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FRETHERNE WITH SAUL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Fretherne with Saul Parish Council Meeting held at Saul Memorial Hall at 7:30pm on 26th October 2022.

Present: Cllr B Findlater (Vice Chairman), Cllr Lever, Cllr Van Der Hooft, Cllr Cobb, Cllr Jeffries, Cllr Bierer, Clerk K Brown

In attendance: Dist Cllr J Jones


Register of General Public attending meeting: One

Agenda

- 011022 **To elect a Chairman of the Parish Council and receive the Chairman's declaration of Acceptance of Office.**
Cllr Lever was elected to Chairman, following the resignation of Cllr Bierer at the conclusion of his six month interim Chairmanship.
Proposed, seconded with all in favour
- 021022 **To receive apologies for absence.**
Cty Cllr Stephen Davies sent his apologies. Alison Robinson, CEO Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils (GAPTC) also sent apologies.
- 031022 **Declarations of Interest on the Agenda**
The following declarations of interest were declared with the relevant agenda item
Cllr Cobb 121022 and 241022
Cllr Van Der Hooft 171022, 221022 and 241022
Cllr Jeffries 171022
Cllr Lever 241022
Cllr Bierer 091022, 101022 (pt 2), 141022, 251022 and 261022
- 041022 **To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 28th September 2022 as a true record.**
The Minutes were approved as a true record.
Proposed, seconded with all in favour.
- 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).
The member of the public raised on-going issues with parking between Malt House Farm and Fretherne Bridge. Cllr Bierer explained that discussions have been held with Highways and the costs involved in various solutions. However, there are discussions between District Councillors and Canals & River Trust over the parking issues; the Parish Council have been asked to wait until these discussions have concluded before making any decisions which could involve considerable expense.
- 061022 **To receive a report from County Councillor Stephen Davies.**
Cty Cllr Davies having sent his apologies did send a report to be read out.

Gloucestershire County Council has expressed "dismay" at Stagecoach's decision to cancel many rural routes in preference for more commercially viable urban routes. They are currently working on alternative solutions.

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Gloucestershire County Council has launched a pilot rural mini bus service in the Cotswold that provides an on-demand service, which if successful will be expanded to other parts of the County, A £1.5m Levelling up grant has been launched targeted at the 10 most deprived areas in the County, none of which were in Stroud.

There is a public consultation on introducing powers to enforce moving traffic restrictions. It can be found at <https://haveyoursaygloucestershire.uk/engagementhq.com/moving-traffic-enforcement>

Brook Academy, a Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) has been opened in Brockworth Gloucestershire Armed Forces Community is being consulted on their view of the need for a new Community Hub.

New Electric Vehicle Charge Points have been installed in Quayside Car Park in Gloucester.

Children Services have launched a film called "Childhood" to encourage people to come forward as Foster carers.

071022

To receive a report from District Councillor John Jones.

Dist Cllr Jones began by congratulating Cllr Lever on her election to Chairman.

Stroud District Council elected a new Vice-Chairman, Cllr Norman Kay, last week after the resignation of Cllr Trevor Hall.

Long service awards were presented to three members of the Stroud Youth Council, all of whom have completed 5 years on the Youth Council.

A Motion to declare a Cost of Living emergency was passed, with the call for the CXO to write to the Prime Minister and both the District's MPs, calling for financial support for those that are in need and a commitment to improve energy efficiency and home insulation to help towards zero carbon target by 2050.

The Council approved its response to the cost of living emergency by allocating a budget of £100,000 to go towards helping with various measures to help the likes of Warm Spaces, Community Hubs and similar supporting items. This will work in tandem with the County Council's allocation of £123,000 to SDC for October to March next year, with news on how it will be spread out coming soon. This County money is on top of the £129,000 it awarded to SDC earlier in the year for Household Support.

Another Motion regarding Electric Vehicle Charging Points across Council-owned car parks was passed. This includes at least 2 EV charging points in each car park, with other sites being looked at. Residents should be able to park free of charge to enable them to park.

A community Governance Review to create a new parish similar to Hunts Grove, on the Great Oldbury development will be consulted on from the end of this month. Also in that consultation will be included measures to increase the numbers on some Parish Councils, including locally, Eastington and Frampton The Review results will come into effect at the 2024 elections.

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

Cllr Bierer left the room at 19:55pm


091022

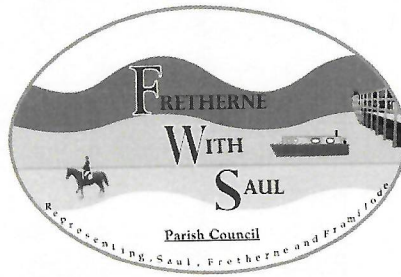
To formally acknowledge receipt of the Decision Notice in conclusion of the Code of Conduct complaint against Cllr Bierer.

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

No further discussion required.

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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, the PCSO has reported that he has visited the area a number of times most lately this afternoon. He has not seen anyone in the area or found any evidence of drug taking.
- 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.
No further discussion required.

Cllr Beirer re-joined the meeting at 19:59pm

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. Councillors discussed the Draft Charter, noting concerns in particular around the Procurement brief, the brief implies that the Parish Council should use Stroud District Councils list of contractors before being able to get quotes from smaller local companies. The Information Hub was a positive.

