



Clerk – Kay Brown

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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 20th October 2021.


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

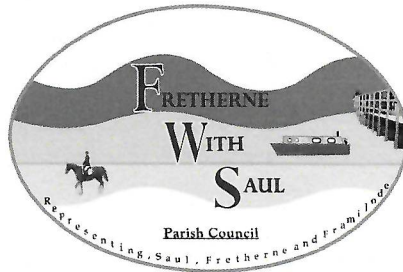
In attendance: PCSO M Trebble

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

- 011021** **To receive apologies for absence** – Apologies received from Cllr Lever, Dist Cllr J Jones and Neighbourhood Warden S Jarvis.
- 021021** **Declarations of Interest on the Agenda** – There were no declarations of interest.
- 031021** **To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 29th September 2021 as a true record.**
Minutes had previously been circulated and were resolved as a true record. Proposed, seconded with all in favour.
- 041021** **To receive a report from County Councillor Stephen Davies.**
Cty Cllr S Davies did not attend the meeting.
- 051021** **To receive a report from District Councillor John Jones.**
Dist Cllr J Jones did not attend the meeting but sent a report.
Tomorrow night's Council meeting will appoint a new Interim Monitoring Officer, Stephen Taylor. He has already been in place for a couple of weeks, having taken over from the previous Interim Officer, who stood in after Patrick Arran moved on. The meeting is also due to approve starting the process of appointing a new full time Monitoring Officer.
Also on the Agenda are reports relating to work by the SDC Youth Council, A review of the Council's Constitution, Approval of a revised Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy, The Draft Council 5 year Forward Plan, (not the Local Planning Plan), Strategy for next year's budget, and a lead up to approving the Councils' Principals under the Gambling Act, which have to be reviewed every three years.
It promises to be a busy night, and can be viewed on the Council's live U-Tube stream.
- 061021** **To receive a report from Neighbourhood Warden Simon Jarvis & PCSO Mike Trebble.**
PCSO M Trebble related crime statistics over the last six months May 21 – October 21, 7 crimes in comparison to the same period in 2020 which was 12 crimes. This indicates that crime in the area is down 41% year on year. He defined crime as a recordable crime and not incidents which are not necessarily crimes. In comparison to other parishes, the statistics are pretty comparable.
PCSO Trebble was asked about the number of vans being driven around the area taking things from gardens. He advised that this is very much down now in comparison to last year due to scrap having gone down in value.
After giving his report, PCSO M Trebble left the meeting.
Neighbourhood Warden S Jarvis was not able to attend.
- 071021** **To consider applications for councillor, with co-option of councillors.**
There has been an application for the vacant councillor seat, Saul Ward. The applicant was unable to attend the meeting, co-option delayed until the next meeting.
- 081021** **To receive feedback on the questions raised by a member of the public at the last Parish Council meeting on 29th September 2021.**

Signed / Date

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Concerns were raised about the work being done by the Environment Agency at Framilode which seem excessive for the reasons give. This has been looked into and information passed to parishioner. Concerns were also raised about the water levels in the disused section of the Stroudwater Canal at Framilode. Due to recent rainfall this is now recovering without intervention from the council and the need to hire a pump. Concerns were raised about an overgrown hedge bordering the disused canal at Framilode. This has been brought to the attention of the SDC Rights of Way Officer who advised they will write to the land owner should this be needed.

091021 Public Question Time
No members of the public attended.

101021 Planning Applications
Application Number: S.21/0026/FUL Land Adjacent to Lion House, High Street, Saul
Description: Construction of 2 dwellings and associated landscaping works
Status: Refused

Applications Withdrawn
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

111021 To discuss any correspondence received
A member of the public has raised concern with regards to a large tree branch which has come down the River Frome and is now stuck on the weir at Framilode. The Environment Agency have been contacted with regards to the branch. This is being passed to an area team, awaiting feedback.
Council have received a letter from a member of the public with regards to an earlier Letter of Complaint, letter has been drafted and approved to be sent.
Action: Clerk to contact EA for follow up on branch.
Clerk to send letter to the member of the public.

