

FRETHERNE WITH SAUL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held 27th May 2009

Present: Councillors: Mr. C.Meredith, Mr. J. Hewett, Mr. R. Findlater, Mr. D. Skeats, Mr. D. Pockett
District Councillor John Jones, Mel Glover (Parish Clerk), two representatives from Severn Vale living landscapes.

010509 Apologies for absence.

Councillors: Mrs. A. Greaves. Mrs L. Griffiths

020509 Approval of minutes from Parish Council Meeting dated 29th April 2009

Approved

030509 Councillors Declaration of Interests to Items on the Agenda.

None.

040509 Police report.

None as police unable to attend.

050509 Severn Vale living landscapes presentation.

Karen and Rosie presented the following concerning the Stroudwater Canal:

The Seven Vale Living Landscapes try to encourage farmers to manage their land for certain species of wildlife. The Stroudwater Canal area falls right on the edge of the Longney Strategic Area and therefore means that funding may be available. Otters and brown hares have been sited in the area therefore making this a good area for SVLL to work in.

With regards to the canal, there are various willow trees that could do with being pollarded. This would happen over time in order that the wildlife is disturbed as little as possible, but certainly one should be done a.s.a.p. – funding is available for this job.

Willow trees that have self seeded in the canal need removing. It may be able to pull them out but if not they should be cut just below the water line which will kill them off. Some funding may be available for this job.

Dredging – this would give cause for concern because of the detrimental effect on the existing wildlife. Big machinery would be need and funding is available for community groups for which SVLL would be able to help with the application.

A reed bed could be installed in the canal, close to the River Frome, making an ideal link for otters. This may also help with flooding concerns.

SVLL can action an otter and water vole survey FOC. A Great Crested Newt survey will cost.

In order to progress clerk will obtain quotes for relevant work: pollarding, dredging, willows in the canal. Maybe the fairy moss could be removed and the reeds replanted.

Work ideally should be carried out between October and March so as not to greatly affect the wildlife; however the surveys could proceed this summer.

Clerk needs to contact SDC with regards to the pollarding of the willow trees.

Councillor Meredith thanked the ladies for the presentation.

Councillors had a brief discussion concerning the above and agreed the following: -

Clerk to write to SVLL thanking them for their time and asking them to action the otter and water vole survey and to find out the cost of a GCN survey.

Clerk to obtain quotes for the pollarding and dredging.

060509 Matters arising from last months minutes.

Councillors met twice to discuss the planning applications for Rectory Cottage. Following a vote at the second meeting both applications were approved.

Nothing to report on the bus shelter/lych gate – to be carried forward to next months agenda.

Standing orders to be carried forward as both Councillors Greaves and Griffiths wish to be present.

A meeting was held at Lakefield School between school staff, governors, David Drew MP and the three parish councils. Admission policies are being looked into.

The Alliance and Leicester Account was closed and £2029.90 was deposited into the parish

bank account. Clerk to look into opening a separate account for this money.

070509 Finance

All cheques were approved and signed although clerk to check with SDC re neighbourhood warden as full cover has not been available for last couple of months.

Mrs M. Glover clerks wages –	000473	£225.03
Mr. Ian Selkirk – auditor	000474	£115.00
SDC – neighbourhood warden	000475	£200.00

080509 Planning - New applications for discussion.

None

090509 District Councillor's News.

A District Council AGM was held last Thursday. Prior to the meeting a presentation was made to Nigel Riglar who is moving to Gloucestershire County Council as Director of the Environment (which means he will be responsible for the Javelin Park issue!)

John Hudson was re-elected as chair at the meeting with District Councillor John Jones being re-elected as Vice Chair.

Concerning the new proposals for the scheme of delegation in planning – this item was withdrawn half way through the discussion as it was too confusing. It will be brought back at a later date when more work has been done on it.

A motion was put forward to reduce the number of the Development Committee from 12 to 9 members. This was withdrawn and remains at 12 members.

With regards to the “gang of three” to vet proposals – this again was too confusing and was withdrawn.

There was an amendment to an admin proposal to reduce standing committees to 9 from 12. The opposition put forward that the number stays the same and this motion was carried. Therefore all standing committees will remain with 12 members.

Members' budget will be reduced by 3%. Cabinet members will be dropped from 8 to 6 with the workload being distributed between the 6 remaining members.

Housing revenue accounts are 1.2 million pounds over budget with council house tenants benefitting from this. An enquiry is being held to establish how this was allowed to happen.

Mileage expenses – review panel is not keen on changing mileage allowance as this would mean discrimination between officers and members.

There was a Severn Voice special meeting concerning affordable housing, DC and GRCC are looking at three possible sites in Longney, Frampton and Whitminster, the Cadbury site is not deemed viable as the land owner will not sell the land at affordable housing rates.

100509 Tool share/Job Share/Lift Register

Councillor Meredith was unable to get an advert in the parish magazine – one to be placed in next month's magazine and item to be carried forward to next months agenda.

110509 Stroudwater Canal

Item to be carried forward to next months agenda while ongoing research is continued.

120509 Saul site

A meeting was held at Councillor Griffiths' house between interested parties. It was decided at that meeting to seek agreement with the Diocese Solicitors that further negotiations be taken over from SSSS by Fretherne with Saul Parish Council.

Clarification is needed on the indemnity clause and the statute of limitations.

The outstanding fees would be referred to the Parish Council.

Parish Council will seek help from Bishop Michael and will indeed need to write to the Bishop.

Concessions may be made with regard to the outstanding fees (currently in the region of £15,000). Legal costs will need to be taken up by the new owners of the site as the current trustees do not have the funds.

Chairman asked the council if they were happy to continue the negotiations in place of SSSS. F w S Parish Councillors were unanimous in agreeing to this.

130509 Information Exchange

Councillor Findlater has had a complaint made about the hedge trimmings, grass cuttings and branch debris being thrown into the Gardners pool area of Church Lane.

Councillor Findlater reported that he had attended the Canal Boat Users Forum where he listened to a very interesting talk on elvers and that there is a big push for an off peak boatman operated bridge system for Sandfield Bridge.

Criticisms were made concerning parking and right of way issues for Sandfield Bridge.

140509 Public Forum.

As no public were present there was no public forum.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

..... Chairman

Date of next meeting – June 24th 2009 – 7.30 p.m

Members are reminded that the Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in exercising any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability), Crime and Disorder, Health & Safety and Human Rights.

minutes may09

Melanie Glover, Ashbrooke, High Street, Saul, Glos, GL2 7LW