

## **FRETHERNE WITH SAUL PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010

Present: Councillors: Chairman C. Meredith, , Mr. R. Findlater, Mr. D. Skeats, Mrs. L. Griffiths, District Councillor John Jones, Mel Glover (Parish Clerk), 32 members of the parish

### **Apologies for absence.**

Councillor D Pockett, Councillor J. Hewett, police

### **Approval of minutes from Parish Council Meeting dated 26<sup>th</sup> May**

Approved.

In light of the public interest in the playground update and siting of the equipment the Chairman moved this item up the agenda.

### **Playground update and siting of equipment decision**

Chairman reported to the parish that from the outcome of the consultation processes a draft plan had been drawn out that was agreeable to all concerned parties and this plan needed approval of parish councillors in order to proceed with the installation.

Chairman highlighted that a risk assessment from Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association showed the Climbing frame needed to be sited at least another 3 metres away from the goal posts (20m from both hedgelines instead of 23m).

Councillor Skeats stated he wished to listen to comments from the public point of view.

Chairman requested that the recommendations be made and then the meeting would be opened to the public for their comments.

Chairman then read out the following report from Graham Ross, G.P.F.A:-

Mel,

Thank you for the time spent with me yesterday.

As discussed please find attached two pictures that I took from the top of my car looking towards Carl's piece of land. I appreciate that the actual piece of kit may be slightly higher but it does give an indication. Perhaps you could do the same exercise with your vehicle. I have also attached the pics showing location of the car.

Regarding the positioning of the climbing unit it is a question of a risk assessment regarding children using the frame being hit by a ball. In the original position that you showed me on the first drawing I gave that a score of 9 which made it a medium risk.

In the new position I think the possibility and probability would be reduced and the impact of any ball hitting a child would be less and I would score it at 4 which would make it an acceptable low risk

It is worth stressing here that these are my opinions and the matter of risk assessments is subjective. I willingly accept that somebody else may give it a completely different score.

However applying common sense it is clear that moving the frame further away from the goal would reduce the risk. So I would suggest moving the goalposts 7 metres and also repositioning the frame.

Turning to the general layout of the equipment I understand the issues that you have had to deal with. However I am concerned about the gap between the 2 pieces of equipment near to the hall and the rest of the equipment. The danger in this is if there are any disabled users it doesn't create an inclusive feel to the play area. In other words it seems that here is this bit for disabled whilst the rest of the children are far away. The main thing is to make the area inclusive and that children play in the same area regardless of their ability.

I appreciate the issues regarding sight lines and ease of access but thinking about it again I'm strongly of the opinion that it would be better to have a fully inclusive play area where all the children play together regardless of mobility rather than what would appear to be two separate areas. Even if this means wheelchair users having slightly further to go. Therefore my proposal would be to move the two existing pieces of equipment up with the rest of the items. It may require a bit of jiggling around and putting some equipment near to the new houses (who don't seem to object). I realise this suggestion may be unwelcome but again having reflected on what I have seen I am concerned that the existing plan doesn't provide a cohesive and inclusive play area.

If you would like to discuss any of the above please feel free to call me

Best wishes

Graham Ross  
Secretary/Advice Officer  
Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association

Chairman closed the parish council meeting and opened the floor to the parish. A lengthy discussion took place and many valid points were raised.

Chairman re-opened the parish council meeting.

Councillor Skeats mentioned that he still has concerns regarding the two “isolated” pieces of equipment by the car park and that he finds it very difficult to accept parish council can not move this kit in order to satisfy one resident and that he very strongly opposes this current planned positioning.

Councillor Greaves mentioned that as a mother of a disabled child she would not have any concerns with the positioning of these pieces of equipment being positioned where they were currently planned.

Councillor Skeats raised concerns regarding future developments.

Chairman requested that councillors have to consider what is currently on the table, not what might happen in the future.

Councillor Griffiths asked Mr. Hughes in light of tonight’s meeting and the fact the gravity bowl was such a small piece of equipment if there any possibility of movement of this piece of equipment in order to make the two items feel more inclusive in the playground.

Mr.Hughes objected to this and stated he did not want anything sited behind his fence.

The Chairman then asked the councillors to vote on the playground plan. Councillor Skeats reiterated his previous concerns with regard to the siting of the equipment, commenting that he felt it was unacceptable for the parish council to plan the positioning of the equipment to satisfy the concerns of three neighbouring residents.

The vote was 2 against and 2 for the plan with the chairman casting the deciding vote making it 3-2 for accepting the plan on the table. However Councillor Greaves only voted in favour as long as there was a caveat in place for future playground development.

Chairman summarised this process by saying that this consultation and acceptance of this plan now completes the playground process.

Chairman thanked the members of the parish that had attended the meeting and for their comments regarding the playground. Chairman offered all attending parishioners the chance to leave the meeting at this point if they so desired.

Clerk to contact all relevant parties to get playground installed asap.

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

None.

**Police report.**

Chairman read out the following e-mailed report.

There were no crimes in Saul over the past month just several incidents:

One dog scaring a lady-owner spoken to by me and the dog warden.

Highway disruption etc.

If you haven't received the letter updating you yet? the new SARA plan is to reduce asb in Whitminster playing field.

**Matters arising from last months minutes.**

Highways meeting has been arranged for August 5<sup>th</sup> at 10 o'clock. Start at Stables café, Saul.

