

FREATHERNE WITH SAUL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated Wednesday 26th February 2014

Present: Councillors: Mr. J. Hewett, Mr C. Robbins, Mrs. S. Harrower (Chair), Helen Jenkins (Clerk), and 5 members of the parish.

010214 Apologies for absence - District Councillors: Mr. J. Jones and Mr. H. Jones, Councillors: Mr. A. Lundberg and Mr. C. Bierer.

020214 Minutes from Parish Council Meeting dated 29th January 2014 - Approved

030214 Councillors Declaration of Interests to Items on the Agenda

All councillors confirmed that they had no pecuniary interests to declare regarding items on the agenda.

040214 Matters arising from last month's minutes.

All matters from last month's minutes were included within the planned agenda.

050214 Council Governance.

New Declaration of Interest Form received from Councillor C. Robbins. **Clerk to forward to Stroud District Council.**

060214 Finance.

All cheques agreed and signed.

J K Smith (Grass Cutting – Pd 29/1/14)	£450.00
GAPTC Membership	£146.49
H Jenkins – Clerks wages - February	£
H Jenkins – Clerk Expenses – Jan/Feb	£42.49
CPRE Membership (PD by DDR 6/3/14)	£29.00

070214 District Councillors News

District Councillor J. Jones was unable to attend meeting but provided the following report which was delivered by the Chairperson:

No council meeting since the last Saul PC meeting, there is one on 27th February, which will be to set the Council Tax for the forthcoming financial year. There is no Council Tax increase from either the County or District Councils. A 2% increase from the Police Commissioner is proposed, to which will be added any increase in individual Parish precepts. At that meeting there will also be an update from the Boundary Commissioners on the forthcoming Review of District Council Wards, which will include the possibility of reducing the number of District Councillors. In order to get the greatest benefit to all throughout the District, all Parish Councils are encouraged to support all-out elections on a four-yearly cycle in the current consultation. I can update further on this next month.

From the Environmental Committee meeting 4th February.

Community Infrastructure Levy, (CIL).

Separate from Section 106 Agreements on Planning Applications. S106's will still be made, but are most likely to be site specific, e.g. a children's play area on a larger housing application, or should a development require extra school places in a local school, this will be covered by S106's.

CIL will apply to all development, except Affordable Housing. It can target infrastructure across the District, e.g. road improvements, flood defence, outdoor recreation facilities, community facilities and the like. An element of CIL will be returned to Parish Councils, at the rate of 25% for a Parish with a Neighbourhood Plan in place, 15% for those without a NP.

The Draft Rates going out for consultation are likely to be calculated on a £ per square metre basis.

£0 per sq. metre for strategic sites, and sites in the Stroud Valleys. Developers will be encouraged to build on these sites, some of which could be contaminated, and cost more to develop. (A strategic site is one that is allocated for development in the Emerging Local Plan). £150 per sq. Metre for

Supermarkets. £80 per sq. Metre for normal residential development elsewhere.
E.G. 12 residential properties, (no Affordable Houses calculable), based on 100 sq. metres average house size, (2 bed houses would be smaller, 4/5 beds could be bigger) could bring in to the Parish Council £14400, where no Neighbourhood Plan is in place or £24000 where one is in place.
No limit is proposed on the PC spending plans in receipt of CIL. It is hoped to have CIL in place across the District by April 2015.

080214 Planning Applications

There was one planning application received following the last meeting :

S.14/0223/H HOLD	New House, High Street, Saul	Two storey extension with side porch.	No objections by the Parish Council.
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Discussion of the Pre-Application Community Involvement Protocol for the Stroud District to be deferred to next meeting.

090214 Police report and Neighbourhood Watch

No report received	

Neighbourhood Watch – Nothing to report.

100214 Stroud Water Canal

Reed Cutting - Councillor Bierer discussed a start date of 31st March which is agreed. He has also spoken to farmer and he is happy for reeds to be placed on his land.

Stile - Councillor Robbins has contacted the landowner and they advise that a new stile will be installed when the weather improves.

Councillor Robbins also advised that there may possibly be discussions regarding the landowners with frontage to the canal purchasing the corresponding section of canal.

110214 Allotments

Meeting not yet in place. Defer to next meeting. **Clerk to add to Agenda.**

120214 Councillor and Clerk Training

Councillor training in the evening (also being offered to other parishes) to be reconsidered after Elections at end of May. Deferred to next meeting. **Clerk to add to Agenda.**

130214 Website maintenance, updating etc.

Councillor Harrower advised that the councillors' photographs and details were now in place together with minutes and agenda. It is hoped that eventually events taking place in the parish will also be included. A committee is looking at the website to offer suggestions for improvement. To access the website Google Fretherne with Saul Parish Council.

