

FREETHERNE WITH SAUL PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish council meeting dated 30 November 2016

Present: Councillors Mrs S Harrower (Chair); Mr R Apperley; Mr A Lundberg; Mr B Findlater; Mrs L Moule; Mr C Bartlett, Mr C Bierer (part); DC J Jones; DC S Davies; Ms G Delbos (Clerk)

Register of General Public attending meeting: None

- 011116 Public Question Time**
None
- 021116 Apologies for absence**
Cllr Bierer (Part)
- 031116 Councillors Declaration of Interests to Items on the Agenda**
All Councillors confirmed that they had no pecuniary or personal interests to declare regarding items on the Agenda.
- 041116 Minutes from the Parish Council Meeting dated 26 October 2016 – Approved** (Proposed by Cllr Moule and seconded by Cllr Findlater)
- 051116 Council Governance, roles and co-opting**
None
- 061116 Correspondence Received**
Update from Cllr Bierer re email from Mr Rudman regarding the Stroudwater Canal and the reed situation. See Item **111116 – Stroudwater Canal**.
- 071116 Finance – Invoices to be paid**
The Invoices were presented for payment:
Proposed by Cllr Harrower and seconded by Cllr Moule
Councillors unanimously agreed that the following invoices be paid:

CHEQUES SIGNED AT 30 November 2016 MEETING

Payee	For	Amount
G Delbos	Administration of Council – November 2016	248.03
Severn Grass Services	Inv: 209 Grass Cutting 12 Sept – 28 Oct 2016	128.19
Grant Thornton	External Auditor Fee	120.00
Royal British Legion	Church Wreaths	50.00
Severn Trent Water	Allotments	204.84

Cheques written out in-between meetings: None

Other Financial Matters

2017 / 2018 budget to be looked at and presented at January meeting.

ACTION: S HARROWER

All Councillors had been sent the spreadsheets for Expenses against Precept received. Currently on target.

Council to donate £100 towards the Neighbourhood Wardens service. Cheque to be written at next Council Meeting in January 2017.

Clerks salary – this to be set up on standing order and new pay scale applied. All Councillors agreed.

ACTION: Clerk

081116

District Councillor News (DC Jones)

SDC Council Meeting 27/10/16.

The Chief Exec. informed Members that the results of the Independent survey carried out recently showed that 80 % of residents and 70% of businesses were satisfied with SDC These are the best ever results from that annual survey.

There were 5 items of general council business that were approved.

3 Neighbourhood Plans and 1 Community Right to Build were approved. The NP's were for Stroud Town Centre, not all of Stroud Town, for Eastington, and for Whiteshill and Ruscombe. The Community Right to Build was for Nailsworth, to enable the Town Council to build affordable homes on a parcel of land, through a Community Land Trust, along with other Community Assets if they wish to.

3 Motions were debated

1, to stop Gloucestershire Local Government Pension Fund from investing in fossil fuel companies; after a sometimes heated debate, the Motion went through on the Chairman's casting vote.

2 The NHS Trusts hospital and Maternity services at Stroud Hospital. This was about possible cuts to the services at Stroud, which could be brought about because of budget mismanagement by deficit at Glos NHS Trust, which originally forecast a surplus. An amendment to change some of the motion wording from "SDC is very concerned about possible cuts in service at these hospitals" to "to seek reassurance from the NHS Trust that services in Stroud will not be compromised because of the deficit", was accepted, and the motion passed unanimously.

3 A proposal to write to the Independent Boundary Commission on the review of the Parliamentary Boundaries in SDC area. If current proposals as they stand are implemented, Stroud District would end up with 3 MP's instead of the current 2. In addition, a proposal to bring in Proportional Representation was moved and seconded and added to the motion. Again, after a long and sometimes heated debate, the motion was passed on a recorded vote by 2 votes.

Has anyone in FwS experienced or reported problems with the new waste collection service. It is best to contact the Council direct to report missed collections. It is acknowledged that teething problems have happened, although the implementation of the new collection over 52000 properties has gone relatively smoothly. Over 230 tonnes of food waste has been collected so far.

