

FREETHERNE WITH SAUL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated Wednesday 25th September 2013

Present: District Councillor Mr. J. Jones, Councillors: Mr. J. Hewett, Mr. A. Lundberg (Chair), Mr. C. Bierer, Helen Jenkins (Parish Clerk), and 6 members of the parish.

010913 Apologies for absence.

Councillors: Mr. C. Robbins.

020913 Approval of minutes from Parish Council Meeting dated 26th June.

Not all councillors appeared to have received the minutes. Following minor discussion as to whether acceptance of the minutes should be carried over to the next meeting, it was agreed that the minutes were considered approved.

030913 Police report

No report received.

Discussion took place regarding the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and the possibility of its' revival in the area. Councillor Lundberg has received an initial 10 packs to start to cover Saul and Fretherne at present. Police are to put signs up. Dursley police station sell burglary prevention aids, such as Smart Water, alarms, etc. **Councillor Lundberg to distribute packs**

Meeting with Community Officer 10th October 2013 at 7.30pm, to cover SARA plans and highlight relevant Hot Spots (priority jobs to be done).

040913 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.

050913 Matters arising from last month's minutes.

Planning – Saul School Site. Applicant apparently advised to withdraw and resubmit when better flooding risks are covered.

Stroud Water Canal – Councillor Bierer has met with JPR, the reeds contractor , who can't do it now as special equipment is needed. New estimate of £3500 to 4500 , but need to check we can deposit cut reeds on farmer's field as before **Councillor Bierer to confirm**

Suggestion to visit as a council and discuss options to review benefits, costs and sustainability - A maintenance plan was produced in the past and this has been stuck to until recently when the water levels prevented initial compliance. Budget needs to be checked for inclusion and to understand if we can afford it now and in the future. **Councillor Lundberg to speak to Mr Meredith to obtain a copy of last year's precept (Mr. C. Meredith or M. Glover)**

Allotments – There are still some tenants who have failed to pay the annual rent. It was agreed to chase up and give them one month to pay their arrears or lose their plot. **Clerk to issue letter informing them of this and confirming that failure would result in those plots being offered to those on the waiting list.**

Website – A lot of work has been done to bring the website up to date. However, with the resignation of Councillor S Robbins it was unknown if he would be prepared to continue providing this support to the Parish. **Mr S Robbins to be contacted to understand his commitment**

Playground of the Year – Saul not successful. Report to be received following GPFA AGM next month. – **Councillor J. Jones to confirm.**

060913 Co-option of New Councillors

Councillor Bierer proposed Samantha Harrower is co-opted as a new councillor which was seconded by Councillor Hewett.

Declaration of acceptance forms to be completed by all councillors to bring records up to date

Declaration of Interest forms to be completed by those who have not yet done so

There is still an interested party for a further councillor position and discussion took place regarding the advertisement for a further councillor to be placed in the parish magazine and on the notice board. A discussion followed on how many parishioners receives the magazine and whether it should be issued to all as part of the precept to improve communication. **Clerk to confirm (with Mr. J. Swann) the numbers who receive the magazine against number of parishioners.**

070913 Finance

H Jenkins - Clerks wages September	£266.88
H Jenkins - Clerks re Insurance	£871.92
Grant Thornton – Audit	£120.00

All Cheques approved and signed by one signatory.

There is still issue of a third signatory **Clerk, with the support of Councillor Bierer to try to resolve with the bank & reduce the signatories to 2 people**

Councillor Lundberg to complete bank form to become a signatory.

080913 District Councillors News

District Councillor J. Jones delivered the following report. Full council meeting due 10 October 2013. - Still awaited.

090913 Planning Applications

There were three planning applications in the month :

S.13/1988 /TCA	Alpha Cottage Moor St, Saul	Removal of Western Red Cedar Shrub	No objections by the Parish Council
S.13/1739 /HHOLD	7 Canal Row Framilode	Demolition of single storey extension and erection of 2 storey and single storey extension	No objections by the Parish Council
S.13/1885 /VAR	Eventide Arlingham Road Saul	Variation of condition 1 - the bungalow to be occupied by someone engaged in Working the nursery on the Site which the bungalow is proposed to be built.	No objections by the Parish Council

It was discussed that not all councillors have internet access and therefore it would be helpful to briefly review the drawings and application form together at the meeting .**Clerk to provide copies of the drawings and application forms at future meetings.**

100913 Stroud Water Canal

This item was discussed previously in the meeting see **050913**. Councillor Bierer to discuss with Stroud District Council to see if funds are available to assist with

reed cutting. To be discussed with the Canals and Rivers Trust. Who are the original owners of the canal? **Councillor Bierer to discuss with District Councillor J. Jones.**

110913 Allotments - Discussed under item 050913.

120913 Councillor and Clerk Training

Clerk to contact GAPTC to train all our councillors on one course together.

