

FREATHERNE WITH SAUL PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of Fretherne with Saul Parish Council Extra Meeting held at Saul Memorial Hall at 7:00pm on 29th November 2023.

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

In attendance: Dist Cllr J Jones

Register of General Public attending meeting: None

Agenda

011123 To receive apologies for absence. Apologies were received from Cty Cllr S Davies

021123 Declarations of Interest on the Agenda - None

031123 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd November 2023 – minutes were approved.
Proposed, seconded with all in favour

041123 Public Question Time – no members of the public were present

051123 To receive a report from County Councillor Stephen Davies.

Cty Cllr S Davies was not present but sent a report.

- A Gloucestershire Care Leaver and a an employee with 15years service were both nominated for a national "Local Hero" award.
- Over 750,000 people watched the Tour of Britain come through Gloucestershire. It is estimated 225,000 watch it live.
- The Holiday Activity Fund has been launched for the Christmas Holidays. This is free activity and meals for Children and their siblings who are eligible for free school meals.

061123 To receive a report from District Councillor John Jones.

Stroud District Council (SDC) is inviting applications from Community Groups to the Rural England Prosperity Fund, part of the Government's Levelling Up scheme, the next window for applications opens in January, details on the SDC website.

Tricorn House. The developers' agents have made contact with local Estate Agents with a view to invite applications for letting or purchasing completed apartments there soon.

The Local Plan, stalemate continues, more news on that the next meeting. The 5-year land supply figure, crucial in warding off predatory developers, is currently just over 5, so is fairly safe for now. However, the longer the Local Plan examination drags on, the more risk of the 5-year land supply figure falling below that.

071123 Planning Application

Application Number: S.23/2272/HHOLD

Location: 7 Sandfield Crescent, Church Lane, Saul, Gloucester.

Application Type: Householder Application

Description: Erection of a two-storey extension to the side and rear and a single storey extension to the rear of the existing dwelling

Respond by date: 13.12.2023

The Council have no comment

Planning Decisions

Application Number: S.23/2021/P3Q Dunstalls Farm, Arlingham Road, Saul, Gloucester.

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

Decision: Awaiting Decision

Application Number: S.23/1974/TCA Highmead, Moor Street, Saul, Gloucester.

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.

Decision: approved

081123 Finance: To approve the following payments in accordance with the budget.

Supporting documents have already been sent to councillors.

Payee	For	Amount
Clerk	Pay for November 23	£408.42
Town & Parish Websites	Annual Subscription for the website	£175.00

RBL	Remembrance Day Wreaths	£150.00
Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust	Survey of the Stroudwater Canal	£1920.00
April Skies	Interim Audit	£115.00

Proposed, seconded with all in favour

To ratify payments made and income received between meetings –

Water Plus	Allotment water supply	£85.26
The Sign Maker	Commemorative Plaque for the Oak Trees	£53.96
Clerk	Lights for the Christmas event	£86.54
Clerk	Flyers for the Christmas event	£44.99

Proposed, seconded with all in favour

To review and approve November 2023 bank reconciliation and accounting spreadsheet.

These have already been circulated to the Councillors.

Proposed, seconded with all in favour

091123

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

1. Canal notice board cost has been approved but the request to look into a double-sided board has delayed the ordering.
Councillors agreed that a one sided board was more appropriate, the budget has already been approved at the 2nd November meeting
2. Commemorative plaque for the Oak Trees has been purchased. This has now been received.
3. Inspection of the play equipment on the Memorial Hall Playing Field has been confirmed, lead time 12 – 16 weeks.
4. Remembrance Sunday Wreaths were laid, thank you to Cllrs Findlater (St Mary's, Fretherne) and Jeffries (St James, Saul) and Parishioner T Lever (St Peters, Upper Framilode)
5. The overhanging branch along the canal tow path will be removed on 4th December
6. The Bauble competition and Christmas on the Pound advertising was carried out via the website, social media and flyers to households within the Parish.
7. Gloucestershire Highways have authorised payment of the verge cutting costs, payment received.
8. The Extraction figures (nil) have been submitted to the Environment Agency.

Action: the Clerk is to order the noticeboard

101123

To confirm the decision to replace of styles with Kissing Gates on Public Rights of Way (PROW).

The Parish Council have identified the styles which are considered to be in a poor condition and would have the most impact by being replaced by Kissing Gates. The PROW officer has been informed and is now reviewing these styles. Landowners will be contacted for permission to replace the old style.

