

## FRETHERNE WITH SAUL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October

Present: Councillors: Mr. C. Meredith, Mr. R. Findlater, Mr. D. Pocket, Mrs. Linda Griffiths, Mr. David Skeats, District Councillor John Jones, Mel Glover (Parish Clerk), 2 members of the parish

**011011 Apologies for absence.**

Councillors Hewett and Greaves, the police

**021011 Approval of minutes from Parish Council Meeting dated 28<sup>th</sup> September**

Approved.

**031011 Police report**

Councillor Meredith read out the following report e-mailed from the police: -

the figures are 10 incidents reported, including 2x crimes

1x theft of jewellery (believed by a family member) in Framilode

1x theft from a road laying vehicle

the rest are just incidents including an insecure door, several breaches of bail by a local lad whose on tag alarm

**041011 Councillors Declaration of Interests to Items on the Agenda.**

Councillors Skeats and Griffiths declared a professional interest regarding the planning application.

**051011 Matters arising from last month's minutes.**

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

Chairman will meet with Mr. Smith (awarded the maintenance contract) to discuss the work.

Chairman has written a report regarding Framilode Pound, (and will be put in the parish magazine).

Highways has been contacted regarding the tree in Church Lane; it will be assessed but Highways unlikely to take any action unless the tree is damaged or diseased.

The £100 prize money for winning our entry into the village of the year was discussed on how to spend it. Councillor Findlater suggested a road sign. It was decided to put this item for further discussion on the agenda next month.

Memorial Hall Committee are interested in solar panels – to be on agenda and discussed further next month.

Councillor Meredith will assess the hedge obscuring vision and will report back at the next meeting.

**061011 Finance**

Cheque written since last meeting

PAYE £122.60

This months cheques

M. Glover – clerks wages

Hiltone Services £937.12

Severn Trent Water – allotments £193.99

Poppy Wreath £ 20.00

All cheques were approved and signed

## 071011 **Planning Applications**

[S.11/1909/HHOLD](#) 2 Hillfield Villas Demolition of existing single storey extension and erection of replacement two storey extension and garden room.  
Passage Road,  
Saul,  
Gloucester,  
Gloucestershire,  
GL2 7LB

Approved

## 081011 **District Councillor's News**

DC J.Jones reported on an extraordinary meeting of the District Council which had been called to debate a motion that proposed to condemn the new Social Enterprise Organisation being considered by Gloucestershire's Community Health Services, without full and proper consultation. After much debate, both for and against the motion, amending of the motion, voting on the amendment(s), the following was put to Council and almost unanimously voted in favour of. "That this Council is concerned that the public view is that GCHS are being rushed into a new Social Enterprise organisation without proper consultation or preparation We demand proper scrutiny by the Health Community and Care Scrutiny Committee of the County Council so that all assumptions being made by the GCHS can be tested and alternative proposals can be considered". The Council's representative on the Scrutiny Committee resolved to take all of the Council's concerns to the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee (Since this SDC meeting, a hold has been put on proposals to form the Social Enterprise Organisation, due to a legal injunction).

The adjourned meeting of the previous week was then resumed, which had been carried over due to the lateness of the previous week's meeting ending.

Three motions were debated, the first relating to the Council using a contractor who might have committed "an act of grave misconduct in its operations in the Middle East". In discussion it was found that there was no statutory definition of grave misconduct and no case law defining the same. If this was found to be proved it would be brought to Council's attention. At the vote the motion was lost.

The second motion was concerning Council not investing in Ethical Banks. In debate it was reported that Council only invested in organisations with approved and recommended criteria. At the vote the motion was lost.

Thirdly, a motion was put that the Council should explore the feasibility, in conjunction with the Housing Revenue Account's new borrowing facility, of issuing a bond to be made available and for benefit only to the residents of Stroud District. It was pointed out that the Council already has explored several options for issuing bonds, but none could be legally operated or kept local by the Council. At the vote the motion was lost.

