

**FRETHERNE WITH SAUL PARISH COUNCIL**  
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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2012

Present: Councillors: Mr. C. Meredith, Mr. D. Skeats, Mr. J. Hewett, Mrs. L. Griffiths. District Councillor John Jones, Mel Glover (Parish Clerk), 3 members of the parish.

**010221 Apologies for absence.**

Police. Councillor Findlater

**020212 Approval of minutes from Parish Council Meeting dated 25<sup>th</sup> January**

Approved after a small typing error was corrected.

**030212 Police report**

Councillor Meredith read out the following report:

Hi Mel

I hope your well.

We have had 1x dog reported missing this month-it was found.

1x female assaulted her husband-arrested and cautioned for assault.

1x incident at canals trust-1x adult male arrested for public order offences.

So its been a good month really, I cant think of any other problems!

see you soon

Kelly

**040212 Councillors Declaration of Interests to Items on the Agenda.**

None

**050212 Matters arising from last month's minutes.**

Councillor Skeats will draft a letter to Lakefield School governors.

Councillor Meredith will circulate playground policy.

Clerk will contact Highways re fencing by the Ship Inn.

**060212 Finance**

Clerk has had to purchase a new printer as hers had broken down beyond economical repair.

Councillors discussed and agree to reimburse clerk for the price of the new printer.

All cheques were approved and signed, including one to GAPTC not on the agenda for a training course for Councillor Meredith.

M.Glover new printer

£59.99

M. Glover – printer inks

£32.99

M. Glover – clerks wages (5 weeks)

£279.00

GAPTC

£35.00

**070212 District Councillors News**

SDC Council Meeting, 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2012

A much shorter meeting than the previous one in January, which finished at 12-15am!

This meeting was over by 20-45pm.

A new Legal Services Manager and Monitoring Officer was appointed to replace Mr Peter Cruden, who died after a relatively short illness in early February. The new Officer is Mr Peter Woodcock, initially appointed for three months, who will be working at Ebley Mill on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. He has held similar positions in other Local Authorities, so comes with considerable experience. It is a legal requirement that Council has a Monitoring Officer, so an interim appointment is made, with full confirmation after an initial period.

Setting the Council Tax for 2012/13.

There were no percentage increases in rates from the County Council, the Police Authority or the District Council, any increase, or decrease coming from Parish or Town Councils, which would apply only to the relevant Parish or Town. A Band A property in Fretherne with Saul will pay £1016.74 annually, Band D £1525.10, and Band H £3050.20 with other Bands as appropriate in between.

The Council's Audit Committee recommendations to adopt the Treasury Management Strategy, Annual Investment Strategy, and Minimum Revenue Policy Statement for next year were duly carried, without much fuss, So was the recommendations of the Panel that looks into the terms and

conditions of the Chief Executive. This Panel not only looks into those of the top tier of management, but starts at the bottom, i.e. apprentice level, and works its way all the way through the twelve levels of pay structures to ensure accountability. The Pay Accountability /Senior Pay Policy for the Council is a requirement of the Localism Act of 2011, which states that all grades of staff remuneration must be published annually. The Chief Executive, Strategic Heads, and Heads of Service are subject to a national pay body as far as pay awards are given. These Officers have not had a pay award for the last three years. Currently, the Council has eight staff employed at apprentice level, which it intends to increase to twelve within the next year.

A motion to reduce the Empty Homes 10% discount on Council Tax to zero in the financial year 2013-2014 was defeated, mainly because it is not possible in all circumstances to establish why the property is empty. It could be that the owners have moved into a retirement home, or that they have died and probate is taking a long time to prove, or there could be other exceptional circumstances. The majority of Members felt it is not possible to have a policy that doesn't cover all eventualities. Councillor Meredith asked how it was possibly that an empty house can attract 90% council tax- this is because although the house may be empty it still may need services such as police or fire brigade and therefore the council tax should still be paid.

**080212 Planning Applications**

None

**090212 Village Design Statement**

Councillor Skeats has drafted a copy of the VDS and this was distributed to present councillors. Comments to be presented at next months meeting.

Councillor Skeats has contacted the appropriate office within SDC who has asked for a draft copy, council agreed and Councillor Skeats will organise this.

To be put on the agenda for next month.

**100212 School site update**

Councillor Meredith reported that there have been a few developments regarding the site, namely that the trustees have decided to sell the site.

