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Minutes of the Parish Assembly meeting dated 18 May 2016

Present: Councillors Mr A Lundberg (Chair); Mrs S Harrower; Mr B Findlater; Mrs L Moule; Mr R Apperley,
Mr C Bierer; Ms G Delbos (Clerk)
Two members of the general public attended

- **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
 - DC J Jones
- **WELCOME - CHAIRMAN ANDREW LUNDBERG**
- **COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT – Councillor H Jones**
- **DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT – Councillor J Jones**

Stroud District Council Report for Fretherne with Saul Open Parish Meeting May 2016.

While all the usual work of the District Council has progressed throughout the year, two items stand out as being particularly important.

The first is the Adoption of the new Local Plan, which was done in November of last year, after several years of consultations, re-consultations on responses, a draft submission to the Planning Inspectorate, more consultations on the Inspector's comments on the Draft Submission, then finally, getting the Inspector's approval on a revised submission. Now that a Local Plan is in place, covering the next 16 years, the Planning Team will have much more muscle in their armoury to deal with predatory planning applications on sites not identified as Strategic Sites in the Plan, and to deal with smaller applications that are not within an approved Development Boundary, or are contrary to new policies in the Adopted Local Plan. The Plan will undergo a review over the next five years to see how it is dealing with various applications, and to make sure that a five year building land supply is maintained throughout the District. This last item was a major stumbling block when appeals against refusal were considered by Planning Inspectors, until the new Plan was adopted, SDC were unable to demonstrate it had a five year land supply, and several appeals were won on this point.

Of course, the West of Stonehouse proposal to build 1350 houses and 9 hectares of employment land around Westend, Nupend and Nastend in Eastington Parish was included in the Plan, on the advice of the Inquiry Inspector, in order to prove a five year land supply was in place. After much soul searching, debate and discussion, which was quite heated at times, the Plan was voted through.

The other main item is the new Waste Collection Contract, which starts in July. Currently operated by Veolia, it will, from July be operated by UBICO, a collaborate of District Councils in

Gloucestershire which Stroud has joined. The majority of staff currently working for Veolia will transfer to UBICO. The contract covers not only kerbside collection, it also deals with grass cutting, road sweeping, premises cleaning as in Sheltered Housing complexes, and street cleaning with litter picking in the main District towns, and alongside major roads in the area. One part of the new contract that has already started is Green Waste collection, for garden waste, which can be signed up to for £36 annually, plus £20 cost of the bin. From November, food waste will be collected weekly, with appropriate bins supplied free, and residual, (black bag) waste collected fortnightly, in a black bin again supplied free. Any properties that have difficulties coping with any of these bins will be assessed and in the majority of cases, bags will be supplied instead of bins. The cardboard and recyclable collection will stay as it is now. There will be no tolerance of extra black bags put out for residual waste collection, except for large families, or for overfull black bins. The emphasis is on recycling to raise Councils priority to reduce waste going to landfill, and thus lowering landfill tax.

Now we have the Ecotricity Planning Application in Severn Ward to build a new football stadium for Forest Green Rovers, with many associated facilities, on land adjacent to the A419 off of J13 of the M5, going towards Stroud. On the opposite side of the A419, is a proposal for a 4000 employee Business Park, with associated facilities, which will include offices, distribution warehousing and smaller business units. The proposal includes upgrading the A419 to dual carriageway status, with a traffic light controlled cross roads at the entrance to the stadium/business park complexes. There are no proposals from this application to improve the road beyond Chipman's Platt roundabout towards Stroud. Your District Councillors will do all they can to ensure this application is dealt with within the confines of the Local Plan, and if by chance it gains consent, then as many benefits for local parishes are obtained from it as is possible.

All other activities of the District Council have continued as normal, the Council has gained a higher satisfaction rate within the local communities than for several years.

