FRETHERNE WITH SAUL PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of Fretherne with Saul Parish Council held at Saul Memorial Hall at 19:45 pm on Wednesday, 13th May 2026.

Present: Cllrs A Brown (Chairman), A Lever (Vice Chairman), C Bierer, C Butler, L Jeffries, J Bearman and Clerk K Brown

In attendance: Cty Cllr S Davies, Dist Cllr M Shannon

Members of the Public: Eight members of the public present

Anyone attending should be aware that the meeting may be recorded.

Agenda

010526 **To receive apologies for absence. No apologies have been received.** It was noted that Cllr Robbins was not in attendance, no apologies received. Council is not accepting his absence.
Proposed, seconded with all in favour.

020526 **Declarations of Interest on the Agenda** – Cllr Brown noted an non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 080526.

030526 **To approve the minutes of the Extra Ordinary meeting held on 1st April and meeting on the 29th April 2026.**
The minutes were resolved as an accurate record of the meeting. Proposed, seconded, with all in favour.

040526 **Public Question Time**
Members of the public representing Framilode Passage raised concerns over planning application S.26/0602/FUL Parcel of Land at Priding. The concerns include the land is Flood Zone 3 and potential impact on neighbouring properties, it is outside the settlement boundary, the size and scale of the proposed property, incongruous to neighbouring properties, access, light pollution, no biodiversity assessment, if approved would set a precedence for further development between Priding and Framilode Passage. Historically the land has been used for grazing and had previous applications refused.

050526 **To receive a report from County Councillor Stephen Davies.**
Ofsted have approved the Gloucestershire Supported Living Scheme which is where young people leaving Care are able to stay in a home (similar to Fostering) on their way to independence.
GCC are consulting on SEND (Special Education Needs) Policy, they have announced £5.8 million funding for adult services.
We have had a response on the timing of the Public Consultation on the Speeding TRO, after much pushing.
At a full meeting of Council, interesting debate on housing, the need to have infrastructure connected to housing, how Council think the Government has set the numbers too high and how this should be challenged. A very positive debate with only one abstention. Full Council also had a moving debate on male suicide, male suicide numbers national and in Gloucestershire are high, a good discussion on how the Council need to talk about this more. There was a very short debate on schools, unanimous decision that GCC would continue to lobby; Gloucestershire schools are getting as much as £5000 less per pupil than some in London and other areas.

A couple of questions were asked clarification on the Gloucestershire Supported Living Scheme as to fostering.
Cllr C Butler reiterated his concerns about Sandfield Bridge and the way it has been handled, rational for closure.
Cty Cllr Davies explained that he had been misled re what agreements were in place and expressed his annoyance about this.

060526 **To receive a report from District Councillor Moya Shannon.**
Strategy & Resources Committee - 16th April Welcome to Modern gov
•Stratford Park Lido in Stroud - Capital Investment Options. The lido first opened in 1937 and is now an ageing facility in need of repair, and due to its condition needs to remain closed to allow further investigations to be completed. Work to reopen the lido depends on addressing a number of safety-critical issues identified through specialist surveys. At the Committee meeting, an amendment to the recommendation was agreed, which commits the council to develop a costed schedule and timetable identifying the minimum essential works required to bring the lido back into safe use as soon as possible, and a similar schedule for a more comprehensive plan for the refurbishment of the lido for the medium and longer term.
Subject to the survey results (expected June 2026) being satisfactory, and to any costed plans being within budget (£900k capital investment works and/or £200k revenue repair works) the repairs could commence immediately. There is further info about the lido, including FAQs and fortnightly updates on the Council's website https://www.stroud.gov.uk/culture-leisure-sports-parks/lido/
•Active Lifestyles Stroud - Leisure centre in Stratford Park - Agreed to add £650,000 to the Capital Programme to fund the gym equipment replacement and refurbishment works to ensure resources are targeted to meet

