FRETHERNE WITH SAUL PARISH COUNCIL

1 French Burr Place, Gloucester, GL1 5PHTel: 01452 247040 or 07775 935739
Email: fwsparishclerk@gmail.com
www.frethernewithsaul.org.uk

Minutes of Fretherne with Saul Parish Council Meeting held at Saul Memorial Hall at 19:00 on the 26th June 2024.

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

In attendance: Cty Cllr S Davies

Register of General Public attending meeting: One member of the public was present

Agenda

010624 **To receive apologies for absence.**
Apologies were received from Dist Cllr R Brown and Dist Cllr Richard Maisey

020624 **Declarations of Interest on the Agenda** - None

030624 **To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 15th May 2024**

- Annual Parish Council Meeting
- May monthly meeting

The Annual Parish Assembly meeting minutes will be approved at the meeting of the same title in 2025
The Minutes for both meetings had previously been circulated and are resolved as a true record.

040624 **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).
A representative from the Canal Volunteer Group informed the Parish Council (PC) of the present situation within the Group. They had a very successful meeting on the 22nd May '24. The Chairman has since retired and the role is being filled on a temporary basis. The group hope to move forward with a more official group once a recognised structure, training and correct documentation in place. It is planned to attend next month's PC meeting with the paperwork and to agree a programme of work to be carried out with the PC. Thoughts on what the canal is, following the report which was shared, a canal or a wetland which needs managing. A couple of areas which have been identified for work immediately are the Himalayan Balsam (HB) (the group have already removed the HB from the south side of Moor St bridge) and the water fern. If it would be helpful, the paperwork and plans could be submitted to the PC before the meeting to give them time to consider what is being suggested. This will include how to tackle the Azolla including a contractor and the cost.
The Councillors said it would be very helpful to have visibility of the proposed plans prior to the next meeting and thanked the speaker for coming to the meeting and opening communication.

Member of the public left the meeting at 19:14 pm

050624 **To receive a report from County Councillor Stephen Davies.**
It's been surprising quiet on terms of announcements at probably at District and certainly at County because we are in an election period and which is remotely political is not allowed, once the election is over there will be a deluge of announcements I am sure.

- Theres an update on the work being done around potholes – Find and Fix teams, instead of doing one pothole, they are fixing a whole batch. Gary, the Highways Manager, is doing an excellent job securing Find and Fix team time, identifying areas where they will make the most difference. Various pieces of equipment have been bought, a spray injection patcher which can fix 100 potholes a day, trialling cold materials which means less waste and can be done on cold days, purchased a pot hole probe and a road mender which uses recycled material to fill holes.
- The Fire Service has been revisited by His Majesty's Inspectorate, whilst recognising there is improvement there is still work to be done, hasten to add this is not in the ability to put out fires. They believe that diversity and other aspects of cultural aspects are weak.
- Council meetings earlier today which considered three motions
  - criticism of Thames Water having under invested was unanimously carried
  - helping care leavers who were not in education, employment or training was unanimously carried
  - giving voting rights to 16 and 17 year olds which was defeated

Don't forget to take photo id to the Polling Stations next week.

Councillors raised a query on the yellow lines at Sandfield Bridge, Cty Cllr Davies will take this up with the Highways Manager.
The engineering team have inspected the railings along Moor Street, have come up with a solution and Cty Cllr Davies and the Highways Manager are waiting for a quote for the repairs.

31/7/24

Not in this Parish but relevant

- Castle Lane Bridge – it is a struggle to get CRT to agree to pay their share of the bill to repair the bridge. This is being escalated
- Pilot Bridge is to be closed for some of the summer, diversions will be in place over Castle Lane bridge
- There have been queries why the A38 was resurfaced by Fromebridge roundabout as there are other more urgent work needed; after querying, it was done because the A38 is a trunk road and it had failed a skid test.

Councillor raised the problem with the verges along the edge of the road towards Fretherne Bridge. Various solutions have been looked into over the past months, Cty Cllr Davies will further solutions discuss this with the Highways Manager.
Clerk queried if the two vacant properties on Passage Road were under Stroud District Council or Gloucestershire Council as the condition of the gardens is becoming a problem with weeds spreading into the allotments and the neighbouring residents are reporting issues with vermin. Cry Cllr Davies gave contact details for the Clerk to report the problem.

Cty Cllr Davies left the meeting at 19:26 pm

060624 **To receive a report from District Councillor Robert Brown and District Councillor R Maisey**
Dist Cllr Brown - Cllr Richard Maisey and I have come to an arrangement whereby we will split responsibilities for our six parishes in the Severn Ward over the 2024-25 year. This is to ensure that each parish has a clear representative that they can go to for support and receive reports from etc. In 2024-25 Cllr Richard Maisey will be supporting Frethere-with-Saul; in 2025-26 we will then swap over. We appreciate that this causes discontinuity, but it gives us each a grasp of the entire District and gives you an opportunity to experience us both too.
Dist Cllr Maisey - as you will know I was elected as a District Councillor for Severn in the May elections. Since then a General Election has been called and I have a formal role in those elections. This has meant I have been extremely busy. I was hoping to attend the PC meeting on 26 June but unfortunately this now seems unlikely so I send my apologies. There have been no Council meetings to report to date. I would confirm I am on the Audit and Standard and Environment committees. I attend my first Environment committee tonight.
I trust I will be able to make your meeting at the end of July.

