

## **FREThERNE WITH SAUL PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010

Present: Councillors: Chairman C. Meredith, Mr. D Pockett, Mr. J. Hewett, Mr. R. Findlater, Mr. D. Skeats, Mrs. L. Griffiths, Mrs. A. Greaves, Mel Glover (Parish Clerk), two members of the parish.

**010310 Apologies for absence.**

District Councillor John Jones and the police

**020310 Approval of minutes from Parish Council Meeting dated 24<sup>th</sup> February**

Approved after slight alteration to item 8.

Slight alteration made to item 061109.

**030310 Councillors Declaration of Interests to Items on the Agenda.**

Councillors Meredith and Greaves declared a non-prejudicial interest to item 070310 – planning application for Home Farm.

**040310 Police report.**

As the police were unable to attend Chairman Meredith read out the following report that the police had e-mailed to the clerk:-

Here are the figures for the past month.

1 x assault reported, offender arrested but now the victim declines to prosecute

5 x misc incidents including alarms, missing person.

**050310 Matters arising from last months minutes.**

Councillor Pockett has investigated the badger setts on the Frome – clerk to contact Environment Agency as there does seem to be a lot of badger activity. Councillor Pockett will advise the neighbours.

Clerk still waiting to hear from Highways regarding the grit bins.

**060310 Finance**

Both cheques approved and signed.

Mrs M. Glover clerks wages 5 weeks £349.88

Mrs. M.Glover expenses (printer cartridges £62.78 and refreshments for meetings £ 80.54  
17.76

**070310 Planning - New applications for discussion**

Approved.

Home Farm [S.10/0375/HHOLD](#)

Fretherne Lane

Saul,

GL2 7JG

Erection of extension to dwelling and erection of outbuilding.

**080310 District Councillor's News.**

District Councillor John Jones was not able to attend this months meeting and sent the following the report that the chairman read out: -

Cabinet meeting on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

Items of interest relating to parishes : - the meeting started with housekeeping reports for approval on finances of one sort and another and then onto Wollaway prefabs at Minchinhampton, Stroud and Leonard Stanley which are suffering from rust in the metal re-inforcing within the structures and are uneconomical to repair. It is proposed to demolish them and rebuild with the help of a registered social landlord (RSL). The existing householders will be given decant status which means they will be eligible for monetary payments to help with relocation, removal costs etc. Because of the recession the RSLs who have expressed an interest in the demolition and rebuild, although still interested, would have to delay the process. The houses will not fall down in the meantime but the whole process is taking much longer than first thought.

Another item was the decision by Cabinet to recommend to council that land owned by SDC in Chapel Street in Cam be transferred to Cam PC at nil cost for building of a new Cam Community

Centre.

Also recommended was the proposal to merge at strategic level the Stroud and Cotswolds Safer Stronger Community Partnerships. This will not affect the person in the street, it will join the SSCPs at management level thus making efficiency savings. As the police force is already joined to the Stroud and Cotswolds Division and has one area commander, it makes sense to join the SSCPs.

Items considered for recommendation to full Council for approval.

The recommendations by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the inquiry into the Development Control Performance. This is the inquiry on how to speed up planning performance to meet government targets which could generate more grant from central government. Four cross party members of that committee have formulated 25 recommendations which are attached.

Should all these recommendations be accepted by full council there would have to be changes made to the Council's constitution as outlined in the attachment, some will need cabinet approval to put in place, others will need more officer input on further investigation. I must stress these are recommendations at the moment and have to be ratified before any of them are cast in stone.

A report for noting at the cabinet meeting was the progress of the canal restoration. Financial items relating to the new bridge at Merrywalks, reed cutting at Bridgend and dredger training were all noted. The reed cutting carried out before Christmas has already resulted in higher water levels at the canal at Eastington. The report also included proposals of the treatment to kill Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed on the line of the canal east of Wallbridge which would be done by injecting chemical into the root system, not spraying.

There is a full council meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> April when at least some of these items will be on the agenda, including others.

