

FREATHERNE WITH SAUL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held 24th September 2008

Present: Messrs R.Johnson (Chairman), R.Findlater, C.Meredith, J. Hewett, Mrs. L. Griffiths, District Councillor John Jones, Mel Glover (Parish Clerk), PCSO Debra Hughes, 2 representatives from SSSS group and 4 members of the parish.

010908 Apologies for absence.

Councillors D.Pockett and Mrs.A.Greaves

020908 Approval of minutes from Parish Council Meeting dated 25th June.

Approved.

030908 Councillors Declaration of Interests to Items on the Agenda.

None.

040908 Police report.

There have been four crimes reported since the 1st September, these being one non-dwelling burglary, two thefts from motor vehicles and one criminal damage. Unfortunately there is currently a zero detection rate for these crimes. Crimes reported since 1st April 2008 is fifteen and there is currently a 20% detection rate. As PCSO Hughes had to leave the meeting to continue with policing, she was asked to comment on the siting of the picnic bench on the pound. Her view was that it may encourage the youths to visit the area more often, but, as verbally agreed at previous public meeting, considering the shelter is now in place as an alternative meeting point, that the police if necessary could move them on to there. A discussion then followed between members of the parish, PCSO Hughes and the parish council, which eventually led to the clerk requesting that this discussion take place at the appropriate point on the agenda.

050908 SSSSG – Keith Parry

Since the public meeting where it was agreed to retain the site for the parish, SSSSG have had two meetings with David Drew M.P. who is very keen to get the matter resolved as quickly as possible. Mr. Drew has had a meeting with the Diocese

who are also keen move forward.

SSSSG had requested a meeting between the diocese and themselves, without the lawyers in order to discuss the matter openly and frankly without incurring any more legal fees. Mr. Drew put this to the diocese that declined the invitation.

Mr. Drew has reported that the diocese would like the matter resolved as quickly as possible and it is hoped that there may be some movement by November.

However the Diocese have requested as part of the “closure” deal that their legal fees of approximately £13,000 are met by SSSSG and that there should be some cover in place for the church wardens should a future descendant lay claim to the site, which would cost somewhere in the region of £2000 - £3000.

SSSSG are negotiating these terms and it is hoped that a non-legal letter written by Mr. Jock Lane will be sufficient. David Drew M.P. will find out the exact figures are concerning the legal fees. SSSSG are not inclined to pay the full amount of the Diocese legal fees but may come to an arrangement to facilitate the moving forward of the transfer of the site. If the Diocese agrees then the case could be concluded fairly quickly.

David Drew M.P. has recommended that the parish should not be too hasty in removing the buildings and that also as a community plans should be being made concerning the sites future usage.

060908 Loan Agreement

Councillors agreed to apply to the Public Works Board for a loan to cover the acquisition of the site, an amount adequate to cover all costs, maximum amount

to be decided at the next parish council meeting. Councillors Griffiths and Hewett will work through the loan paperwork.

070908 Matters arising from last months minutes.

The footpath sign at Saul farm has been resited and now shows the entrance to the stile and footpath.

Councillor Meredith reported that the public meeting concerning the disused canal in Saul was very well attended, with a significant amount of enthusiasm to move forward with the "interest of Saul canal" project.

Concerning a pump at Hock Cliff, clerk has been in touch with various people, it is very unlikely that a pump can be installed because of the £60,000 cost involved. However IDB will put in a grant application for this in the next available grant application period and hope that the grant will be given, although there are an awful lot of applications and any grant money issued will be given on a priority basis.

080908 Finance-Cheques for Agreement and Signature

All cheques were agreed and signed

Mrs. M. Glover clerks wages **£225.05**

Cheques already signed for since last meeting:

Environment Agency £319.13 and Aon Limited Insurance £476.87

090908 Planning - New applications for discussion.

S.08/1745/FUL	The Haven, Passage Road Saul, GL2 7LB	Replacement of an existing boundary hedge with a wall and repositioning of entrance to improve access.
S.08/1799/FUL	2 Garden Cottages Framilode Passage, Saul, GL2 7LF	Demolition of conservatory and erection of extension
S.08/1871/FUL	Cedar Cottage High Street, Saul, GL2 7LW	Demolition of existing w.c and conservatory. Erection of two storey extension. Internal alterations.

All applications were approved.

100908 District Councillor's News

District Councillor John Jones reported that he had attended a council meeting on 18th September. Before the meeting started a presentation was made to Clive Hammond (and his wife), the council treasurer who retired after 34 years with S.D.C, 44 years in local government in total. He started work in Gloucester City aged sixteen and transferred to Stroud when the District Council was formed. Various glowing tributes were made.

At the meeting, various topics were discussed, changes made to the statement of accounts were approved. Council scored almost full marks, in the four sections council scored 3 x 3's and 1 x 2, as rated by the auditors.

There were some policies in the current local plan that will not be put forward for the saving in the next plan when the current one expires in November. This is mainly because it is considered that they are no longer applicable, or they have been superceded, are out of date or are a repeat of other plans. These were agreed in consultation between S.D.C and Government O.S.W.

Sandra Cowley was appointed as Section 1.51 Officer (treasurer) in Clive Hammond's place and was promoted from head of finance.

In response to the Regional Spatial Strategy Plans published in July, the main concern was regarding the 1500 house proposal at Whaddon. The reason being because it is not sustainable, the access to the nearest employment is along

country lanes or through built up housing, and also that the land is liable to flood. It was requested that the item be deleted and that Stroud's increased allocation of new homes be reduced by 1500.

