

FREETHERNE WITH SAUL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated Wednesday 26th May 2010

Present: Councillors: Chairman C. Meredith, Mr. D Pockett, Mr. R. Findlater, Mr. D. Skeats, Mrs. L. Griffiths, District Councillor John Jones, Mel Glover (Parish Clerk), 4 members of the parish.

010510 **Apologies for absence.**

Councillor Mr. J. Hewett, police

020510 **Election of officers – Chairman, Vice Chair and RFO**

Chris Meredith handed the meeting over to District Councillor John Jones who asked for nominations for Chairman.

Councillor Pockett nominated Councillor Meredith, seconded by Councillor Skeats. Councillor Meredith was elected.

DC J. Jones handed the chair back to Councillor Meredith who asked for nominations for Responsible Financial Officer. Councillor Meredith nominated the clerk, seconded by Councillor Griffiths. Mel Glover as clerk was elected.

Chairman asked for nominations for vice chair.

Councillor Meredith nominated Councillor Greaves, Seconded by Councillor Griffiths. Councillor Greaves was elected.

030510 **Co-option of Councillor**

Due to a technical hitch with paperwork Mr. Findlater will not be automatically re-elected to council. Due to a lack of other interested parties in becoming a councillor during recent parish council elections and the willingness of Mr. Findlater to continue being a councillor, parish council co-opted Mr. Findlater on to the parish council with Councillor Meredith nominating and Councillor Pockett seconding.

040510 **Approval of minutes from Parish Council Meeting dated 28th April**

Approved.

050510 **Councillors Declaration of Interests to Items on the Agenda.**

None.

060510 **Police report.**

Not available.

070510 **Matters arising from last months minutes.**

Clerk to contact Chris Riley re all previous concerns (frog signs, parish walk, grit bins, moor street, snow plough).

Clerk to contact Footpaths re footpath gateways.

080510 **Finance**

Agreed and signed: -

Mrs M. Glover clerks wages 279.90 plus expenses 40.00 playground £328.06
training course plus £8.16 for refreshments for Annual Parish Meeting

090510 **Planning - New applications for discussion**

None.

100510 **District Councillor's News.**

District Councillor John Jones reported the following: -

At the District Council meeting held last Thursday evening John Hudson was re-elected as Chairman.

DC John Jones was re-elected as vice chair.

Francis Roden was re-elected as council leader.

2 Conservative members have become "independents".

DC John Jones is back on the DCC committee and licensing and regulations. He is also representing DC on Gloucester Playing Fields Association, and the DC on Gloucester C.C. Community Safety Scrutiny Committee and the Stroud CCTV committee and in the Stroud road safety liaison group.

District Councillor John Jones then read out the following report in answer to questions raised at the

Annual Parish Meeting with regards to waste: -

1/ Why does ADC not collect garden waste, ie composting material?

The original thinking on this is that it's not environmentally friendly to collect this waste, ie big trucks spewing out carbon and making extra trips to empty loads as it's a bulky material to collect. There is also the extra cost collection would incur. Ideally it should be composted at source. If a garden is big enough to produce green waste it is big enough to compost in. In terms of keeping it local we promote and have been involved in setting up community composting schemes like in Bisley. We also offer a paid for green bag collection for the elderly or people who are not able to compost. This goes to landfill. There is also the option of taking green waste to the tip and then it is composted.

2/ Why does SDC not collect food waste?

SDC would very much like to collect kitchen waste as it is biodegradable and when put in landfill produces methane which is 20 times stronger than CO2 so adds to climate change. We had a most successful trial in the "Stanleys" and hoped to roll this out across the district. However our contractor quoted a price that was just not affordable ie nearly doubling the cost of the collection service. This contract runs to 2016. SDC has been in protracted negotiations for sometime and things are looking much more positive. Watch this space" We can not keep throwing our rubbish into the ground.

3/ Why does SDC not collect all plastics when it says on the packaging it can be recycled?

