

# 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 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024.**

**Present:** Cllr D Wynn, Cllr L Jeffries, Cllr Bierer, Clerk K Brown

**In attendance:** Cty Cllr S Davies, Dist Cllr J Jones, PCSO M Treble

## **Agenda**

**010124 To receive apologies for absence.**  
Cllr B Findlater sends his apologies

In the Chairmans absence, Cllr Bierer was nominated to take the role of Chairman for the meeting

**020124 Declarations of Interest on the Agenda**  
Cllr Bierer declared an interest in one of the items in agenda item 080124

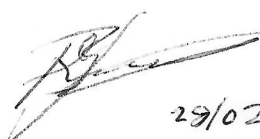
**030124 To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 29th November 2023 and 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024**  
The minutes of the 29<sup>th</sup> November were approved  
**Proposed, seconded with all in favour**  
The minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024 were not approved, a draft copy will be posted on the website for approval at the February meeting.

**040124 Public Question Time**  
10 Minutes is allocated to allow members of the public to address the Parish Council, 3 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).  
No members of public present

**050124 To receive a report from PCSO M Treble**  
PCSO Treble provided a year on year report off crime statistics in the Parish; there has been an increase in the number of crimes, 2022 – 23 there were 61 crimes recorded, in the same period 2023 – 24 there were 71. Disappointingly, there have been 9 x 999 calls in the past year which have been either 'abandoned' or 'hoax' calls.  
PCSO Treble has reported that in the past months there has been bike stamping carried out in Frampton on Severn and a mobile unit to meet Parishioners also out in that parish. The Councillors said this was a missed opportunity for Fretherne with Saul Parishioners and have asked that they be notified of any future similar activities so that they can be publicised.  
**Action: Clerk to remind PCSO Treble of future meetings and future meetings of Severn Voice**

**060124 To receive a report from County Councillor Stephen Davies.**  
Cty Cllr S Davies advised that he would be arriving later in the meeting, see his report further in the minutes.

**070124 To receive a report from District Councillor John Jones.**  
The extraordinary meeting last week discussed the position of the Examination in Public of the Draft Local Plan. After a couple of hours of questioning, the ruling Alliance re-iterated their stance that they would not be withdrawing the Draft Plan from Inspection, but would continue to work with partners to overcome the concerns raised by the Inspectors in the process so far.  
These concerns included the capacity of Junctions 12 and 14 of the M5 to cope with the expected increase in traffic from proposed developments, the feasibility of providing a foot and cycle bridge over the M5 at Wisloe, and the infrastructure to support proposed development at Sharpness. SDC is in talks with Gloucester County and South Gloucester Councils, along with Highways England to try to resolve these issues. It was pointed out that vast amounts of money would be needed to upgrade the M5 junctions, and should Stroud be spending our money on a junction outside the District. The Alliance insisted that the Inspectors were appearing to be satisfied with 70% of the draft plan, it was just the 3 main sticking points they were not satisfied with.  
Should the Inspectors refuse to give the plan the go ahead, it will put the process back around a couple of years, giving rise to speculative developers gaining permission by appeal, meaning that the District Council will have less control over where new houses are built. It was pointed out that during the Local Plan consultation period, many parishes in the District recommended a dispersal of houses programme, to keep smaller villages alive, but this appeared to have been disregarded.  
One small consolation is that in the revised NPPF, of late last year, the 5 year land supply figure need has been reduced to 4, helping to refuse such speculative applications.  
One application that was included in the Draft Local Plan, for 11 houses in Whitminster between Uptons Gardens and the Playing Field, and was applied for in 2021, has been given permission before the Plan has been finished, let alone adopted. It was due for 10 in the LP. Construction is

  
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expected to start there in early summer.

The next Full Council meeting is next month, to approve the Council Tax and budget. Most likely an increase across the board of 5% can be expected in Council Tax.

