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FREETHERNE WITH SAUL PARISH COUNCIL

I hereby give notice of a Parish Council Meeting to be held on Wednesday 26th October 2022 at 7:30pm in Saul Memorial Hall. Members of the Parish Council are hereby summoned to attend for the purpose of transacting the following business, residents of the Parish are welcome to attend. Anyone attending should be aware that the meeting may be recorded.

Please be respectful of the proximity to other people attending the meeting and take relevant steps to respect their welfare.

Agenda

- 011022** To elect a Chairman of the Parish Council and receive the Chairman's declaration of Acceptance of Office.
- 021022** To receive apologies for absence.
- 031022** Declarations of Interest on the Agenda
- 041022** To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 28th September 2022 as a true record.
- 051022** **Public Question Time**
20 Minutes is allocated to allow members of the public to address the Parish Council, 5 minutes will be allocated to each person. Speakers are requested to keep their comments brief. Standing Orders item 3, para (e)(f)(g)(h)(k).
- 061022** To receive a report from County Councillor Stephen Davies.
- 071022** To receive a report from District Councillor John Jones.
- 081022** **Planning Applications – no new applications**
- Planning Decisions**
- Application Number:** S.22/1764/OUT Dunstalls Farm, Arlingham Road, Saul, Gloucester.
Description: Erection of 2 no. buildings to provide 4 no. commercial units (B8 Storage with ancillary office) and associated works
Decision: Application withdrawn
- Application Number:** S.22/1202/FUL Site For Proposed Livery Yard Associated With Dunstalls Farm, Arlingham Road, Saul,
Description: Construction of livery yard with associated parking and paddocks
(Resubmission of S.22/0331/FUL)
Decision: Awaiting Decision
- Application Number:** S.22/0882/HHOLD 1 Riveredge, Framilode, Gloucester, Gloucestershire
Description: Erection of rear two storey extension. Alteration to single storey garage annexe to raise floor level and demolition of rear conservatory
Decision: Awaiting decision
- 091022** To formally acknowledge receipt of the Decision Notice in conclusion of the Code of Conduct complaint against Cllr Bierer.
The Clerk has received the Member Code of Conduct Complaint Decision Notice from the Monitoring Officer. This is now published on the Parish Council website in accordance with the Arrangements for dealing with Code of Conduct complaints. The Parish Council formally acknowledges the decision of the Standards Panel. The Parish Council are currently waiting for the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Code of Conduct training

Signed / Date



package; as requested by the Decision Notice, training will be arranged for Cllr Bierer and at the same time the entire Parish Council.

101022 To note correspondence received

- Members of the public have contacted the Clerk re concerns that drugs are openly being used in the Upper Framilode area. This information has been passed to the authorities to look into.
- A member of the public has contacted the Parish Council following Cllr Bierers Code of Conduct hearing advising that they will be attending the October meeting to understand how the Parish Council will address Cllr Bierers conduct. They have also advised that they will be formalising a complaint into the conduct and failings of the Parish Council.

With regards to the Code of Conduct hearing, after discussing the letter with the Monitoring Officer, it needs to be made clear that the complaint has been adjudicated on by the Standards Panel which has issued its decision. Having heard the evidence put forward and having considered the matter at length, the Standards Panel did not consider it appropriate to censure Cllr Bierer. The Monitoring Officer, and the Parish Council, is at a loss as to what further action it would be appropriate to take.

111022 To discuss Stroud District Councils Town and Parish Charter.

The details of the Charter have been circulated to the Councillors for their consideration. The survey closing date for the responses is 10th November 2022. Council to consider the responses to the questions asked.

121022 To receive an update on the points raised in Public Question time at the meeting on 28th September 2022 regarding HGV travelling along Moor Street.

The Parish Council is consolidating the information, supported by photographs, provided by the residents of Moor Street and, with a view to discussing this with the Highways Department representative, will be sending an email with all the residents concerns nearer to his return to work date from annual leave.

131022 To review renewing the Zoom Subscription.

The Parish Council subscription to Zoom expired on 21st October 2022. The plan can be reactivated on payment of the annual subscription of approximately £119.90. As this facility has not been used in the past year, does the Council consider subscription renewal to be necessary?

141022 Finance:

To approve the following payments in accordance with the budget.

Supporting documents have already been sent to councillors.

Payee	For	Amount
Clerk	Including clerks wages October 22	£362.70*
Severn Grass Services	Village maintenance September inv 191	£98.10
Town and Parish Websites	Queen Elizabeth's commemorative Splash Page on website	£80.00
Birketts LLP	Legal advice due to non-payment of Land Tribunal cost order to the PCC	£405.60
PKF Littlejohn	External Audit Invoice	£240.00
Severn Grass Services	Village Maintenance – Agreed work clearing canal bank	£250.00
Clerk	Postage – signatory mandate, card to allotment tenant	£1.90

- **Based on previous monthly pay, October to be confirmed by accountant**

To ratify payments made between meetings – None

To review and approve October bank reconciliation and accounts.

These has already been circulated to the councillors.