Plastic pose a very difficult problem for us. There are many different types of plastic and by sticking to just plastic mixed bottles (not brown or black) we can find a ready market for recycling them and receive a good price. Mixed plastics on the other hand do not attract such a good price. A solution has to be found, we can not keep burying our waste in the ground.

Why does SDC not collect cardboard at the kerbside?

SDC does not collect cardboard at the kerbside as it is a very bulky material to collect. The refuse trucks would fill up quickly and have to make many trips to the depot to empty making this service costly. It is said of cardboard that collecting it and then recycling it generates more CO2 than using new. However a solution must be found.

We are working on a system such as we had in the "Stanleys" weekly collection of food waste and recyclables plus a fortnightly black bag collection (all smelly stuff taken out).

Community based cardboard and plastic (all types) banks. Spread across the district so everyone is within a reasonable distance to make use of them and someone in the community to tell us when the banks need to be emptied, encouraging correct use and keeping tidy. Is your parish council interested? If you have a suitable site or would like to have a discussion on what is involved please give us a call.

SDC also offers help and advice with the setting up of a Community Composting Scheme.

110510 Approval of finances for the year 2009-2010

Parish councillors all studied the report and the accounts were approved. Clerk to furnish the councillors with a copy of the report for their records.

120510 Village Plan update

All amendments had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting and were approved. A copy to be sent to each household in the parish by the clerk.

130510 Bus shelter

To date we have received offers of help from three local businesses – financial from R. A. Meredith and Attwools, and materials from Moreton C Cullmore.

Councillors agreed to hold a car boot sale in order to raise funds – clerk to contact estate office for the Saturday after the Country Fair in September.

Fund raising to be put on agenda for next month.

Bus shelter to be carried forward each month.

140510 Asset valuations

Clerk has received advice from GATPC that the “community assets” – the pound, the allotments, the stroud water canal were all valued at a penny as they were community assets and as such could never be developed – making their value worthless.

Councillor Griffiths has had advice to the contrary from a local land agent.

Councillors agreed to take no further action with regard to having the community assets valued.

150510 **School site update**

Councillors Meredith and Skeats met with Rob Stephens (diocese) Friday 21st May.

Councillor Meredith read out the minutes of the report:-

“Purpose of meeting was to establish map of items necessary to complete transfer. RS identified the items he felt needed to be covered

Insurance – Ecclesiastical Insurance can provide an I Indemnity policy. RS was seeking the necessary quote and other information from them. Hoped that information might be available in a couple of weeks

Capital Gains Tax – Diocese has a contact with Tax Office and will arrange meeting with them to discuss Tax implications. CM would be invited to meeting. This meeting would be arranged for as soon as possible

Trustee Costs – nothing has been added to the list. These costs will be the final item to be confirmed. The issue of RS costs had not been resolved. David Drew had spoken to the Bishop

Legal Process – Diocese will register the land with the Land Registry – this needed to be done at some stage

Trustees, Jock Lane and Diocese all needed to agree final process as did the Parish

Costs were provisionally identified as

Indemnity	2500
Tax	27000
Trustees	16000 giving a total of about £45,500

Confirmed that these might be met over two years

Realistic date for completion was seen as September at the latest

RS provided a copy of the deeds which has also gone to the Parish Solicitor

RS recognised that Trustees didn’t own access to site (current vehicle access) but assume with PC as across/adjacent to Parish Green. A Right of Way had been established though through use Group would meet again as soon as required to keep things moving along.”

A discussion then followed on C.G.T.

Clerk to contact Neil Carmichael with regards to asking for his help regarding the school site and the bishop.

160510 **Playground update**

A meeting was held with Louise Holder (County Council) to discuss playground equipment locations. Due to new information received about agricultural access required along the north hedge the site in front of the memorial hall closest to the north hedge was completely out of the question. At that meeting all options were considered taking into account (with Louise Holder) the concerns and requests of the neighbouring residents, the playing field criteria and it’s continued use by other groups, safety and security in relation to the car park, the accessibility for all and access to the equipment and village hall especially for the disabled. Measurements were taken and equipment locations were agreed by Louise Holder.

