

FREATHERNE WITH SAUL PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish council meeting dated 28 October 2015

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

- 011015 Public Question Time**
Cllr Harrower explained the new layout of the Agenda with the Public Question Time now being at the beginning of the meeting. No items were raised by the general public.
- 021015 Apologies for absence**
Cllrs Lundberg and Bartlett.
- 031015 Councillors Declaration of Interests to Items on the Agenda**
All Councillors confirmed that they had no pecuniary or personal interests to declare regarding items on the Agenda.
- 041015 Minutes from the Parish Council Meeting dated 30 September 2015-** Approved
- 051015 Council Governance, roles and co-opting**
None outstanding
- 061015 Finance**
All cheques approved
- 071015 District Councillor News**
The SDC full Council meeting on 15th October.

There were two items to consider under the Licensing Section, both of which involved updating the Council's Statements of Principles, after District wide consultation, on the Gambling Act of 2005 and the Statement of Licensing Policy under the Licensing Act of 2003. If these Statements are not updated and adopted every three years, it would mean that the Council's Policies on both would become invalid. This has to be done according to Government legislation, and will come into force on 1st January 2016. One thing that came up under the Licensing Statement Policy was whether the use of late night fireworks and Chinese lanterns could in some way be controlled across the District, in particular under the issuing of Temporary Event Notices licences. Both of these issues have been raised with SDC members, from frightening pets, domestic animals and young children, (fireworks), to causing fires and injury to animals through ingestion, (the lanterns). However, there is nothing in the Act's legislation that allows any Council to control the use of either fireworks or Chinese lanterns, but it was resolved to raise public awareness through press releases and other publicity of the potential dangers the use of these things could cause.

A decision was made to increase Council Tax on properties that have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than two years from 100% to 150%, unless proven that these properties were under renovation or in the stage of probate where it would not be possible to let out or sell on. Hopefully, any empty properties not as mentioned above can be brought into occupancy earlier.

Devolution. A bid by “We are Gloucestershire” has been well received by the Government, with negotiations moving fast towards the 25th November deadline, when the government is expected to announce a deal for devolution powers, responsibilities and money to be devolved to this area. Prior to any announcement being made, the Government will want to have separate confirmation from each of Gloucestershire’s 7 Councils, the GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership, the NHS

Gloucestershire, the Police and Crime Commissioner’s department and the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group that they are ready to take part in the Devolution bid. If approved by all member organisations, it is expected that Gloucestershire would have more and better control over the money it gets from Central Government, to use how it thinks best locally.

The latest update on this:- A meeting with Ministers has been arranged for November 11th. The Gloucestershire team is likely to consist of the Leaders of Gloucestershire County Council, Stroud District Council, the Chair of the GFirst LEP, The Accountable Officer of NHS Glos CCG, and the CEO of Tewkesbury BC. Negotiations are ongoing between the GCC team and Civil Servants. A Draft Agreement is expected to be prepared by the Government and provided to the local Councils by 16th November. Stroud District Council will have a Special Meeting on 19th November for consideration of the Agreement. The Chancellor may announce that an Agreement for Gloucestershire has been reached in his Statement on 25th November on the Comprehensive Spending Review.

The Local Plan is nearing completion, with an answer expected any day now from the Government Inspector on whether it is suitable for adoption. Early indications from comments received from him so far show that he does not have too many problems. When final approval is received, a Council meeting will be called ASAP to adopt the Local Plan. Once adopted, the Local Planning Department will have much more in the way of policy and legislation to determine all planning applications, from single storey extensions to predatory developers and their large developments on land not identified in the Plan for building on. As such, the Local Planning Authority will have much more control over where development takes place. Currently, from news already received from the Inspector, the LPA can show it has at least a 7 year land supply for building, well in excess of the 5 years supply needed by Government.

081015 Planning Applications

Application Number: S.15/2269/COU

Location: Restormel, Church Lane, Saul, Gloucestershire.

Application Type: Change of Use

Description: Change of use of agricultural land to garden (to rear of Restormel)

No objection from Council

Application Number:S.15/2418/HHOLD

Location: Mistle House Framilode, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL2 7LH

Description: Erection of garden room and utility to rear of dwelling.

