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FRETHERNE WITH SAUL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Fretherne with Saul Parish Council Meeting held at Saul Memorial Hall at 7:00pm on 26th July 2023.

Present: Cllr Lever (Chairman), Cllr B Findlater (Vice Chairman), Cllr van der Hooft, Cllr Cobb, Cllr Bierer, Cllr Wynn, Clerk K Brown


In attendance: Cty Cllr S Davies

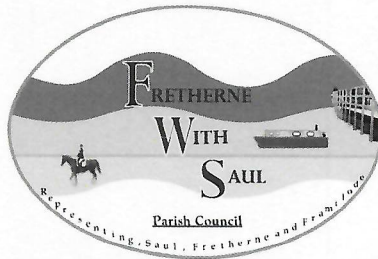
Register of General Public attending meeting: None

Agenda

- 010723** **To receive apologies for absence.**
Apologies were received from Cllr Jeffries and Dist Cllr Jones
- 020723** **Declarations of Interest on the Agenda-** none
- 030723** **To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 28th May 2023**
Proposed, seconded with all in favour
- 040723** **Public Question Time**
No members of the public attended the meeting
- 050723** **To receive a report from County Councillor Stephen Davies.**
Stephen began by saying that he didn't have a lot to bring to the meeting. Stratford Park Leisure Centre will now be run 'in house', currently subcontracted to a third party. This will take effect from November 2024. Setting up a Local Authority Trading Company was considered but SDC have confirmed that it will be taken in house, it is a good facility but it does need some money spending on it.
- 060723** **To receive a report from District Councillor John Jones.**
At the SDC Council meeting last week, the recommendation to bring the running of Stratford Park Leisure Centre (SPLC) back to an "In-House" operation, when the current outsourced contract expires next year, was approved. This will take effect from 1st November next year. SDC already runs The Pulse in Dursley, i.e. Dursley Pool, in-house. There was a long debate on the merits and drawbacks of this proposal, especially given the history of the early years of SPLC, but the team behind this proposal are confident that a successful management operation can be achieved. The other option would have been the setting up of a Local Authority Trading Company, (LATC), a not for profit organisation, however, changes to VAT collection by HMRC mean that the in-house option would be better off financially. There is still much work to be done in the run-up to SDC taking over running of the SPLC next year.
The Community Governance Review was passed without amendment. From this, Frampton on Severn will be able to elect 2 extra Parish Councillors in 2024, to cope with the expected extra workload caused by proposed housing development in the Parish in the next few years, including up to 80 homes adjacent to the Doctors' surgery. The Great Oldbury development in Eastington will become a Parish Council in its own right from the May elections next year, starting with 7 Councillors. Great Oldbury will take in a small area of both Stonehouse and Standish Parishes, but all the historic hamlets of Eastington Parish, i.e. Westend, Nupend, Nastend and Newtown will stay in Eastington Parish. Eastington Parish Council will lose two Members When Great Oldbury PC is established. If the planned extra development in Standish Parish, adjacent to Great Oldbury takes place in the near future, then it's likely another Governance Review will be needed by 2028.
Motions were passed to urge the Council to contact the Government for more control on regulating Airbnb's that seem to be appearing without proper safety measures, and for Parish Councils to have more control on Open Spaces, Play Areas and other places on new developments, where Management Companies are set up by the

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developer but fail to carry out everything they should, and to make it fairer for new homeowners who pay for having these Management Companies.

070723

Planning Applications

Application Number: S.23/1317/TCA Stonebree, Moor Street, Saul, Gloucester.

Application Type: Trees in a Conservation Area

Description: T3. Apple tree - prune by 1.2 m. T4. - Fell. T5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 & 12 - Conifer and Eucalyptus- Fell. T13 & 14 - Fell. T10 - Remove or prune by 2m. T16 - Fell . T19 - Fell. Leylandii hedge - Cut to 1.8m.

Respond by date: 25.07.2023

No Objections

Application Number: S.23/1321/HHOLD 6 Sandfield Crescent, Church Lane, Saul, Gloucester.

Application Type: Householder Application

Description: Erection of a two storey side extension

Respond by date: 08.08.2023

No objections

Planning Decisions

Application Number: S.23/1113/FUL 2 Shirley Cottages, Church Lane, Saul, Gloucester.