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community needs. This is much needed investment to replace ageing equipment and to refresh the facilities following the council taking back management of the centre over a year ago.
•Community Infrastructure Levy - The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a planning c harge, introduced in 2008. It provides a fair and transparent means for ensuring that development contributes to the cost of the infrastructure it will ultimately rely on, such as schools, social infrastructure, flood risk mitigation works, transport, and roads. Previously, SDC could only make formal CIL funding allocations over one financial year. The revised guidance extends this to three years, giving partner organisations greater financial certainty and more time to plan and deliver community infrastructure projects. This year any bids for CIL funding must be sent to SDC by 10 September.
•Corporate Enforcement Policy - The Counter Fraud and Enforcement Unit (CFEU) has prepared this new policy which sets out the legal framework and principles the Council will follow when undertaking investigations for a wide range of breaches and offences. It demonstrates the Council's consideration of necessity, proportionality and public interest when deciding on enforcement action.
•Local Government Reorganisation Joint Scrutiny Proposals - A new joint scrutiny group will be set up across all Gloucestershire councils, to ensure accountability for, and understanding of, the Gloucestershire Local Government Reorganisation Programme. This new scrutiny group will be in place until the 'shadow' unitary authority/ies are elected, which is currently expected in May 2027.
•Leadership Gloucestershire - covered Police Reform White Paper, Local Growth Plan, Gloucestershire Housing Commission, skills and training, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities provision, and a new 'anti-hate statement' to be used by Gloucestershire organisations in public facing communications to demonstrate that hate and discrimination will not be tolerated in the county.
•City Region Board - covered the Together Gloucestershire project which aims to create a platform for private and public sector organisations to source ethical and reliable suppliers in Gloucestershire; challenges facing the retail and hospitality sectors; a Spatial Development Strategy for the county (which would sit above the local plans); Gloucestershire Business Rates Pool and Strategic Economic Development Fund.
•Canal Project - updates on governance, M5 crossing project, community engagement, and the recent visit by the National Lottery Heritage Fund Board of Trustees in March which included filling Oldbury Pound with water - the first section of the 'missing mile' of the canal to be reconstructed since part of it was filled in by M5 construction from the late 1960s. •Video recording (626 views)

Environment Committee - 23rd April
•Tree Management Policy - A new SDC policy where trees are recognised as vital natural assets that enrich biodiversity, strengthen climate resilience, shape local landscape character and enhance community wellbeing. The policy has eight objectives: maintaining public safety through proportionate tree risk management; delivering cost-effective, environmentally positive tree care; ensuring high professional standards in arboricultural work; improving public information and engagement; protecting biodiversity with a focus on notable, ancient and veteran trees; increasing canopy cover through appropriate planting and climate-resilient species; supporting climate change adaptation and mitigation; and ensuring fair distribution of tree benefits across all neighbourhoods.
•Biodiversity and Monitoring Duty Report - SDC's progress from July 2023 to January 2026, highlighting achievements in habitat restoration, community engagement, and statutory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) implementation. Eight approved gain plans delivering 75% on site biodiversity gains. There are continued commitments to 2031, including expanded land management across 30 sites, strengthened governance integration, and ongoing landscape-scale recovery projects with partners like the National Trust and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust.
•Climate Leadership Gloucestershire (CLG) - This group (CLG link) brings together all the councils in Gloucestershire along with health and other partners. In the context of local government reorganisation, it is recommended that the group's work should continue and potentially expand to include broader community engagement. Current waste actions were reviewed, which are: Reducing non-recyclable waste; Encouraging circular economy network; De-carbonise waste fleet; Reduce food waste; New depot provision (Shared Tewkesbury and Cheltenham site). The group added a new action on the Javelin Park Incinerator and its future operation. The Secretariat produced a climate policy planning document for sharing with councils.
•Stroud Valleys Natural Flood Management Steering Group - Inspected a new intervention at Syde, near Miserden, where a 400m straightened channel was restored to its natural floodplain state using leaky woody dams and scrapes to slow water flow and improve wetland connectivity. The project successfully reduced downstream flood risk and created 0.52ha of improved habitat, the visit highlighted a need for better public education regarding the temporary visual impact of restoration works and suggested acquiring water monitoring equipment to track nutrient levels.
•Update reports - from the Lower Severn Independent Drainage Board and Gloucestershire Resources and Waste Partnership.
•Video recording (36 views) Environment Committee - Thursday 23 April 2026

