

FREThERNE WITH SAUL PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held 29th October 2008

Present: Messrs R. Johnson (Chairman), R.Findlater, J. Hewett, Mrs. L. Griffiths, Mel Glover (Parish Clerk), and 3 members of the parish.

011008 Apologies for absence.

Councillors C.Meredith, A. Greaves, D. Pocket, DC. John Jones, PCSO Debra Hughes

021008 Approval of minutes from Parish Council Meeting dated 24th September 2008.

Approved

031008 Councillors Declaration of Interests to Items on the Agenda

Councillor Griffiths declared an ongoing interest in the old School site as she is still heavily involved with trying to get the matter resolved.

041008 Police report

Police were unable to attend but had emailed the clerk the details (clerk forgot to bring email to the meeting so the following details taken from the email were not discussed) *We have only had one crime this month and 17 YTD.*

051008 Matters arising from last months minutes

Clerk has organised have the road swept in High Street and Passage Road on Friday 31st October,

Councillor Griffiths has e-mailed Councillor Greaves re the refreshments for the lighting of the Christmas tree.

Chairman Johnson will order four strings of battery operated Christmas lights. It is possible that an electrical source may be available this year.

Councillor Findlater has been approached by Saul Under Fives Playgroup to see if they could sell refreshments on the evening of the lighting of the Christmas tree in order to fundraise. Council felt this was inappropriate but suggested that Saul under Fives attended with "donation buckets" to collect from attendees of the evening.

061008 Finance- Cheques for Agreement and Signature

All cheques were approved and signed.

**Mrs. M. Glover clerks wages 5 weeks £281.29 plus poppy wreath £297.79
for remembrance day service £16.50**

Moore Stephens – audit £158.63

071008 Planning - New applications for discussion

S.08/1871/FUL	Cedar Cottage	Revised plans
	High Street	
	Saul	

Approved.

071008 District Councillor's News

District Councillor John Jones was unable to attend tonight's meeting – he did however e-mail the clerk his report which was read out:

Here are a couple of extracts from our member's weekly bulletin which may be of interest. The first relates to a new system whereby people on the Housing Waiting List, or Council House or Housing Association tenants, who might be wanting to move house to a larger or smaller property will be able to go onto the

relevant website and look to see if there is anything available to suit their needs, in the area they want, then they will be able to put in a "bid". If that bid is successful, and the other party can also move on, then a new tenancy or swap might be on the cards. It's called Gloucestershire Homeseeker, and something similar has been ongoing in other parts of the country for a couple of years or so. There is not much else to say re SDC, except that we have been assured by the Chief Exec. that services are not likely to be affected by the Icelandic Bank situation.

Choice Based Lettings is on its way for 2009

We have become a member of a County-wide partnership that has been working together to produce a new way of allocating social housing. An I.T system is currently being developed to deliver the scheme by the winning supplier **Abritas**. All 6 authorities in Gloucestershire Homeseeker signed their contracts with Abritas on 2 September 2008. So that nearly all social housing properties are advertised through Gloucestershire Homeseeker, meetings are continuing with Housing Association partners to encourage them to join this valuable partnership.

We will now meet with Abritas to design the system we need, and this should be ready for testing early next year. **We are on target for a launch date in Spring 2009**

CHANGES TO PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS

On the 10th September 2008 Hazel Blears (Secretary of State) presented to Parliament a revision to the General Permitted Development Order. A full copy of this can be found at http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/pdf/uksi_20082362_en.pdf. At first glance it appears merely to involve the designation of World Heritage Sites, however its latter pages make radical changes to what development requires, or more importantly does not require planning permission. The previous system involved taking volumetric measurement of the original house and its extensions. This method is being abandoned in favour of an “envelope” approach. In its simplest form, permitted development (PD) can be considered as planning permission already granted by Parliament.

