Minutes of a Meeting of Frilsham Parish Council held on Monday 20th July 2026 at 7.30pm in Frilsham Clubroom.

Present

Cllr. M. Allum (Chairman)
Cllr. I. Coxhead
Cllr. B. Lyon
Cllr. R. Morley
District Cllr. C. Culver
Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk)
Mr. J. Hole
One member of the public.

Public Session.

A member of the public was welcomed to the meeting as a possible candidate for co-option to FPC.

No other matters were raised during the public session.

1 Apologies for Absence.

There were no apologies for absence.

2 Declarations of Interest.

2.1 To receive declarations of interest.

There were no updates to the Register of Interests.

The Clerk advised councillors that declarations of interest published on websites must no longer contain councillors home addresses, unless they have explicitly requested that their address is public. The home address still needs to be registered on the Declaration of Interest form, but is redacted online.

2.2 Declaration of Interest in Agenda Items.

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

3 Approval of Minutes of the FPC meetings on Monday 18th May and Monday 15th June 2026.

It was resolved that the minutes of the annual meeting of FPC held on Monday 18th May 2026 and the extra ordinary meeting held on Monday 15th June 2026 were true records of the meetings, and they were signed by the Chairman.

4 Matters arising from the minutes.

No matters were raised.

5 To receive a report on Yattendon Estate from Mr. James Hole.

Mr. Hole commented that rain is needed.

The Estate is flat out with the harvest which is about three weeks ahead of average. The barley yield has been mixed between average and poor. The oil seed rape was harvested two weeks earlier than average and was bordering on too dry. Apologies were given to any parishioners who were disturbed by the nighttime harvesting.

An application has been submitted to the Forestry Commission to fell the spruce trees on the Estate within the Proactive Spruce Removal Area (south of the M4 and east of the A34). This is essentially in Great House Woods (Bradfield) and High Copse (around Thorncutts). Replanting will take place with hard wood trees. Over the last two months, the Forestry Commission has carried out five inspections of trees on the Estate; to date no evidence has been found of the spruce beetle.

The Classic Car day was very successful and raised £5,400. The Renegade Brewery will be hosting a car day for classic cars of the future, a 10K run, and a 50K ultra marathon run in conjunction with the Ramsbury Brewery.

New growth on the Christmas Trees was hit by the late frost in May. A good fall of rain would wash off the frost damaged tips. Approximately 2-3% of trees have been lost due to the weather.
The Estate is keen for there to be a bus service to Yattendon. WBC is currently reviewing its demand responsive service.

6 **Planning.**

6.1 Planning applications on which FPC has been consulted by WBC:

6.1.1 **26/01305/HOUSE – Sunnyside.**
Erection of oak framed garage with first floor space following removal of existing garage.
It was agreed that FPC has **no objection** to this application subject to the garage and first floor space not being let out in any way and there being restrictions on external lighting.

6.2 Planning Decisions:

6.2.1 **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).
FPC made no comment on this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

6.2.2 **25/01224/OUT – Land at Beechfield lane.**
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 took the WBC decision to appeal, and the inspector has **dismissed** the case.

7 **Emergency Plans.**
Given the hot, dry weather, there is significant concern about the risk of fire, particularly in the pines which are close to some of the homes in Frilsham.
The Newbury Weekly News had reported 35 fires over the previous week. In 1976, fire came right up to property boundaries.
Yattendon Estate has two water bowsers, however employees are not trained to fight fires. The possibility of clear felling the pines and replanting with hard woods was discussed. Mr. Hole will look at the management plan for the area. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Yattendon Estate expressing residents concern and asking that felling of the pines, or at least wider fire breaks be considered. JH HP
A working party will be convened to identify how the community should prepare for a fire and to work on an Emergency Plan / Community Resilience Plan.

8 **Report from District Councillor Carolyne Culver.**
On the 16th July, central government announced that WBC would merge with the majority of South Oxfordshire and Vale of the White Horse Councils to form a new Ridgeway Council. Purley and Tilehurst will not move into Reading but will remain with WBC and move into Ridgeway Council. Elections for a shadow council will take place in May 2027.
WBC is in receipt of Exceptional Financial Support and has one of the worst local government settlements demonstrating its financial issues, meanwhile South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Councils both have healthy reserves.
Under the new Ridgeway Council, there will be changes to planning policy, but it is currently unclear what these changes will be and when they will come into effect.
A question was asked about responsibility for keeping footpaths clear. Vegetation on footpaths is the responsibility of the landowner; permanent path surfaces are the