070624 **Planning Application**
Application Number: S.24/0984/HHOLD
Location: Mavic, Moor Street, Saul, Gloucester.
Application Type: Householder Application
Description: Erection of two storey extension
Respond by date: 28.06.2024
Parish Council have no comment

Planning Decisions

Application Number: S.19/0291/FUL Stroudwater Canal Phase 1B, Eastington, Gloucestershire
Application Description: Reinstatement of the 'Missing Mile' section of the Stroudwater Navigation and development of associated infrastructure including locks, mooring basin, car parking, cafe and leisure facilities building with combined office and residence for basin manager
Decision: Application Permitted

Application Number: S.24/0661/LBC The Cottage, Saul Lodge, Arlingham Road, Saul.
Application Description: Replacement of eleven casement windows
Decision: Application refused

Application Number: S.24/0344/HHOLD Orchard House, High Street, Saul, Gloucester.
Application Type: Householder Application
Description: Erection of porch and 1.5 storey garage extension to front.
Decision: Application withdrawn

Application Number: S.24/0389/LBC Saul Lodge West, Arlingham Road, Saul, Gloucester.
Description: Replacement of two windows.
Decision: Awaiting decision

Application Number: S.24/0007/HHOLD 1 Garden Cottages, Framilode Passage, Saul, Gloucester.
Description: Erection of single storey rear & double storey side extension. (Resubmission of S.23/0684/HHOLD - extend the permitted single storey side extension).
Decision: Awaiting decision

Application Number: S.24/0033/HHOLD Field View, 6 Sandfield Crescent, Church Lane, Saul.
Description: Erection of 3 storey side extension. Alterations to permitted application - S.23/1321/HHOLD.
Decision: Awaiting decision

080624 **To receive an update on the commissioned survey on the disused section of the Stroudwater Canal at Upper Framilode, repair of the dam on the canal and the drainage work along the towpath.**

- Representative of the Volunteer Group to update the Parish Council on their thoughts following consideration of the Wild Service Survey Report.
- Council to approve making the Wild Service survey available on the Parish Council website and social media.
- Council to discuss how to progress repairs on the dam, to understand what is involved and the cost to carry the work out. Cllr Bierer to provide feedback.
- Should the work on the drainage along the towpath proceed during the summer period
- Council to also discuss the infestation of Azolla, treatment methods, time scale and cost to treat

A meeting to understand what is needed to repair the canal dam is still to be held.
The Canal Group will present their plans at the July meeting.
After discussion, the Council approved the publishing of the report on the Parish Council website and to instruct the contractor to carry out the repairs to the drainage along the canal tow path, this was previously approved at a cost of £3475.00.
Proposed, seconded with all in favour.
A budget of £2000 was also approved to purchase weevils from CABI, these are insects which will eat the Azolla in the canal.
Proposed, seconded with all in favour.

090624 **To discuss Westerleigh Group proposed plans for a crematorium on the A38 in Eastington Parish.**
A public consultation was recently held at Fromebridge Mill at very short notice to provide an opportunity to understand the plans, the location and for the planners, Westerleigh Group, to get an understanding of the local opinions. Cllr Findlater to give an update on the public consultation.
Cllr Findlater attended the consultation, there were discussions as to where the entrance/exit would be. A suggestion made was via a roundabout at the end of the Perryway. For those who have been to the Westerleigh Crematorium in Bristol, it is aesthetically better than Gloucester which is very busy. Air quality is a concern, there is already the motorway and the incinerator. If the space is not a crematorium, could it be used for housing.
Clerk informed that Frampton on Severn Parish Council are working with Westerleigh Group to organise a presentation to the local Councils which may be affected by the Crematorium.
Action: Clerk will update with details when finalised.

100624 **To discuss and adopt the following regulations and policies**
- NALC Model Financial Regulations 2024

These have been circulated to the Councillors prior to the meeting for their consideration.
Adoption of the Financial Regulations has been delayed until the July Meeting.

110624 **To receive feedback and update on the progress with the kissing gates that the Gloucestershire County Council Public Rights of Way (PROW) officer is making.** Following the unfortunate refusal by one of the landowners along the public footpath for the installation of kissing gates and discussion at the May meeting, the Parish Council raised questions with the PROW officer.
- If permission could not be gained along EFL 31, could the funding be used to replace stiles on another footpaths e.g. EFL 6
- Access to the end of the PROW EFL 22 is still blocked by brambles, could these be cleared by the PROW team

Update from the Clerk: This morning, Sarah, PROW officer, and the Clerk cleared the brambles which have been obstructing the entrance to footpath EFL 22 adjacent to the entrance to Gardeners Pool (fishing lake) on the High Street. Sarah is going to speak to the landowner to consider replacing the three stiles which are in poor condition with two kissing gates and a pedestrian gate. It is suggested that the cost to replace the stiles be shared between the Parish Council and the PROW office. A post has been put on the Facebook group informing that the footpath is now back in use.
The Council considered the cost of the kissing gates, £220 ea, and the gate, £160 ea. The expenditure, £300, was approved.
Proposed, seconded with all in favour

120624 **Finance: To approve the following payments in accordance with the budget.**
Supporting documents have already been sent to councillors.