Cllr Jones also gave an update on the Planning Application for conversion of a building to B8 storage use, at Walk Farm, which, while not in FwS Parish, could have an effect on residents of the village.

## 091011 **School site update**

No communication has been received from the Diocese regarding selling the site.

The site is registered to the Church Wardens.

To place a caution on the site will cost £50.00 which could force the wardens to demonstrate their legal claim.

Councillor Griffiths has contacted a solicitor who has confirmed that the Parish Council can act on behalf of the beneficiary.

Cllr Griffiths has also contacted a Barrister in London regarding the site and the legalities of sale.

Councillor Griffiths is awaiting further information and proposed a meeting when the diocese has advised parish council regarding their decision.

This was agreed. Councillor Meredith will contact the diocese.

**101011 Footpaths**

Councillor Findlater reported there was nothing to report.

**111011 Emergency plan**

Councillor Greaves has started work on the Emergency plan, Councillor Skeats agreed to help. Emergency plan to remain on agenda. Mr. Tim Lever (member of the parish) also very kindly agreed to help.

**121011 Playground**

Councillor Findlater has completed a monthly safety check. There is nothing significant to report other than a few missing or loose nuts and bolts, the matting on the slide has a few gaps and the picnic benches are moveable. No equipment has failed but the rubber on the zip wire needs retaping. Clerk to email Graham Ross to assess the suitability of the safety check. Checks to be actioned monthly during peak season and bi-monthly off season. Councillor Findlater to action check in December.

Councillor Meredith reported that a maintenance contract proposal is imminent from Monster Play and a few replacement parts will be sent.

**131011 Allotments**

Water rates for the allotments have increased quite substantially over the last three or four years. Councillor Meredith proposed to raise the cost of the allotments from £5.00 to £6.00 for residents of the parish and from £7.50 to £8.50 for non- residents. This was agreed.

**141011 Precept**

After a discussion regarding donations precept was agreed and set at £13280.00.

The amount has risen due to increased costs regarding the necessary audit and due to money being budgeted for playground maintenance.

Cutbacks were made where possible including some reductions in the parish council memberships to some organisations.

The increase equates to approximately £2.17 per household per year (0.18p per month approximately).

**151011 Bank Account**

A proportion of the parish council money has been transferred to a higher interest bank account and can remain in that account until needed elsewhere, 6 weeks' notice will be needed to access that money.

**161011 Information Exchange**

Clerk to contact the EA regarding the silt flaps and the email from James Druett.

Councillor Meredith read out an E-mail from the MHC regarding a grant application for a new kitchen for the Memorial Hall. Parish Council agreed to endorse the application and financially support it although by how much will be decided when the actual cost for the new kitchen has been agreed.

Councillor Griffiths reported that full black sacks have been left alongside the canal. Councillor Meredith will investigate further.

Councillor Griffiths asked if the parish party for the jubilee was still going ahead.

Clerk to get license application form and jubilee party is to be put on the agenda for next month.

Councillor Griffiths reported that she is retiring from the Parish Magazine Editing team in December and that a new publisher is still required.

Anybody interested should contact Councillor Griffiths (who will offer help and assistance).

Councillor Skeats reported that he had attended the Severn Voice meeting and reported that local residents are making strong representations to the E.A. regarding the Severn estuary flood risk strategy. The EA are reviewing the process and a further meeting will take place.

Regarding admissions for Arlingham children to Lakefield School – paperwork has been e-mailed from that meeting which requests that parish council approach the governing body to make representations. School admissions to be put on agenda for next meeting.

DCJJ reported that Whitminster Lane is now on a County Council secondary salting route. DCJJ also reported that a new Neighbourhood warden has been recruited

**171011 Public Forum**

Mr. Tim Lever raised concerns regarding the smell from the Ship Inn.

Councillor Meredith reported that the sewage works were not maintained or cleaned out by the previous incumbents. The current tenant has supposedly instigated this action.

Mr. Lever said that the unpleasant smell is still very prominent. Councillor Meredith will investigate further.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

..... Chairman

**Date of next meeting 30<sup>th</sup> November 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.*