140214 SEFRMS, Environment Agency and Severn Estuary Forum

Clerk has spoken to the landowners who are in discussions with the Environment Agency.

150214 War Memorial

War Memorial Fretherne – Councillor Bierer has advised that it will not be easy to register as there are not any deeds. Discussion took place regarding the broken paving slabs. Suggestions to a) replace all slabs, b) to replace the broken slabs and c) to tarmac. It was agreed that the broken paving slabs be repaired as a temporary measure. **Councillor Lundberg to obtain quote prior to next meeting and Councillor Bierer to continue with legal matters.**

Saul Memorial Hall – Enquiries for the name plaque for service personnel is proceeding. A list of names has now been collected. Councillor Lundberg to visit Mrs Ridley to discuss. **Deferred to next meeting. Clerk to add to Agenda.**

160214 Communication

Councillor Harrower advised that a committee have been looking at the website to offer suggestions for improvements. Councillor Harrower will speak to Jane Bolton and Mr J. Swann regarding

advertising events on the website to avoid clashes with any other events in the area. When the website is running fully this will be a useful tool. Discussion also took place regarding changing the website as it is not particularly user friendly at the moment. This would involve the redesign of the website at a cost and also ongoing maintenance costs. Also at present it is used in line with the District Council's site. Councillor Robbins asked not to forget the schools in the area and perhaps to provide them with flyers to attach to their newsletters. **Councillor Robbins to contact Lakefield School.**

170214 Village Design Statement and Emergency Plan

It was agreed that an Emergency Plan needs to be put in place and the provision of sand and sandbags to be discussed at the next meeting. **Deferred from February meeting. Clerk to add to Agenda.**

Village Design Statement – There has not been any response for volunteers to be part of the steering group. It was suggested that an open meeting be arranged when weather better and nights are lighter to communicate the benefits and involvement required. Grant date will be missed.

Councillor Harrower to discuss further with Marilyn Cox.

180214 Severn Voice Meeting

Councillor Harrower spoke with Mr. William Alexander. Cost not yet agreed. 15K may be on the high side. Frampton have agreed in principle. If councils come up with some of the money then Highways will probably fund the bulk of the funds. Maintenance of the bridge and lights is the responsibility of CART. Has a risk assessment been undertaken – this need to be seen to make a judgement. It was felt that it should be the responsibility of Highways and CART. Challenge risk assessment and safety issues. Ongoing.

At this point Sandfield Bridge was also discussed. Councillor Harrower has spoken with Councillor Lundberg and Mr. W. Alexander regarding the barricades that have appeared at Sandfield Bridge. They are apparently in place to enable boat owners to operate the bridge themselves. This is to be achieved by the use of Apps on Smartphones, CCTV, 2 way communication. It is a trial only and as yet no changes have been agreed. Consultation will take place after the trial – Why not before? It was felt that this needed to be raised at the next Severn Voice Meeting as it needed to be advertised to other parishes. Councillor Robbins will advise the Stables Cafe owner. It was agreed that the parish should send a letter to CRT and Neil Carmichael advising that we are appalled that no consultation has taken place before the trial and even local businesses have not been advised. It was felt that this was probable a cost cutting exercise. In winter the bridge is not fully manned anyway. **Councillor Harrower to draft a letter and send to all councillors, copy to other local councils and Neil Carmichael. It was felt that someone from our parish should attend the next Severn Voice Meeting on 24th March and Councillor Robbins agreed to attend. Councillor Harrower to forward details to Councillor Robbins and ask for this to be placed on the Agenda.**

190214 Memorial Hall, Playing Fields and Playground

Annual Inspection – Quotes obtained from Play Inspections, and ROSPA. It was agreed to go ahead with Play Inspections. **Clerk to action.**

200214 Information Exchange

Life Belt – Councillor Hewett felt that the life belt needed replacing. Who is responsible? Maybe Environment Agency. **Consult District Councillor John Jones at next meeting.**

Community Defibrillator - £700 raised by Jane Bolton. It was felt that the telephone box be adopted by the parish as this was the best place. Other options were discussed, church and garage. We need to ask BT to decommission the box. Parish will also be responsible for the electricity used. It was agreed in principle to use the telephone box.

Toads – It was agreed to look at obtaining a laminator for the parish. Quotes need to be obtained. We would also look to help Jane Bolton distribute poster and it would be placed on the website.