Payee	For	Amount
Administration costs	To include Clerks pay, PAYE, postage, stationary etc	£538.62
Kay Brown	Gift to retiring Councillor (Chairmans allowance)	£22.00
Severn Grass Services inv 353	Parish Maintenance	£232.00
Water Plus May 24	Allotment Water supply in credit	-£157.03
April Skies inv 0328	Internal Audit	£115.00
Saul Memorial Hall inv 23/24	Meeting rent	£180.00
Handmade Planters Gloucester inv 0062	Raised beds at the allotments	£1650.00
DJD Agri inv 1881	Verge cutting	£487.12
ROSPA Inv 80309	Interim inspection of play equipment	£312.00

Proposed, seconded with all in favour.

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

Signed / Date

31/7/24

Chris Arnold Tree Surgery Inv 5321 – removal of two trees at the allotments £456.00
Proposed, seconded with all in favour

To review and approve June 2024 bank reconciliation and accounting spreadsheet.
These have already been circulated to the Councillors.
Proposed, seconded with all in favour

130624 **To resolve and sign the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023/24 (AGAR)**
The Annual Governance and Accountability Return having been previously circulated to the councillors for Consideration.
The Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023/24 (AGAR) was discussed, the form completed and signed.
Proposed, seconded with all in favour

140624 **To resolve and sign the Accounting Statements 2023/24**
The accounting statements have been previously circulated to the councillors for their consideration.
The Accounting Statements 2023/24 has been checked by full Council.
Proposed, seconded with all in favour

150624 **To approve the dates for the Period of Exercise of Public Rights.**
The dates for the Period of Exercise of Public Rights are set between 28th June 2024 and 8th August 2024
Proposed, seconded with all in favour

160624 **Clerks report – to update on actions raised at the April meeting and other matters arising**

- DJD Agri want to make it known that they are in no way responsible for the damage to the road sign near Fretherne bridge. This has been hit a number of times and previously reported to the Clerk.
- Letters received from Parishioners referencing the canal have all been responded to with an explanation of the legal implications of working on the canal due to the possibility of Water Voles. A survey to establish what work could be carried out and how best to do it without incurring any legal liabilities was commissioned at the end of 2023; the survey, along with questions raised by the Parish Council and responses, have been supplied to the Volunteer Group. The Parish Council await their proposal for working on the canal.
- Trees at the end of the allotment site which were unstable following the storms at the end of 2023/beginning of 2024 have now been removed.
- Clerk has circulated an invite to the other local Parishes to attend the IDB presentation. Waiting for responses.
- The ROSPA interim inspection report for the play equipment at the Memorial Hall Playing Field has been completed; it has been circulated to the Councillors for their consideration and will be discussed at the next meeting.
- The Poop bags for the dispenser at the Memorial Hall Playing Field have now been delivered and the dispenser has been replenished.
- A Solar light for the telephone box on the High Street has been delivered and will be installed soon.
- A notice board for Canal information has been delivered, installation is being arranged.
- The Facebook post about available allotments has been updated and pinned.
- A Facebook post about Fix My Street has been posted on the Community page

The Clerk updated the Council on the success of using Fix My Street. A problem on Church Lane was reported on 24th June, it was inspected on the 25th and fixed on the 26th June. Thank you GCC Highways.
After reposting the advert on social media, and sharing with other local pages, there have been enquiries about the allotments.

170624 **To discuss and approve items associated with the allotments.**

- The raised beds on allotment 11a have been agreed, contractor informed and an installation date of 6th July has been agreed.
- There are now four available allotments which have been advertised on the website, social media and the allotment noticeboard. These allotments are now becoming overgrown with both grass and some have an infestation of Mares Tail. Council to discuss treatment of the Mares Tail and the cost to strim the other five vacant allotments. Cllr Bierer to provide information as to treatment and cost and method to treat the
- Mares Tail infestation.
- An allotment tenant has recently passed away, to approve returning the annual tenancy payment

Severn Grass Services quote of £240 to strim the vacant allotments was approved.
Proposed, seconded with all in favour
The now vacant allotment needs work to be to a standard that can be passed to another tenant, this will exceed the rental amount. No refund.
Treatment of the Mares Tail is still being looked into.
Action: Cllr Bierer to seek advice on treatment, Clerk to repeat enquiry with the company who are certified to carry out treatments.

180624 **Date of next meeting 31st July 2024**

Signed / Date

The meeting closed at 20:40

Signed: 31/7/24

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