Parish Council are contacting a barrister who will advise FOC if there is a case to be taken to court given that the beneficiary wishes the site to remain for the benefit of the parish. If the barrister thinks there is a case the potential costs will be given.

Councillor Skeats suggested forming a sub committee to act on behalf of the parish council should a quick decision be necessary. It was decided that this course of action is unnecessary as an Emergency Meeting can take place if needed.

Councillor Meredith reported that a caution against dealings can be lodged with land registry. This would not necessarily stop the site being sold but would inform potential purchasers that there is a dispute on the land. There is a nominal charge involved. Parish Council agree to take this course of action and Councillor Meredith contact land registry and arrange.

**110212 Emergency plan**

To be carried forward to next meeting.

**120212 Playground**

Mr. Bob White has very kindly donated a new piece of play equipment to the parish council and is also prepared to donate £100 towards the installation costs. Councillor Meredith is hoping to install the equipment on Saturday (2pm), along with the further two bike stands.

**130212 £100 Prize money**

Councillors agreed to donate this money towards the installation of the new piece of play equipment if it was necessary.

**140212 Jubilee Party**

A grant has been applied for from SDC in order to help with the artiste costs for the party. Alfredo the magic clown, Punch and Judy, Olly Crick Circus Skills and Metamofaces face painter have definitely booked.

The temporary event licence the parish council applied for has been granted.

Jane Bolton has booked the vice Lord Lieutenant to open the party as this ties in with the QE2 status the field has achieved.

The suggestion was made at the sub committee meeting of starting the party with a balloon launch. Councillors discussed and voted on this action with an outcome of 3 votes to one. Balloon launch in principal was agreed to.

Next meeting is 21<sup>st</sup> March.

Parish Council may possibly provide “party food” and it is hoped that the fish and chip van will come to the party evening to sell fish and chips.

Clerk to look into costs / availability of bouncy castles etc.

Helpers and volunteers for the day are still needed. Parishioners willing to help should contact the clerk.

**150212 Footpaths**

Carried forward to the next meeting.

**160212 New Parish Councillors**

Sadly Darrel Pocket has retired from the Parish Council with immediate effect meaning that two parish councillors are needed. Clerk to raise the relevant paperwork asap and ultimately interviews/election will be held if necessary.

Councillor Meredith thanked Mr. Pocket for his years of service and that a void will left by his departure.

Clerk to write to Mr. Pocket.

**170212 Web Site**

Councillor Meredith reported that the parish website is looking out of date. Councillor Skeats suggested an advert in the parish magazine advising that the web site is for the community and that local groups are more than welcome to advertise on it.

Councillor Skeats will look into the possibility and costs of a domain name.

**180212 Litter Pick**

Date set for 14<sup>th</sup> April – clerk to contact SDC for litter pickers and high vis jackets.

**190212 Wall clearance of ivy**

A volunteer has offered to clear the wall in Saul of ivy. The wall in question is owned by the District Council and therefore the decision is not parish council’s to make.

**200212 Auditor**

Council agreed to use Mr. Selkirk again.

Councillor Skeats reported that he had actioned an internal audit and all was in order.

**210212 Information Exchange**

Clerk offered councillors various items of literature. All were declined.

Councillor Griffiths highlighted problems with parking along from the canal, on the corner heading towards Frampton. Clerk to contact Highways to ask for white lines to reinstate the white lines.

Clerk to contact the police and neighbourhood warden to ask for help in monitoring the situation.

Councillor Griffiths asked if cars were able to turn right from the Heritage Centre into Church Lane. Yes – this is a legal manoeuvre.

DCJJ reported that if parish council pay for the clerk’s replacement printer that the printer then belongs to parish council.

Councillor Meredith reported that the allotments are losing a lot of valuable space due to overgrowing hedgerow and that as landlords the parish council are duty bound to maintain the area. Community payback may take this project on but it must be undertaken before April 1<sup>st</sup> (nesting birds). Clerk to contact Community Payback. Julian to be contacted to ask for a quote if Community Payback are unable to undertake.

**220212 Public Forum**

Mrs. Gardner reported that the ditch along Church Lane (opposite Clarence House) is falling into disrepair. It is the responsibility of the riparian land owner to maintain the ditch.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.58 p.m.

..... Chairman

**Date of next meeting 29<sup>th</sup> March 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.*

Minutesfeb12

Melanie Glover, Ashbrooke, High Street, Saul, Glos, GL2 7LW