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## **FREATHERNE WITH SAUL PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of Fretherne with Saul Parish Meeting held at Saul Memorial Hall at 7:00pm on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

Present: Chairman C Bierer, Cllrs B Findlater, A Lever, P Van Der Hooft, L Jeffries, R Findlater Clerk K Brown

- **To receive apologies**

Apologies were received from County Councillor Stephen Davies, PCSO M Treble, Stroudwater Canal Conservation Team and the Memorial Hall Committee.

- **To approve the minutes of the meeting 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

The minutes of the meeting 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021 were approved as a true record.  
Proposed, seconded with all in favour

- **Fretherne with Saul Parish Council report – Chairman**

Cllr Bierer has thanked Chris for his stewardship. It has been an interesting year to say the least, coming out of the tail end of covid and back to normal meetings. I have found it difficult to make any progress with things. Hoping from now on we will start to make a little bit of progress in the parish as things have eased up and we can start looking at a few projects again without any restrictions on us.

In the last twelve months we have continued to support the canal, there has been some reciprocal help between the Stroudwater canal and the allotment pond to do with work exchange. Some councillors got stuck in on the canal in exchange for help with the pond. The lane next to the church has been secured, the cost situation is with the solicitors at the moment and future work with the PCC to get signposting in place. In a nod to the disruption caused by contractors, the Environment Agency have donated 58 fruit trees for distribution through the parish. Twenty have been delivered so far. The purchase of Upper Framilode phone box has been completed.

There has been an unprecedented year in the number of planning application the council has received; fortunately, there hasn't been any contentious ones. In terms of ongoing activities, the council are looking at the parking at Sandfield Bridge and the stretch between Malt House Farm and Fretherne Bridge. A meeting with Yakub to discuss what can be done, the yellow lines have been requested again. The play equipment on the Memorial Hall Playing Field is work in progress as to the repairs. The allotments are fully rented and are a hive of activity. Two allotments which had been out of use for a long time are back in use thanks to Community Payback and another allotment holder.

The council are supporting the Queens Platinum Jubilee event to a limited degree. The noticeboard at Framilode Passage has been damaged and this is in the process of being replaced.

Council is working much more with the Environment Agency with regards to reporting issues with drainage and the sluice gates at Upper Framilode and the Hock. Also working with the Canals and

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Signed / Date



Rivers Trust, bringing in the Environment Agency with regards to distribution of canal water levels during periods of high water levels in the river.

- **County Council report – County Councillor S Davies**

Although not able to attend, Cty Cllr S Davies has sent a report.

The main item is the new Road Safety plan. This will enable you as a Parish Council to apply for signs and VAS Cameras funded by the County Council. I would encourage you to consider applying.

On Friday I am meeting with Cllr Carl Bierer and Yakub from Highways to look at parking issues on the corner by the canal.

- **District Council report – District Councillor J Jones**

The Revenues and Benefits Team continued to distribute Government funded grants to businesses, charitable organisations and other qualifying groups, affected by the Covid-19 pandemic during the year. Almost all of the available fund was given out, only a small amount was returned. Those organisations that had previously received grant funding were able to have their share paid automatically, without having to re-apply.

Many staff have returned to full-time working at Ebley Mill, although some are combining some working from home with attendance at The Mill offices. Customer Services staff have mostly remained at work in Ebley Mill throughout the pandemic, wherever possible.

A review of Leisure provision across the District has been carried out, this includes Stratford Park Leisure Centre, (SPLC) and The Pulse in Dursley. A strategy for ongoing leisure provision across the District should be in place shortly.

The District Council's Emergency Planning team swung into action in February of this year, in response to anticipated bad weather forecasts. Teams of Neighbourhood Wardens and Police Officers delivered leaflets throughout the Severnside Parishes warning residents of likely storm damage coming, and where respite centres would be available. Whitminster Village Hall became the centre for this area, and around 10 people made use of its facilities during the morning of the bad weather. As the storm abated after lunch, the respite centre was stood down. However, the instance showed that SDC's Emergency Plan does work.

The Draft Local Plan was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in the Autumn, it is likely to undertake its Examination in Public later this Spring, with a view to being ready for adoption by Full Council towards the late Summer or Autumn.

The Canal Restoration Scheme is in full progress. Ocean Railway Bridge, behind Stonehouse Court Hotel, was replaced over the Christmas and New Year period, allowing the passage of boats under the Gloucester-Bristol railway line, which hasn't been possible for several decades. Other restoration works are scheduled to start later this year, with an anticipated end date of 2024/5 for the length between Stonehouse and Saul Junction. When Walk Bridge over the Stroudwater Canal is replaced, possibly next year but could be 2024, it is likely that Whitminster Lane will be closed for around 16 weeks, except for pedestrian and cycle access.

The Planning Application to develop Ecotricity's Eco Park site east of Junction 13 of the M5, both sides of the A419 to Chipmans Platt roundabout has been submitted. It differs from the approved Outline Application for the Forest Green football stadium in that it includes, as well as the 5000 seater stadium, training pitches, warehousing and storage provision, office space, an hotel, a care village with care home, and light industrial units. Car parking for the Stadium will be shared across the Industrial parts of the site. The A419 is due to become a dual carriageway, with access to both parts of the Park via a new traffic light controlled junction approximately midway between the motorway and Chipmans Platt roundabout.

Well done to the collections crews at UBICO, who worked through the pandemic, with hardly



missing a collection of waste, recycling or garden waste. They do come in for criticism at times, some of it justified with bins being left in awkward places, but let's give credit where it is due. Some Ukrainian refugees have arrived in the District, more will be arriving soon.

- **Police Report – PCSO M Treble**

- **Stroudwater Canal Restoration Team**

Although there was no committee member of the Stroudwater Canal Restoration Team present, Cllr Lever was able to provide some information for everyone present.

The work that has been done on the canal has been done predominantly by three people during lock down; they are planning to be back working on the canal at the start of June and would greatly appreciate some extra support. Now that the channel has been opened up end to end, the wildlife has significantly increased. It is superb to see the varied birds, waterfowl, amphibians, all sorts back and last summer a pair of ducks managed to keep eight out of thirteen ducklings. The enthusiasm is still there. Need to be much more proactive with the water levels in the summer.

- **Memorial Hall Committee**

Although not able to attend a report was sent and read out.

Following 2 years of closures we are now fully open for use as normal and it is good to see the Hall being used again and the number of hire events increasing.

Stroud District Council have provided funding over the last two years to cover the income that has been lost, so financially the Hall is in a good position to move forward. We have the following projects to be completed in the next few months:

- Sanding & re-lacquering the floor, this is planned for next week
- Gigaclear broadband, this is waiting for the installation date to be booked
- Replacement of broken windows and hinges
- Mobile toilet for the summer should be delivered this week.

We have three new people who have joined our committee to assist with the running of the Hall, and we would like to thank them for volunteering to give up their valuable time to help. As ever we will welcome any interest from anyone else who would like to assist in any way.

We look forward to seeing a good turnout over the Jubilee celebrations with as many people as possible making use of the facilities.

Councillor Beirer thanked everyone for attending closing the meeting at 19:27pm.

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*

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Signed / Date