A draft plan showing the approximate equipment locations was produced in time for the council meeting and was circulated to each councillor. Councillors voted unanimously to accept the plan.

Clerk to contact contractors for an actual plan to be produced at the next parish meeting.

D C Jones reported that there had been a meeting with himself, the clerk, Phil Skill and John Longmuir and it was reaffirmed that no planning permission is required.

170510 **Village Signs**

Councillors Meredith and Findlater still have their signs to clean- they will be done before the next

meeting.

Councillor Greaves mentioned that Passage Road/Park View and High Street Signs could do with a lick of paint. Clerk to organise.

Clerk was in receipt of an e-mail from Mr. Ounsted who was concerned about the number of “signs” on the Arlingham Road, just after the Fretherne Bridge. Clerk to contact Highways to establish “legality” of signs and possible ways forward once it is known whether or not they are legal.

180510 **Information Exchange**

Hedgehog warden required – Councillor Griffiths taken the information for the magazine.

Chairman reported that as a result of the “street light dimming/switching off between the early hours of the morning” that “Both schemes have been extremely successful with £202,760 savings and a carbon reduction of 1,392 tonnes – enough to boil 90 million kettles”.

Various publications were handed out to various councillors.

Councillor Skeats asked if there was any feedback from County Councillor Basil Booth regarding Moor Street repairs– none to date – clerk to chase.

Councillor Findlater has been asked by a parishioner for yellow lines to be painted by Sandfield Bridge. As the Parish Council has previously pursued this unsuccessfully, Councillor Findlater to advise the resident to contact Gloucestershire Highways themselves.

Councillor Findlater has spoken to Mr. Davies regarding the “pond” in Church Lane – he has no issues if the pond is restored.

190510 **Public Forum.**

Mr. Darren Hughes stated that he was still waiting for a response for a letter dated 11th May.

Mr. Hughes also requested that the “minutes” from the meeting held on 29th April be amended to show the neighbouring residents comments. Clerk explained that these were not minutes, merely documentation of the salient points of the meeting and as this was not a parish council meeting that “minutes” did not need approving. As such the comments from the neighbouring residents would be kept on file to be read in conjunction with the notes from the meeting.

Mr. Hughes also highlighted a lack of integrity and gave an example of minutes from the meeting held 29th March stating “Mel to contact Playdale, Monster Play, Proludic, Greenfields and Wicksteed for a quote” and in fact he was in receipt of a quote dated prior to this date. Clerk explained that initial quotes had been asked for before the equipment had been decided upon, in order to start the consultation process. The quotes asked for after March 29th were in fact quotes for specific equipment that the parish had chosen from their consultation weekend.

Mr. Hughes wanted it noted that he still objected to the playground location as did Mr. Carl Bierer. Councillor Meredith asked on what grounds they were objecting when they had not studied the plans and the response was “due to the threat of Anti Social Behaviour and complete lack of integrity through the whole process”. Councillor Meredith highlighted that it was a “perceived threat of anti social behaviour only”.

District Councillor John Jones stated that the parish council has a mandate, (as the councillors put forward for election), to implement works as it sees fit for the benefit of the parish as a whole.

DC Jones also stated that as far as he could see that parish council whilst taking all other factors into consideration had done everything they possibly could to accommodate the neighbouring residents.

Mr. Hughes and Mr. Bierer stated they would study the plan and forward their responses.

Mr. Hughes wanted it noted that if the road signs discussed earlier on in the meeting were illegal they should be removed. Councillor Meredith reiterated the point made earlier in the evening that the clerk would investigate the issues with Highways and an appropriate course of action would be taken once legality of the signage was known.

Mr. Bierer asked if the C.G.T. would affect the parish two fold in so much as would Mr. Lane have to pay (and therefore the parish council) and then also the parish council when the site was transferred to them. As yet this is still to be determined but it is being looked into.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.06 p.m.

..... Chairman

Date of next meeting June 30th at 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.

Minutesmay10

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