

FREATHERNE WITH SAUL PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: District Councillor Mr. J. Jones, Councillors: Mr. A. Lundberg (Chair), Mr C. Robbins, Mr C. Bierer, Mrs. S. Harrower, Helen Jenkins (Clerk), and 5 members of the parish.

010314 Apologies for absence - Councillor J. Hewett

020314 Minutes from Parish Council Meeting dated 26th February 2014 - Approved

030314 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.

040314 Matters arising from last month's minutes.

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

050314 Council Governance.

New Declaration of Interest Form received from Councillor C. Robbins and forwarded to Stroud District Council.

060314 Finance.

Details of up to date expenditure handed to councillors.

Community Defibrillator – Around half of the required funds have been raised from with the community and the defibrillator has been purchased.

Stroud Water Canal - Invoice to be raised this month. **Councillor Bierer to contact Aquatic Solutions.**

All cheques agreed and signed.

H Jenkins – Clerks wages March £213.48

H Jenkins – Clerk Expenses £23.55

Jane Bolton – Community Defibrillator £743.70

Mr. A. Lundberg (Christmas Tree Lighting

Expenses – Batteries - Dated 29/1/14) £227.89

PAYE (dated 9/1/14) £173.60

P M Mountjoy – (Accountant dated 9/1/14) £150.00

PAYE (dated 12/12/13) £173.40

PAYE (dated 12/12/13) £173.40

PAYE (dated 12/12/13) £33.90

S Harrower (Christmas Tree Lighting

Expenses – Wine – Dated 12/12/13) £49.99

Kelly Roseblade (Christmas Tree Lighting

Expenses – Flyers – Dated 12/12/13) £35.00

RBL Poppy Appeal (dated 27/11/13 Replacement of cheque dated 30/10/14 for £20.00)
£35.00

Responsible Financial Officer to be considered at next meeting. **Clerk to add to Agenda.**

070314 District Councillors News

District Councillor J. Jones delivered the following report:

Council Tax stays the same this year as last, from both the District and County Councils. The only increases come from the Police Commissioner and from individual Parishes.

The Emerging Draft Local Plan was submitted for Public Examination just before Christmas last year. The appointed Inspector, Mr Pratt, will start his Public Examination on April 1st. The first 3 days will be to cover legal issues, Housing and Employment matters, and if there is time, policies in the new plan. Then there will be a break for a couple of weeks or so, then the Inspector will re-convene, to look at other issues. If all goes well, it is hoped to be adopted by full Council in April next year. However, there are known to be many objections by various landowners and developers to omissions of their particular sites, and to new policies that could affect their sites, which may well prolong the examination. The only part of the Plan that is not being contested is that relating to Gypsy and Traveller policies and sites.

Planning in general is also high in the Councils priorities at the moment, with many speculative developers putting applications in for development on land currently not in the Emerging Local Plan, eg, Baxter's Fields in Stroud and Mankley Fields at The Stanleys. Most of these are turned down, either by Officers, or at the Development Control Committee meetings, sometimes against Officers advice. The developer will usually appeal against these turned down decisions, their main argument being that the Council cannot demonstrate it has a 5 year plus at least 5% land bank. Some Barristers at appeals argue that it should be 5 years plus 20% land supply. This is what some appeals have been lost on recently, notably Sellars Farm in Hardwicke and a site at Box Road in Cam, where the appeals Inspector has sided with the developers and against the Council.

Presently, both Members and Officers are considering the Council's response to the Review of District Council Ward Boundaries, and the number of Councillors that make up the Council. This review will go ahead whether SDC co-operates or not, and it is felt that by co-operating with the Commission, we will get a better result than if it were just done by looking on a map at a desk top study from an office in London. The Local Government Boundary Review Commission is a statutory body that looks at population growth compared to Member representation. Currently, the average in the Stroud District is one Member to 1804 head of population, except in the Upton St Leonards Ward, which is well over 1 to 2000, outside the 5 to 8% tolerance, and this has sparked the review over the whole District. At a meeting last week, it was stressed that the decision on the number of Councillors that make up the Council has to be first on the list. Currently, there are 51 Councillors. Full Council, at its meeting in June, the AGM, will put forward to the Boundary Commission, it's recommendation on the number of Councillors that should make up a future Council. Each political Group on the Council will be meeting before then to have their own discussion and make a recommendation on numbers.

The decision on whether to go to all out elections every four years also has to be made, and that is expected to be at the April meeting of the Council. Currently, most Members are agreed that all out elections every four years is the best way forward. From those two decisions, particularly the one on the number of Councillors that make up the Council, the Commission will look at both the current and the projected population figures up to 2020 and redraw Ward boundary lines as it thinks necessary later this year. SDC will have no say in that. It is expected that new Ward boundaries, along with possible all out elections, will be implemented in May of 2016.