121021 To receive an update on the repair and maintenance of the phone box/defib housing.
No progress made on the refurb of the phone box, no update available. Discussion regarding possibility of making this a community project, or find a tradesman, to do the work.
Action: Cllr Bierer to look into alternatives to refurb the phone box.

131021 Finance:
To approve the following payments in accordance with the budget.
Supporting documents have already been sent to councillors.

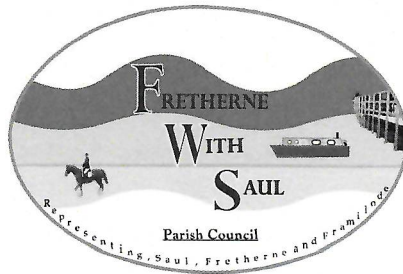
Payee	For	Amount
Admin costs	Inc. clerks wages (Sept), HMRC p'mt and postage	£312.80
FoS Mgmt Committ	Hire of Frampton on Severn Village Hall	£20.00
Freeths LLP	Legal Advice	£204.00

Proposed, seconded with all in favour.
To ratify payments made between meetings –
Water Plus iss date 3rd October 2021 £86.95
Proposed, seconded with all in favour.
To review and approve October bank reconciliation.
This has already been circulated to the councillors.
Proposed, seconded with all in favour.

141021 Clerks Report
Environment Agency has been contacted re the work being carried out at Framilode. An email with full explanation has been received and circulated to the councillors and member of the public who raised this concern. Piling work to shore up the banks following erosion due to badger sets is soon to be carried out. The construction work being carried out at the moment is to support the machinery being brought in to carry out the work.
The clerk has also enquired about the spur road being constructed, EA have referred her to the landowner.
Action: Clerk to check on earlier planning application.


Signed / Date

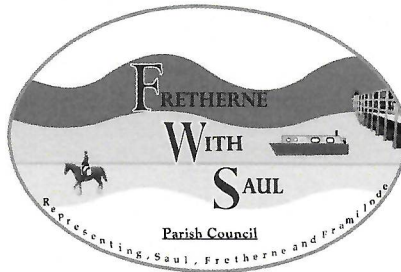
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- 151021 To receive a report on the Memorial Hall, Playing Fields and Playground waste bins.**
Clerk has met with SDC representative and discussed replacement of damaged bin. Dog waste bins can also be replaced with litter bins, no specific requirement to be solely for the use of dog waste, if this eases the rubbish situation. Link to litter bin supplier to be sent to clerk.
Action: Clerk to chase up the link to the bin supplier and update the Memorial Hall Committee.
- 161021 To receive an update on the register of The Ship public house as a Community Asset.**
The five year listing of The Ship as a Community asset is due to expire in August 2021, this has been resubmitted. Cllr Bartlett has chased up the submission with no response.
Action: Cllr Bartlett to send follow up email re the progress of the registration.
- 171021 To consider applying for funding through the Build Back Better Scheme.**
To understand how the funding can be used, to discuss what possible projects are likely to get funding and should the council make an application.
Council have identified four possible projects to apply for funding for, the importance and practicalities of each were discussed, and arguments for submission. Councillors were to consider if there are any other projects requiring consideration. Discussion adjourned to next meeting.
Action: Cllr's to suggest any other projects to consider or propose arguments to strengthen the argument for the already proposed projects. Cllr Van Der Hooft to enquire if Canal Committee making an application to the scheme.
- 181021 To receive an Allotment Update.**
One allotment has a new tenant, the rent and bond were paid and agreement returned.
Cllr Lever and the clerk have met with an allotment holder and PCSO Trebble to discuss the theft of fruit. Possible deterrents were discussed including camera's and signage for the allotments. PCSO Trebble left signs which are being placed around the site.
- 191021 To review, discuss and agree the Roles and Responsibilities of Councillors.**
This was adjourned to be discussed at the next meeting.
Action: Councillors to review the Roles and Responsibilities list, prepare to discuss at the November meeting.
- 201021 To review, discuss and agree the Fretherne with Saul Parish Council regulations.**
The regulations have been previously sent to the councillors for review. The following actions were agreed. Complaints Policy approved. Proposed, seconded with all in favour.
Behaviour Policy is to be removed, all points covered by the Standing Orders. Proposed, seconded with all in favour.
Charities Policy to be removed, covered by the Financial Regulations. Proposed, seconded with all in favour.
- 211021 To review, discuss and approve the draft Appraisal Policy and Appraisal form.**
An Appraisal Policy and Appraisal Review form have been circulated to councillors for review. Appraisal Policy and Review form approved. Proposed, seconded with all in favour.
- 221021 To clarify and review the Financial Regulation for emergency expenditure including the £500 limit to this expenditure.**
An understanding of what is classified as an emergency was discussed, the water levels in the disused canal at Framilode being identified as such due to the impact on wildlife and conservation and necessary repairs to council owned play equipment at the Memorial Hall Playing Field due to Health and Safety. Financial Regulations permit this money to be spent, with Chairman's approval, but has to be listed on the minutes for transparency. These two reasons were agreed by council.
Proposed, seconded and with all in favour.
Action: Clerk to confirm the level of spending the clerk has but which is not classed as an emergency.
- 231021 To further discuss the development of the Village Flood Plan.**
Following discussion at the September meeting, 230921, the need for a village flood plan was further considered including responsibilities, liabilities and costs. Social media notification/updates, flash cards with key information on them, sand and empty bags in bins kept at a central location for availability if needed (security number available on request) all considered.
Action: Clerk to look into cost and lead time for supply of bunkers.
- 241021 To discuss and agree whether the Christmas Carols and Father Christmas visit are to be planned for this year and when the Christmas lights will be put on the village tree.**

