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FREETHERNE WITH SAUL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Fretherne with Saul Parish Council Extra Meeting held at Saul Memorial Hall at 7:00pm at 2nd November 2023.

Present: Cllr B Findlater (Vice Chairman), Cllr D Wynn, Cllr L Jeffries,
Clerk K Brown

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

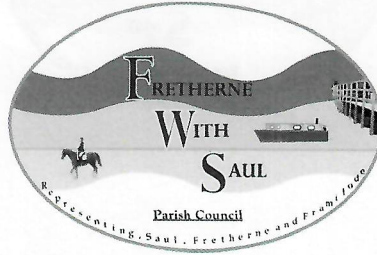
Register of General Public attending meeting: One

Agenda

- 011123 To elect a Chairman to the Parish Council**
Cllr B Findlater was elected to the Chairmans position.
Proposed, seconded with all in favour
- 021123 To thank Councillors Lever and van der Hooft for their work and commitment whilst on the Parish Council.**
The Chairman, on behalf of the Parish Council, thanked Cllrs Lever and van der Hooft for all their commended drive and enthusiasm while being part of the Parish Council. We are very sorry to loose them and wish them all the best in their further endeavours.
- 031123 To receive apologies for absence.**
Apologies received from Cllr Bierer
- 041123 Declarations of Interest on the Agenda - None**
- 051123 To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 19th and 26th July 2023**
The Chairman made note that the wrong date was published on the agenda, the minutes being approved were for the meeting held on 27th September 2023.
Proposed, seconded with all in favour
- 061123 Public Question Time**
A member of the public asked the Parish Council if they were responsible for the Memorial Hall Playing Field as there is an area by the nature pond which is becoming overgrown with brambles. The brambles are very invasive and approximately 25 square metres have already been lost.
Action: the Clerk will pass on the concern to the Memorial Hall Committee.
- 071123 To receive a report from County Councillor Stephen Davies.**
Trading Standards have seized some illegal vapes and £12,500 of illegal tobacco.
Opened a new special school, Sladewood, on the site of the Severn View Primary School.
Libraries are running a Saturday Club for children and a series of workshops for over 50's, particularly those looking to return to work.
Highways are preparing for winter, they have 29 gritters (inc 22 new ones) and 11,000 tonnes of grit
GCC has been involved in a film on fostering; they have also launched a child health programme;
GCC launched a consultation on school admissions, this does not include schools in this area as they are mostly academy schools which are not included in the consultation.
GCC have secured £4.4million for bus service plans. Considering a similar Robin service for Stroud that is already operating in Forest of Dean and the Cotswolds
Additional funds have been added into the Build Back Better fund, and Cllr S Davies has an amount he can distribute, if the parish has any further projects they may apply for funding.

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081123

To receive a report from District Councillor John Jones.

Two motions at the recent Full Council District Council meeting

Swift bricks – all new builds should have swift bricks installed under the eaves

Administrations *received* failure to address the planning expectorates concerns over the Local Plan examination. A six month pause has been requested to try to work around the concerns the inspectors have raised with Highways England, County Highways, Gloucestershire Council ranging from the capacity of M5 junctions 12 and 14, the pedestrian/cycle bridge over the M5 at Wisloe and the proposal to remake the rail link between Sharpness to the main Gloucester/Bristol. It would only stop going North, not going South to Bristol. This as well as road infrastructure in the Berkeley Sharpness area to cope with the development in that area. Administration put forward an amendment which was voted through. In the end, the main point of the motion was discounted, to withdraw the LP was lost; they are still pursuing to try to get the Inspectorate to grant a six month pause, ends the 10th November '23. The issues of not having a Local Plan in place are that predatory developers will gain planning permission by appeal on plans not consulted on in the run up to the Local Plan.

There is some Committee Membership re-jigging caused by a Labour member resigning and going to the Independent Left Group.

With regards to Whitminster developments, Highways England have requested another six months delay on determination of those applications because the developer hasn't provided them with necessary information requested in April '23. Severn Trent (ST) has recommended refusal because of exacerbation of flooding of surface water and drainage on present system should it go ahead without any alterations and ST don't anticipate putting any alterations or upgrades in place until 2030.

091123

Planning Applications

Application Number: S.23/2021/P3Q

Location: Dunstalls Farm, Arlingham Road, Saul, Gloucester.