There are elections for 18 District Council members on May 22nd this year, on the same day as the European Parliament elections. All the Severn Voice parishes will be due to host those elections, along with Parish Council elections, except Moreton Valence Parish., which had it's Parish Council elections only 2 years ago.

080314 Planning Applications

Planning – Discussion of the Pre-Application Community Involvement Protocol for the Stroud District deferred from February meeting took place. It will need to be adopted as a Parish Council so that we can have our say. **Councillor Harrower to action.**

There one planning application received following the last meeting :

S.14/0610/ LBC	Saul Farm , High Street, Saul	Retrospective application for the replacement of rotting sub-standard windows with traditional timber casement windows and associated remedial building works.	No objections.
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090314 Police report and Neighbourhood Watch

No report received.	Contact Madia Shute and request a report. <u>Clerk to action.</u>

100314 Stroud Water Canal

Work starts on the reed cutting on Tuesday. It is planned to spend 1 day clearing silt, spending a ½ day on each side of the canal. There will also be 3 days of reed cutting, widening the canal on The Ship side and cutting back as time allows. A long term plan needs to be put in place.

110314 Allotments

Councillor Lundberg has inspected the allotments and has asked several plot holders if they are still required. He plans to contact other holders in the next few days. Several plots may be released which can then be offered to those on the waiting list, currently 9 people. There is the possibility of offering mini plots as a further option. Playgroup have been offered the possibility of a raised bed which is better suited to the children.

There was a review of the cost of the plots as there was no increase last year. The Parish Council are happy to subsidise the cost but need to close the gap. Plot holders living outside of the parish will no longer receive a subsidy and will be asked to pay the full cost of a plot from next year. It was agreed that for this year the cost would be increased to £8 this year

A longer term policy is needed to cover how the plots are to be distributed and managed. This is being looked at over the next 12 months along with the user group.

120314 Councillor and Clerk Training

Councillor training in the evening (also being offered to other parishes) to be reconsidered after Elections at end of May. **Action on hold until after elections**

130314 Website maintenance updating etc.

Councillor Harrower requested remaining Councillor's details to update Councillor's page. **Councillor Bierer to provide details to Councillor Harrower.**

The website is now up and running which can be accessed by searching under Google. A discussion took place regarding changing the running of the website. There is a small cost to change it and if you put in Fretherne it shows up first in the list anyway. It was proposed to advertise the website alongside the Easter Event. **Councillor Harrower to action.**

140314 SEFRMS, Environment Agency and Severn Estuary Forum

Problems with badgers removing soil from the canal defences. **Clerk to contact Landowners for update on meeting with EA.**

150314 War Memorial

War Memorial Fretherne – The broken paving slabs have been removed and patching is now required on the tarmac underneath. Councillor Lundberg is obtaining quotes.

On the legal side things have stalled as without the deeds it is not easy to change the ownership. Some research is needed. It is proposed that the Parish Council do not accept ownership of the memorial but adopt it as owners. **Councillor Bierer to discuss with the Clerk.**

160314 Communication

Lakefield School are happy to have flyers attached to their newsletter. Councillor Robbins will help attach them for the school. Clerk to contact Longney School who send their newsletters electronically. Flyers are being prepared for the Easter Event which is also being co-ordinated with Playgroup and Memorial Hall event, taking place on Easter Monday.

170314 Village Design Statement and Emergency Plan

Village Design Statement – Marilyn Cox has agreed to help with its' preparation. A steering Group is needed to discuss with Marilyn although no volunteers have come forward as yet.

Steering Group should consist of 4/5 people ideally represented from all villages in parish. Councillors Lundberg and Harrower to be a part of the group. **Councillors to approach parishioners in each village to discuss.**

180314 Severn Voice Meeting

Councillor Lundberg attended meeting where a presentation was given by BT regarding faster Broadband in the area. A guarantee has been given that 90% of the Gloucestershire area will have fibre broadband by December 2015. Gloucestershire is the first county being pushed and the project is relying on Government money in the region of £7 ½ m.

Fretherne Bridge – William Alexander is pushing for action here. The clerk is writing to Dan Tiffney saying that more thought is needed, and to consider a T junction/Give Way markings – thoughts were that this may increase speed, or a mini roundabout – Highways are not in favour of this option. It is ultimately Dan Tiffney's responsibility to undertake a risk assessment. Arlingham parish are in favour of more signs and cutting the growth back but do not want to help with the cost of new lights. It was felt that speed was the issue here.

School admissions were discussed.

SEFRMS - motion was passed to write to Mr. Pickles to re-establish protection of people and birds separately.

Boundary Commission Review – No tax increase this year.

Pot holes – additional funds available.

Playground monies/works – consider skateboarding items.

Footpath Warden - Job to make sure paths clear and stiles in good repair, and if not to notify Public Rights of Way Officer, can be undertaken by anyone in Parish. Walking for health at Frampton to get together to sort footpath map. Looking for funding and volunteers. Saul Junction has a footpath map on noticeboard.