Youth Activity Fund – Information passed on.

Councillor Robbins advised that he had been approached by Mr. Ron. Hartell regarding fly-tipping in the car park of the fishing lake. Sheets of glass had been piled up. Who should he approach? / What should he do? Suggested he approach Stroud DC. **Councillor Harrower would also put**

notice on the website regarding fly-tipping and suspicious vehicles.

210214 Public Forum

Stile – Stile on footpath next to church has wire sticking up and if used may cause damage. It appears that the stile is not broken and it looks as if it may have been put there to stop it being used. Stroud DC need to be advised. **Councillor Robbins to contact District Councillor J. Jones and County Council Footpath Officer.**

Fretherne Bridge – This matter was raised again. Mr. M. Ounsted felt that the route of the problem was actually the speed at which the traffic approaches the bridge and travels over the bridge. Both he and Rev. Lidstone have written and will write to W. Alexander and District Councillor J. Jones with the real issues of the problem. It was suggested that the speed limit be reduced to 20mph or speed humps be added to reduce the problem. The boundary between the parishes was also discussed – this falls in the middle of the canal. It was also suggested that a 30mph be in place at least to Fretherne Nurseries.

Mr. Ounsted also encourages further use of the website.

The telephone box was highlighted as being in a state of disrepair with difficulties in opening the door. This needs to be inspected before using for the Defibrillator.

Dog Waste Bin – cost to purchase is £150 + VAT. Number and location to be decided. **Clerk to add to agenda.**

Canal – Councillor Robbins advised the River Frome is culverted under the canal. Parishioner has advised him that there are rules relating to the opening of the sluice gates. These gates empty the canal into the River Frome. We need to establish if the sluice gates are being opened when they shouldn't be/and are rules being followed. It needs to be monitored at high tide to see if this is the case.

Hock Gate – Environment Agency have responsibility for clearing after the flap.

Mrs Gardener reported a couple of matters to District Councillor J. Jones which have been sorted.

220214 Date of Next Meeting

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

..... Chairman

Date of next meeting March 26th at 7.30 p.m

Summary of actions to carry forward to Matters arising from last month's minutes.

Council Governance, roles and co-opting – Form received - **Clerk to forward to Stroud District Council.**

Planning – Discussion of the Pre-Application Community Involvement Protocol for the Stroud District to be deferred to next meeting. **Clerk to add to March Agenda.**

Allotments - A separate committee meeting to be set up to discuss future plans for allotment user group. Councillor Lundberg to discuss setting up a user group with the tenants to feedback any issues. Meeting not yet in place. Defer to next meeting. **Clerk to add to Agenda.**

Councillor and Clerk Training - Councillor training in the evening (also being offered to other parishes) to be reconsidered after Elections at end of May. Deferred to next meeting. **Clerk to add to Agenda.**

SEFRMS – Landowners to be contacted to check they are happy to have a meeting.

War Memorial - It was agreed that the broken paving slabs be repaired as a temporary measure. **Councillor Lundberg to obtain quote prior to next meeting and Councillor Bierer to continue with legal matters.**

Saul Memorial Hall – Enquiries for the name plaque for service personnel is proceeding. A list of names has now been collected. Councillor Lundberg to visit Mrs Ridley to discuss. **Deferred to next meeting. Clerk to add to Agenda.**

Communication - **Councillor Robbins to contact Lakefield School.**

Village Design Statement and Emergency Plan –

It was agreed that an Emergency Plan needs to be put in place and the provision of sand and sandbags to be discussed at the next meeting. **Deferred from February meeting. Clerk to add to Agenda.**

Village Design Statement – **Councillor Harrower to discuss further with Marilyn Cox.**

Severn Voice Meeting - **Councillor Harrower to draft a letter and send to all councillors, copy to other local councils and Neil Carmichael. It was felt that someone from our parish should attend the next Severn Voice Meeting on 24th March and Councillor Robbins agreed to attend. Councillor Harrower to forward details to Councillor Robbins and ask for this to be placed on the Agenda.**

Memorial Hall, Playing Fields and Playground - **Clerk to action inspection with Play Inspections.**

Information Exchange - Fly-tipping - **Councillor Harrower would also put notice on the website regarding fly-tipping and suspicious vehicles.**

Public Forum -

Stile – Wire sticking placed on top - **Councillor Robbins to contact District Councillor J. Jones and County Council Footpath Officer.**

Dog Waste Bin - Number and location to be decided. **Clerk to add to agenda.**