Application Type: PD - Agri to residential

Description: Change of use of agricultural buildings to 1 no. dwelling house with associated operational development.

Respond by date: 03.11.2023

Parish Council have no comment

Application Number: S.23/1974/TCA

Location: Highmead, Moor Street, Saul, Gloucester.

Application Type: Trees in a Conservation Area

Description: Apple and Pear - Prune all over to near previous (approx. 1.0m off). Lawson Cypress Reduce the height to previous (approx. 1.0m off). Large Apple - Reduce all over to near previous. 4 Cherry Trees Prune by up to 1m.

Respond by date: 27.10.2023 an extension has been granted until 3.11.2023

Parish Council have no comment

Planning Decisions

Application Number: 23/0039/STMAJW Severn Trent Water Ltd

Proposal: Change of use of land to operational land for sewage treatment purposes and the installation of two new reed beds, a motor control centre kiosk, the extension of the access road and provision of a turning area, associated infrastructure and landscaping.

Location: Frampton Sewage Works, Arlingham Road, Saul, Gloucestershire

Decision: no objection

Application Number: S.23/1581/HHOLD

Location: Willowbank, Moor Street, Saul, Gloucester.

Description: Demolition of existing garage & outbuildings to be replaced with single storey extensions.

Resubmission of S.23/0775/HHOLD.

Decision: Approved

Application Number: S.22/1202/FUL Site for Proposed Livery Yard Associated With Dunstalls Farm, Arlingham Road, Saul,

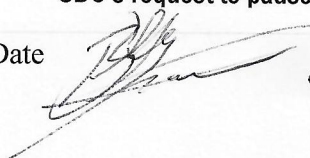
Description: Construction of livery yard with associated parking and paddocks (Resubmission of S.22/0331/FUL)

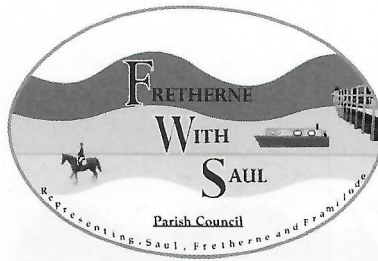
Decision: Application withdrawn

101123

To discuss whether to support Cam Parish Councils letter to Stroud District Council with reference to SDC's request to pause the local plan.

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The letter has been circulated to the Councillors prior to the meeting for their consideration. After the discussion, it was agreed to withhold comment until a decision has been made on the Local Plan and then reconsider the situation.

Proposed, seconded with all in favour

Chairman moved to bring agenda item **131123** forward but for the purpose of reporting will be reported in the correct order in the minutes.

Cty Cllr S Davies left the meeting at 19:40

111123

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

Supporting documents have already been sent to councillors.

Payee	For	Amount
Clerk	Expenses – travel, admin costs	£50.40
Water Plus	Allotments Sept £29.34	-£5.92
Severn Grass Services	Village Maintenance inv 303	£196.20
Birketts LLP	Inv 906781 Legal advice	£1080.00
GAPTC	Inv 200 Planning in Plain English	£35.00
GAPTC	Inv 003 Being a Better Councillor	£50.00

Proposed, seconded with all in favour.

To ratify payments made and income received between meetings – .

Chew Valley Trees Ltd	Purchase of three English Oak Trees inv	£1409.99
K Brown	Amazon Payment Christmas Lighting	£132.63
Hatton Home Improvements	Renovating Upper Framilode Phone Box	£354.00
Kay Brown	Clerks October Pay	£408.42

Proposed, seconded with all in favour

To review and approve October 2023 bank reconciliation and accounting spreadsheet

These have already been circulated to the Councillors, no report for August as there was not a meeting.

Proposed, seconded with all in favour

121123

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

1. Clerk is still looking into suppliers of information of noticeboards, the suitability for the phone box and cost effectiveness. Requests for photo's, illustrations or Parish history have been unsuccessful although photo's taken to advertise the American TV series 'Better Call Saul' have been received.
2. Stroud District Council have been notified of the three Councillor vacancies, the positions have been formally advertised on the notice board and website. The official period of notification has now passed, applications can now be co-opted.
3. An invoice has been submitted to the Highways Commissioning Administration re refunding the verge cutting expenditure
4. An allotment has been returned to the Parish Council which is very overgrown. Can this be shown to a prospective tenant rent free for the rest of the year? Councillors approved.
5. The phonebox at Upper Framilode has been restored.
6. April Skies have amended the wording to the Terms of Engagement.
7. Recent discussion at Severn Voice meeting is the timing of the first verges cut and whether this complies with 'No Mow May' or should be postponed until the first week in May. Clerk to explain Parish Council agreed to leave the contracted cut as it is.