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Due to the rising number of Covid cases, and for everyone's safety, it has been agreed that there will be no Carols around the tree this year.

Some Christmas lights need to be refurbished/replaced, a budget of £200 was agreed.

Proposed, seconded with all in favour.


Action: Cllr Van Der Hooft to decorate the tree with assistance from Cllr's Findlater and Bartlett.

- 251021 To discuss and approve registering the disused section of the Stroudwater canal through Statutory Declaration.**
No progress made on the registration. Cllr Bierer will progress this. Clerk has documents relating to the purchase of the disused section of the canal.
Action: Clerk to provide copies of documentation for Cllr Bierer.
- 261021 To further discuss the annual commitment of pumping water into the disused section of the Stroudwater Canal at Framilode.**
Discussed earlier in the meeting as part of minute 171021. It would be beneficial to understand if the weir could be removed and both parts of the canal re-joined. Further understanding of where the leak is is needed and the possibility of removing the weir investigated. A budget to investigate this was agreed at £500.
Proposed, seconded with all in favour.
Action: Cllr Bierer to look into who can do the investigative work.
- 271021 To discuss and approve repair to the fencing along the disused section of Stroudwater Canal from Framilode in the direction of Saul Junction.**
The fencing has fallen into disrepair and needs urgent maintenance carried out, this was discussed in minute 171021 as a possible Build Back Better project. Will be revisited at subsequent meetings.
- 281021 To discuss the Oak Trees to be provided to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee.**
The Memorial Hall Committee have confirmed that both trees can be planted on the Memorial Hall Playing Field. The play group have enthusiastically agreed to look after at least one of the trees providing some instruction is provided.
- 291021 To discuss and approve the annual finances to date, to compare to previous annual finances and approve a budget for the next financial year.**
The annual finances and those for the previous two years have been circulated to councillors for their review, discussion has commenced around understanding of the standing orders/direct debits, wage commitments and precept. Discussion was adjourned to the next meeting.
- 301021 To receive an update on the purchase of Council Laptop from Cllr Bartlett.**
No purchase as yet.
- 311021 To approve the Clerk's attendance at the Clerk's Networking session on 1st December 2021.**
Approval agreed, proposed, seconded with all in favour.
- 321021 Date of next meeting is 24th November 2021.**
The meeting closed at 22:10.

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

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