151022 To discuss and review the steps to complete Financial Year 2022 – 23 financial checks.

Checks of accounts continue to be required by a Councillor or independent person. Going forward, the Parish Council needs to review the present arrangements or consider appointing an external checker to carry out additional checks.

161022 Clerks Report - Feedback from items raised at the last meeting and other points to be discussed

The new notice board at Framilode Passage is now in place. The allotment notice board will be installed in November.

Signed / Date



The Play Inspection Company has been contacted re delaying the annual inspection until the repairs to the Parish Council owned play equipment has been carried out. The Clerk will contact them again as soon as a completion date is confirmed.

GB Sport & Leisure have amended the quote removing the zip wire seat which had already been replaced and will include an additional half post on the ramp at no additional cost. Date for installation is to be confirmed.

The Clerk is seeking the details of Internal Auditors and will report back to the councillors when a number of options have been sourced.

Cost to purchase a new rubbish bin has been shared on a 50/50 basis with the Memorial Hall (MH) committee, Parish Council contribution would be £133.07 to include delivery and vat. Installation will be an additional charge still to be approved. Have asked the MH committee to confirm approval for the order to go ahead.

Skip hire is to be covered in agenda item 181022.

171022

To discuss matters arising from the allotments.

- On a recent visit to the allotments, a tenant voiced concerns around the condition of some of the trees around the boundary. The Clerk met with James from Severn Vale Tree Surgeon at the allotments to discuss reducing the overhanging branches along the tree line to the left of the allotments and the cost involved. The tree surgeon will be submitting a quote to reduce the overhang to height of 25' in the next few days; this work would not take place until January at the earliest.
- The Clerk circulated an email to the allotment tenants asking whether they thought a skip to dispose of general accumulated rubbish on their allotments would be helpful. Only 7% of the tenants responded with a 50/50 response. One tenant proposed the money would be better spent refurbishing the taps and stands. Skip hire would be £275 +vat for an 8yd skip for a two week period. Skip hire/taps to be considered by council.

181022

To propose and elect a Councillor to the staffing committee.

A third Councillor is required on the staffing committee, council to consider who to appoint and set a date for the Clerks annual review in November.

191022

To discuss and approve trimming of the trees on Upper Framilode Pound.

A member of the public has volunteered to trim the trees on Upper Framilode Pound free of charge. Council to consider the offer.

201022

To receive an update on the Upper Framilode phone box.

There has been previous talk about a second defibrillator being located in the phone box. Fund raising is being organised by a member of the public. Is their interest in using the phone box now confirmed? How much has been raised towards the final defibrillator costs?

Nigel, who painted the phone box in Saul has been contacted to see if there is any paint left over for this phone box and would he quote to paint the Upper Framilode phone box. He has confirmed there is paint left over and is happy to quote for the work.

211022

To receive a further update on the Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Community Speedwatch Safety Fund Application.

GCC have confirmed that the Parish Council application for a speed survey has been successful and are in discussion as to the best location for the equipment. Date of installation to be confirmed. A second Community Speedwatch Fund has now been launched, closing date January 2023. Council to consider whether there is need to make a further bid for equipment under the second scheme.

221022

To approve Cllr Van Der Hooft attend the GAPTC training for producing a printed parish newsletter.

The cost to attend the virtual course is £35.

231022

To approve the cost of the Clerk attending the GAPTC Clerks Christmas Networking event.

This is an annual meeting for all clerks in the GAPTC area, the cost is £25 for the three hour session which includes talks, networking and refreshments.

241022

To receive an update on the meeting with the Canal Project Officer (CPO) at Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, and consider the next steps following his comments.

The CPO has raised some concerns regarding the work being carried out on the disused section of the Stroudwater Canal at Upper Framilode and its potential impact on endangered species within the canal. Members of the Parish Council and representatives from the volunteer working group met with him to discuss the work and its impact on the habitat. Following the meeting, reports previously commissioned by the Parish Council were

Signed / Date



circulated and it was considered prudent to suspend work until there was a better understanding of the whole subject. The CPO will put the Parish Council in contact with a specialist from Slimbridge who can advise further. It was hoped to hold a meeting mid-October but this has had to be postponed until a date to be announced in November.

251022 To receive an update, discuss and resolve how to proceed with regards to recovery of non-payment of Land Tribunal cost order to the PCC

Following receipt of the the Code of Conduct Decision Notice, the clerk has been in discussion with the Monitoring Officer (MO). It is the MO's belief that the 'tidiest' way forward is that Cllr Bierer declares an interest in any agenda items which relate to the Land Tribunal and Appeal, leaving the room whilst discussion take place and not taking part in any decision. However, the Parish Council may ask Cllr Bierer to continue to be the point of contact for Birketts LLP, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and the Diocese; all information from these discussions is to be passed to the Clerk who will present the information to the Councillors. Council should now consider and decide if they should ask Cllr Bierer to continue to be the point of contact.

261022 The Chairman will move the adoption of the following resolution; That under section 100(A) (4) Local Government Act 1972, the public and press will be excluded from the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act

- Discussion and approval of legal advice relating to recovery of costs arising from Land Tribunal.

271022 Date of next meeting is 30th November 2022.

Signed: *Kay Brown 20th October 2022*

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.