Proposed, seconded with all in favour

8. To agree a budget for a noticeboard for the Canal tow path to display work plans and documents. Request to be mindful of height of the board. A budget of £750 to fit has been approved.

Proposed, seconded with all in favour

Action: Clerk to enquire if Noticeboard Company can supply a double sided noticeboard before ordering a single sided one.

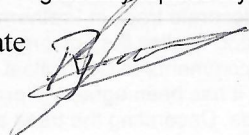
Dist Cllr J Jones left the meeting at 20:00

131123

To discuss the replacement of styles with Kissing Gates on Parish Public Rights of Way (PROW).

The Council are working in conjunction with Stroud District Council (SDC) PROW department, planning to gradually replace styles with Kissing Gates on the Parish footpaths. The PROW office is also arranging for the

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strimming of two overgrown footpaths. Funding for the kissing gates is being shared between the Parish Council, funds available from SDC PROW and Highways funding allowance via Cty Cllr S Davies. To discuss which styles should be replaced and the Parish Council budget for the work. Landowners' permission to replace the styles will be sought.

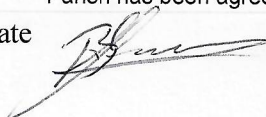
The PROW at the side of St James' has been strimmed. The PROW at the side of the Gardeners Pool fishing pond needs further work.

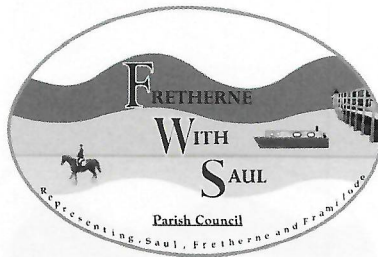
To note the PROW office is Gloucestershire County Council. Cty Cllr Davies advised that if the Parish Council prioritised the styles to be replaced, he will work with the PROW officer to cost which styles have been identified and advise how they can help with funding them and installing. The PROW office will contact the landowners to get permission to replace.

The styles along PROW EFL, between Moor St and Saul Junction were prioritised and this information will be sent to the PROW office.

- 141123** **The village maintenance contract is due for renewal and will be advertised to tender, Council to approve the advertisement and the contract prior to it being advertised.** Also agree when the advertisement and deadline for the tender – copy circulated to the Councillors for their consideration. This was approved.
Proposed, seconded with all in favour
- 151123** **To approve the purchase of three Remembrance Sunday RBL wreaths for each of the locations within the Fretherne with Saul Parish.** To discuss and approve the donation to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal for the wreaths. To agree the laying of the wreaths. Cllrs Findlater and Jeffries will lay the wreaths at Fretherne and Saul, a member of the public has volunteered to lay the wreath at Upper Framilode. It was agreed to donate £150 to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.
Proposed, seconded with all in favour.
- 161123** **To review and approve three policies and related form**, these have been circulated to Councillors for review.
- Risk Management Schedule
 - Appraisal Policy
 - Grants Policy
 - Grant Application Form
- Approval of the policies has been postponed to the next meeting on 29th November 2023
- 171123** **The Clerks annual appraisal is now due, due to the resignation of Councillors the Council need to appoint two councillors to join the staffing committee to carry out the appraisal.** To also set the date for the appraisal meeting.
Councillor Jeffries has volunteered to join the staffing committee. A one grade pay increase was proposed and approved resulting from additional responsibilities undertaken, formal appraisal will take place as soon as possible.
Proposed, seconded with all in favour.
- 181123** **To discuss the following points relating to the trees on land owned by the Parish Council.**
- To approve the quote for the removal of a branch from the tree along the canal bank which is overhanging a neighbouring property. Approved.
Proposed, seconded with all in favour
 - To approve the quote which has been received to reduce the elder on Upper Framilode Pound.
Approved.
Proposed, seconded with all in favour
 - Where ownership of hedges and trees was in question along areas of the canal towpath, ownership has now been confirmed as not being Parish Council.
 - To approve the quote for a bi-annual tree survey for all trees on Parish Council property. Approved
Proposed, seconded with all in favour
- 191123** **To receive a further update on Christmas on the Pound 2023, 2nd December at 6pm**
The music is organised, the lights bought, refreshments agreed, fbk and websites posts have been updated. Childrens competition being organised. Permission has been given to also decorate trees in Fretherne and Upper Framilode. To discuss commitments leading up to Christmas on the Pound and finalise the equipment required. Equipment requested for the evening is confirmed as still available. Recent comments to Councillors indicate that the present advertising on social media and the website has not been seen; it has been agreed to produce a flyer to distribute to households around the parish and posters on the noticeboards. Decorating the trees around the Parish has been agreed for 25th November at 13:30.