Description: Conversion of one dwelling to two dwellings

Decision: Awaiting Decision

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

080723

To consider planning applications for 2,500 homes in the neighbouring parish of Whitminster.

Two planning applications have been submitted, S-23-0440-OUT and S-23-0445-Out, for the Grove Lane area of Whitminster. Council to discuss what impact will this have on the local road network, local education facilities both primary and secondary and health services – doctors, dentists. Council to consider all aspects and any representation that is necessary on behalf of Fretherne with Saul Parish.

The Parish Council will raise an objection to the planning application on the grounds of potential to increase the risk of flooding. The 'run off' of rain water will be into the Frome which will then flow through Frampton on Severn Parish before reaching Fretherne with Saul Parish at Saul Junction. Should this coincide with high tides and the flood gates being closed, there is an increased risk of flooding in an already vulnerable area. Concerns have already been raised with Canals and Rivers Trust about management of water through this area.

Action: Cllrs Bierer and Cobb to draft the objection, Clerk to post on Stroud District Council planning website

090723

The Chairman will move the adoption of the following resolution; that under the Local Government Act 1972 and Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) 1960, Council delegates the planning responses, between the dates 26th July to 27th September 2023, to the Clerk in consultation with the Parish Councillors via email.

Some planning applications have limited respond by dates or are circulated during a period when there are no planned parish council meetings. In this instance, the planning application will be circulated to the Councillors by email, reviewed and responses sent to the clerk. The Clerk will then respond to the planning application on the SDC website. The response will be formalised at the next meeting. However, contentious planning applications will need to be discussed at a formal meeting where members of the public are able to raise points.

Proposed, seconded with all in favour

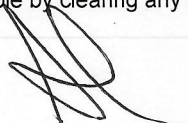
100723

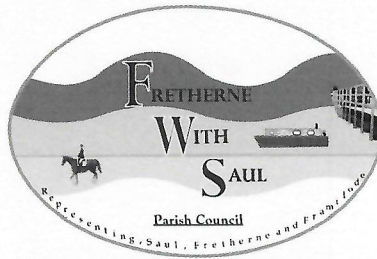
To receive an update on public footpaths and public rights of way (PROW) and the stiles along those paths.

Two Councillors have met with the SDC Public Rights of Way (PROW) officer in July to walk various footpaths in the Parish. The paths and styles were inspected and possible changes or alternatives were discussed. The Prow officer advised of the costs to replace styles and which ones could be co-funded. Cllrs Jeffries and van der Hooft to update Council to provide feedback

Cllrs van der Hooft and Jeffries and Stroud District Councils (SDC) Public Rights of Way (PROW) officer walked some of the Public Rights of Way around the Parish at the beginning of the month noting the condition of the styles and the general accessibility of four different footpaths around the parish. The PROW officer made a number of recommendations as to replacing and reinstating styles with Kissing Gates, what funding is available for this and how this work can be supported by SDC. Also discussed was the PROW support making footpaths accessible by clearing any overgrown areas. SDC PROW are running training sessions for Footpath Walkers,

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these are not necessarily Councillors. Advertise on Fretherne with Saul Community Facebook and the website. A recommendation made during the walk was to use hazel bundles to support the canal bank in preference to willow. Council approved a budget of £1500 towards the replacement of styles in the Parish.

Proposed, seconded with all in favour

Action: Clerk to contact SDC PROW officer for update of costs of replacing styles and clearing the footpaths. To get the details of the Footpath Walker role and advertise it on the Parish Council website and Facebook page.

Cty Cllr S Davies left the meeting at 19:35

110723

Finance: To approve the following payments in accordance with the budget.

Supporting documents have already been sent to councillors.

Payee	For	Amount
Clerk	July Pay including expenses	£462.87
Water Plus	Allotments June £24.45	-£93.64
Severn Vale Trees	Removing fallen branch at allotments	£65.00
Severn Grass Services	Village Maintenance inv 272	£98.10

Proposed, seconded with all in favour

To ratify payments made between meetings –

Smiths (Gloucester) Ltd Skip at the allotments

£368.40

Proposed, seconded with all in favour

To review and approve July 2023 bank reconciliation and accounting spreadsheet

These have already been circulated to the Councillors

Proposed, seconded with all in favour

120723

To formally approve the annual payment of the Parish Council Insurance

The Parish Council agreed a fixed three year term last year, this year's payment is £1480.27 for the period 22nd August 2023 to 21st August 2024.