Councillor Skeats took the list of recommendations for reviewing.

**090310 Village Plan**

Play equipment needed – in hand.

Stroudwater Canal – footpath improvements have been made.

Footpath waymarking – being revisited.

Stroudwater Canal – environmental improvements have been made (removal of willow trees)

Highways – have been contacted on a regular basis.

Councillor Griffiths will look at the Village Plan and update. To be reviewed at next meeting.

**100310 Bus shelter**

Nothing back from Mr. Turner – clerk to contact and get a plan/cost for next meeting.

**110310 Asset valuations**

Councillor Griffiths to contact Mr. Butt with regards to advice re land valuations.

Clerk/Chairman are still waiting for the valuations promised by Mr. Daniel Lord. Chairman will contact Mr. Lord.

**120310 School site update**

Meeting is in place for 1<sup>st</sup> April to discuss the site and a meeting was held last week with the Diocese and David Drew where several outcomes were decided upon.

Diocese is looking into indemnity insurance and site valuation.

April 30<sup>th</sup> has been given as a defining point – if no action has been taken then the site will be placed on the open market.

Table of expenses has been finalised with the possibility of some further reductions.

This was a very encouraging meeting with both sides looking for an appropriate ending.

Councillor Griffiths commented that whilst the meeting may have been agreeable, the Diocese's costs and the state of the building would have been more agreeable to the Parish Council and community 8 years ago. The generosity of the donor, at no cost to this community, has been tainted by this long drawn out process which could have been resolved years ago had the Diocese been willing to meet with the Save Saul School Site Group

Councillor Skeats highlighted that these costs are the Trustees and not the Diocese.

Councillor Griffiths would like legal advice sought as to whether or not the site can legitimately be sold as the benefactor does not want it sold, he wants the parish to have it as he believes it is

what his ancestors would have wished.

**130310 Playground update**

Clerk reported on the playground – plans forming nicely after consultation weekend, with the main item required being a zip wire. Some negative feedback had been left by neighbours at the consultation meeting, with regards to the actual siting of the equipment but it is hoped that the contractor would meet with these residents to discuss where the equipment should go. Generally the parish extremely excited about the playground and some very positive feedback was left. Councillor Griffiths felt the consultation was excellent and was well attended.

**140310 Litter Pick**

To take place on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

Clerk to get relevant equipment from SDC.

**150310 Village Signs**

Neighbourhood Warden had highlighted the damaged village sign in Moor Street. It would cost approximately £200 for a new sign. In light of these costs Councillor Pocket has managed to straighten the sign and fix it therefore saving the parish money.

Councillor Hewett will try to straighten the two other village signs out.

Councillor Findlater will spring clean Church Lane and Moor Street signs.

Councillor Meredith will do from Fretherne Bridge down the Arlingham Road.

Councillor Greaves – Fretherne Lane to Saul Cross.

Councillor Hewett – Framilode.

To be added to next months agenda.

**160310 Annual Parish Meeting**

Date confirmed as Weds 19<sup>th</sup> May.

Clerk to contact all the usual reporters.

Chairman to contact Stroud Valleys Project as guest speakers.

Clerk to liaise with chosen playground supplier for possible presentation.

**170310 Information Exchange**

Clerk to supply electoral role numbers for nomination forms for councillors.

Clerk to book RoSPA for playground equipment check.

Councillor Skeats reported that the CSCUF is sadly no longer viable because British Waterways are forming their own forum.

Councillor Hewett reported that the footpath by Framilode Church has been damaged by cattle.

Clerk to contact footpaths with regards to EFL 5/2, 31/1 and 6/1.

Councillor Findlater reported on the “home made beware of frog signs” along Church Lane. Clerk to contact Highways for two frog signs.

Councillor Pocket just wanted to say that he thought the footpath alongside the canal was very smart.

**180310 Public Forum.**

Nothing from the public this month.

**There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.**

..... Chairman

**Date of next meeting April 28<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 p.m.**

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*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.*