**Finance**

All cheques approved and signed

Mrs M. Glover clerks wages 5 weeks £349.88

Severn Trent Water – allotments- £100.79

Iain Selkirk – Audit £115.00

GAPTC – membership £128.18

Lynne Barkley - Severn voice minutes £ 65.00

## **Planning - New applications for discussion**

No applications this month

## **District Councillor's News.**

DC John Jones reported that there had been no council meeting to report on but there is one due on 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

Day to day everything remains the same with planning etc, nothing to report.

The new police SARA plan is concentrating on the A.S.B. on the Whitminster Playing Fields and also speed checks on Whitminster Lane.

PC Akers is trying to implement a "kiddie cop" scheme whereby motorists who are stopped for using mobile phones or speeding or not wearing a seat belt for example are spoken to by children. This scheme has been actioned in other parts of the county to great effect.

## **Fund raising**

Sadly the Perryway field is not available for a car boot sale, Clerk to ask Andy Martin if his field would be available for the weekend of 25/9.

## **Parish web site/e-mail address**

Councillor Skeats is happy to undertake the maintenance of the parish website – this motion was proposed Councillor Meredith and seconded by Councillor Griffiths. Councillor Skeats to inform council of updating suggestions once he has had chance to look at the web site as a whole.

## **Bus shelter**

Clerk is in receipt of another quote for a shelter, to be built in the style of the Narles gate in Frampton. Cost would be approx. £4,500.

Clerk to write to Buckley Trust.

## **School site update**

Parish solicitors are still waiting to hear from Madge Lloyd and Gibson (trustees/Diocese solicitor).

Councillor Meredith to arrange tax implications meeting.

## **Stroudwater canal**

Councillor Meredith has instigated an investigation into the "leak" on the Stroudwater canal. It transpires it may be a willow tree that is the culprit. Stroud Valleys project are able to help with £500 worth of funding to assist in the removal of the tree, or possibly the whole amount subject to a longer application process. Councillors decided to ask for the whole amount of £1150.00. Clerk to contact Stroud Valleys.

## **Letter from Arlingham Parish Council**

Chairman read out the following letter from Arlingham Parish Council:

Dear Melanie

The Arlingham Parish Council have instructed me to write to you regarding the Frampton road near the property known as The Gleeds (or Fretherne Villa) where the road narrows and vision is restricted by a high hedge. Drivers need to pull out towards the middle of the road to see past the hedge.

The outcome is that road-users meet at this narrow point with restricted visibility and with vehicles well away from the sides of the road in order to avoid the hedge

Would it be possible for the Fretherne with Saul Parish Council to assess the situation and advise whether you feel any action can be taken to alleviate the risk of harm at this point?

Many thanks  
Andrea Welby  
Arlingham Parish Clerk

Councillor Greaves felt that as she had lived in the area for approximately thirty years and that there had never been an accident in this location that the narrowness of the road and the hedge actually was a natural slowing point for all traffic.

Clerk to write to Arlingham Parish advising them that the letter has been passed to Highways Agency. Clerk to write to the property owners advising them of parish council actions.

## **CEG106**

To be carried forward to next months agenda.

**Queen Elizabeth II fields challenge**

A scheme in which Prince William is aiming to protect 2012 playing fields, ie that they never be developed and will always remain a playing field. This information forwarded to Memorial Hall Committee.

**Emergency plan**

Councillor Greaves has Emergency Plan folder and D.V.D. Details include a parish questionnaire template to establish available skills and equipment for example. Councillor Greaves is prepared to look at whole Emergency plan (battle box, map of parish with key areas identified e.g.) and will bring back to the council for emergency planning management. Councillors were in full agreement with this plan of action.

DC Jones highlighted that SDC will provide a battle box if required to do so.

**Information Exchange**

Councillor Griffiths wanted it minuted that she has concerns over the whole playground decision making processes and that she felt it was wrong to make a decision based on pressure from Gloucestershire County Council concerning the removal of the funding if councillors could not find a way to satisfy the needs of the concerned residents. Councillor Griffiths wanted it noted that she believes the parish council should be able to make decisions based on the relevant information before them and not because of perceived delay from legal action.

Councillor Griffiths also stated that she has concerns about the “no-go” area, i.e the area of the new playground that has no equipment in it. Councillor Griffiths also felt that with hindsight there were issues throughout this process that could have been handled differently.

Councillor Findlater has had many concerns raised regarding the “right of way” issues at Sandfield Bridge. Councillors will discuss this item again with Highways at the forthcoming meeting. Clerk to advise Chris Riley – Highways.

Councillor Findlater also stated that concerns have been raised regarding the hedge on the left of the junction when pulling out into Whitminster Lane from Church Lane. DC Jones will investigate this further.

Councillor Findlater pointed out that residents in High Street and Moor Street had not received calenders regarding the change of day for rubbish collection and an elderly resident initially had not had rubbish collected from her house (as opposed to the bottom of her drive). Councillor Findlater to monitor and report back.

Councillor Skeats asked whose responsibility is it to if a rubbish bag is ripped open and strewn across the pavement by foxes/cats/dogs. DC Jones reported it is the responsibility of the rubbish owner to clear it up.

Councillor Skeats raised concerns regarding resident’s access during the forthcoming road closure at Moor Street. Councillor Meredith asked Councillor Skeats to draw up a list of items including this one for discussing with Chris Riley from Highways at the meeting in August.

**Public Forum.**

Mrs. Gardner reported that the dog waste bin at Saul Junction is continuously overflowing – either it is not being emptied often enough or another bin is needed. Clerk to contact neighbourhood warden to investigate further.

**There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.27 p.m.**

..... Chairman

**Date of next meeting July 28<sup>th</sup> 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.*