111123

To confirm compliance with the 1st January 2024 deadline for all Town and Parish Councils to take their first actions for Biodiversity under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

All local authorities have to sign the Biodiversity agreement by 1st January 2024. They are encouraged to detail their efforts to encourage biodiversity in their areas. Fretherne with Saul Parish Council are encouraging Biodiversity by planting the three oak trees, the planned work on the disused section of Stroudwater Canal, encouraging the recreational activities of parishioners and visitors to the area with making Public Rights of Way more accessible. Further ideas to encourage Biodiversity are to be included in the budget discussions. The Biodiversity Policy was adopted.

Proposed, seconded with all in favour

121123

To review and approve three policies and related form, these have been circulated to Councillors for review.

- Risk Management Schedule – Proposed, seconded with all in favour
- Appraisal Policy – Proposed, seconded with all in favour
- Grants Policy and Grant Application Form, to consider amending the application date to the start of the Financial Year. – No change is to be made to the policy. Proposed, seconded with all in favour

131123

The approve the National Pay Award for the Clerk and set the date for the annual appraisal. Details have been circulated to the Councillors.

Proposed, seconded with all in favour

141123

To approve the Clerks attendance at the Christmas Networking on the 6th December at a cost of £30.

Proposed, seconded with all in favour

151123

To review the Interim Audit Report and approve the findings. This document has been circulated to the Councillors for their consideration prior to the meeting.

Councillors have reviewed the report and are pleased with its findings and accept the summary..

Proposed, seconded with all in favour

161123

To receive a final update on Christmas on the Pound 2023, 2nd December at 6pm

Signed / Date

X

Flyers and posters have been sent out around the Parish about the Christmas Bauble competition and Christmas on the Pound. The website and the community Facebook page have been updated with all the details. The trees are in the process of being decorated in anticipation of the lights being switched on. Has anything been forgotten? Final details, times were discussed and agreed.

171123 To receive an update on the commissioned survey on the disused section of the Stroudwater Canal at Upper Framilode.

Work on the canal has been temporarily suspended with the exception of strengthening the dam below the bridge on Moor Street and the removal of the duck weed. The report for the survey which was carried out by Wild Service in early October has been received. A public meeting, which the Parish will be invited to attend, will be organised after the Parish Councillors have considered the report.

A discussion took place around certain points on the report and it was found that some points needed clarifying. It was agreed that the Councillors needed more time to thoroughly review the details and raise any queries with Wild Service before publishing the report and setting a date for a meeting.

Action: the Clerk to collate the Councillors queries and present them to Wild Service

181123 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. Items to be considered include:-

- Adult outdoor circuit training equipment will no longer be considered as it is considered of not sufficient demand by the Parish
- Parish Gateways – Plans to introduce Parish Gateways has been put on hold for the next financial year as the cost implication for installation is considered too great.
- The clearing/replacement of existing down pipes draining into the canal 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.
- 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 are considering the styles identified as most in need of replacement, do the Parish Council want to consider other styles around the Parish for replacement.
- To consider providing information boards at key locations in the Parish – Stroudwater canal and Saul Pound. These would include the history of the Parish, it's buildings, key locations and photographs.
- Biodiversity around the Parish. As of 1st January 2024, all local government authorities have to signed the Biodiversity Policy. Ways in which Biodiversity can be promoted in the Parish will be discussed.

The proposed budget figures were discussed and the proposed Business Plan items listed above were discussed. It was proposed that further discussion would take place at the January meeting to finalise the budget and quotes would be sourced for items on the business plan.

Action: the Clerk to update the Proposed Business Plan with details discussed and to source quotes for items which received positive comments

Chairman moved to extend the meeting past the two hours agreed time.

191123 To discuss the work to replace down pipes along the disused Stroudwater Canal. By replacing and restoring the down pipes is hoped to alleviate the need to hire expensive pumping equipment each year. A second quote has been received, Council to consider the quote.

A second quote has been received. Councillors need the quote to list the breakdown of the drainage maintenance work and have asked that it be then resubmitted however, the quote has been approved in principal. Proposed, seconded with all in favour.

Action: Cllr Bierer to request clarification on the quote breakdown

The Chairman moved to discuss agenda item 201123 forward and then return to the discussion about the canal.

Cllr Bierer left the meeting at 21:15

201123 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 confirm understanding of correspondence received

Councillors confirmed that they have read and understood the information now received from both Birketts LLP and the Incumbent.

Cllr Bierer rejoined the meeting at 21:20

Cllr Jeffries left the meeting at 21:20

Budget discussion continued including the precept.

211123 Date of next meeting is 31st January 2024

Signed / Date