130913 Website Maintenance, Updating etc.

Saul Playgroup asked whether they can advertise on the parish website. It was agreed that they could as this was a great public service offered to the community and it should be supported. **Clerk to convey council agreement to the playgroup request**

140913 SEFRMS - Nothing to report.

150913 Environment Agency - Nothing to report.

160913 War Memorial

The war memorial at Fretherne Church is suffering from broken pavement slabs adjacent to the highway. It was decided to speak with the Highways Department, to establish if it is on the highway or in the church grounds. Funds may also be available next year for the WWI centenary. **Clerk to find out if the paving is Highway or church responsibility**

It was also discussed if there should be plaques made with names of those who gave their lives, to be added to the commemoration plaque in the Memorial hall entrance. No outcome achieved – **Clerk to carry forward item to next agenda**

170913 Design Statement

Whitminster are almost through their draft with a meeting 6th October to view at Whitminster Village Hall, councillors welcome to view. It was not clear on the status of the Parish Design statement which was being prepared on an ongoing basis by an ex-councillor. **Councillor Lundberg to discuss progress with Mr. C. Meredith.**

180913 Declaration of Interests

There remains uncertainty as to the requirement for this for all councillors, **Councillor Bierer to discuss with Councillor Robbins .**

190913 Waterplay Insurance and Saul Mound

Waterplay feature is in place. **Clerk to add to insurance policy**

Saul Mound progress report required from Jane Bolton to understand what assistance is required. **Clerk to contact Jane.**

200913 Severn Estuary Forum - Nothing to report.

210913 Information Exchange

Toads - Request received from Jane Bolton to consider action to be taken when toads are migrating across Church Lane in the spring as traffic speeds are hazardous to pedestrians when Toad Patrolling. Church Lane is to be registered as one of the UK's 880 Migratory Toad Crossings. This is to be considered over the coming months. Options were traffic calming and a duct under the road.

Fencing - A parishioner raised the issue of the damaged fence next to the canal in Framilode. Councillor Robbins has been in contact with the Highways Department. **Clerk to speak with Councillor Robbins. Councillor Hewett also to check fence.**

Financial reserves - Discussed was what was considered an acceptable level of reserves for larger items of repair and expenditure. Likely to be £5000. Auditors would say if they felt reserves were unacceptable.

220913 Public Forum

Roads budget - District Councillor J. Jones advised that Councillor A. Blackburn had a budget to cover road repairs and it may be worth looking at for traffic calming or the memorial slabs.

Car speed reduction - Discussion to ask local police unit to advise and train councillors regarding hand held cameras to measure vehicles speed. **Councillor Lundberg to contact police and understand options**

A parishioner discussed the possibility of volunteers to help with clearing the rotten trees and large ash tree next to the pond. **Councillor Lundberg to visit site with parishioner to understand if this is something we can do ourselves or need a contractor.**

230913 Date of Next Meeting

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

..... Chairman

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

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.

Minutes September Helen Jenkins, L'Eglise, Church Lane, Saul, Gloucester. GL2 7JY

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

Neighbourhood watch - Councillor Lundberg to distribute packs

Budget - Councillor Lundberg to speak to Mr Meredith to obtain a copy of last year's precept (Mr. C. Meredith or M. Glover)

Allotments - Clerk to issue letter informing them of this and confirming that failure would result in those plots being offered to those on the waiting list

Website - Mr S Robbins to be contacted to understand his commitment

Co-option of New Councillors - Declaration of acceptance forms to be completed by all councillors to bring records up to date

Co-option of New Councillors - Declaration of Interest forms to be completed by those who have not yet done so

Communication - Clerk to confirm (with Mr. J. Swann) the numbers who receive the magazine against number of parishioners.

Finance - Clerk, with the support of Councillor Bierer to try to resolve with the bank and reduce the number of signatories to 2

Finance - Councillor Lundberg to complete bank form to become a signatory

Planning Applications - Clerk to provide copies of the drawings and application forms at future meetings .

Stroud Water Canal Councillor Bierer to confirm the use the farmers field

Stroud Water Canal - Councillor Bierer to discuss with District Councillor J. Jones.

Councillor and Clerk Training – Clerk to contact GAPTC to train all our councillors on one course together.

Website Maintenance, Updating etc - Clerk to convey council agreement to the playgroup request

Memorial hall names plaque - Clerk to carry forward discussion to next agenda

War memorial - Clerk to find out if the paving is Highway or church responsibility

Design statement - Councillor Lundberg to discuss progress with Mr. C. Meredith.

Declaration of interests - Councillor Bierer to discuss with Councillor Robbins and report back the requirements

Water play feature - Clerk to add to insurance policy

Saul Mound progress - Clerk to contact Jane for an update on assistance required.

Damaged fencing next to canal - Clerk to speak with Councillor Robbins. Councillor Hewett also to check fence.

Car speed reduction - Councillor Lundberg to contact police and understand options

Trees next to Allotment Pond - Councillor Lundberg to visit site with parishioner to understand if this is something we can do ourselves or need a contractor.