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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 22nd February 2023

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

In attendance: Cty Cllr S Davies, Dist Cllr J Jones

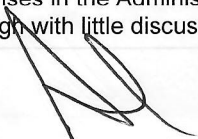
Register of General Public attending meeting: None

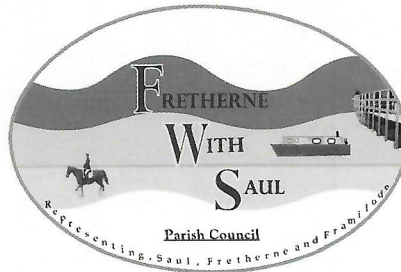
Please be respectful of the proximity to other people attending the meeting and take relevant steps to respect their welfare.

Agenda

- 010223** To receive apologies for absence.
Apologies received from Cllr Cobb and Cllr van der Hooft
- 020223** Declarations of Interest on the Agenda
Cllr Bierer declared an interest in agenda item 250223
- 030223** To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 25th January 2023 as a true record.
Proposed, seconded with all in favour
- 040223** Public Question Time
No questions were raised
- 050223** To receive a report from County Councillor Stephen Davies.
Point of interest that there is a website where people can register second hand items and will also inform if the items have been recalled for any reason.
County Council have been focused mainly on the budget, it has tackled the issue of inflation particularly for staff wages. Staff get an increase which has been set nationally which Council have coped with, many Councils have not been able to. There have been no significant cuts if any at all in the County Council budget, equally there will be no great new projects. Continuation of spends on big items like Adult Services Care, Children's Services, Highways which is good largely due to getting a better supplement from Central Government than initially expected and has involved some use of reserves to achieve that because it is thought that there will need to be some adjustments to look at the budget for next year. There have been some big increases due to inflation and some large projects so the budget is remarkably unexciting.
There is a continued battle with Stagecoach over buses, the Council subsidise a number of routes but Stagecoach have opted not to run a number of them. The Council managed to reallocate a significant number of the routes and persuaded them not to drop them. Buses are under pressure both for fuel and drivers.
There is a new Local Highways Manager (LHM), discussions have been had re the fencing along Moor St. The LHM is a long way from finding a solution, just putting it back up does not solve the problem as the bank is so damaged. Work is being done on a long term solution, in principle it need to be replaced but it's not straightforward. An engineering solution is extortionate at the moment so this is being held back on at the moment.
- 060223** To receive a report from District Councillor John Jones.
Full Council met last week. The two of the most important items were approval of the Budget, and setting the Council Tax rate.
Thanks in the main to a generous amount in support grant from central government, there were no major surprises in the Administration's proposals, including no rise in Council Owned Car park charges, so it was voted through with little discussion.

Signed / Date

 24/03/23



The raise in Council Tax was set at the maximum allowed by the government, i. e. 2.9%. That is the SDC part of your Council Tax
 That means an average Band property in FwS will pay £229.17p to SDC, £1523.78p to Glos. CC, £295.09p to Glos. Police, and £57.68 to the parish precept, making an annual total of £2105.71 The lower band your house is in, the less will be paid, and the higher band, the more to pay.
 Council House rents are set to increase by 7%, the amount set by the Government cap. Thus rents will be set to increase from £88.81pw to £95.02 pw, , an increase for the majority of Council tenants of £6.21 pw.
 Council adopted the new Code of Conduct, which is spread over the County Council and all the District and Borough Councils in the County. All Parish and Town Councils are advised to sign up to it as well.

070223 Planning Applications – None

Planning Decisions

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

080223 To agree the dates for the Parish Meeting 2023 and the Annual Council Meeting 2023
 The Parish Meeting, Annual Council Meeting and the Parish Council May meeting will be held on Wednesday 24th May 2023

090223 To note correspondence received
 Clerk has received an email advising the first tap in the allotments is trickling. The Clerk visited the next morning. Another allotment holder kindly helped by turning the tap fully off. The Clerk checked the mains tap which had been turned on. Further reports of the water supply being turned back on and the tap leaking again were reported within days. The tap has now been checked and adjusted.

100223 To receive an update regarding the discussion about the safety barriers on Moor Street as per the meeting on 30th November 2022, agenda item 091122 and information sent to Highways following the January meeting.
 Highways have been informed that the red barriers are back where the metal barriers have previously been damaged. The upright posts are now loose and not supported. Also reported to Highways is the condition of the wooden barriers at the Saul end of Moor St. The Local Highways Manager has advised that he is waiting for the Infrastructures Team to put forward a plan, the notification on recent Highways map notifications is noting that the barriers are in place.
 Please refer to information in Cty Cllr Davies feedback. The primary discussion with LHM was about the wooden railing opposite the entrance to The Ship. The metal railings will also be repaired by Highways unless it can be proved who was responsible. Photos and information about the vehicle causing the damage have previously been supplied to the LHM.