Shop/Post Office may be lost in Frampton. May be moved to smaller premises. Funding can be obtained for help to establish a Community shop not sure if it could include a Post Office.

Sandfield Bridge on next agenda. Councillor Robbins has been told there are strict numbers for reported incidents of improper use and if a certain number are reported then the trial is deemed a failure and taken away. CRT advise that this is one of two sites for testing operation from remote locations. There are cameras and cabling in place to take the operation away to Milton Keynes or Leeds. It is felt that it has not started off on the right foot and that they should have had the courtesy to let people know in the first place. District Councillor Jones thought that if all the parishes stuck together we may be able to halt the trial. It was totally inappropriate that there had been no communication from CRT. Councillor Lundberg has written to CRT expressing dismay at lack of consultation

190314 Memorial Hall, Playing Fields and Playground

There is a playground seminar in July for a nominal fee to enable officials to be trained in playground inspections. **GPGA email address to Councillor Lundberg.**

200314 Fretherne Bridge road junction

Discussed at point 180314.

210314 Clerk's Contract

Clerk to obtain details from GAPTC.

220314 Information Exchange

Life Belt – **Clerk to contact Paul Helbrow at SDC to establish who to approach.** Neighbourhood Warden has checked but didn't know who to contact.

Fly Tipping – There is a form on the website to report any suspicious incidents. It was thought that the Neighbourhood Warden's details be put on the website.

Stroud Eco Homes 2014 details on the website.

230314 Public Forum

Stile – sorted.

Dog waste bin – Currently 1 bin at Memorial Hall, which is regularly emptied by Stroud D C. Proposal agreed to put new bins on The Pound, by the SW Canal and by the gate to the Benow field.

There is a notice warning of the danger to cows already at this site. Councillor Lundberg to sort sign for field. **Councillor Lundberg to action.**

Parishioner Mr. M. Ounsted requested that email addresses be added to the website alongside telephone numbers.

Fretherne Bridge – This is a really serious issue. Regarding the warning lights – William Alexander is currently chasing the CRT for a robust price, and continuing to petition Dan Tiffney at SDC to revisit other ideas such as T Junction and signs on roads. The speed issue needs to be sorted. Signs are to be given to Mr. V. Lidstone saying 20 is Plenty. There is more than 1 issue here. District Councillor Jones to talk to Dan Tiffney to push open speed sign further down lane at least around the bend. Contact Highways as it is more dangerous for small cars, at least the large trucks can see what is happening round the bend. The lane is also part of the Severn Way and therefore rambles use this road frequently. The road junction is sometimes ignored and there is no speed restriction because it is an unclassified road. It is a combination of things that make this junction very dangerous. Speed Camera may be a good option. **Councillor Bierer to speak to William Alexander.**

District Councillor Jones advised of next Police meeting in September.

Defibrillator – Jane Bolton brought the new cabinet and defibrillator in for the public to see. Adoption of the Phone box is ongoing. The code for the cabinet is given when you telephone for assistance. Heartbeat will provide red paint for telephone box. Parish council agreed to pay for ongoing maintenance and consumables for the equipment **Councillor Lundberg to progress adoption.**

240313 Date of Next Meeting

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.

..... Chairman

Date of next meeting April 30th at 7.30 p.m

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

Stroud Water Canal – Councillor Bierer to contact Aquatic Solutions.

Responsible Financial Officer to be considered at next meeting - **Clerk to add to Agenda.**

Planning –The Pre-Application Community Involvement Protocol for the Stroud District to be adopted as a Parish Council so that we can have our say. **Councillor Harrower to action.**

Police report and Neighbourhood Watch - Contact Madia Shute and request a report. **Clerk to action,**

Website maintenance updating etc.

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SEFRMS, Environment Agency and Severn Estuary Forum

Problems with badgers removing soil from the canal defences. **Clerk to contact Landowners for update on meeting with EA and advise Councillor Lundberg.**

War Memorial

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Communication – Clerk to contact Longney School regarding flyers attached to their newsletter.

Village Design Statement and Emergency Plan – Steering Group should consist of 4/5 people ideally represented from all villages in parish. Councillors Lundberg and Harrower to be a part of the group. **Councillors to approach parishioners in each village to discuss.**

Memorial Hall, Playing Fields and Playground

There is a playground seminar in July for a nominal fee to enable officials to be trained in playground inspections. **GPFA email address to Councillor Lundberg.**

Clerk's Contract - **Clerk to obtain details from GAPTC**

Information Exchange – Life Belt – **Clerk to contact Paul Helbrow at SDC to establish who to approach.**

Public Forum - Dog waste bin - **Councillor Lundberg to action and District Councillor Jones to check that bin is to be emptied.**

Fretherne Bridge - Speed Camera may be a good option. **Councillor Bierer to speak to William Alexander.**

Defibrillator - **Councillor Lundberg to progress adoption.**