64 temporary members of staff have been recruited to deal with seasonal shortages, caused by sickness and added workload, some of which can be attributed to the waste collection service.

A Task and Finish Group of the Strategy and Resources Committee has been set up to look into future running of the Subscription Rooms in Stroud, which has been subsidised by SDC for several years now, which is not economically viable in today's economic climate. The Group will also look into how the Joint Use Sports Centres at Maidenhill and Thomas Keeble Schools are financed. The Group is expected to report back early in the New Year, when a recommendation will be put to full Council for a decision.

On Planning, it must be noted that a planning inspector has overturned a decision by SDC's planning committee to turn down an application to build 120 houses close to Berkeley Castle This goes against SDC's Local Plan, which has no strategic allocation for that number of houses in Berkeley. This is the second application for a major building site in the District to be allowed on appeal, and makes a mockery of all the work that was done in the build up to the adoption of the Local Plan about a year ago SDC is considering whether to go to a High Court Judicial Review or not, as it has with the other one at Kingswood. The SDC grounds for refusal were that it has in excess of a five year land supply, as required by the Local Plan, without this application, that there is no strategic allocation for large developments in Berkeley in the Plan, and the effect such a development would have on the setting of the Grade 1 listed Berkeley Castle. All of these points were considered not to be relevant enough by the Inspector.

091116

Planning Applications

Application Number: S.16/2385/MINAM

Location: Victoria Place, High Street, Saul, Gloucester.

Application Type: Minor Amendment

Description: Minor amendment - Revised roof slope over bathroom change single storey roof to sloping glazed roof, add extra roof light

No objection from Council

Application Number: S.16/2107/TCA

Location: Gardeners Pool, High Street, Saul, Gloucestershire.

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Application Type: Trees in a Conservation Area

Description: Willows: Pollarding and fallen trees. Removing dead Elm, Pear and Sycamore trees.

No objection from Council

- 101116 Police Report and Neighbourhood Watch**
Council were advised that there is now a new Neighbourhood warden – Andy Murray. Update from Cllr Bierer for next meeting on Police Report.
ACTION: C BIERER
- 111116 Stroud Water Canal**
Cllr Bierer is looking at other possibilities for long term reed cutting. Council need to look at long term plan for the canal. In 3 years time the reeds should be under better control. Issue of reeds on both sides and reeds at the back. Spray both sides doubles the area for spraying. Look at this again early next year and try and kill off one side of the canal to try and get reeds and roots under control, then would be worth getting digger in. This year part of the canal was not sprayed as the vegetation was not classed as reeds. Cllr Bierer has sorted this out and the vegetation will be sprayed with a different chemical.
On inspection, part of the canal water was bright green and may be some form of chemical. Cllr Bierer contacted the Environmental Agency but they were not willing to inspect as the area is not under their control. Council to possibly hold an open meeting in the Spring for the Canal Row residents as they are the most affected. Council to write to all residents in Canal Row before the Spring to gain an idea in advance of the meeting for the Agenda.
ACTION: C BIERER / Clerk
- 121116 Gloucester and Sharpness Canal Bridges**
No real progress. Cllr T Blackburn has confirmed that the Yellow Lines issue was mistakenly put on hold. These will now go ahead and will hopefully be done in the Spring.
ACTION: S HARROWER
- 131116 Website Maintenance**
Cllr Bartlett confirmed that the website for FWS is now up and running. The new website address is: **FREThERNEWITHSAUL.ORG.UK**
Some historical pieces that have been transferred from the old site need to be updated. Council to look at website in detail and send Cllr Bartlett comments for updates. Invoice has been sent to Clerk for payment.
Cllr Bartlett to carry out training for the clerk in order for her to be able to access the website for uploading of minutes/agendas etc.
ACTION: C BARTLETT/Clerk
- 141116 Emergency Plan**
Update from Cllr Bierer for next meeting.
ACTION: C BIERER
- 151116 Parish Plan / Questionnaire**
Cllrs Harrower and Moule plus Clerk met with Helen Richards, GRCC on 9 December 2016
GRCC are happy to deal with the analysis and put together the relevant figures. Approval for the cost of this (approx £250.00) was agreed by Council. The cost of this will be covered by the Grant from SDC which will be available until the new financial year (April 2017).
ACTION: S HARROWER/MOULE
- 161116 Memorial Hall, Playing Fields and Playground**
Cllr Lundberg reported back on the AGM. The budget was gone through in detail. The Hall is just about breaking even. The committee are considering replacing the ceiling within the Hall.
- 171116 Transparency Code**
The working group were due to meet on 1 December 2016.
ACTION: S HARROWER /MOULE / APPERLEY
- 181116 Policies, Governance and Professional Services**
Outstanding policies are Finance Regulations and Vacancies.