No objection from Council

091015 Police Report and Neighbourhood Watch

Nothing from the monthly report.

101015 Stroud Water Canal

Reed spraying completed. Council to contact local farmer re spreading of waste when lifted.

ACTION: C BIERER

111015 Gloucester and Sharpness Canal Bridges

Cllr Harrower to attend Sandfield Bridge Advisory Group meeting on Monday 2 November and report back to Council.

ACTION: S HARROWER

- 121015 Severn Voice Meeting**
Held on 19 October 2015. The bridge automation is still on course. No new questions or answers were raised although the phrase 'dawn to dusk' for the opening and closing of the bridge was queried. Traffic was again raised as a main issue. Double yellow lines may be put down to prevent parking on the road but this would still need to be managed. No alternative car parking space is being offered. Each bridge will have its own focus group set up.
Fish and Eel passes will be phased in over the next 10 years at an approximate cost of £2 – 3 m.
Gloucestershire School Admissions – the Glos policy is different to 96% of other areas in respect of nearest schools. Council need to support the policy changes to bring Glos into line. Straight line distance is not right for this locality.
Scrutiny committee to be set up. Council voted to support this paper and write to confirm FWSPC support.
ACTION: L MOULE
- 131015 Website Maintenance**
Ongoing problems with SDC website. Site to be re-loaded to see if this resolves problem. Councillors now have designated council email addresses and these details to be uploaded to website when possible.
ACTION: C BARTLETT
- 141015 Emergency Plan**
Community emergency plan CD from GRCC to be looked at by Council.
ACTION: C BIERER
Inland drainage plan now obtained showing flow of ditches. Annual inspection of drains to be carried out.
Clerk to diary
Council to obtain record of footpaths.
Clerk to investigate
- 151015 Parish Plan / Questionnaire**
Updated plan sent to Council for comments.
Clerk to monitor changes.
Community asset forms for Ship Inn and Garage
ACTION: A LUNDBERG
- 161015 Memorial Hall, Playing Fields and Playground**
Climbing Frame safety material ordered.
ACTION: C BIERER
Dog posters now erected around village and Playing Field. Dog warden to be contacted re spraying 'pick up or pay up' signs on pavements.
ACTION: CLERK
- 171015 Transparency Code**
Council to look at costs for scanner and projector (for use in meetings) that could be applied for under this Code. Application form to be completed and sent off.
ACTION: C BIERER / Clerk
Transparency Code to be forwarded to all council members so all have knowledge of the contents and action needed for the future.
ACTION: Clerk
- 181015 Charity Donations**
Policy to be agreed and looked at under Policies, Governance and Professional Services.
ACTION: PGP Working Group

191015 Policies, Governance and Professional Services

Council felt exposed following some issues over last two months and with a lack of guidance. GAPTC were very supportive but had a possible conflict. Cllr Bierer contacted Bevan Brittan, Bristol based solicitors. Local government lawyers first tier, Rates have been circulated to Council. Council agreed no annual spend to be committed to but Council to sign an engagement letter. If Council then have an issue to be dealt with, Council will contact Bevan for guidance.

Council have found the last 2 months very onerous and stressful from lots of angles with no guidance or support available. Council were advised SDC Monitoring officer not there to offer advice.

A Code of Conduct complaint has been withdrawn but Council were not advised until a formal response was requested.

A further Code of Conduct is ongoing with no support from Monitoring officer at SDC. There was a conflict of advice from GAPTC and Monitoring officer at SDC (they cannot advise and judge the case).

Council voted that Bevan Brittan Solicitors are retained on the above basis.

Council voted to set up group to look at all policies and procedures with a focus initially on a complaints policy, an FOI policy and the Standing Orders / Code of Conduct to be presented to the council for approval.

ACTION: Group to be: Cllrs: Bierer / Apperley / Moule / Lundberg

201015 Village Matters / Improvements

Upper Framilode Church and Canal Bridge Bins – ordered.

211015 The Monthly Parish Council meeting with be held on Wednesday 9 December 2015 at 7.30pm.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.....Chairman