080124

**Planning Application**

**Application Number:** S.24/0132/TCA

**Location:** Alma Cottage, High Street, Saul, Gloucester.

**Application Type:** Trees in a Conservation Area

**Description:** Willow tree - Pollard and remove at least 4 branches.

**Respond by date:** 13.02.2024

**PC abstained from commenting**

**Application Number:** S.24/0007/HHOLD

**Location:** 1 Garden Cottages, Framilode Passage, Saul, Gloucester.

**Application Type:** Householder Application

**Description:** Erection of single storey rear & double storey side extension. (Resubmission of S.23/0684/HHOLD - extend the permitted single storey side extension).

**Respond by date:** 01.02.2024 extension granted to the 5<sup>th</sup> February

**PC have no comment**

**Application Number:** S.24/0033/HHOLD

**Location:** Field View, 6 Sandfield Crescent, Church Lane, Saul.

**Application Type:** Householder Application

**Description:** Erection of 3 storey side extension. Alterations to permitted application - S.23/1321/HHOLD.

**Respond by date:** 31.01.2024 extension granted to the 5<sup>th</sup> February

**PC have no comment**

**Ratify Decision**

**Application Number:** S.23/2348/FUL

**Location:** Land To The Rear Of 7 Sandfield Crescent, Church Lane, Saul, Gloucestershire.

**Application Type:** Full Planning Application

**Description:** Erection of a tractor and implement shed and straw store

**Decision:** 21.12.2023 extension could not be granted

**Proposed, seconded with all in favour**

**Planning Decision**

**Applicant:** Severn Trent Water Ltd

**Application No:** 23/0039/STMAJW (District Reference S.23/1794/CM)

**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:** Granted

**Application Number:** S.23/2272/HHOLD

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

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

**Decision:** Granted

**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:** Prior Approval Refused

090124

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

Supporting documents have already been sent to councillors.


Payee	For	Amount
Birketts LLP	Legal Advice	£871.20

**Proposed, seconded with all in favour**

**To ratify payments made and income received between meetings –**

Water Plus	Allotment water supply Nov	£38.22
Water Plus	Allotment water supply Dec	£37.92
Clerk	December Pay	£656.30
Clerk	January Pay	£441.22
HMRC	HMRC PAYE payment	£135.40
Cllr Jeffries	Christmas Event refreshments	£40.45
Clerk	Christmas Event lights	£39.98

Signed / Date

  
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M Davies	Drainage repairs at the canal	£600.00
Severn Vale Trees	Removal of overhanging tree branch	£320.00
Longney & Epney Choir	Christmas on the Pound	£150.00

**Proposed, seconded with all in favour**

**Payment Received**

Wayleave Payment	National Grid	£10.71
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**To review and approve January 2023 bank reconciliation and accounting spreadsheet.**

As there was no meeting in December there is no Bank Reconciliation report for that month.

These have already been circulated to the Councillors.

**Proposed, seconded with all in favour**

**100124**

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

1. In June, a member of the public reported the presence of Himalayan Balsam (HB) along the canal side and banks of the river Frome. This was reported to the Environment Agency. They have now replied to the report advising they are aware of the presence of HB and are working on the problem further upstream to reduce the flow of seeds along the water course.
2. The overhanging branch along the disused section of the Stroudwater canal tow path has now been removed, slightly later than initially planned due to weather conditions
3. Christmas on the Pound was well attended, lots of compliments on the tree lighting this year both on Saul Pound, Fretherme and Upper Framilode Pound
4. Gloucestershire County Council Public Rights of Way officer has advised that she is identifying land owners along the stretch of public footpath where it is hoped to replace styles with kissing gates. She will be contacting them to discuss the possibility of carrying out the work.
5. A Freedom of Information request has been responded to, all the information requested is in the public domain available on the Parish Council website.

**110124**

**To review Christmas on the Pound Event**

The evening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> December was well attended, the Choir were excellent and the refreshments were well received especially on such a cold evening. Thank you to all who attended. A plan for future Christmas events is being created including setting the date for the event, any equipment needed to be repaired/replaced, music to be booked.

The general feedback was that everyone had enjoyed the evening, it was a great return to events held in previous years and appreciated by the village. The lists which has been created was thought to be a good way to manage future Christmas events and initial discussion will be carried out at the February meeting.

