

**Minutes of a Meeting of Frilsham Parish Council held on
Monday 16th March 2026 at 7.30pm in Frilsham Clubroom.**

Present

Cllr. M. Allum (Chairman)
Cllr. I. Coxhead
Cllr. M. Goodenough
Cllr. B. Lyon
Cllr. R. Morley
Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk)
Mr. J. Hole

Public Session.

No matters were raised during the public session.

1 Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from District Cllr. Culver.

2 Declarations of Interest.

2.1 To receive declarations of interest.

There were no updates to the Register of Interests.

2.2 Declaration of Interest in Agenda Items.

Cllr. Allum and Cllr. Coxhead declared an interest in the allotments.

Cllr. Coxhead and Cllr. Morley declared an interest in planning application 25/01224/OUT for Land at Beechfield Lane, as residents of Beechfield Lane.

3 Approval of Minutes of the FPC meeting on Monday 19th January 2026.

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting of FPC held on Monday 19th January 2026 were a true record of the meeting, and they were signed by the Chairman.

4 Matters arising from the minutes.

No matters were raised.

5 Planning.

5.1 New Planning applications in the parish:

5.1.1 26/00286/CERTP – Frilsham Lime Quarry.

Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for a Proposed Use: This application seeks confirmation that the demolition of the existing building on the site would constitute development, and in doing so, would constitute commencement/implementation of the planning permission granted under the Section 73 (25/00453/FULMAJ).

It was agreed that FPC has **no objection** to this application.

5.2 Planning decisions taken to appeal:

5.2.1 25/01224/OUT – Land at Beechfield Lane, Frilsham.

Proposed detached dwelling on land off Beechfield Lane, Frilsham, RG18 9XD. Matters for consideration Access, Layout and Scale.

FPC **objected** to this application which was **refused** by WBC. The applicant has now taken WBC's decision to appeal.

A number of residents have submitted comments objecting to the proposal.

5.3 Planning Decisions made by WBC:

5.3.1 25/02519/HOUSE – 2 Four Cottages, Beechfield Lane.

Loft conversion with one rear facing dormer window and one front facing rooflight.

FPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **withdrawn**.

6 Report from District Councillor Carolyne Culver.

District Cllr. Culver submitted a written report prior to the meeting. Her report covered:

- The growing concern over the sell-off of social housing, when it becomes vacant,

	which SGN (formerly Sovereign) considers too costly to refurbish,. - The government's public consultation on the proposed merger of WBC with the Vale of White House and South Oxfordshire District Councils (closed on the 26th March). - WBC approved their budget for FY26/27 on the 26th February which will see Council Tax increase by 4.99%.	
7	<u>Report from Yattendon Estate.</u> Mr. Hole reported that the oil seed rape is already in flower. Residents of hatchets lane have raised concerns about two oak trees which are overhanging the road. Whilst there is reluctance to remove two big trees, it is acknowledged that they are too big for the location. In the current planting season, 12,000 trees have been planted on the Estate. The tree clearance work on Ashampstead Common has caused some problems, but the bluebells are now coming through. There was a discussion about the flooding which occurs by St. Frideswide Church after rain and what might be done to alleviate it.	
8	<u>Playground and Facilities around the Clubroom.</u>	
8.1	<u>Update from weekly inspections.</u> Cllr. Allum reported that there are a few mole hills occurring in the play area, which he is raking over. Replacement of the top deck and bridge should be carried out a week or two after the Easter break.	MA
8.2	<u>Update on funding for surfaces and to discuss options.</u> There was a discussion about the possibility of using play grade bark chips instead of Tiger Mulche. However, there were vastly differing estimates on how many 1,000 litre bags of chips would be needed (from approximately 25 to 60). It was agreed that Cllr. Lyon should set the grant application on the Good Exchange to live and then at the next meeting, when there is some idea of the success of the Good Exchange funding determine whether to use Tiger Mulch or bark chips.	BL
8.3	<u>Other facilities around the Clubroom.</u> Tactical Facilities have notified FPC that the cost to empty bins will increase from 1st May to £4.61 per bin and then to £4.79 from beginning of 2027. The current monthly cost of £41.92 will increase to £59.93 per month. Whilst this increase exceeds the budget, it was considered a reasonable cost and FPC agreed to remain with Tactical.	
9	<u>Telephone Box.</u>	
9.1	<u>Zoll Defibrillator in the Phone Box.</u> It was reported that the postcode on the defibrillator cabinet is incorrect. The Clerk will add Cllr. Allum to the Circuit database (of defibrillators across the country) and invite him to help manage the Zoll defibrillator. It was agreed that the Clerk would make enquiries about a training session in Frilsham.	MA HP HP
9.2	<u>Ipad Defibrillator at the Clubroom.</u> There has been a delay with installing the ipad defibrillator at the Clubroom.	
9.3	<u>Telephone Box Repairs.</u> It was agreed that Cllr. Allum will look at the door of the phone box, which it was anticipated would be replaced.	MA
10	<u>Allotments.</u>	
10.1	<u>The Community Orchard.</u> Cllr. Allum applied to The Woodland Trust for 450 whips to continue the hedge next to	MA

	the allotment. These have now arrived and it is planned to hold a working party on Sunday to plant them. Unfortunately, both Cllr. Coxhead and Cllr. Morley are away. There is a stunning, mature oak in the allotment site and it is planned to clear a halo around it and to add it to the Veteran Tree Register.	MA
10.2	<u>Allotment Paddock.</u> The tenant of the paddock has asked if she can erect a stable with a concrete base on the paddock. FPC are not in favour of a concrete based stable, which would require planning permission. It was suggested that a field shelter, on skids, be considered. It is understood that field shelters on skids can now be obtained with concrete floors. The Chairman of the Frilsham Allotment Trust will discuss the situation with the tenant.	
11	<u>Environment.</u>	
11.1	<u>Parking at the top of Beechfield Lane and behind the garages.</u> Cars parking on the grass at the top of Beechfield Lane is an ongoing problem. An additional car has now been parked at the back of the garages which needs to be reported to WBC.	CC
12	<u>Moving to the .gov.uk domain.</u>	
12.1	<u>The new website: frilshamparish.gov.uk</u> The new website is up and running, but some of the content needs to be updated. Some of the older content was not copied over. The Clerk is working on adding the missing FPC data. Cllr. Lyon is going through the old website and checking that all content has been copied to the new site.	HP BL
12.2	<u>Use of frilshamparish.gov.uk email addresses.</u> Most councillors have now started using their '.gov.uk' email addresses. Those who have not are encouraged to!	
13	<u>Clubroom.</u> Cllr. Lyon reported that there has been slow progress with a replacement Clubroom. The starting point was as discussed at the public consultation. Visits have been made to a number of other similar halls. Fundraising continues at both local and national levels and early contacts appear to be positive. The Good Exchange (Greenham Trust) now require formal cost details at an earlier stage. An architect has been found in the community but has stipulated that he will only take instruction from one representative of the committee. Costs have been requested from the architect, which are estimated to have increased from £750,000 to £1.2million. The architect has requested a detailed survey of the existing hall, but it unclear why. There is a need to demonstrate public support for the project for a number of grant applications. To do this a leaflet was developed requesting community support, however one of the committee members objected to the leaflet on the basis that the proposed project is not what is wanted. There has been the suggestion to split the hall from the changing rooms, however this would reduce the number of potential funding bodies for the project and wouldn't be supported by Yattendon and Frilsham Sports and Social Trust.	BL
14	<u>Yattendon and Frilsham Sports and Social Trust.</u> The AGM of the Trust will take place in Yattendon Village Hall at 8pm on Tuesday 31 st March. It has been announced that there will be no fete this year on the basis that it has got too big, too commercial and there is too much pressure on too few people. This means that there will be no discretionary grants made this year.	

15	<u>Clerk's Report.</u>													
15.1	<u>To receive an update on the Bank account.</u> The Lloyds bank account has now been opened with both online and traditional methods of managing it (cheque book and paying in book). The Clerk has access to the account, and Cllr. Allum and Cllr. Barber should now have the necessary information to log in. Online payments currently require setting up by the Clerk and then authorising by either Cllr. Allum or Cllr. Barber.	HP												
15.2	<u>New Signatories on the HSBC Account.</u> In view of the progress made with the Lloyds bank account, the Clerk has not pursued adding an extra signatory to the HSBC account.	HP												
15.3	<u>Annual Parish Assembly – Wednesday 13th May.</u> It was agreed that parishioner Angela Benn will speak on “Sea pollution and how it affects us all.” The formal business of the meeting will take place first and be followed by the talk. Tessa Allum will organise refreshments.	MA												
15.4	<u>Assertion 10 of the AGAR.</u> FPC considered the list of requirements in order to comply with Assertion 10 of the AGAR. FPC has its own domain (frilshamparish.gov.uk) which is used for the website and all councillors have an email address on this domain. The website complies with the accessibility regulations. All the documents specified in the Freedom of Information Act and the Transparency code for smaller authorities are included on the website. Whilst FPC processes personal data with care, it is not currently registered with ICO and this must be completed for the council to be compliant with assertion 10. The Clerk circulated an IT and Email policy to councillors prior to the meeting, and it was resolved to adopt this policy.	HP												
15.5	<u>Review of the Asset Register.</u> The asset register was reviewed and approved. During the year, there has been the addition of the Zoll defibrillator and cabinet at the phone box and the ipad defibrillator (and cabinet) has been moved to the Clubroom.													
15.6	<u>Increase in the Gigaclear charges.</u> It was resolved to accept the increase in cost of the broadband connection to the Clubroom by £4.00 from April 2026, which will increase the total cost (including VAT) from £37 to £41 per month.													
16	<u>Finances.</u>													
16.1	<u>Financial Statement and Cheques.</u> The Clerk circulated a finance report dated the 16 th March 2026 prior to the meeting, showing a balance, once all payments and lodgements have cleared of £45,427.78. This was reconciled back to the bank statement dated 15 th February 2026 which showed a balance of £46,671.28. Payments made since the last meeting: <table> <tr> <td>January and February staff costs</td> <td>£628.12</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bibby Commercial Finance Ltd</td> <td>£83.84</td> <td>Bin emptying January & Ferbruary.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gigaclear</td> <td>£74.00</td> <td>24/1/2026 to 23/3/2026.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bank charges</td> <td>£17.00</td> <td>15/12/2025 to 14/2/2026.</td> </tr> </table> Cllr. Morley verified the bank statement against the finance report.	January and February staff costs	£628.12		Bibby Commercial Finance Ltd	£83.84	Bin emptying January & Ferbruary.	Gigaclear	£74.00	24/1/2026 to 23/3/2026.	Bank charges	£17.00	15/12/2025 to 14/2/2026.	
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Gigaclear	£74.00	24/1/2026 to 23/3/2026.												
Bank charges	£17.00	15/12/2025 to 14/2/2026.												

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Date of meetings in 2026, starting at 7.30pm in the Clubroom:

Wednesday 13th May 2026 Annual Parish Assembly

Frilsham Parish Council
Signed:

2026/9

Date:

Monday 18th May 2026 (Annual meeting of Council)
Monday 20th July 2026
Monday 21st September 2026
Monday 16th November 2026