

## **FRETHERNE WITH SAUL PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> July

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

010710 **Apologies for absence.**

Councillor Greaves, Police

020710 **Approval of minutes from Parish Council Meeting dated 30<sup>th</sup> June**

Approved

030710 **Councillors Declaration of Interests to Items on the Agenda.**

Councillor Meredith declared a non-prejudicial interest in item 08.07.10 – planning application for Home Farm Barn.

040710 **Police report.**

Clerk has not received a report.

050710 **Matters arising from last month's minutes.**

Moor Street repairs have been suspended until later on in the year (to be discussed at the meeting with Chris Riley).

Councillor Findlater reported that the rubbish/recycling is being collected but on different days.

DC John Jones highlighted that if collections were being made for the disabled then they should continue. Clerk to contact Mike Towson if problem persists.

Chairman asked DC JJ about the investigation into the "marina hedge" on Whitminster Lane as it is very high and is in need of cutting back in order to ease visibility. DC JJ has so far been unable to get an answer.

Councillor Meredith asked DC J Jones at what point rubbish changed ownership – rubbish changes ownership at the point the collectors have collected it.

Clerk has contacted the Neighbourhood Warden concerning the overflowing Dog waste bins on the canal and he will investigate further.

060710 **Stroudwater canal**

Chairman reported the following regarding the SW canal: -

A "petition" has been received with the names of 49 people asking for work to be done on the canal. Water pumps are being looked into and water will be pumped into the canal at the earliest opportunity.

Chairman highlighted that he had concerns as to why the petition had been raised.

Mrs. Jill Rudman stated that the parish were really concerned as the canal was a feature of the parish and no work seems to have been done on it.

Chairman reported the following work that has been undertaken concerning the canal: -

2007 a wildlife survey was actioned and a management plan put in place. From that a public meeting was held at the Ship where those present agreed it should be the parish council's responsibility to implement work on the canal as and when it was necessary.

The draft management plan has been followed - scrub clearance, vegetation control, vole survey, improved footpath.

An annual litter pick is undertaken.

The canal is routinely monitored.

A grant application is in place in order to remove a willow tree on the south side of the canal which is believed to be the cause of the canal "leak". A further investigation will take place if this proves not to be the route of the problem.

Water will be pumped in North side as soon as is possible.

A measuring stick will be put in.

What has not yet been tackled is the regular dropping of litter along the canal and the abundance of dog waste left. It's hoped that local schemes could be put in place to control this.

Wild life interpretation boards may be installed.

Mrs. Rudman reported that the parish were not aware this action had been taken.

Chairman stated that it has all been in the parish council minutes.

Mrs. Maggie Drake asked whose responsibility it was to monitor the water levels in the canal.

Chairman reported it was his responsibility.

Mrs. Rudman highlighted that the parish were unaware on who was what responsible for what and that the parish were also unaware of who to contact.

Clerk to place a list of contacts in the notice board but first point of contact for any parishioner to contact the council should be with either the clerk or the chairman.

Mrs. Drake volunteered herself and her husband as water level monitors and reported that a measuring stick is already in place.

The chairman acknowledged that the meeting should have been closed whilst a public discussion took place.

070710 **Finance**

The cheques for the Environment Agency were not raised or signed as the chairman has been in contact with the E.A. with regard to reducing the outstanding invoices.

Mrs M. Glover clerks wages 279.90

Environment Agency water abstraction licence 2009 335.18

Environment Agency water abstraction licence 2010 368.75

Allianz insurance 522.17

Mrs. M. Glover – clerks wages August 279.90

080710 **Planning – New applications for discussion**

Both planning applications were approved.

<a href="#">S.10/1334/VAR</a>	Mavic Moor Street, Saul, GL2 7LQ	Variation of condition 1 of permission S.07/1291/FUL for the erection of two storey extension.
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<a href="#">S.10/1320/HHOLD</a>	Barn Home Farm, Fretherne Lane, Saul, GL2 7JG	Erection of extension to existing dwelling and erection of an outbuilding.
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090710 **District Councillor's News.**

DC John Jones reported that there was a council meeting last Thursday. There was a presentation by the Chief Executive regarding the implications for the council of the emergency budget.

Prepared 16th July probably 22nd out of date.

There are around 95 actions that directly concern local government from emergency budget.

A lot of regional directional bodies are being removed, for example the SW Regional Development Agency, the Regional Spatial Strategy has gone, the Standards Board for England is going and will revert to an SDC board should that be approved at a forthcoming meeting by the SDC Standards Board. Future job funds have been frozen.

Free swimming is being discontinued. The over 60's will be offered a 25% discount in Stroud for up to a year.

RD Agency - replacement by local enterprise partnerships.

There will be a fair pay review and a pension review.

Council tax will be frozen for two years and there will be a pay freeze for all public sector employees earning OVER £21-000

New police stations have been shelved – money will be spent on offers and support staff.

Information security policy item passed – all members, including parish councillors and parish clerks must be aware that all e-mails and letters must be within council guidelines, or they risk being filtered out by the SDC system.

There has been a review of members allowances – lap tops and computers have been taken on board. The allowance is being increased £156 per year to included payments for computer consumables and SDC related telephone calls, instead of members having to claim monthly as is the current practice. A taxable allowance of £390 will be paid to cover some of the costs incurred by members purchasing their own laptops/computers as the District Council will no longer be providing laptops or broadband connection to members.

Most members lap tops supplied by the council are over five years old and are uneconomical to repair as well as parts being difficult to source.

Councillor Findlater asked in light of cutbacks will the Neighbourhood Warden service be withdrawn. DC J Jones reported that there are no current plans in place to withdraw this service, although it could be reviewed.

100710 **Fund raising**

Clerk has spoken with Mr. Martin who has very kindly offered the use of his field in Moor Street for a car boot sale on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2010.

Advertising to be put in place in time for car boot sale in Frampton the previous weekend.

Councillor Griffiths will design a flier, Councillor Meredith will print it.

Clerk to organise 2 x toilets, donations from buyers for admission and £5.00 entry for selling cars or £10.00 for vans or cars with trailers.

110710 **Parish web site**

Councillor Skeats has managed to update the website and will continue to operate.

DC J. Jones stated that SDC should be able to offer a print out of "hits" if required.

120710 **Bus shelter**

Clerk to contact the two parties interested in supplying the bus shelter. Councillors would like to have an actual design, price, time scale, start and finish dates.

130710 **School site update**

Councillor Meredith to contact Mr. Stephens as no recent contact has been made. Councillor Griffiths has concerns regarding land registry and the drive.

Councillor Skeats will raise the school site and the playground with Neil Carmichael at the drop in session.

140710 **Playground update**

Chairman read out the press release from GCC.

Play area funding is withdrawn

Play area projects in the county will be affected as government funding for the Playbuilder programme is being withdrawn.

The Secretary of State for Education has announced that further savings from a number of capital budgets need to be made and funding for the planned Playbuilder programme has been withdrawn. Where work has already started on play sites (two sites), that commitment will be honoured but the county council is still waiting to hear whether funding will be made available for those projects where work has not started but contracts may have been entered into.

Nine projects will definitely not go ahead as the county council has been instructed to stop spending or committing any Playbuilder money that has not already been spent. The cost of the projects confirmed as not going ahead is around £380,000. The county council has written to the district councils, who are coordinating the projects locally, to inform them of the Government's withdrawal of funding.

Twelve Playbuilder sites were completed in the first year of the programme at a cost of around £530,000. They are all open and in use.

Cllr Paul McLain, Deputy Leader of Gloucestershire County Council, said: "This is a frustrating situation for all of us who worked to bring Playbuilder funding to our local communities. Given the mammoth scale of the national debt and deficit, I understand why the coalition Government is having to make such significant savings. Inevitably that is leading to some difficult decisions here in Gloucestershire.

"We will continue to lobby the Department for Education about our local Playbuilder schemes. We should find out if funding is still available for the three play sites where contracts have been entered into by the end of August."

Playbuilder projects status

Going ahead: Bledington and Chipping Campden (already under construction, due for completion September 2010)

Uncertain: Benhall Park, Cheltenham; Brockweir, Forest of Dean; Saul.

Not going ahead: QE2, Battledown; The Moors, Cheltenham; Primrose Hill, Forest of Dean; Matson Park, Gloucester; The Lannet, Gloucester; Eastcombe, Stroud; Summer Crescent (Stroud area); Innsworth, Winchcombe.

Playbuilder sites completed (in first year of programme): Cheltenham: Springfield Park and Agg Gardner Play Area; Cotswolds: Andoversford and Lechlade; Forest: Bream and Ruardean; Gloucester: Podsmead and Elmbridge; Stroud: Nailsworth and Cam; Tewkesbury: Gotherington and Newtown, Tewkesbury

Fretherne with Saul Parish Council are committed to Monster Play, play equipment provider, as we have placed an order for the equipment.

A decision will be made in August as to whether or not we will receive our funding.

The playground will not be open for August Bank Holiday grand opening.

150710 **CEG106**

Clerk had concerns about the hours needed for completing this course so no further action will be taken at this stage.

160710 **Emergency plan**

Clerk to circulate parish questionnaire.

170710 **Information Exchange**

There is to be a drop in session meeting with Neil Carmichael on 30<sup>th</sup> July.

There is to be an allotment forum meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> October.

There is a Neighbourhood warden meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> August.

Street lighting details were passed to John Hewett for looking into.

180710 **Public Forum.**

Chairman asked if the allotment tenancy notices had been distributed. Clerk reported that they have and there have been no concerns raised.

Chairman has been in discussion with Mrs. Tate regarding a produce stall; more detail needed.

DC J Jones reported that the Memorial Hall Sign has “disappeared” under ivy. Councillor Pocket will discuss with the land owner.

Clerk reported that Mrs. Gardner has been badly cut by brambles on footpath by the church.

There are concerns with the following footpaths: - EFL/19/1, EFL/17/3 and EFL/17/1.

**There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.**

..... Chairman

**Date of next meeting September 29<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 p.m.**