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Action: Clerk to look into cost to produce flyers. To contact the helpers re decorating the trees with the date.

201123

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

The three English Oak Trees have been delivered by Chew Valley Trees Ltd to the Memorial Hall playing field. To agree the date for the formal 'planting of the tree and approve the purchase of plaques for the trees. No date can be agreed as the trees are yet to be planted. Purchase of the plaque was approved, budget of £50 was agreed.

Proposed, seconded with all in favour

211123

To discuss the annual inspection of the play equipment at the Memorial Hall Playing Field

Playground Inspections have submitted a quote for £225 to carry out the annual inspection of the play equipment on Saul Memorial Hall Playing Field. Council to discuss and agree to the quote.

The Memorial Hall equipment is to be included in the inspection as in previous years. The cost of the report was approved.

Proposed, seconded with all in favour

221123

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 and, once the water levels have improved, the removal of the duck weed. The report on the survey carried out by Wild Service in early October has yet to be received. A public meeting which the Parish is invited to attend will be organised shortly after the Parish Councillors have had visibility of the report.

The report has not been received as yet.

Action: Clerk to chase the report if not received by mid-month

231123

To begin discussion on the budget including projects for the coming year

Councillors have been considering possible projects to be included in a business plan for the next three years, costs are being researched and budgetary discussion can now begin. To be considered:-

- Adult outdoor circuit training equipment. Location, equipment and cost to be discussed. *This is no longer being considered as the Memorial Hall Committee do not think that there is enough justification to site it at the Playing field.*
- Parish Gateways – District and County assistance with funding and installation is no longer available. Is this something with the Parish Council wish to pursue in the next financial year or revisit in at some point in the future. Elmore PC have advised that the installation of Parish Gates was paid for from Cty Cllr S Davies Highways fund. The installation was too recent to note any benefit but it was hoped that the installation would create a 'village' impact. Councillors to consider the possible benefits to the Parish. *Due to the escalating cost to instal the Gateways and the limited spaces available, this proposal has been delayed for a couple of years.*
- Down pipe clearing /replacement along the length of the disused section of the Stroudwater Canal at Upper Framilode to 'top up' the water levels through out the year reducing the need to pump water into the canal. This will, if successful, reduce the need to hire in pumping equipment. *A second quote is being sourced for the work before commissioning. To be discussed at further budget discussions*

Chairman moved to extend the meeting past the two-hour agreed deadline.


- In partnership with Stroud District Councils PROW (Public Rights of Way) team, replacing the damaged and dilapidated styles around the Parish with Kissing Gates. The PROW team have begun to clear the overgrown pathways by strimming. To consider available funding and budget accordingly. *PROW office are costing the proposed styles; dependant on financial cost for the PC, to consider other styles for replacement from next year's budget*
- *Information boards in Upper Framilode telephone box costing. The phone box is considered not high enough profile for this expenditure, limited footfall. Use of the phone box to be revisited in future discussion, cost information boards for locations such as Saul Pound and along the canal to be looked into.*
- *Added in the discussion the need for a light in Saul telephone box housing the defibrillator. Cost of a phone box specific solar light is £295.00.*

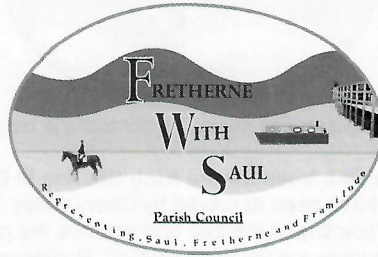
241123

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

- To discuss correspondence received

Signed / Date

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Due to information not being available, this agenda item has been postponed until a later date.


251123 Date of next meeting is 29th November 2023

The 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.

Signed / Date

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