The new system will involve comparing the original house to the existing property (if already altered) and the proposed alterations. It will also involve measurements to side and rear boundaries and heights to eaves and ridge. Because of these additional requirements it will be necessary to undertake greater investigation of the proposals prior to giving an opinion as to the need for planning permission. Whilst free advice will be available by telephone and at the customer service centre, if the owner wishes written confirmation it will be imperative for them to submit basic but dimensioned drawings as part of a certificate of proposed development, the statutory fee being £75.

Officers will be explaining the changes in PD to the Planning Strategy Advisory Panel (PSAP) on the afternoon of 14th October (after DCC). It will also form part of a training session later in the Autumn, when the fine details have been thrashed out. The Head of Planning will be writing to the agents and parish councils over the next week or so, and hopes to have basic flow charts and 3d drawings of what is possible under the new rights. In short, the new PD rights allow most single storey side and rear extensions together with rear two storey extensions up to 3m deep. There are restrictions on the distance of two storey rear extensions from rear boundaries (7m) and a blanket condition on all side windows in extensions to be obscurely glazed. Rear dormers are largely permitted as are velux type roof lights.

There is greater control in AONB and Conservation Areas, however there has been a relaxation on out-buildings. There is an overriding condition of roof pitches and materials to restrict them to “similar to existing” however the much heralded changes on new driveways has so many clauses and conditions that it may be difficult to enforce.

Officers have had very little time to react to these changes, and as such national and local policies will take sometime to solidify. As one can imagine, there is a feverous debate at a professional level nationally over definitions and scope.

081008 Auditors report

Council discussed the auditors report and will hold a list of their fixed assets:

Bus Shelter - approx. value £3000.00

Playground equipment - approx. value £5000.00

Picnic bench – approx. value £250.00

Seat – approx value - £250.00

Disused canal and the Pound (green area outside old school buildings) – impossible to value without professional advice and input.

Council were satisfied with the auditors report and figures.

- 091008 Date for precept/budget meeting**
Date was set for Weds 12th at Ashbrooke, High Street, Saul at 7.30 p.m.
- 101008 Fund raising (CM)**
Carried forward to next month as Councillor Meredith was absent.
- 111008 Places of Woe seminar**
Councillors unfortunately unable to attend.
- 121008 Domestic Abuse awareness day**
Councillors unfortunately unable to attend.
- 131008 Half yearly community safety panel meeting**
Councillors unfortunately unable to attend.
- 141008 Youth Voice event**
Councillors unfortunately unable to attend.
- 151008 Unelected members of parish councils**
Clerk to contact GAPTC for a clearer definition.
- 161008 Picnic Bench**
After yet another lengthy discussion it was decided to ask the entire residents of Saul by way of a questionnaire, noting the problems already voiced by a member of the parish whether the bench should go on the Pound (outside the old school) or anywhere else. Chairman Johnson will contact the Village Hall Committee to discuss the possibility of the bench going on the playing field.
- 171008 Information Exchange**
Chairman Johnson has received an invite from Frampton on Severn silver band and will attend on 9th November, The Eve of the Armistice Day Concert.
Councillor Griffiths has received an e-mail from Marie Johnson who ran Saul Youth Club. She would like to run a St. Johns Ambulance first aid course and would like if possible a Donation from the parish council. Councillor Griffiths will find out more details and the potential amount required.
Councillor Griffiths reported that regarding the old school, lawyers are trying to be avoided in order to keep the costs down, hopefully a settlement will be imminent although figures are still under negotiation.
Councillor Findlater attended the Canal Users Forum meeting – unmanned bridges are still very much the plan but are subject to financial restrictions. The Oliver Cromwell has been retired.
Chairman Johnson attended a County Council Highways and Transport meeting where the possibility of traffic lights on the A38/Perryway junction was discussed.
- 181008 Public Forum.**
Concerns were raised over parking on the grass in Sandfield Crescent – Councillor Findlater will contact highways to see if parking restriction measures can be put in place.
A query was raised over the football nets – Councillor Findlater will try to establish who owns the nets locally.
The light in the car park behind Sandfield Crescent is faulty – clerk to contact DC John Jones.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

..... Chairman

Date of next meeting – November 26th – 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.