Your District Councillors for Severn Ward, of which Fretherne with Saul is part, are:-

Cllr Stephen Davies and Cllr John Jones. Both live within the Severn Ward and can be contacted by

email, cllr.stephen.davies@stroud.gov.uk or 07802 595307 or,

Cllr.john.jones@stroud.gov.uk or 07808 922918

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT – Chairman Andrew Lundberg

Fretherne With Saul Parish Council 2015/2016 Annual Parish Report 18th May 2016 - Andy Lundberg, Chairman

Finance and governance

Income for the year stood at £18,019 (Precept £13,779 Allotment rent £773, HMRC VAT refund £3,220, events £245, interest £41,). Expenditure was £12,281 (Staff costs and admin £4,816 Maintenance £2,235, Insurance £1,034, Events £910, Village Improvements £3012, Miscellaneous £271. The apparent surplus of £5,774 is allocated to the outstanding invoice for the new safety surfacing under the climbing frame. Maintenance includes works to the canal, repairs to the playground equipment as well as grass cutting etc. Miscellaneous includes costs for events and general village improvements (new signs, notice board, litter and waste bins etc).

Planning

Planning permissions, listed building consents and conservation area applications numbering 27 were made in the year, of which 3 were objected to, one supported and the remaining applications uncontested. The Parish Council are progressing an application to extend the burial ground in Saul to include a garden of remembrance and is continuing to support ongoing objections to the Javelin Park Incinerator, solar farm at Awre and the Ecotricity development

Infrastructure

Stroud Water Canal- Works to the canal continue to manage ongoing reed clearance , with further works in progress following treatment of reeds before removal. The canal remains both a pleasant wildlife habitat and footpath amenity, though continues to absorb more Parish funds than is desirable.

Allotments- There is currently only 1 vacant allotment. Rents were increased in 14/15 to £10 for Parishioners and £12 for non Parishioners and has increased again for 16/17 to £12 and £16 respectively. It is hoped that this will mean for the first time that the allotments break even and avoids the need for subsidy and further non-inflationary increases.

Grass Cutting Contract

The Parish grass cutting contract awarded to Severnside Grass services in Framilode includes 2 weekly cuts of Saul Pound, Framilode pound, Allotment main paths and Stroudwater canal footpath. The contract ran well in its first year and positive feedback received on the timeliness and quality and attention to detail of the service provided.

Playground

The playground equipment is owned and maintained by the Parish council, but located in the grounds of the Memorial hall playing fields. This year's project was laid rubber surfacing to enhance the safety of children using the climbing frame. The memorial Hall trust received a grant for various improvements, including the outdoors table tennis table which the council will insure and maintain. It is due to be moved to its permanent location on Tarmac down by the old slide.

Council, Councillors and Clerk

At the end of last year, the Council was up to 6 councillors and since then we have recruited our 7th , Councillor Richard Apperley , a most welcome addition who bring experience from both his business and Stonehouse council. This is our Clerk, Geraldine Delbos (Beanie) second year and her ongoing training, enthusiasm and support are essential to allow the council to function. The Councils governance and procedures have been strengthened this year with the production and adoption of; Revised Standing Orders and Code of conduct policy, new Freedom of information policy, Complaints policy, Charitable donations policy.

This last year the council has researched, developed and circulated a new village plan survey. The results of this have been collated and the process now begins to use the information to write a new village plan as the existing one is 11 years old.

Community, Communications and Events

The website is in its last year before a new site is required due to removal of hosting support by Stroud. The new site will have at least the functionality if the existing site. The Facebook page for the Parish is a great opportunity to further in price communication and a new notice board has been provided at Framilode. Several letter drops have been used to advertise community events with all properties in the parish targeted. We have also held a competition to create a new Parish Logo, the successful winner can be found on all our headers and communications.

The summer fete was very well attended by about 150 people, designed to engage a wide coverage of the community. The Christmas Carol service on the pound was well supported with

circa 120 attendees including a group of Children from Wick court, who enjoyed the mulled wine, soft drinks carols and Christmas Story teller. The May day fete was similarly attended with over 130 attendees who enjoyed face painting, bouncy castles, Treasure hunt as well as a Bar, BBQ and cream teas and cakes.

Meetings and consultations

The Councillors have attended numerous meetings throughout the year to represent the Parishioners and their interests including-

- Fretherne with Saul Parish council meetings -10
- Severn Voice (Quarterly Collective of the parish councils on the Severn) -4
- Severn Voice schools admissions working group -2
- Affordable rural housing - 1
- Stroud district council meetings - 2
- Independent Audit and External audit - 2
- Eco-tricity consultation - 2
- Awre solar farm consultation meeting – 2
- Environment agency -3
- Inland drainage board -3aul Pump inspections - 6
- GCC Highways - 3 SDC Environmental health – 1
- Gloucestershire Police liaison meetings – 2
- Stroudwater canal project -2
- Canals and Rivers Trust (bridge automation) – 4
- Village plan working group – 3
- Policy and procedures working group -3
- Western Power consultation for tree felling – 2
- Events working group – 9
- Planning meetings with proposers, Stroud Planning, Conversation officers and Independent planning consultants - 6