110223 Finance: To approve the following payments in accordance with the budget. Supporting documents have already been sent to councillors.

Payee	For	Amount
Clerk	To inc February pay, postage, printer cartridge	£475.24
Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)	Annual membership	£36.00
Clerks Expenses	Mileage – cheque signing, allotment issues,	£67.05

Proposed, seconded with all in favour

To ratify payments made between meetings –


Water Plus Jan '23 Allotments £39.65
 Proposed, seconded with all in favour

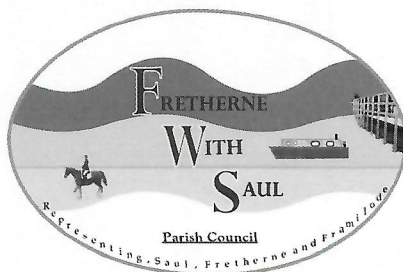
To review and approve February bank reconciliation and accounts.

These have already been circulated to the Councillors
 Proposed, seconded with all in favour

Chairman moved to move agenda items 170223 and 180223 forward in the meeting. This was approved.

Signed / Date

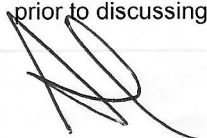
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Cty Cllr Davies left the meeting at 20:18

- 120223** **To discuss and approve training courses for Councillors and the Clerk**
Councillors and the Clerk have expressed an interest in doing the following training courses.
Being a Better Councillor Part 1 1st June virtual £25 – Cllr Cobb
Being a Better Councillor Part 2 8th June virtual £25 – Cllr Cobb
Planning In Plain English 20th March virtual £35 – Cllr Jeffries
Data Protection for Councils Part 1 Foundation 10th March virtual £30 – Clerk
Proposed, seconded with all in favour
Action: Clerk to send details of Planning in Plain English to Cllr Bierer
- 130223** **To discuss and approve the revised copy of the Town and Parish Council Charter issues by Stroud District Council**
This is a revised copy of the draft Charter sent out in 2022.
Discussion with a view to adoption deferred until the next meeting.
Action: Clerk to recirculate the Charter.
- 140223** **To review and approve the Parish Council Asset list**
The asset list has been updated; however, further updates are required. Deferred to the March meeting
- 150223** **Clerks Report - Feedback from items raised at the last meeting and other points to be discussed**
GB Sport & Leisure are still to complete the work on the Memorial Hall Playing Field equipment. They are still waiting for the supply of some of the posts. GB Sport & Leisure have now confirmed that the work has been completed
Action: Cllr Jeffries to check the work against the quote and confirm if everything has been carried out.
The allotment notice board due to be installed in November is still to be installed.
Action: Clerk to chase this up or find alternative installer
The Clerk has written to the Gloucestershire CC Community Speedwatch Survey team requesting a repeat speed survey but not during a school holiday period. This has been refused and the application date has now passed.
Online approval of payments – Clerk to provide update.
Water Vole workshop to take place on 24th March 2023 at Fromebridge Mill, the original six places has now been increased to seven at the Parish Council request.
BUILD BACK BETTER update, further information which was requested has now been submitted. The application has now progressed to the next stage for approval.
- 160223** **To receive an update on Christmas on the Pound 2023 plans and arrangements**
Following initial discussions at the January meeting, agenda item 170123, Cllr Jeffries will update the Council on progression of plans to date.
Cllr Jeffries has sent an email to the local garden centre re lighting with no response. The Clerk has sent emails to the band with no response and is also trying to get the contact for the choir. Further update at the March meeting.
Action: Cllr Jeffries to resend the enquiry and possibly try another source of lighting. Clerk to resend enquiry to band and chase up the contact for the choir.
- 170223** **To discuss and approve proposals made for how the Parish could best celebrate the May Coronation of King Charles III**
Suggestions have been made by parishioners via social media on how best to mark the Coronation – a children's play castle for the Memorial Hall Playing Field or an Oak tree planted on the field or along Passage Road. Council to discuss these suggestions and any others brought to their attention, the cost and the longevity for the Parish. With no other suggestions, Councillors agreed that the Oak tree was the best on the grounds of longevity, a step in the direction of replacing trees which have been lost in the parish and ecological benefits. It was agreed that the largest affordable tree should be purchased, three trees would be purchased for Saul, Fretherne and Framilode with plaques to explain why they had been planted. Cty Cllr Davies said that he would support a Build Back Better application for funding towards the trees.
Action: Clerk to put a post of Facebook and website advising that three English Oak trees would be placed around the Parish requesting suggestions for locations to plant them.
- 180223** **To discuss the Councils 'Community Investment', funding for the projects and leadership of each project.**
- **installing village 'gates' on the main roads through the Parish.**
Details of design, cost and effectiveness have previously been circulated to the Councillors to consider prior to discussing. Village gates are a proven statistic for speed reduction

Signed / Date

 29/03/23



Village gates were discussed and thought to be beneficial although some concerns were raised which need to be looked into. Cllr Davies informed the Council that GCC Highways are very helpful at advising on location and suggested contacting Slimbridge re advise on wording. Discussion and decision was deferred to the March meeting

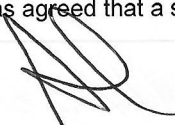
Action: Cllr Bierer to look into speed limit repeaters. Clerk to contact Slimbridge PC Clerk re advise on wording.

