FRETHERNE WITH SAUL PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting of Fretherne with Saul Parish Council held at Saul Memorial Hall at 19:00 pm on Wednesday, 9th September 2026

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

In attendance: Dist Cllr M Shannon

Members of the Public: Seven members of the public attended.

Agenda

EOM010926 **To receive apologies for absence -** Cllr Jeffries submitted her apologies. It was proposed to accept the apologies. Proposed, seconded all in favour.

EOM020926 **Declarations of Interest on the Agenda –** None declared

EOM030926 **Visit to SPiCE Community Enterprise at Stonehouse –** Councillors and Clerk have visited the site to understand the commitment and Community involvement in a similar project.- Cllr Brown and the Clerk visited SpICE which is on the site of the The Ship Inn, Stonehouse. Much progress has been made to clear the very overgrown site which is being developed by a group of volunteers into a Community space and on a very limited budget so far. Lot's of interesting ideas, some of which can be evolved for the Upper Framilode site. Community events are run during the better months. Having spoken at length with one of the project leaders, they are happy to offer further advice.

EOM040926 **Pumping into the canal** – a clear understanding of the issues this summer heatwave has created and a discussion of what steps need to be put into place in the future

- **A brief explanation of the core issues this summer** – this included the steps that had to be covered to try to get permission to pump – pump hire, access permission, Highways access, licences from both Highways and the Environment Agency, all failed when the Insurance refused cover. The explanation also included an explanation of the LEP (Local Enforcement Position) granted by the EA does not cover that area.
- **Identifying an alternative location to pump from** – this will need access both to the River Frome and the canal (preferably without crossing the road or exposing the equipment to unnecessary risk of theft or vandalism) – this was discussed at length, consideration was given to land ownership and access to both the River Frome and the disused canal. A member of the public made a proposal, thank you, but the variation to the EA's pumping permission is for another stretch of the river.

Action: Clerk to enquire about Land Ownership. Cllr Brown to enquire with adjacent land owners about access.

- **Environment Agency – applying for a permanent variation to the Abstraction Licence.** This will be done once an alternative location is established. It needs to be stressed that access will potentially be required annually.
- **To discuss the possibility of using a solar pump within the limitations of the Abstraction Licence** – volume, location, period – siting a solar pump would need a permanent position. Again land owners would need to permit this being placed, would need to agree to access to monitor water abstraction and for checks. This will be followed up once a permanent location is established.

EOM050926 **To discuss feedback from the Invitations to Tender –** in response to further questions raised at the July meeting, response has been received. Clerk to give update. Also to be discussed, any other limitations which could affect the work to be carried out by contractors before final decision on awarding the Tender. - *The feedback from the preferred Tender submission*

1. *The Tender costs were purely for the removal of vegetation; some associated silt will come out with the roots.*
2. *It is possible to create 'islands' and back fill with silt but in terms of cost, it would be a significant amount to install the islands with a very small amount of silt to infill them. The silt used would have little if any impact on the volume of silt in the watercourse.*

The most obvious, and pressing, limitation is the access to the canal for equipment but the PC will work to resolve that as quickly as is possible.

EOM060926 **To discuss the Parish Council proposal to work on the canal and the steps required to initiate funding –**

- Cllr Brown and Lever & Clerk have had online discussions with both GRCC and Cllr Lever and the Clerk have had in person meeting with the SDC Community Engagement Officers. Their recommendation was that before any funding applications could be made, it was important to establish community and business engagement, provide proof that this was of interest a benefit to the community and to the area. A Community Consultation meeting was the best way to do this and to distribute a questionnaire to capture peoples thoughts.
- To discuss the arrangements which will need to be put in place to move this forward

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- date for the Community Consultation meeting – ***proposed date is 24th September 2026***
- a Venue – ***the preferred venue is St Peters but this depends on availability***
- Presentation slides of
  - the history of the area,
  - the concept – staged clearing of the reeds and self-set willows
  - the involvement – volunteers from the Community, local businesses, Educational institution, Councils
  - the vision – information boards, benches, clear towpath – ***these are already prepared and can be printed as a display.***
- Questionnaire – a draft questionnaire was shared with the SDC CEO and has since been updated. To discuss if this should be used at the meeting and/or delivered to all households in the Parish – ***Again, this is already prepared and has been reviewed but the SDC Community Engagement Officer.***
- Invitation to residents, visitors, businesses, education centres, and how to manage all parties expectations at the meeting – does it require two meetings? – ***It was decided that one meeting from 2pn – 8pm was a better format and then people could drop in through the day when it is convenient to them. A flyer will be delivered to households in the Parish, letters of invitation will be sent to businesses, education centres and authorities.***
- Advertising the Community Consultation – website, social media, leaflet (budget).