Council - 30th April
•Leisure services - Council received questions about the lido and confirmed the recommendation above for investment in renewing the gym at the Active Lifestyles Stroud. Cllr Kitchen asked for information relating to investment relating to active lifestyles work in relation to the Wotton ward. Cllr Braun highlighted the council's Healthy Lifestyles Scheme which supports people to be more active in a safe way to benefit both their physical and mental health, delivered across the district in partnership with health professionals and instructors.

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•New Local Plan - Council approved the commencement of a new Local Plan, which is a Government requirement. This will mean publication of the statutory Notice of Commencement by 30 June 2026 and a 'Gateway 1' self-assessment by 31 October 2026. The Government's new system introduces a 30-month end-to-end process to produce a local plan, supported by three Gateway stages. This is intended to accelerate plan adoption and achieve universal coverage of up-to-date Local Plans across England. There is a significant cost associated with this new Local Plan process (approx £2.5 million) but numerous advantages, including: strong plan-led control over development; responding to higher housing needs; addressing key infrastructure constraints; demonstrating a five-year housing land supply, and avoiding the risks of speculative development. The final guidance on this new local plan process has not yet been published and is expected this summer.
•To note: Stroud district's minimum local housing need will rise to at least 820 dwellings per annum, a significant 33% increase over the 620 dwellings per annum used for the submitted 2021 draft Local Plan. At the same time, the draft Local Plan is still under examination, with the Planning Inspectors currently consulting with the local councils and National Highways about the M5 Junction 12 and 14 corridors. This examination and any final report will stretch well into 2026 and overlap with the new Local Plan preparation.
•Gloucestershire council reorganisation Council noted the SDC formal responses to two recent consultations:

- •Government Consultation on Local Government reorganisation in Gloucestershire; SDC is strongly in favour of a single unitary authority
- •Joint response to Government Consultation on Areas for producing Spatial Development Strategies states that Gloucestershire's devolution journey should lead to membership of the West of England Combined Authority, and that Gloucestershire should form a single foundation strategic authority as a pre-cursor to joining the West of England Combined Authority.

•Committee meeting format and deadline for public questions Council approved changes to its constitution:

- •At the Development Control Committee, for public speaking and parish presentations to take place before the Planning Officer's introduction, so technical issues raised during public participation can be better addressed.
- •To give a longer deadline for the submission of public questions - so that questions can be submitted up to 3 clear working days ahead of the meeting (previously 4 clear working days).

•Equality, Diversity, Inclusion, Equity and Belonging Annual Report - Approved the annual report and action plan and the formal addition of the socio-economic duty to the Council's policy to better address financial inequality. This follows successful progress on accessibility and engagement initiatives last year. It was agreed that neurodiversity would also be considered in future.
•Ubico business plan - Ubico is the council-owned company which delivers environmental services (including bin collection) across Gloucestershire and West Oxfordshire. The business plan notes the company's expansion into Wiltshire, and and the launch of a new five-year roadmap focused on operational efficiency, fleet decarbonisation, and preparation for Local Government Reorganisation. The plan prioritises growth while enhancing safety, digital transformation, and community partnerships across Gloucestershire.
•Canal project - Agreement that the Chief Executive, in consultation with group leaders, and subject to appropriate risk assessment, will enter into the Heads of Terms agreement for a lease with National Highways to operation of a new section of the Stroudwater Canal beneath the M5 Motorway.
•Video recording (203 views) Council - Thursday 30 April 2026

