



Kay Brown – Clerk

1 French Burr Place
Gloucester
GL1 5PH

Tel: 01452 247040 or 07775 935739

Email: fwsparishclerk@gmail.com
www.frethernewithsaul.org.uk

Minutes of Fretherne with Saul Parish Council meeting, held by Zoom due to Covid 19 restrictions, at 7:30pm on 24th February 2021.

Present: Cllrs A Brown (Chairman), B Findlater, R Findlater, C Bierer, P Van Der Hooft, C Bartlett, Cllr R Cowley;
In attendance: Cllr S Davies; Cllr J Jones

Register of General Public attending meeting: No members of the public attended

010221 To note apologies for absence: None

020221 Declarations of Interest on the agenda:
Cllr C Bierer, declared a pecuniary interest in item 070221.
Cllr P van der Hooft declared a pecuniary interest in item 150221.

030221 Public Question Time
No members of the public were present.

040221 To approve minutes of meeting on 27th January 2021 as a true record.
The minutes had previously been circulated were resolved as a true record.
Proposed Cllr B Findlater, Seconded Cllr C Bierer

050221 To receive report from County Councillor Stephen Davies.

Reviewed the Election online briefing held this morning, including social distancing at polling stations. Current trends in infection rates indicate elections will go ahead.
Fire and Rescue have issued a survey on their future. Details can be provided.
Stroud Car Club have issued details of a survey for the Electric Car Sharing Scheme. Links are available.
Locally, planning application from Fretherne Bridge House distances have been queried, no response as yet.

060221 To receive report from District Councillor John Jones.

Tomorrow night's SDC meeting is to approve the budget for next year, and to set the Council Tax for next year as well.
Proposals in the budget part are to consider increasing Members Allowances, but only to cover things like purchase of laptops, iPhone or Tablets, to be used by Members not taking a Council supported device. The likes of printing ink and paper, postage and telephone expenses are already covered in the present Scheme of Allowances. The total amount a Member could claim during their 4-year term would be £702-00, or a Member can choose to use part of that allowance for ancillary equipment but use a Council supported device. If approved, these Allowances would come into force after the May elections. Other items to consider include Council Tax Support Scheme, to keep the present scheme unchanged. Setting the Council Tax for the coming year, The County Council's precept on a Band D property is £1409-22 across the District, SDC's precept is £217-52, The Police and Crime Commissioner is taking £270-08, plus, of course the Parish Precept, in the case of FwS Parish is £115-06. Totaling in FwS for an average Band D property, £2011-88. This is a little higher than the average across other local parishes. (which is in the area of the low to middle - £1900-00s).
Council house rents are set to increase on average by 1.5%
It's possible that because of the elections coming in early May, the Purdah regulations in force before those, and with staff still working at home, preparation of the Local Plan may not be ready to get to Council before May. It may take longer to get it approved than first thought.

Signed / Date



070221 Planning Applications

Applications:

- S.21/0228/HHold 14 Sandfield Crescent, Church Lane, Saul
Proposed demolition of garage and erection of new garage
Cllrs made no further comment on this application.
- S.21/0275/TCA Highmead, Moor Street, Saul
Proposed pruning and reducing height of six fruit trees
Cllrs made no further comment on this application

Applications awaiting decision:

- S.20/2569/HHold 1 Barn Court, Framilode, Gloucester
Proposed shed, garage conversion, wall and removal of trees
- S.20/2792/FUL Fretherne Bridge House, High Street, Saul
Creation of new vehicular access
- S.21/0026/FUL Land Adjacent to Lion House, High Street, Saul
Construction of 2 dwellings and associated landscaping works
- S.20/2777/FUL Dunstalls Farm, Arlingham Road, Saul
Revised replacement barn and change of use from agricultural building to additional office

Permissions granted:

- S.21/0100/TCA Lavender Cottage, Moor Street, Saul
Prune branches of 3 x willows overhanging driveway

Applications withdrawn:

- S.20/2664/HHold The Old Vicarage, High Street, Saul
Proposed new cart shed.

080221 To review and discuss the proposed location of the Hoghub.

Cllr A Brown reviewed the meeting with the Manager of the Wild Hogs Hedgehog Rescue and also attended by Cllr R Findlater and parish clerk. HogHub proposals have been sent to Fields in Trust to meet with their deadline for their next meeting on 25th February. A copy of the document has been circulated to councillors. The scheme has benefits for the location – internet, facilities, supporting a local charity, someone on site 24/7. Councillors discussed concerns around access (both vehicular and pedestrian), increased water levels, will it make the playing fields a destination venue rather than a recreational space for the village, do the dimensions of facilities realistically meet the service offered. Await to be updated on Fields in Trust decision.

090221 To discuss any correspondence received

None received.

100221 To approve the following payments in accordance with the budget

Payee	For	Amount
Staff	Wages, postage, training	£343.00
ITTax & Accountancy	Accountancy costs for Wages and Paye calculation	£80.00
Birketts	Legal Advise – outstanding balance	£4876.40

Cheques written out between meetings – None

Proposed by Cllr C Bartlett Seconded by Cllr R Cowley with all in favour.