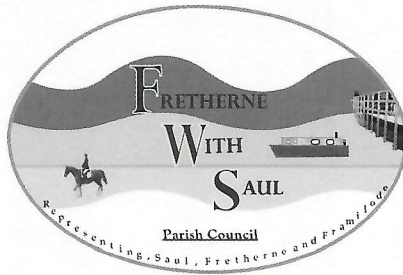
- **Consideration of double yellow lines on the problem parking areas** near the canal. The cost has previously been discussed with the Local Highways Manager
A Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to paint yellow lines would be costly, approximately £15,000, and takes up to twelve months to put in place. Cllr Davies is meeting with the Local Highways Manager next month and will raise the parking/yellow lines with him during that discussion. Further discussion was deferred to the next meeting
Action: Clerk to contact Local Highways Manager re repainting the yellow lines at Sandfield Bridge, cc Cllr Davies
- **Saul defibrillator**, located in the phone box opposite Passage Road, checks and maintenance in the future
Councillors agreed that this could be managed between themselves on a rota basis and added to the Roles and Responsibilities.
Action: Cllr Jeffries to contact person who presently maintains the defibrillator to understand what is involved.
- **Bee Squared** to discuss the possibility of launching this project in conjunction with the Coronation Celebrations.
Councillors approved the tie in with the Coronation. A budget of £600 was approved.
Proposed, seconded with all in favour.
Action: Clerk to source seeds and seed packets

Dist Cllr J Jones left the meeting at 20:45

- 190223** To discuss plans for the possible necessity of pumping water into the disused section of the Stroudwater Canal at Upper Framilode and approve emergency costs should the need arise and agree a permanent solution.
Discussion to include the costs involved in hiring equipment and insurance cover and long term plan of action. Set a budget for the Clerk, with agreement of the Chairman, to hire the equipment at short notice should circumstances indicate that agreed low water levels are likely to be reached.
Councillors agreed that the breadth of discussion the canal generates requires an extra meeting dedicated solely for this purpose.
Action: Clerk to circulate a request for availability for the extra meeting and ask for agenda items for discussion.
- 200223** To discuss renewing the agreement with the Memorial Hall Committee to hold the Parish Council meetings at the Memorial Hall, Saul.
The ten year agreement with the Memorial Hall Committee to hold Parish Council meetings at the hall has now expired. Hall charges are £6.50 per hour. Cllr Cobb to give update on the cost of CCTV, what is entailed in fitting any equipment, viability, costs and legislation.
Action: deferred to the March meeting as Cllr Cobb not present
- 210223** To approve the policies listed below.
Councillors have been asked to review these policies during the seasonal break ready for discussion at this meeting.
- Appraisal Policy
Proposed, seconded with all in favour
 - Publication Scheme
Proposed, seconded with all in favour
- 220223** To approve the half yearly check of Parish Council Accounting processes
The half yearly check of the accounting procedures has been completed and signed off. Council to approve.
Proposed, seconded with all in favour
- 230223** To discuss information circulated by the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils (GAPTC) regarding tree safety and the need for regular inspection.
Councillors will discuss the information received, what course of action is needed and any next steps necessary. It was agreed that a survey of the trees on Parish Council owned land should be carried out.

Signed / Date

 29/03/23



Action: Clerk to contact Wold & Vale Tree Consultancy with a view to surveying the trees on Parish Council owned land

240223

To discuss the role of Flood Warden within the Parish.

Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC) have relaunched the role of Flood Wardens within the local community. This does not need to be a Councillor but whoever takes on the role would work closely with the Council. To discuss if this should be added to the Roles and Responsibilities within the Council or advertised within the Parish.

It was agreed that the flyer should be posted on Fretherne with Saul Community Facebook group and on the Parish Council website.

Action: Clerk to post the flyer and list on the website

Cllr Bierer left the meeting at 21:35pm

250223

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 of legal advice relating to recovery of costs arising from Land Tribunal and Appeal

An update with information as to the recovery of the money was given. Questions were raised and discussed.

260123


Date of next meeting is 29th March 2023

The meeting closed at 22:05pm

Signed: *Kay Brown* 16th February 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.

Signed / Date

 29/03/23