Dist Cllr J Jones left the meeting at 19:50

Cty Cllr S Davies joined the meeting at 19:53

Cty Cllr S Davies reported :

- There is a record number of 'In care' school leavers going on to university which is good news. Gloucester University provides 365 days a year accommodation for 'In care' students.
- Trading Standards have been out seizing E cigarettes. A £3000 fine has been given for selling e-cigarettes to minors
- Use of the Fire Service Skills Zone has now been extended to children with special needs.
- Gcc have an additional £87.9m for Highways from the Government Christmas Statement.
- The County Council have been finalising their budget for 2024/25, they are solvent and are making no significant cuts to projects. £15 million is generated by selling electricity generated from Javelin Park.
- Castle Bridge update; the bridge is faulty and the County Council cannot repair the surface of the road until CRT have repaired the bridge.
- Highways continue to strive towards getting engineers to find a long term solution to the fencing along Moor St.

Cty Cllr S Davies left the meeting at 20:10

**120124**

**To review and confirm the Asset Register is up to date**

This has been circulated to the Councillors for their review prior to the meeting.

The Asset register is up to date

Proposed, seconded with all in favour

**130124**

**Responsible Financial Officer to confirm the list of signatories is correct and up to date**

This is ongoing as there have been ongoing issues with the online banking app,

Due to issues with the online banking website, changes to the signatory list have not been completed. A paper copy of the changes will now be signed off and returned to the bank.

**Action:** Responsible Financial Officer to further update at the next meeting

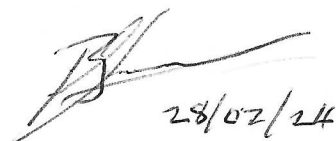
**140124**

**To discuss and agree the annual rental charge for the allotments**

The rental charges remained unchanged in 2023/24, Councillors to consider whether the tenancy rental should be increased or remain without change.

After discussion, it was approved to increase the allotment tenancy charge by £2.50 per allotment

Signed / Date

  
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Proposed, seconded with all in favour

**150124 To approve existing bank account Standing orders and Direct Debits**  
Details of these have been circulated to the Councillors prior to the meeting.  
All details were approved.  
Proposed, seconded with all in favour

**160124 To discuss and finalise the budget for 2023/4.**  
The budget was initially discussed at the November 2023 meeting, those details have been circulated to councillors for their consideration prior to the meeting.  
The budget figures were further discussed and approved..  
Proposed, seconded with all in favour

The Chairman proposed a motion to extend the meeting beyond the two hours.  
Proposed, seconded with all in favour

**170124 To discuss and approve the Business Plan for the forthcoming three years**  
Initial discussion began at the November meeting, details of the discussion have been circulated to the Councillors for their consideration.  
The updated Proposed Business Plan was further discussed and all items voted on. This is a three year plan and the projects and actions agreed will be carried out in stages over this period.  
Proposed, seconded with all in favour

**180124 To finalise and approve the Precept for 2023/24.**  
This was initially discussed at the November meeting, to be further discussed and approved.  
After discussion it was agreed that the Precept should be increased by 2.5%, an increase of £400 year on year.  
Proposed, seconded with all in favour  
**Action: Clerk to confirm the Precept to Stroud District Council**

**190124 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 and questions have been raised by the Parish Council. A public meeting, which the Parish will be invited to attend, will be organised after the Parish Councillors have considered the report and responses to the questions raised.  
Whilst discussion revolved around the urgency to further discuss this with the Volunteer Group, the response to the Parish Council questions was received shortly before the meeting, insufficient time for the Councillors to properly consider these in context of the report.  
**Action: Cllr Bierer to read the report in light of the response to the Parish Council questions and communicate his findings with the Councillors**

**200124 To approve the following policies:**  
The Councillors have reviewed these prior to the meeting.

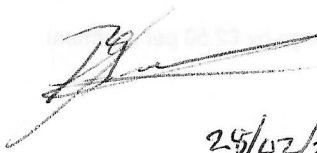
- Transparency Code  
Proposed, seconded with all in favour
- Complaints Policy  
Proposed, seconded with all in favour
- Vexatious Policy  
Proposed, seconded with all in favour
- Freedom of Information Policy  
Proposed, seconded with all in favour

**210124 Date of next meeting is 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

**Meeting closed at 21:30**

**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.*



25/02/24

Signed / Date