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FREETHERNE WITH SAUL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Fretherne with Saul Parish Council Meeting held at Saul Memorial Hall at 7:30pm on 29th September 2021.

Present: Cllrs C Bartlett (Chairman), B Findlater, R Findlater, C Bierer, P Van Der Hooft, A Lever, Clerk K Brown

In attendance: County Cllr Stephen Davies (from 20:30) and District Cllr John Jones

Register of General Public attending meeting: Three members of the public attended.

Agenda

010921 To receive apologies for absence - None

020921 Declarations of Interest on the Agenda

Cllr Lever declared an interest in minute 280921. Cllr Bierer declared an interest in minute 250921.

030921 To approve the minutes of the meeting and EG meeting held on 18th August 2021 as a true record.

Minutes of meeting EG held on 18th August 2021 were proposed, seconded and approved by five councillors. Cllr Bierer abstained as not present.

Minutes of meeting EG (closed) held on 18th August 2021 were proposed, seconded and approved by five councillors. Cllr Bierer abstained as not present.

040921 To receive a report from County Councillor Stephen Davies.

This was moved to later in the meeting as Cty Cllr Davies arrived at 20:30pm between minutes 120921 and 130921.

Apologies for being late, echoing Dist Cllr Jones report about Covid, we are clearly seeing is that although there is concern out there, the levels are not causing major issues in hospitals. Actually they are not causing major sickness issues in our workforce, social work 16 of sick with only one covid related, but there is a backlog of response to that. There is a little bit of an argument going on about whether an added incident on the District County Council as to whether it is used as an excuse for some things not being done and I think it is something **we've got to address that and tackle it but at the moment it is not causing an issue. As say this last week we** going to see issues around fuel, and particularly in some of those tasks, where people have to go out around **District and County, we'll be getting issues around fuel supply but I have to say that I did see today that top ways now. We've got fuel at the Shell garage has had fuel all the way through this. We haven't been hit as bad as other** areas.

In other news, Fire and Rescue is going out to public consultation on how people should see this in the future.

This started on 1st October and goes on until some date in November; it is an interesting issue because for some **time now the fire brigade don't put out fires** and statistically there were very few fires in any area although we do have a full of service and capability to put out fires that is not what they spend the majority of their time doing.

Most of it is around fire safety education and fire prevention.

The only other general news is that the County Council have got an award for its recognition of local **apprenticeships, it's the best training provider which I have to say the County** Council perceives as very important and are increasingly challenged to recruit staff particularly for some of those lower paid jobs and training is one of those differentiators with a view on recruitment.

No particular issues with Highways for Fretherne with Saul.

Questions were raised with Cty Cllr Davies to confirm who to contact at SDC regarding Public Rights of Way, yellow line issues at Sandfield Bridge, condition of road along Moor Street.

Signed / Date

CB - 20/10/21.



050921

To receive a report from District Councillor John Jones.

Staff returning to work at Ebley Mill, perhaps not as quickly as some Members would like, and some who think that Covid is still used to account for the large backlog of work to catch up on, particularly in Housing and Planning departments.

A recommendation to approve the leisure and Wellbeing Strategy has gone through Community Services Committee by a majority decision. Not all that Committee were in favour of the Strategy as it was presented, thoughts were that more work needed to be done to it, in particular, the Task and Finish Group set up to advise on it had not made any recommendations from its deliberations. The Strategy involves, among other things, how the Stratford Park Leisure Centre and The Pulse in Dursley should be managed for the next generation, and how leisure and even sports facilities could be spread across the District, more than they are currently, with possibly more facilities made available along the A38 corridor. We will see what happens when it comes to Full Council.

The **Alliance's Plan to 2026 is due for consideration at tomorrow night's Strategy and Resources Committee Meeting**. It used to be known as the Corporate Delivery Plan, it lasts for 5 years, on a rolling basis, so is updated **regularly**. It outlines the Council's objectives and aims for the next 5 years. Some members think it is not ambitious enough, is too ambiguous, and needs more work to bring it up to a more forward looking plan. The consultation on the future of the Black Boys statue and clock in Castle Street in Stroud, and other street names or areas which might not fit in with modern thinking, has closed, and a panel set up to consider the findings of the consultation.

060921

To receive a report from PCSO M Trebble and Neighbourhood Warden Simon Jarvis.

Unfortunately, NW Simon Jarvis was unable to be at the meeting, the clerk read out the information he provided. PCSO M Trebble also did not attend, he had previously advised that he would be on duty and if called out would not be able to attend.

070921

To consider applications for councillor, with co-option of councillors.

The applicant for the vacant councillor role is clarifying some detail, this is therefore adjourned to next months meeting.