Signed / Date



110221

Clerks Report

- Verge Cleaning – reclaiming the cost of verge cutting has been submitted to GCC. This has gone in late but has been approved.
- Currently working on the VAT claim which will take into account year end March 2019 to present.
- Cllr P van der Hooft and I met with Highways, to discuss condition of roads and verges around the parish, in particular Passage Road and Moor Street. Work is planned for the potholes along Passage Road and the railings on Moor Street. Expressed concerns over recent flooding issues, Highways will investigate plans for the culverts and drainage in and around the village.
- Working on the Asset list, in discussion with the Memorial Hall treasurer regarding some pieces of equipment and the village phone box/defrib. The water feature listed on the asset list was deemed not adequate to the job and was replaced by the Memorial Hall some years ago, agreed to remove from the asset list. The log cluster cannot be found and presumed to have rotted away, agreed to remove from the asset list. The large tree is gradually rotting away but is still there.
- Elections, at the moment, are proceeding. Nomination papers have been received and will be delivered in the next few days. An online meeting explaining the papers and processes involved in organising the election's was held this morning, it was recorded and will be circulated for anyone who could not attend to watch.
- Under current legislation, on-line meetings will end on May 7th. If there is any change to this, I will update you as soon as I receive notification.

120221

To receive report from PCSO M Trebble

Clerk has had a meeting with PCSO M Trebble and Neighbourhood Warden K Markwick to update with any news or issues within the parish. Feedback was that generally the area is quiet with only one concern around the continued previously reported issues at Saul Junction Marina area.

130221

To receive and review the progress of the Code of Conduct, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations – Cllr Brown

These were circulated earlier this evening to be reviewed and finalised at the next meeting. A number of amendments were pointed out.

Action: Clerk to update.

140221

To receive progress of this years Audit.

Letters from IAC Audit and Consultancy Limited have been circulated to council offering an Internal Audit or the 2021 Annual Return prior to the external audit aiding the council to fulfil its obligations of the Annual Return. This had been done in previous years and was considered necessary to improve on previous audit, the cost was agreed necessary.

Proposed: Cllr P van der Hooft Seconded: Cllr R Findlater

Action: Clerk to reply and arrange.

150221

To review and approve the Allotment Tenancy Agreement and Rental Charges

The Allotment Tenancy Agreement with amendments had been previously circulated to Councillors for review. The amendments were approved. Rental charges were reviewed, compared with other allotment charges in the area and against the annual maintenance costs which is higher than the income from the allotments. An increase was to the rental charge and the introduction of a £100 bond, to include £25 administration cost, for new tenants was agreed. Bond to be refunded on exit if no costs incurred to return the allotment to a usable standard. Proposed Cllr C Bartlett Seconded Cllr B Findlater

A report on the allotments was given. There are two allotments recently returned to the council as the new tenant, on review, has said that the work involved to bring the allotments to workable standard is beyond an acceptable level. A skip will need to be hired to clear the rubbish and considerable work to clear the two allotments.

The area inside the gate is damage and cut up from heavy vehicles entering and parking in the allotment area. For future wet weather, an obstruction is to be placed inside the gate to prevent vehicles entering but allowing

Signed / Date



and sufficient space to allow pedestrian or wheel chair or wheel barrow access. One of the allotment holders has kindly offered to arrange a suitably heavy obstruction when needed.

Action: Clerk to update Allotment Tenancy Agreement and investigate work to clear the two allotments.

160221 To discuss/agree the benefits and service provided by the Digibus and approve PC involvement

Thought a good idea, need for understanding computer literacy. Need to understand the local demand for this service and what assistance Digibus offer re advertising. Need to understand what facilities and space does it require other than the power supply to re-charge batteries and toilet facility? Possible venues? How do they work within the Covid restrictions?

Action: Clerk to contact and get more detail around requirements, venues, promoting and social media.

170221 To receive a report on Memorial Hall Committee comments on CCTV update

Cllr P van der Hooft has contacted the Memorial Hall committee member. A positive response, something to be considered; however, all expenses on hold at the moment with limited income for the Hall due to Covid restrictions. Note to allow costing in the budget.

Action: Cllr P van der Hooft to revisit when Covid restrictions eased.

180221 To review and update recent removal of fish from the disused canal at Framilode.

A Framilode resident advised the gentleman had returned to the canal and was again removing fish. Cllr A Brown called the police who noted details but no car in the area to respond. Cllr A Brown went to the canal and spoke with the gentleman, the fish were returned and the gentleman left saying he would not be back. PCSO M Trebble was informed of the details. PC M Campbell (Rural Crime) also aware and will take action to future incidents.

190221 To discuss and review recent flooding in the village and the suggestion of Village Flood Plan.

The recent flooding issues, particularly of 23rd December 2020, were discussed. Water rises very quickly in areas not previously noted for flooding and is not draining as rapidly; standing water seen for considerable time afterwards. Village pump is working, reportedly at 70%. Whilst pump is working efficiently is this effective in controlling water levels around the village? There is a need to understand how the pump monitors water levels, why it isn't working at 100% at times of flooding and if this is having an impact on surrounding water tables. Could we have a meeting with Internal Drainage to discuss issues.

Village Flood Plan – the basis of an action plan was discussed including sourcing a supply of sand and sandbags to be held at a location within the parish. Identify which properties were at risk of ingress of water, use recent events as basis. Potentially 12 – 15. Consideration of use of Stank board system. Discussion to be continued at next meeting.

Action: Clerk to contact Dist Cllr J Jones to co-ordinate a meeting with Internal Drainage representative. To look into sourcing sandbags.

200221 Date of next meeting – 31st March, 2021

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 22:30 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.

Signed / Date