Other news
•Climate and Nature briefing - a new 50 minute film, the People's Emergency Briefing, which sets out the key information everyone needs to know about the climate and nature emergency (particularly councillors), is being screened at venues across our local area. I am interested in screening this in Severn Ward and looking for the most suitable venue.
•Recycle more at home: we're now collecting toothpaste tubes and brown (but not black) plastic plant pots https://www.stroud.gov.uk/news/recycle-more-at-home-we-re-now collecting-toothpaste-tubes-and-plastic-plant-pots/
•New £5 bulky waste collections for eligible residents https://www.stroud.gov.uk/news/new-5-bulky-waste-collections-for-eligible residents-1/
•Community climate and nature grants - new round now open https://www.stroud.gov.uk/news/new-round-of-community-climate-and-nature grants-now-open/
•Renters Rights Stroud District Council prepares residents for major changes under the Renters Rights Act https://www.stroud.gov.uk/news/stroud-district-council-prepares residents-for-major-changes-under-the-renters-rights-act/
•Music in the Park - returns to Stratford Park this May https://www.stroud.gov.uk/news/music-in-the-park-returns-to-stratford-park-this may/
•No Mow May Residents encouraged to take part https://www.stroud.gov.uk/news/leave what-you-can-residents-encouraged-to-take-part-in-no-mow-may/

070526 **To note work is ongoing to respond to the appeal submitted by PACE following refusal of planning application S.25/1011/FUL (Wheatenhurst Solar Farm) by Stroud District Council Development Control Committee on 2 December 2025.**

Signed / Date



- Responses to the Appeal need to be submitted no later than 20th May following the link providing on the Appeal notification.
- The Parish Council are working through the Appeal documents and will be submitting a response.
- A hearing date has not yet been confirmed.

The Parish Council will continue to liaise with the case officer and monitor progress of the appeal.
District Cllr Shannon clarified some details about the planning application and appeal including bridge weight limits and the weight restrictions, traffic management, omitted weights and compliance. County Cllr Davies is conversing with the Highways Department about weight restrictions. The Chairman passed on the Councils thanks to all involved in responding to the Appeal, especially Tim, Sonia, Dave and Dave.
Action: Clerk to enquire as to the date of the hearing, who could attend and is it possible to see submissions following the Appeal.

County Cllr S Davies left the meeting at 20:10

080526 **Planning Applications**

Application Number: S.26/0602/FUL
Location: Land Parcel, Priding, Saul, Gloucestershire.
Application Type: Full Planning Application
Description: Erection of detached dwelling and garage, formation of new vehicular access and associated works
Respond by date: 22.05.2026
Following a lengthy discussion including flooding, pluvial flood plain characteristics, concerns over infill if planning approved, level 4 in settlement hierarchy, the Council voted to request refusal.
Proposed, seconded with all in favour

Planning Decisions

Application Number: S.26/0148/FUL The Coach House, Framilode, Gloucester, Gloucestershire.
Description: Change of use of disused nursery (Class E) to a self-build dwelling (Class C3) and erection of a first-floor extension
Decision: Awaiting decision

Dist Cllr M Shannon and members of the public left the meeting.

090526 **To formally adopt the following regulations and policies** – the policies were circulated to the Councillors prior to the meeting for their consideration
- Standing Orders
- Financial Regulations
- Code of Conduct

Proposed, seconded with all in favour

100526 **To consider and adopt the following policies** – the policy have been circulated to the Councillors prior to the meeting for their consideration
- Data Protection Statement
- Privacy Notice - General
- Privacy Notice - Staff, Councillors and Role Holders

Proposed, seconded with all in favour

110526 **To discuss and resolved for adoption by the Council,** the Health and Safery Policy has now been amended and Councillors included in the statements. This has been circulated to the Councillors for consideration.The amendments having been actioned the Council approved the policy.
Proposed, seconded with all in favour