The council ratified some action taken by the Chief Executive that morning. He instructed Veola, waste recycling contractors to take their recyclate to Smith's at Moreton Valence. Veola had informed the C.E. that they could not collect any recyclable material from that morning as they were no longer able to take the product to Eastington as their lease had expired. Rather than not have the waste collected the C.E. used his decision making power to instruct Veola to collect the waste and take to Moreton Valence. The appropriate financial transfers were put in place.

Frampton on Severn's conservation area is on the agenda for the next cabinet meeting 2nd October, to then go on the agenda for the full council meeting in December.

Miss Jean Woodward had contacted District Councillor Jones regarding her concerns of a lack of road sweeper in the village. District Councillor Jones had tried to contact Miss Woodward but had had no success. Clerk to contact Miss Woodward and inform her that the roads should be swept twice a year.

110908 Watercourse Warden (CM)

Councillor Meredith had been unable to contact Mr. Greenway with regard to the watercourse warden role. Councillor Meredith was given a watercourse warden pack which was passed to the clerk for safe keeping, and is available for any member of the parish wishing to undertake this role. Councillor Griffiths will put an advert in the parish magazine.

120908 Christmas Tree

Clerk advised the council that to install a specific power supply for the tree lights would cost in excess of £2000.00. Councillor Meredith has a tree on order and the kind offer of tree lights from Highfield Garden Centre. Councillors Johnson and Hewett will look into the possibility of 12v lighting and Councillor Meredith will ask Saul under 5's playgroup if the children could make some decorations. Councillor Griffiths will contact Councillor Greaves concerning the refreshments, Councillor Meredith will "source" the band and the date for the ceremony this year was set for 14th December at 6pm.

130908 Youth Shelter and Rubbish Bin

Council approved the installation of a rubbish bin at the youth shelter, clerk will follow up with S.D.C. Councillor Meredith will try to source some solar lighting and install it for the shelter.

140908 Picnic Bench

The possible siting of the picnic bench on the pound is causing a resident of the parish some considerable distress. It was discussed at one point that the resident purchase the picnic bench from the parish council but Councillor Griffiths strongly objected to this and no further action was taken along this route. Clerk is to contact Mr. and Mrs. Watson to see if they mind if the bench be placed on the land by the river opposite the front of their house. The siting of the bench is to be put on next month's agenda and decided upon then. Clerk will bring all previous minutes relating to this item.

150908 Parish Plan Grant Scheme SDC and safety goal post netting

Clerk advised the council that the cost of vandal proof, health and safety proof goal netting would be approximately £1000.00 per net. The funding on offer would only cover 25% of this cost and was therefore deemed too expensive at this Stage. As there are football nets currently available for the goals councillors wondered whether Mr. Daniel Tate would like to take responsibility for the nets, putting them up and taking them down as he needs them. Clerk to ask Mr. Tate.

160908 Sponsoring/adopting telephone kiosks

Councillors decided not to sponsor or adopt any of the telephone kiosks within the parish. No further action needed.

170908 Next month's meeting date

The clerk requested that the meeting be put back a week next month because of a possible family holiday. It was decided that the clerk would organise an agenda and that someone else would take the minutes if necessary, rather than change the meeting day.

180908 Information Exchange

Chairman Bob Johnson has been invited by Mr. William Alexander to lay a wreath on the remembrance day service, which he has accepted.

Councillor Griffiths has a contract of employment for the clerk.

Councillor Meredith reported that the interest in the Saul canal was very pleasing and that a steering group needs forming in order to start fundraising for the Project. Councillors agreed to let Councillor Meredith proceed with this. Minutes from the meeting held by Councillor Meredith can be seen on a separate page immediately after these minutes.

Councillor Findlater has received complaints about the roadside parking at Saul canal bridge, and will contact Highways concerning the "keep clear" box on the road.

190908 Public Forum.

There were no comments from the public this month.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

..... Chairman

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 of Saul canal interest group Mon 8th September at the Ship Inn.

**Date of Next Meeting.
September 24th – 7.30pm**

Chris Meredith (CM) introduced himself and explained the reasoning behind the project. The canal is owned by the Parish Council, has been included in the village plan, has recently gained industrial heritage conservation status (www.stroud.gov.uk/ihca) and is in need of remedial work.

The current position is that a wildlife survey has been carried out by the Severn vale Biodiversity project, which describes in detail what there is in terms of wild life species and habitat, also proposes a draft management plan, see attached.

What can the canal offer?

It enhances the attractiveness of the village, it links footpaths and roads, provides a youth opportunity, is a wildlife oasis, could improve adjacent property value, could become a safe haven for rest, reflection and well being, offers the opportunity for education.

It was generally agreed that the canal project is a worth while thing to continue with, various offers of help were forth coming, various ideas were raised (seating, dog litter bins, resident maintenance, linear pool, flow) and a few reservations were expressed (concern that without an engineer report, damage may be caused)

Given the level of support, it is agreed that the Parish council would consider proceeding with the project, clearly it needs to be managed in a cost effective way. CM will report back to the Parish Council and discuss advancement.

Further meetings to be held to develop the project further are to be arranged by agreement.

On balance CM was pleasantly surprised by the welcome and positive response and encouraged to proceed, which means researching the plastic bag!