Action: Clerk to draft letters of invitation and circulate to Councillors for approval. Clerk to also looking into printing costs.

EOM070926 **Applications for funding –** these will need to be coordinated and managed. Cllr Butler has been looking at possible funding streams. Cllr Butler will give a summary of what is available to date and from who including

- Grass Roots Neighbourhood funding
- Public donation (Clerk to explain)

Cllr Butler has looked into numerous funding sources from Natural England to Greggs. There are some funding sources that do not apply for Parish Councils such as Biffa whilst other companies do funding on a Crowdfunding basis such as Severn Trent. Dist Cllr Shannon suggested that the PC should look at Stroud District Council's Funding which she thinks the PC's project would be perfect for – there is an online presentation tomorrow evening. Generally, funding is available for this kind of project, but the PC needs the information gained from a Community Engagement Event to start applying for funding.
As the PC has no tools for volunteers to use, the Clerk suggested applying to Gloucestershire County Council's Grass Root Neighbourhood Funding scheme for funding for tools – would this be an appropriate application.
Action: Clerk to circulate details of the link to SDC's Space Hive presentation. Clerk to ask Cty Cllr Davies if he would support an application for tools.

19:55 Six members of the public left the meeting.
20:00 Dist Cllr Shannon left the meeting.

EOM080926 **To identify important areas of concern**

- Access to the canal – *access for volunteers can be gained from the towpath. Access for large equipment such as Truxors is very limited without landowner permission.*
- Disposal of the reeds and trees removed from the canal
  - Ways in which the material can be disposed of in a responsible way which is not to the detriment of the canal or its historic characteristics. – *The vegetation could be put into a skip and removed from site, vegetation as restricted as silt removal. Consider hiring a skip for removal but need to establish where the skip could be left. This does not need to be immediately adjacent to the canal. Concern was also raised about areas of the towpath which have growth from hedges and brambles intruding onto the walking space.*
- Understanding the leak to the canal, where it is and possible solutions.- *whilst it is of importance to understand where the leak is or if the canal is leaking, restoration of the dam will greatly improve water levels in the west side of the canal.*
- Clearing the overflow pipe and establishing this was not damaged during the work on the River Frome bank. Discuss the best way to do this. – *Clearing the canal end of the pipe is something for the Volunteer work party. May be able to confirm the structure of the outlet pipe into the River Frome from the opposite bank.*
- Repairing the dam which will include clearing the reeds which someone has dumped there. – *This is a priority and something which the Volunteer Group can start working on.*
- Silt is a major concern in the canal and needs due consideration on how to manage it
  - One tender covers the removal of silt but has little explanation of cost of disposal. This is due to limited sites to dispose of, distance involved and reluctance to carry out a site visit without some guarantee of the tender so cannot estimate the extent of the work.
  - Some silt will be removed in the extraction of reeds
  - A consideration to dispose of the silt is using Siltex. This is widely used in fishing ponds, chalk based and safe to all forms of wildlife.

A full discussion regarding the massive silt problems in the channel, the high cost to remove it, and whether it is contaminated from historic use. It was agreed that the silt needs to be tested before any steps to further understand the ways in which any silt removed can be disposed of. An initial budget of £1000 was agreed for silt testing. Proposed, seconded with all in favour.

Signed / Date 28-09-2026

Action: Clerk to look into skip hire costs. Cllrs Brown and Bierer to discuss access with a landowner. Cllrs Bearman and Brown to establish the location of the overflow pipe Frome side. Cllr Butler to look into the cost of silt testing. Clerk to write to landowner about the brambles and hedging being trimmed.

EOM090926 **Work to the towpath –** Cllr Lever and the Clerk have had a meeting with the GCC PROW officer (Public Rights of Way) to discuss what help is available to update the towpath. Cllr Lever and Clerk to give feedback. *At the meeting, the condition along the length of the PC owned towpath was reviewed, the east end towards Saul Junction is mostly earth with some gravel consistency. The west length is grass interspersed with areas which historically have been gravelled (small areas of this still exists). It was agreed that to put a solid path along the length of the tow path would detract from the character of the setting, however, some areas could be pea gravelled with a low-profile retaining gravel board to make the ground more even especially where roots are. At the east end of the path, the PROW officer is happy to remove the planks and replace with gravel and graduate the slope. This will be funded by the PROW budget. Unfortunately, the PROW budget has no further funds in this financial year to help with other areas of the towpath.*

21:00 The Chairman proposed a motion to extend the meeting. Proposed, seconded with all in favour.