ACTION: S HARROWER / Clerk

191116

Village Matters / Improvements

Plaque for memorial. Cllr Bierer to send Cllr Lundberg the spreadsheet.

Draft list to be sent to relevant parishioners to check names.

List also to be placed on website and FB.

ACTION: C BIERER / C BARTLETT

Tree Works Framilode – Completed.

Verge Cutting – All parishes

It is proposed by GCC that the verge cutting becomes the responsibility of each Parish. GCC will pay an asset figure to each parish. It would be more economical for all Parishes to work with one local contractor rather than paying individual contractors. This also keeps the money within the Parish.

This would give more control and better verge cutting, may be possible for the verges to be cut twice a year instead of the current once yearly cut. Dan Tiffney has advised that he is willing to separate off the A38 and any roundabouts.

Council voted for Cllr Findlater to look into this working with the other parishes.

ACTION: B FINDLATER

Fencing along Moor Street. Highways are responsible for this and have been asked to repair.

Church Lane – latest inspection report on-line indicates that surface is in good condition. R Apperley to talk to GCC about the pot holes remaining.

ACTION: R APPERLEY

Stables Café SIGNAGE at the end of Church Lane has come off the Post. Clerk to contact relevant department to get this fixed.

ACTION: Clerk

Wall opposite Fretherne Nurseries has been damaged. Cllr Bierer to contact Fretherne Nurseries regarding this.

ACTION: C BIERER

201116

Parish Churches

Cllrs Harrower and Bierer met with the 3 PCCS who were very appreciate for the meeting. The current issue for the Churches is waiting for a replacement Vicar. The previous incumbent covered the three churches in Fretherne with Saul plus Frampton on Severn and Arlingham. The Diocese may consider making it an even bigger group of churches to share one vicar.

The graveyard situation is a major concern to the three Churches. Fretherne is the only Church to have more than a couple of years' capacity of burial plots available. Framilode and Saul are close to full. Local residents and previous residents of the area still want to be buried here or have their ashes interred. A letter is to be sent to the Archdeacon to express our concerns for our parishioners regarding the shortage of burial plots.

If the graveyards were to be closed, the Parish Council would then become responsible for the upkeep of them. This would be a huge cost for the PC to bear. Maintenance costs for the churchyards to the PC could be approx. £2000 per year to keep them mowed etc. Over 5 years this could be £10 – 12,000.

The field beside the Saul Church was purchased for burials but environmental issues the short term proposal is for a Garden of Remembrance for burial of ashes and the Council are in full support of this and the relevant planning application has been applied for. There is a need for an archaeological dig which could cost approx. £2,600 for a digger and driver. This could be reduced for a Garden of Remembrance as the plots would be only 18 inches deep.

Data for change of use has to be submitted to Stroud Planning by end of February 2017

A vote was put to the Council to support and work with the Churches to an upper limit of £12,000. Proposed by Cllr Lunderg and seconded by Cllr Findlater. All councillors agreed.

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Cllr Bierer to proceed with assisting the Church in getting the piece of land into a functioning Garden of Remembrance which is the outcome needed for all three churches.

ACTION: C BIERER

211116 **The Monthly Parish Council meeting with be held on Wednesday 25 January 2017 at 7.30pm.**

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.....Chair

DRAFT