	responsibility of WBC and paths over cultivated land are the responsibility of the farmer. Any rights of way which are overgrown or blocked should be reported to Mr. Hole in the first instance identifying the location using What3Words.	
9	**Playground and Facilities around the Clubroom.**	
9.1	Weekly Inspections.	
	The replacement platforms should be cut and fitted this week.	MA
	A lot of litter has been collected from the play area today; it was noted that there had been a party in the Clubroom at the weekend.	
9.2	Update on funding for surfaces.	
	An application has been completed on the Good Exchange for replacement surfaces, but it has been added under Frilsham Futures Implementation Group (FFIG), which as such no longer exists. Cllr. Lyon will apply for FPC to be added to the Good Exchange as an organisation and then attempt to move the application for the replacement surfaces from FFIG to FPC.	BL
9.3	Facilities around The Clubroom.	
	Cllr. Lyon reported that there has been a change to the public liability insurance covering the Clubroom and surroundings. As a result, any work at a height of more than six metres must be carried out by insured contractors (there are some exceptions). In addition, there can be no bonfires within twenty-five metres of anything combustible.	
	It is understood that there was an incident at the Clubroom a few weeks ago and as a result Thames Valley Police (TVP) have taken copies of some of the CCTV footage. In doing this, it has been realised that CCTV cameras may be registered with TVP. It was agreed that Cllr. Lyon would register the FPC CCTV cameras with TVP.	BL
10	**Telephone Box.**	
10.1	Ipad Defibrillator at the Clubroom.	
	Cllr. Lyon reported that an electrician is lined up to come and install the cabinet on the outside wall of the Clubroom, facing the field. It has been confirmed that the defibrillator doesn't need a new battery or pads.	BL
10.2	Zoll Defibrillator and the Circuit database.	
	Cllr. Allum is now checking the defibrillator on a regular basis and recording this information on The Circuit database.	
10.3	Repairs to the Telephone Box.	
	It was agreed that Cllr. Coxhead would get quotes for repairs to the telephone box which will be considered at the next meeting.	IC
11	**Allotments.**	
11.1	The Community Orchard.	
	A parishioner has been busy watering all the trees. The water butt will need to be refilled this week.	
12	**Environment.**	
12.1	Parking at the top of Beechfield Lane and behind the garages.	
	There has been no change in the parking situation and there is little, if anything FPC can do, therefore this item will be removed from the agenda.	
13	**Moving to the .gov.uk domain.**	
13.1	Readiness to switch off the old website.	
	Cllr. Lyon reported that work to prepare to switch off the old web site is going slowly.	BL
13.2	Use of frilshamparish.gov.uk email addresses.	
	Work is still ongoing for some councillors about the best way to access their frilshamparish.gov.uk email addresses.	

13.3	Parish Online Mapping. It has been suggested that the Yattendon and Frilsham Fete Committee might use the Parish Online mapping application to annotate a map for the fete. It was agreed that Cllr. Lyon add a "fete" user to the FPC Parish Online account.	BL
14	**The Clubroom.** It has come to light that the lower estimate for replacement of The Clubroom had overlooked some aspects of the project. Unfortunately, it is beginning to look as if the project will be more expensive than had been hoped. More research is being carried out into where additional funding might be available.	BL
15	**Yattendon and Frilsham Sports and Social Trust.** The new Yattendon and Frilsham Fete Committee are discussing what the 2027 fete will be like and how it will be different from previous fetes. The aim is for a family, rural, country event. Moving forwards, it is likely that the Fete Committee will have more influence over how the funds raised are distributed.	
16	**Clerk's Report.**	
16.1	To receive an update on the Bank account. The Clerk reported that the HSBC account has been closed and the balance transferred to the Lloyds account. Online payments have successfully been made from the Lloyds account. It was agreed to add Cllr. Lyon and Cllr. Coxhead to the account.	HP
16.2	Vacant Position on FPC. WBC has been notified of the vacant position on FPC and the relevant notices have been displayed giving residents the opportunity to call a by-election. WBC has confirmed that no such request has been made and FPC is therefore free to co-opt a new councillor who will be in position until the elections next May.	
16.3	Correspondence.	
16.3.1	**Exemption from Audit.** FPC has received notification from Littlejohn LLP that they had successfully received the exemption certificate from FPC and that the audit process is now complete, subject to any questions being raised by members of the public.	
16.3.2	**Downlands Surgery – Practice Update.** The Downlands Surgery has contacted FPC about sharing information that whilst they are continuing to support their patients, following four years of hard work to shield patients from increasing financial pressures, this is no longer sustainable, and there will be some changes in how the Surgery operates. It was agreed that the information would be put on the FPC website and Cllr. Allum will put it on the noticeboard.	
16.3.3	**WBC Winter Service Plan.** The WBC Winter Service Plan has been circulated for consideration.	
17	**Finances.**	
17.1	Expenditure against budget to the 30/6/2026 (Q1 of FY26/27). The Clerk circulated a summary of expenditure and income against budget for the first quarter (to the 30th June 2026) of FY26/27. Income of £6,276.75 has been received against a budgeted income of £22,194.69. Expenditure of £2,482.55 has been made against budgeted expenditure for the full year of £11,359.31.	

17.2 Financial Statement and Payments.

A financial statement to the 20th July 2026 was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting, showing income of £6,276.75 and expenditure of £3,013.14, with a balance in the Lloyds account, after all transactions have cleared, of £48,241.13.

Payments made since the last meeting:

Local Authority Technology CIC	£48.00	Parish Online.
Hampshire Association of Local Councils	£80.20	BALC membership.
Gigaclear	£82.00	24/5/26 to 23/7/26 (Broadband).
Lloyds bank charges	£14.59	10/3/26 – 9/6/26.
HSBC bank charges	£3.00	15/4/26 – 14/5/26.
Month 3 staff costs	£352.66	
Autela Payroll Services Limited	£60.76	April, May & June payroll.
Bibby Commercial Finance Ltd	£71.92	June Bins.

Cllr. Morley verified the bank statement against the finance report.

18 **Any Other Business.**

18.1 Litter.

It was noted that there is often litter on the unofficial bike track, off Coach Road Hill on Estate land. It was agreed that any youths in the area would be gently reminded to take litter home with them.

18.2 Riding for the Disabled.

There has been a request that FPC consider making a donation to Riding for the Disabled. This will be considered at the next FPC meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Dates of meetings in 2026/27, starting at 7.30pm in the Clubroom:

Monay 21st September 2026
Monday 16th November 2026
Monday 18th January 2027
Monday 15th March 2027
Monday 17th May 2027

Signed: Date: