

FREETHERNE WITH SAUL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated Wednesday 28th September

Present: Councillors: Mr. C. Meredith, Mr. R. Findlater, Mrs. A. Greaves, Mrs. Linda Griffiths, , Mel Glover (Parish Clerk), 2 members of the parish

010911 Apologies for absence.

Councillors Hewett, Pocket and Skeats, District Councillor John Jones

020911 Approval of minutes from Parish Council Meeting dated 27th July

Approved

030911 Police report

No police report available, clerk checked the website police.uk and there was nothing showing on there for FWS for August.

040911 Councillors Declaration of Interests to Items on the Agenda.

None.

050911 Matters arising from last month's minutes.

After speaking with a work colleague Mr. Barton is happy to be on the footpath committee as long as it does not interfere with his work colleague.

No further information has been received regarding Alpha Hire activity adjacent to the Marina.

A notice board has been ordered from Leyhill prison. It will take up to 12 weeks for availability.

Village Design statement is to be put on the agenda for next month.

060911 Finance

All cheques were approved and signed.

Cheque written since previous meeting: -

HMRC (paye tax for clerk)	£122.60
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Cheques at the meeting

M. Glover – clerks wages September	£223.20
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Digley Associates – playground inspection	£ 48.00
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Moore Stephens Audit	£480.00
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Longney & Epney Parish Council – Severn Voice meeting	£ 7.20
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Mr. A. Cook – Framilode Pound maintenance - grill covers	£376.95
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070911 Planning Applications

Councillors had no objection to this application.

S.11/1532/TCA	The Pound House Framilode, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL2 7LH	Removal of dead Alder tree and felling of Sycamore.
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080911 District Councillor's News

As DC John Jones was unavailable for this meeting the chairman read out the following e-mailed report: -

My apologies for your meeting tonight, we have a special Council meeting to debate the apparent new health service reforms in Stroud!

Items from last week's Council meeting included a minute's silence for 3 former members who have died, one of whom was Sheffie Mohammad, who had been a Councillor for 34 years until May of last year when he stood down.

Accepted and debated the petition against the imposition of car parking charges in Nailsworth. No decision has been made on this subject as the consultation period does not finish until Friday of this week.

Resolved to accept the figure of 9,350 dwellings to be built across the District in the years 2006-2026. As the number already built, or have permission to be built since 2006 is 6150, the number of dwellings to find land for is 3200. There has not been any land put forward in Fretherne with Saul Parish for housing development. This will not exclude any infill development that might be applied for, given that any appropriate conditions could be met. Ratified the current new scheme of planning delegation. Although a full year has not elapsed since the new scheme was introduced, figures overwhelmingly prove that the new scheme is working as intended, more planning applications are being determined before or within the allotted timescale, officers are able to spend more time on pre-application advice, fewer applications are being presented to Planning Committee, with more in-depth discussion at that committee, and Parish and Town Councils are still bringing applications to committee, following the new procedure.

Public speaking is to be brought in at Planning Committee meetings. Parish Councils will no longer be invited to Sites Panel visits in their Parish, instead the Parish representative will be given 3 minutes to address Committee at the meeting, as will supporters of and objectors to an application, as well as the Ward member. One spokesperson for supporters and one for objectors will be allowed to speak to the Committee. It is thought this could be implemented in December, once operational details have been agreed.

As the Planning department has to be self-funding, Government grant funding is being withdrawn, the Head of Planning, in consultation with the Cabinet member for Planning, the Chair of DCC and the Head of Finance will draw up a scale of planning fees, and subsequently adjust as necessary. It is thought that retrospective planning applications could carry a higher fee than normal ones.

The Monitoring Officer be given the authority to amend Council's constitution to enable these changes to be made.

The Longney and Epney Parish Design Statement was adopted, and can be used as a material consideration in any planning recommendations. (Materials, design of buildings, landscaping etc.)

090911 School site update

A necessity set by the diocese before the site could be handed over to the Parish Council as Mr. Jock Lane (the recognised heir to the site) wants, was that Parish Council had to find indemnity insurance in order to protect the trustees from being sued should a future claim be made on the land. Parish Council did indeed find an insurance company willing to insure and details were forwarded to the diocese. Sadly the wording was insufficient to meet the diocese's needs and so it was rejected. The diocese then specified exactly what they wanted the insurance cover to state. This was actioned by parish council and insurance company and returned to the diocese. Sadly this was still not acceptable to the diocese and a diocese meeting was being held on 28th September where the recommendation was going to be made to sell the site.

Parish Council are still waiting to hear the outcome of that meeting.

100911 Maintenance Contract

Clerk was in receipt of five tenders from the following: -

J.K. Smith, Glebe Contractors, Greenfields, P. Gardiner, and P. Browning.

