Appendix B

### Freystrop Community Information and Interaction

The Community Council is interested to know what you want from your Council. If you have any ideas or suggestions for future projects please do get in touch or if there is an issue that needs attention, please let us know. You may contact the clerk, a Community Councillor or your County Councillor. Assistance will be given where possible to work with to achieve your aims if the outcome benefits the Community.

Freystrop Community Council posts statutory and other items of interest to the noticeboards outside Freystrop Village Hall and at Parc Hamdden Freystrop Recreation Park. Some items may also be placed on the noticeboard inside the Hall.

Statutory documents only are posted to the Freystrop Community website. Documents from other Community Councils may also be viewed there.

<https://freystrop.cymru>

The [Freystrop Community Council Facebook page](#) is accessible by all with internet access. A broad range of items from FCC and other organisations are posted.

<https://www.facebook.com/FreystropCommunityCouncil>



[Freystrop Village Hall](#) has its Facebook page posting items related to the Hall and its users, accessible by all with internet access.

<https://www.facebook.com/FreystropVillageHall>

The calendar of events for Freystrop Village Hall can be viewed here:

<https://bit.ly/FreystropVillageHallCalendar>



[Parc Hamdden Freystrop Recreation Park](#) imparts pictures of activities, events happening and recreation related posts to its own Facebook page, accessible by all with internet access.

<https://www.facebook.com/FreystropPark/>

A private [Freystrop Community group](#) can be found on Facebook. Access is restricted to Facebook users and membership has to be approved by admins.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/freystrop/>

#### Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC) Matters

Please note that the following matters fall to PCC and, as such, the Community Council can lobby for action or change but it has no power to act directly, or to insist!

- Highways including road surfaces and potholes
- Refuse and Recycling
- Verge grass cutting
- Education
- Planning
- Street sweeping
- Road Signs
- Council Housing
- Social Services

The PCC switchboard number is 01437 764551. Emails should be directed to [enquiries@pembrokeshire.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@pembrokeshire.gov.uk). PCC have a MyAccount facility which can be set up and managed on their website at [www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk](http://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk).

Appendix C

**CYNGOR CYMUNED FREYSTROP/FREYSTROP COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**2024/25**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE PERIOD**  
**1ST APRIL 2024 TO 31 MARCH 2025**

	£	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>			
PCC	9,000.00		
Grants	-		
Interest	202.03		
Other	2,371.00		
		<b>11,573.03</b>	
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Clerk's Salary	3,604.84		
Bank Charges	60.40		
Elections	-		
Subscriptions	139.00		
Allowances	1,186.00		
Insurances	241.00		
Training	106.13		
Audits	1,023.83		
Newsletters	230.00		
Donations	300.00		
Community Maintenance	1,120.54		
Other Payments	6,392.80		
		<b>14,404.54</b>	
<b>DEFICIT for YEAR</b>			<b>-2,831.51</b>

**BALANCE SHEET**

<b>Balances on Hand</b>	<b>31/03/24</b>		
Current Account		3,785.44	
Deposit Account		10,501.68	
Petty Cash		-	
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>31/03/24</b>	14,287.12	
Excess of Expenditure over Income		<b>-2,831.51</b>	
<b>TOTAL BALANCES</b>	<b>31/03/24</b>		<b>11,455.61</b>

**Represented by:**

<b>Balances on Hand</b>	<b>31/03/25</b>		
Current Account		751.90	
Deposit Account		10,703.71	
Petty Cash		-	
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<b>11,455.61</b>

**ASSETS (Less depreciation)**

As detailed on in the Asset Accounts	<b>£ 222,137.33</b>
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Appendix D

FREYSTROP COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
BUDGET FOR 2025/2026

Budget 2025-2026

**Cyngor Cymuned Freystrop  
Freystrop Community Council**

**Budget for 2025-2026**

<b>Item</b>		
Clerk/RFO Salary Gross	6,194	
Councillors Annual Allowances	936	
Chairmans Allowance	0	
FCC Fiduciary Insurance	300	
Subscriptions	155	
Training Fees	150	
Donations	300	
External Audit Fees	260	
Internal Auditors Honorarium	50	
Annual Community Newsletter	250	
Future Elections Build-up	500	
Bank Charges	62	
Community Maintenance	3,140	
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,297</b>	
<b>List of funds held in reserves:-</b>		
Future Elections Fund	3,000	
Road Speed Reduction Signs	4,000	Based on 2 signs at sale price in October 2022
<b>Restricted Funds</b>		
Held on behalf of FVH for PHFRC	4,200	
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,200</b>	

A precept of £12,000 was approved at the 13 January 2025 Meeting of Freystrop Community Council  
Minutes Item 14.v Unanimously approved