Action: Clerk to raise concerns on the feedback report regarding Procurement noting that the Charter was aimed more at the larger councils with larger budgets.

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.

Photo's supporting the damage to the road and railings have been received but the Parish Council are waiting to receive further information about possible structural damage to culverts and property.

Action: Clerk to chase up the information re potential structural issues.

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.

After discussion, the subscription will not be renewed.
Proposed, seconded with all in favour.

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**
Proposed, seconded with three in favour with one abstention.

To ratify payments made between meetings – None

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To review and approve October bank reconciliation and accounts.

These has already been circulated to the councillors.
Proposed, seconded with all in favour.

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.
Parish Council discussed expanding the financial checks and agreed they would prefer an independent book keeper to check the accounting statements.

Action: Clerk to get details of a minimum of three book keepers or auditors to carry out the financial checks and costs.

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.

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. Waiting for a reply.

Skip hire is to be covered in agenda item 181022.

171022

To discuss matters arising from the allotments.

- A tenant has voiced concerns around the condition of some of the trees around the boundary. A quote has been received from Severn Vale Trees and circulated to the Councillors. The quote is in two parts, reducing the Ash trees along the allotment boundary, work would not be done until January at the earliest; treatment to the willow tree in Stroudwater Canal at Upper Framilode. The cost for reduction of ash trees is £850, the willow treatment is £30. The tree surgeon recommends getting a consultants advice regarding the willow. The cost for the consultant from Wold Vale to inspect the willow will be £35, verbal advice to be given. All costs were approved.
Proposed, seconded three in favour, one abstention.

Action: Clerk to confirm acceptance of quote and to arrange Consultants inspection. Clerks also to clearly identify the trees involved before the work is carried out to the adjoining landowner.

- 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. Council approved the Skip hire costs £275 +vat for an 8yd skip for a two week period. And would like to understand the cost to refurbish the two taps at the allotments.

Action: Clerk to arrange hire of the skip and advise allotments tenant of details of the hire period and use of the skip. Also to get quotes to refurbish the taps.

181022

To propose and elect a Councillor to the staffing committee.

A third Councillor is required on the staffing committee.

Cllr Lever volunteered to join the staffing committee, date of the Clerks review to be agreed and carried out as soon as possible.

Proposed, seconded with all in favour.

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 considered the offer and agreed to accept.

Proposed, seconded with all in favour.


Action: Cllr Lever to advise the Member of the Public

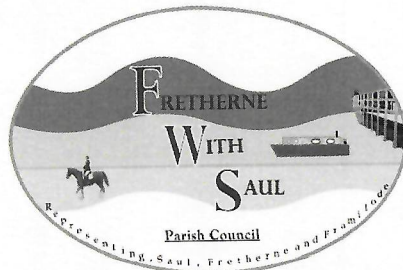
201022

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.

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Nigel, who painted the phone box in Saul has confirmed there is paint left over and is happy to quote for the work. It has not been possible to confirm how much has been raised for the defibrillator.

Action: Cllr Van Der Hoof to find out the funds raised for the defibrillator to date and how much is still required. Clerk to request the quote for painting the phone box.

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 discussed but it was considered there would be no benefit to making a second application at this stage.

221022 To approve Cllr Van Der Hoof attend the GAPTC training for producing a printed parish newsletter.

The cost to attend the virtual course is £35 was approved. Proposed, seconded with three in favour, one abstention.

Dist Cllr J Jones left the meeting at 20:50pm

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 was approved. Proposed, seconded with all in favour.

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 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.

The council has received a request for work on the canal to be allowed to resume. It was requested that a list of the proposed work be provided so enable due consideration. After discussion, it was agreed to consider work continuation but they would also like 35percent to carry out an up to date report on the condition of the canal and request the opinion of the CPO who met with the councillors and volunteers. Realistically, the canal meeting will not take place until after the New Year.

Action: Clerk to request the cost to do an up to date report on the canal by 35percent. Clerk to contact CPO for the Slimbridge contact details and also whether continuation of work will be acceptable.

Cllr Bierer left the room at 21:15 pm

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

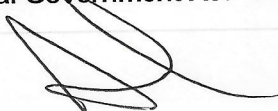
Following receipt of the the Code of Conduct Decision Notice, the clerk has been in discussion with the Monitoring Officer (MO). It is the MO's belief that the 'tidiest' way forward is that Cllr Bierer declares an interest in any agenda items which relate to the Land Tribunal and Appeal, leaving the 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. Proposed, seconded with three in favour.

Cllr Bierer re-joined the meeting at 21:20pm and accepted the Parish Council request to continue being the point of contact with all parties.

Cllr Bierer left the meeting at 21:23pm. As he would not be re-joining the meeting he left to go home. The member of the public left the meeting at 21:23pm.

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

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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.

The Parish Council discussed the advice given by Birketts LLP on the steps for recovery of the costs whilst taking into consideration the authorisation to instruct on behalf of the other parties involved. Councillors approved the decision to move to the next level of recovery costs. Proposed, seconded with three councillors in favour.

271022 **Date of next meeting is 30th November 2022.**

The meeting closed at 21:55pm

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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