All tenders were discussed. Councillor Meredith proposed offering the contract to Mr. Smith, the motion was seconded by Councillor Findlater with all council agreeing. Clerk to write to all parties.

110911 Emergency plan

Councillor Greaves reported that she is in receipt of some responses from the recent parish questionnaire. She has met with Stroud District Council and the co-ordinator of the Frampton Emergency plan, both of whom have offered Councillor Greaves some assistance.

Whitminster Parish Council has also offered their help and has given Councillor Greaves access to their emergency plan.

The next step is to look at the template and enter FWS details into it - Councillor Greaves hopes to have more to report at the next parish meeting.

Emergency Plan to be put on the agenda.

120911 Playground

Councillors Findlater and Meredith attended a playground seminar enabling them now to be able to do safety checks on the equipment. It was also highlighted at the meeting that a playground policy statement should be in place and Councillor Meredith will formulate for the next meeting.

Monthly safety checks are necessary and Councillor Findlater will action before the next meeting.

Digley Associates have actioned a fairly extensive check on the equipment – clerk to forward to Parish Council and Memorial Hall committee.

130911 Environment Agency

Severn Voice has had a good response regarding the flood defence proposals and are progressing.

140911 Audit/Auditor

Audit has been received back from Moore Stephens, everything is in order.

Chairman read out a letter from Mr. Iain Selkirk explaining that the audit system may be changing from next year and asking if the parish council would, without obligation, support him in his researching of the ramifications if he were to undertake the audit. Parish Council agreed as it was under no obligation.

150911 Bank Accounts

Clerk had contacted Lloyds bank who indicated that Parish Council funds may be more suited to a higher interest rate account that requires six weeks' notice to withdraw any funds.

Councillors all agreed and clerk is to organise the opening of the new account and the transferring of the money.

160911 Diamond Jubilee Parish Beacon

As Fretherne with Saul does not have an area high enough for a beacon, councillors decided to abstain from lighting a beacon to celebrate the jubilee. Clerk to advise the fire service.

170911 Information Exchange

Clerk has received a letter from St Peters Fretherne asking for a donation towards a lawn mower. Clerk to advise that this financial's year donation budget has been allocated but that St. Peters will be on top of the list for the next financial year.

Mr. Cooke submitted before and after photos of Framilode Pound. An excellent result has been achieved by the parishioners who volunteered to take on this task and the parish councillors congratulate and thank this enthusiastic workforce. Councillor Meredith will write a report for the magazine and notice board to accompany the pictures.

Clerk has received letters regarding a coastal fund and parliamentary constituencies which Councillor Meredith read out.

Precept meeting has been set for 7.30 p.m. 19th October at Ashbrooke, High Street, Saul.

Councillor Griffiths was extremely disappointed and angry that no further progress has been made on the school site and suggested proactive action be taken as soon as possible.

Councillor Meredith will explore registering the site.

Councillor Griffiths will look into obtaining an injunction on the site.

Councillor Griffiths will ask Mr. Parry to contact Mr. Lane, the beneficiary of the site.

Councillor Griffiths will also contact a rural reporter who may be interested in reporting on the last ten years.

Footpaths to go on agenda for next month, Councillor Findlater will meet with Footpaths sub-committee and report back next month.

Clerk and chairman have received an e-mail from Amanda Blewett and neighbours highlighting concerns with a nearby popular tree. Clerk to contact Highways.

Councillor Meredith reported that FWS won an award in the recent village of the year competition, as the "best village revisited" – an award created especially for our village as the judges were impressed with what they had seen. A cheque for £100 was the prize for this award and the certificate is to be displayed at the Heritage Centre or the Stables Café if possible.

Councillor Meredith reported that our allotments were in very good order and this was a contributing factor to the above award. He suggested maybe an allotment competition might be a good idea and this will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Councillor Meredith reported that dog waste was being left on the Saul Playground. This is unacceptable and owners are reminded that they can be fined up to £1000 for leaving their dogs poo behind. There is CCTV on the playing field and action will be taken against this unacceptable behaviour. Clerk to contact the dog warden to ask for a doggy bag supply. Sign to be placed in notice board and magazine.

Councillor Meredith would like to thank the owners of Bridge House who was recently asked to cut back his hedge to increase visibility and took immediate and positive action.

Councillor Meredith reported that the Ship Inn is in danger of closing and that parishioners support their local hostelry.

Councillor Meredith recommended that the Memorial Hall Committee should look into solar panelling and Councillors Findlater and Meredith with contact Mr. Carter to discuss further.

180911 Public Forum

Mrs. Gardner reported that there is a hedge on Church Lane obscuring the vision. Councillor Meredith to investigate further.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.21 p.m.

..... Chairman

Date of next meeting 26th October 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.