Ongoing issues and new Initiatives for the coming year

1. Events to enhance the sense of community – Summer Fete, Christmas Carols and Spring Fete
2. Village plan needs completing as it will identify the priorities and concerns and needs of the Parishioners to provide a framework for priority and focus
3. A new policy to cover transparency, what and how we communicate with the parish, ensuring openness, accessibility of information and transparency.
4. Progression of planning permission for the garden of remembrance at St James the great church in Saul
5. Progression of ownership and rights of way clarification between the church and school site
6. CRT automation of the canal bridges and Parking at Sandfield bridge
7. The EA plans to install a fish and eel pass on the Frome
8. Highways issues including pot holes, especially in Church lane, Saul
9. Mapping of the location and condition of the drainage challenges around the parish
10. Progression of Emergency Plan

Closing note - As chairman, I would finally like to offer my sincere thanks to the efforts and time of all the councillors, Events committee and other volunteers who support us and whose hard work enhances the community and environment within which we all live or work.

- **LOCAL REPORTS**

St Mary's, Fretherne

Parochial Parish Council's Report for Annual Parish Meeting

Over the past 12 months the Parochial Parish Council (PCC) has continued to support the Church's mission with regular Sunday worship on a monthly basis and fulfil its role in the maintenance of the fabric of the building and the churchyard grounds.

During the year there have been four funerals and two christenings together

With the festival services at Easter, Harvest and Christmas. The Harvest service was well attended and was followed by a roast lunch for over 50 in the Church.

The main focus of 2015 was the joint celebration with Frampton, Harescombe and Whaddon of the 700th anniversary of the consecration of our Churches' sites which we marked at Fretherne last June with a Medieval Feast for over 130 people provided by our resident chef, Bridget Meredith and her team of helpers. The PCC would like to publically record our thanks for her efforts at this fabulous feast as well as the roast lunches she organises after some of the Sunday Services.

Although our current church is completely Victorian it was awe-inspiring to reflect that there has been some type of church and worship on our site for so many centuries. We hope that worship may continue at this site for many years to come.

No major maintenance projects were undertaken in 2015. Following receipt of the Quinquennial inspection report late in 2015, the PCC has agreed to focus efforts on the smaller projects starting with repairs to the gate pillars and roadside wall which it is hoped will start in the near future, weather permitting.

The PCC is very grateful for the help given by all the volunteers who work throughout the year to keep the Church and churchyard in good condition.

Report on the churches of St Peter's Framilode, St Mary's Fretherne and St

James' Saul for Fretherne and Saul Parish Council 2016

These three churches form part of the larger benefice of 5 churches which includes St Mary's Arlingham and St Mary's Frampton. During the year there has been a reduction in clergy since our associate priest the Revd Mike Noah retired in February. The half time priest in charge, the Revd Anne Spargo, is assisted by a team of lay people with help from retired priest the Revd Vernon Lidstone.

St Peter's Framilode

St. Peter's has recently completed its Heritage and Community project which has restored the fabric of the building and created a welcoming space for community use. Comfortable chairs have replaced the pews, and the space has been used for keep fit, concerts, film shows and a pop up restaurant, easily restored to an appropriate space for worship on Sundays.

St Mary's Fretherne

Last July, St Mary's celebrated 700 years since the dedication of the first church building on that site with a wonderful medieval banquet served in the church.

Services continue to be held monthly and several times a year are followed by a roast lunch which is very successful

St James' Saul

Urgent repairs to the tower are now underway. This is the first stage of many necessary repairs to the church fabric for which funds are desperately needed. Any help with raising these funds would be warmly welcomed.

In September, the Revd Anne Spargo will be retiring. This coincides with a major reorganisation of the way clergy provision is handled in this area, in the adjoining parishes of Whitminster, Eastington Moreton Valence, Haresfield, and Frocester, as well as Stonehouse and the Stanleys and Selsley. This means that she won't be replaced 'like for like', but that eventually there will probably be a team of clergy serving these parishes. Until that time the parishes will be 'in vacancy' ie in the care of churchwardens and the area dean of Stroud.