120526 **Clerks report – to update on actions raised at the March meeting and other matters arising**.
- All policies listed on the April in agenda items 120425 and 160426 have been updated
- The Annual Governance and Accounting Report 2025-26 has been submitted to the Internal Auditor, Iain Selkirk, for review.
- Banking signatories have been resubmitted, the Clerk is now waiting for the confirmation letters.
- Weed Suppressant has been installed on allotment 1a (Mares Tail).
- An email has been sent to the Memorial Hall Committee requesting an informal meeting to discuss issues relating to the Playing Field.
- Residents of Park View and allotment tenants have been notified either by letter or email about the work to be carried out to the entrance of the allotments – 11th & 12th June.
- There has been a request for a skip for allotment tenants to clear rubbish from their allotments. If Council approve this, to consider getting a closed skip to avoid non-allotment items being put in. The need for a skip was discussed; it was agreed that an 8 yd closed skip would be hired, available times managed between Cllr Jeffries and the Clerk. **Proposed, seconded with all in favour.**

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- Concerns raise about one of the Oak trees planted at the Memorial Hall Playing Field, the top half appears to have died. Guidance has been given by Chew Valley Trees as to how best to manage this, they also point out that the stakes and ties need to be installed to support the tree until it is more mature. This was discussed including the suggestion of laying mulch mats around the trunks of the trees. Cllr Bearman has agreed to refill the IBC so the trees can be watered during dry periods. Purchase of mulch mats approved. **Proposed, seconded with all in favour.**

130526 **Finance: To approve the following payments in accordance with the budget.**
Supporting documents have already been sent to councillors.

Payee	For	Amount
Clerk	Administration inc wages for May '26	£409.64
Severn Grass Services S Robbins	Parish Maintenance inv 506	£385.06
GALC (Glos Assoc Local Clls)	LGR and Devolution Training inv 1669	£50.00
GALC	Better Councillor Training pt 1 inv 1643	£45.00
Iain A Selkirk FCA	Internal Audit 2025-26	£170.00

Proposed, seconded with all in favour

To ratify payments made, and income received, between meetings

Post Office	Posting Internal Audit paperwork	£3.95
Amazon	Weed Suppressant & Pegs for allotment 1a	£64.58

Proposed, seconded with all in favour

Received

Stroud District Council	first payment of the Precept 2026-27	£9000.00

To review and approve May 2026 bank reconciliation and accounting spreadsheet. These have already been circulated to the Councillors.
Proposed, seconded with all in favour

140526 **To receive an update on the proposals and considerations for the disused Section of the Stroudwater Canal at Upper Framilode:**

- The Invitation to Tender has been updated and is being sent out to companies.
- To discuss work which can be carried out in the next few months.
- Emails have been sent to the consultees re an informal meeting to discuss progressing work, contracts and funding.

The possibility of bringing together a group of people to help with clearance of areas surrounding the canal was discussed and will be progressed by Cllrs Brown and Lever.
Action: Cllr Bierer to research solar pumps for pumping water into the canal.

150526 **To resolve and sign the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025/26 (AGAR)**
The Annual Governance and Accountability Return having been previously circulated to the councillors for their consideration.
Proposed, seconded with all in favour

160526 **To resolve and sign the Accounting Statements 2025/26**
The accounting statements have been previously circulated to the councillors for their consideration.
Proposed, seconded with all in favour

170526 **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 9th June 2025 and 20th July 2026.
Proposed, seconded with all in favour

The Chairman passed a motion to extend the meeting.
Proposed, seconded with all in favour.

180526 **To resolve to purchase a further supply of dog poop bags for the dispenser located at the Memorial Hall Playing Field.** Each 'case' is £28.20 + vat, previous order in November '24 was for three cases. There will be a delivery charge. Following discussion, it was agreed three cases should be purchased.
Proposed, seconded with all in favour

190526 **Exclusion of Press and Public –** To resolve that, due to the commercially confidential nature of the business to be transacted then by virtue of the Local Government Act 1972 Section 100A and Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A (commercially sensitive information), that the press and public be excluded.
The information having been circulated to the Councillors prior to the meeting, this was discussed and approved.
Proposed, seconded with all in favour.

200526 **Date of next meeting 24th June 2026.**

Signed / Date

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Meeting closed at 21:12

Signed: 24-06-2026

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