Cllr Bierer raised a few concerns around items which were being removed from the insurance cover. The Council are signed into a three year agreement but will review this at the end of the 2024/25 period and consider alternative Insurance cover. Payment was approved.

Proposed, seconded with all in favour

130723

To discuss the maintenance on the Parish Council owned phone box at Upper Framilode

The clerk has received an enquiry from a Herefordshire company with regards to maintenance of Parish Council phone boxes. This would include sandblasting, base coat and final coat in the correct colour. As previous enquiries about the maintenance have not been successful, should the company be contacted for a quote. Various considerations were discussed, including contacting this company for a quote for the one side of the box which is accessible.

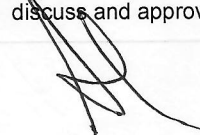
Actions: Clerk to contact the company for a quote and to contact other local people for quotes to paint the front aspect of the box.

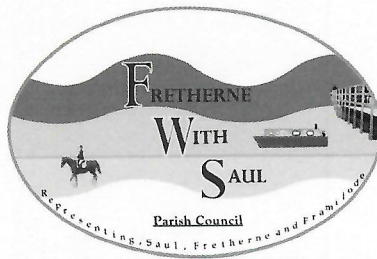
140723

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

1. Clerk still looking into suppliers of information of noticeboards, the suitability for the phone box and cost effective. An update has been posted on the Community Facebook page explaining it will be used for information about the Parish. A request has been made for any photo's or Parish history that can be used.
Further information will be sourced over the summer interval
2. The fallen branch has been removed from the allotments. The tree surgeon has assessed the surrounding trees and has made recommendations for maintenance. Discussed in agenda item 160723
3. The skip for the allotments which was agenda item 171022 October 2022 has now been delivered and is use for unwanted bins, racking and pallets type rubbish.
This is proving to be very popular and is already almost full although not totally sure that it is all from the allotments. Unfortunately, unless manned 24/7 this was always going to be difficult to manage
4. A review of the work outstanding around the Parish has been carried out with the Chairman and a potential contractor. They will be submitting a quote for three jobs and potentially a fourth. To discuss and approve the quote.

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The quote has been received to install the lifebelts, waste bin at the Memorial Hall and the noticeboard at the allotments. Approved. A further quote has also been received for fencing along the canal, this is to be further discussed at the September meeting.
Proposed, seconded with all in favour

150723

To note correspondence received

- The Clerk has been advised that there is an outstanding balance for the Saul defib replacement battery. Information regarding the supplied of the battery has been supplied and now that the Parish Council have taken on the management of the defib, the discrepancy is being looking into by the Clerk. Contact details have now been amended.
The Clerk has emailed Heartbeat Trust re any outstanding amount, no reply received to date.

160723

To discuss the quote to reduce trees along the boundary of the allotments, the offer of a survey of trees on land owned by the Parish Council and to consider if the Parish Council require a Tree Policy and to discuss the removal of an elder on Framilode Pound.

- Following the removal of the fallen branch at the allotments, the surrounding trees were assessed and a recommendation for maintenance, along with a quote, was sent to the Clerk.
- There is a self-seeded elder bush becoming established on Framilode Pound. To agree to get a quote for this to be removed.
- There is a lot of focus on tree maintenance nationally, contact has been made with a tree consultant re carrying out a biannual survey of all trees on land owned by the Parish Council, to consider this offer and to discuss the necessity to have a tree policy as well as a bi-annual inspection.

The quote to reduce branches behind the allotments on the west side of the allotments has been accepted. It has been agreed that the elder be trimmed back in the Autumn, request to do this while cutting the grass on Framilode Pound

The need for a bi-annual review of trees on Parish Council owned land around the Parish has been agreed. With a survey in place, it was not considered a policy was needed.
Proposed, seconded with all in favour

Action: Clerk to contact the various people re reducing branches and reducing the elder. Also to arrange to walk the various areas around the Parish which will be included in the tree survey prior to a quote being given for this service.

170723

To receive a further update on Christmas on the Pound 2023

As the Clerk is still waiting to hear from Severn Trent, need to consider other power sources. New lights for the Christmas tree have been looked into, Council to discuss and approve expenditure of these and lighting for trees on Saul Pound. The Clerk will further update the Council on progression of plans to date.