080921

To report on the questions raised by a member of the public at the last Parish Council meeting on 21st July 2021.

The questions raised at the meeting have all been responded to by letter sent to the member of public in August.

090921

Public Question Time

Concerns were raised about the work being done by the Environment Agency at Framilode which seem excessive for the reasons given – shoring up the bank of the River Frome against damage done by badger sets. Does the council know anything further?

Concerns were also raised about the water levels in the disused section of the Stroudwater Canal at Framilode. What is being done about it? This was covered in a later minute on the agenda, 280921.

Concerns were raised about how overgrown a hedge, bordering the public right of way along the tow path along the disused section of the canal at Framilode, had become and attempts to cut it back were being resisted.

100921

Planning Applications - None

Planning Applications Awaiting Decision

Application Number: S.21/2018/TCA The Old Vicarage, High Street, Saul, Gloucestershire

Description: Trees in a conservation area. T1-T5 Italian Alders - fell to near ground level and treat stumps.

Respond by date: 08.09.21

Application Number: S.21/1543/HHOLD The Old Barn, Saul Lodge West, Arlingham Road, Saul

Description: Erection of single storey extension and conversion of garage space to bedrooms

Respond by date: 11.08.21

Application Number: S.21/0026/FUL Land Adjacent to Lion House, High Street, Saul

Description: Construction of 2 dwellings and associated landscaping works

Respond by date: 04.02.21

Permissions granted

Application Number: S.21/17/18/HHOLD Alpha Cottage, Moor Street, Saul, Gloucester

Description: Replacement single story extension to rear.

Decision : Permitted

Signed / Date

CB Smith 20/10/21



Application Number: S.21/1518/FUL St Peters Church, Framilode, Gloucester

Description: Replacement of fence

Description: Permitted

Applications Withdrawn – None

110921

To discuss any correspondence received

A concerned allotment tenant has contacted the clerk regarding produce being taken from their allotment. A reminder has been sent to all allotment tenants that produce is not to be removed from any allotment without prior agreement from the tenant. Following receipt of the above email, another allotment holder reported theft from their allotment.

Discussed, tenancy agreement to include a clause about theft. Meeting with PCSO Trebble arranged to discuss the theft.

Action: Clerk to look into signage for the gate. Cllr Lever to look into practicality of webcams at the allotments.

120921

To receive an update on the repair and maintenance of the phone box/defib housing.

To receive an update on the progress of the repairs and painting of the village phone box. No update as yet.

Action: Cllr Bierer to look into this for next month's meeting.

130921

Finance:

To approve the following payments in accordance with the budget.

Supporting documents have already been sent to councillors.

Payee	For	Amount
Admin costs	Inc. clerks wages (Sept), HMRC p'mt and postage	£396.80
PKF Littlejohn LLP	External Audit	£240.00
GAPTC	Training for councillors	£418.00
Severn Grass Services	Village grass cutting	£196.20

Proposed, seconded with all in favour.

Cheques written out and payments between meetings –

Admin costs inc clerks wages (Aug)

£312.80

Proposed, seconded with all in favour.

To review and approve August and September bank reconciliation.

As no meeting in August, no bank reconciliation was produced for that month.

September Bank reconciliation was proposed, seconded with all in favour.

140921

Clerks Report

Clerk gave feedback on what has been done since the last meeting as detailed on the agenda.

150921

Memorial Hall, Playing Fields and Playground

Cllr's Bartlett, Cllr van der Hooft and the clerk have had a meeting with the committee of the Memorial Hall to discuss the replacement of rubbish bins and inspection of playing equipment. An inspection has now been arranged for all equipment, a meeting with an SDC representative has now been arranged.

160921

To receive an update on the register of The Ship public house as a Community Asset.

The renewal of the Community Asset registration is being submitted before the end of the week.

Action: Cllr Bartlett to submit the Community Asset registration.

170921

To discuss and approve the Asset List.

The updates to the Asset List were approved.

Proposed, seconded with all in favour.

180921

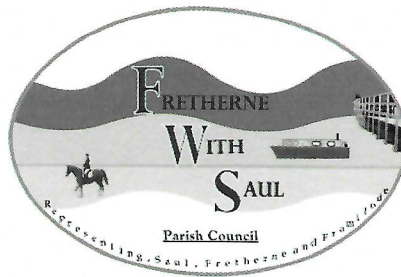
Allotment Update.

Allotment 13b is a reduced size allotment due to two large nut trees growing on it and requires some considerable work on it. A neighbouring tenant has offered to take on 13b and get it back to a workable standard. After explanation by the clerk this was approved by council.