A power source has been discussed and will be further reviewed at the next meeting: failing that, a return to battery powered lighting was suggested. Refreshments arrangements, mulled wine and mince pies, to be finalised at the September meeting.

180723

To receive an update on the Oak trees for the King Charles III Coronation Commemoration

The Build Back Better application has been formally approved, Council has been advised the monies will be transferred to its account within 30 days. English Oak trees will be purchased in the autumn, which is a much better time to plant them, especially of the size intended to be purchased. Three members of the Parish will be invited to 'plant' the trees on the Memorial Hall Playing Field.

The Build Back Better funding has now been received. The three people to 'plant' the trees will be contacted nearer the time of planting.

Action: Clerk to contact a parish resident re digging the holes with a tractor as they will need to be sufficiently large enough to accommodate the root ball of these young but large trees.

190723

To further discuss and approve the Councils 'Community Investment', funding and leadership of the installing village 'gates' project on the main roads through the Parish.

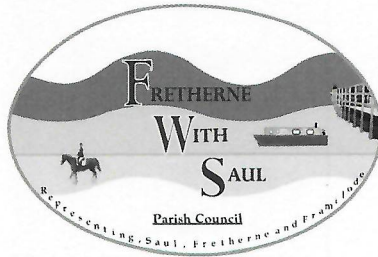
The Local Highways Manager and two Councillors have driven around the Parish looking at the possibility of installing Village Gates and inspecting the condition of existing signage. This information has been shared to the Councillors by Cllr Jeffries. Due to the width of the verges, the possibility of installing Village Gates is limited but some locations have been identified. Council to now consider which 'Gates' to progress with and set the budget. Cllr Lever explained that the Highways Manager is very busy at the moment and consequently is still to reply as to where the village gates can be located. It is on his radar and a response will hopefully be received by the next meeting.

200723

To discuss and agree the Roles and Responsibilities including the addition of two new roles.

Signed / Date

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- Parish Council representation at Memorial Hall Meetings
- Saul Defibrillator checks

The Roles and Responsibilities list was discussed and various duties were reallocated to different Councillors. The Defibrillator checks were added to the list and the representation at the Memorial Hall Committee meetings were updated.

Proposed, seconded with all in favour.

Action: Clerk to update the list and circulate.

210723

To receive an update on the requested survey on the disused section of the Stroudwater Canal at Upper Framilode.

Work on the canal is temporarily suspended with the exception of strengthening the dam below the bridge on Moor Street. A quote for a survey and advice on future works has been requested from Wild Service, Council is yet to receive this but it is likely, due to their work commitments, the survey will take place in the Autumn. Advice is being taken on 'topping up' the canal, update to be provided by Cllr Cobb. Quotes for other work are being sought and an update will be given by Cllr Beirer.

The quote for the initial Ecological Survey has been received and Council updated. Before accepting the quote, Council think it is important that Wild Service can confirm if they are able to carry out a further survey and recommendation about the work that can be carried out and in what order/timescale going forward and what that recommendation would cost. Clerk can accept the first quote subject to the cost of the second quote.

Proposed, seconded with all in favour

Chairman moved to extend the meeting until completion of the discussion.

Work that can be carried out is the strengthening of the dam below Moor Street. Also being looked into is the possibility of harvesting rainwater from other sources and what this would entail/cost. Cllr Cobb updated the Council on the possibility of bore holes as a water source, this is not practical due to the distance needed from the Canal so as to not be a nuisance to neighbouring property would be cost prohibitive.

Actions: Cllr Cobb to contact Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust re water levels in the canal and the speed at which water can be introduced, the suitability of hazel bunds. Cllr Bierer to contact contractors re the cost to reinstate water drainage. Cllr Lever to contact Cllr Burnside, Frampton on Severn, re the condition of canal retaining wall. Clerk to contact Wild Service re further survey and cost

220723

To present possible projects to add to budget discussions at the end of the year

Councillors have been considering possible projects to be included in a business plan for the next three years to be included in the budget discussion at the end of the year. To share the possible projects which will then be researched prior to budgetary discussion.

- Future projects could include the introduction of Kissing Gate's along the Parish foot paths
- Outdoor gyms/circuit training equipment

These and other suggestions will be further discussed at the September meeting


230723

Date of next meeting is 27th September 2023

Meeting closed at 21:20

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