Proposed, seconded with all in favour.

Signed / Date

CB 20/10/21 -



Work on the allotment pond is planned to tidy up the area and consider whether the large conifer needs to be removed, councillors volunteered to undertake the work.

A member of the public, who previously did maintenance work on the pond, has offered to carry out the work in return for the councillors volunteering to work on the disused canal in Framilode, doing maintenance there. Proposed, seconded and those volunteering were in favour.

190921

To review, discuss and agree the Roles and Responsibilities of Councillors.

The approved list of the Roles and Responsibilities has been updated but will now need to be revisited following the resignation of a councillor. Also, a council representative nominated as a contact for the snow warden.

Action: This has been carried to the October meeting to be discussed.

200921

To review, discuss and agree the Fretherne with Saul Parish Council regulations.

The following regulations have been previously sent to the councillors for review – Complaints Procedure, Charity Policy, Freedom of Information Policy, Behaviour Policy and Transparency Policy.

Freedom of Information Policy was proposed, seconded with all in favour.

Transparency Policy was proposed, seconded with all in favour.

Action: All other policies to be carried to the October meeting to be reviewed.

210921

To review and discuss Appraisal briefing.

To discuss and review the Appraisal briefing which has been circulated to councillors. Council still to agree a policy and appraisal forms.

Action: Cllr Bartlett to look into appraisal policy and form to review at the October meeting.

220921

To review and sign off the 2020/2021 AGAR Part 3

The review of the Internal Auditors Audit has been returned by PKF Littlejohn LLP, the external auditors. The report has been circulated to Council, findings were reviewed with explanation by the clerk. The AGAR (Annual Governance and Accountability Return) part 3 was signed off and documents to be posted on the website.

Proposed, seconded with all in favour.

230921

To discuss the development of the Village Flood Plan.

The council is now in the possession of 200 empty sand bags presently stored in a councillor's garage. To discuss the possibility of a central location for storage/access to sand bags and sand on the occasion of emergency. It was agreed this needs further discussion at another meeting.

240921

To discuss and approve the purchase of council computer equipment.

A need for additional computer equipment has been identified by the councillors. This was discussed and a budget of £600 for the purchase of a laptop was agreed.

Proposed, seconded with all in favour.

250921

To approve legal support further to on-going complaint.

This was discussed at the closed meeting on 18th August 2021, after clarification of interest an initial outlay of £1000 was agreed.

Proposed, seconded with five councillors in favour. Cllr Bierer did not take part in discussion or vote.

260921

To approve the purchase of three wreaths for the parish Remembrance Day ceremonies.

Council has approved the purchase of three wreaths as have been ordered in previous years.

Proposed, seconded with all in favour.

270921

To discuss the Oak Trees to be provided to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee.

Memorial Hall has agreed to have one planted on the Playing Field, it was discussed where else the second could be planted with discussion perhaps they should both be on the Playing Field and a community project to look after the saplings.

Action: Clerk to contact the Memorial Hall and Playing Field Committee as to whether both can be on the field.

280921

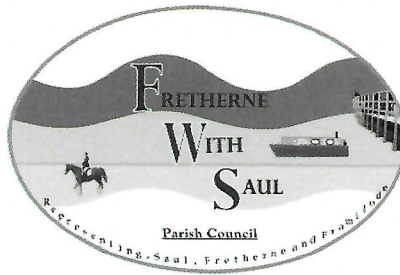
To approve the hire of a pump and equipment to complete the annual top up of the Stroudwater Canal at Framilode.

The possibilities of buying a pump for the extraction of water from the Frome to the Stroudwater Canal, a long term solution to the problem and to potentially alleviate flooding during the winter was discussed but not resolved. Further discussion to be held at future meetings. Severn Grass Services have volunteered to maintain and monitor the pumping as in previous years. A budget of £200 was set for the insurance.

Approval for the pump hire was given, proposed, seconded with three others in favour. Cllr Lever abstained.

Signed / Date

20/10/21 *CRB*



Action: Cllr B Findlater and Cllr Lever to ask **landowner's** permission to site the pump and generator on land used last year.

290921 **To approve the cost of Better Councillor training and hire charges for Frampton Village Hall for the two evenings of councillor training.**
Proposed, seconded with all in favour.

300921 **To approve finance for legal advice following Complaint.**
A further budget of £800 was set for legal advice if needed for the Formal Complaint.
Proposed, seconded with all in favour.

310921 **To agree a date to discuss the budget for 2022/2023.**

320921 **Date of next meeting is 27th October 2021.**

Meeting closed at 21:55

Signed:

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

C. J. Salt. 20/10/21