EOM100926 **To discuss volunteer work to be done in September** – volunteers interest to be advised by the Clerk. To discuss the work to be done. – *After discussion it was agreed that various jobs across the canal could be included for the first work party, these include clearing the surface of the overflow pipe, strimming sections of high grass growth along the canal towpath (in sections to minimise disruption to wildlife), work on the west end of the canal to clear some of the willow regrowth and vegetation after the spring clearing, remove sections of the wooden stakes as there are areas where these are collapsing and give a false sense of where the edge of the towpath is.* **Action:** Clerk to contact those who have already volunteered to work on the canal, hoping they will be able to bring some tools along. A post to go out on the Facebook page inviting more people to help.

21:05 Member of the public left the meeting

EOM110926 **To resolve that pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Section 1(2),** the press public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of this item due to information relating to the financial or business affairs of tender companies.

To discuss: Correspondence received

It was agreed that the response should be a simple thank you, comments have been read and noted.
Action: Clerk to respond to the correspondence.

EOM120926 **To formally approve the Conclusion of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2025-26** by the external auditors, PKF Littlejohn and agree the dates of the Notice of Conclusion of Audit. – The Clerk explained the External Auditors comments on the Conclusion of Audit and the amended items on Section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return. The Clerk also explained the Notice of Conclusion of Audit would be posted immediately after the meeting. Councillors approved the Auditors findings on the Conclusion of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025 – 26 and the Notice of Conclusion. Proposed, seconded with all in favour.

EOM130926 **Date of next meeting 30th September 2026.**

Signed: 28-09-2026

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 c and any disability), Crime and Disorder, Health & Safety and Human Rights.

Signed / Date

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Minutes of the Meeting of Fretherne with Saul Parish Council held at Saul Memorial Hall at 19:00 pm on Wednesday, 24th June 2026

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

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

Members of the Public: Two members of the public attended.

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

Agenda

010726 **To receive apologies for absence –** Cllr Bearman submitted his apologies, and Cllr Bierer had notified the Clerk he was going to be a little late joining the meeting. Cllr Bearman's apologies were accepted. Proposed, seconded all in favour.

020726 **Declarations of Interest on the Agenda –** no declarations of interest were declared.

030726 **To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 24th June 2026.** The minutes were resolved as an accurate record of the meeting. Proposed, seconded with all in favour.

040726 **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 Member of the Public asked if there was a response to the point raised at a previous meeting regarding weight restrictions on the canal bridges being reduced. Cty Cllr Davies advised that the limits have been reviewed, there are no plans to amend the weight limits on any of the bridges. One point to note, the bridge on Whitminster Lane is presently on a restricted weight limit but this will be revised following the work for the Missing Mile and the weight limit will be lifted. The Member of the Public asked if the weight restrictions were to be enforced? Cty Cllr S Davies explained that this was not GCC Highways responsibility, it was the police's who could enforce that. He did suggest contacting the PCSO to discuss, Cty Cllr S Davies can speak to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

050726 **To receive a report from County Councillor Stephen Davies** - Cllr S Davies update the Parish Council on the news of Gloucestershire becoming a single unitary authority. Interesting because there are no other single authorities, who have been through this process last time or this time, that did not get split. This is great news because if you look at the key spending departments across Gloucestershire – Adult Social Care, NHS, Joint Services and Highways are all run as single authorities. Any other decision would have had the county in deficit. The challenge now is making it work, real challenge as a bigger council when there are no district councils representing local opinion, talk about Severn Voice being a right way to do that. The next steps will be deciding on the combined authority, will Gloucestershire join the West of England (an already established combined authority) or join with Herefordshire and Worcestershire – this will be a Government decision. There will be a shadow council in place by May 2027. In May 2027 there will be elections for a Shadow Council, the county will be divided as it is now but there will two candidates per division instead of one as there is now. In the first term of the Council, the Boundary Commission will adjust the Boundaries. In May 2028 the District Council and Councillors will be disbanded.
Trading Standards have seized 20,000 toys.
Grass Root Neighbourhood funding needs to be spent before the May elections, applications need to be in by January 2027. Any organisation who requires some funding, please get in touch with Cty Cllr Davies.
Locally, GCC Highways Manager is chasing the yellow lines completion, Sandfield Bridge – Stephen is pushing for a resolution to this is in place for when the nesting season is over. Hoping to get the mirror at the end of Passage Road ahead of the rest of the work it is in with – replacing the 30mph repeaters.
Parking options by the canal are being looked at although the concern is that by resolving in Saul it will displace the vehicles somewhere else. Looking at the vehicles which appear to be permanently parked in laybys and parking areas.
Stephen has been pursuing the water levels with the Environment Agency re the Abstraction Licence. The Chairman thanked him for his involvement.
Tim has been liaising with Stephen re the Highways response to the solar farm application, Stephen has forwarded the details to the Chief Executive of GCC and has a call with her planned for the morning.

Cty Cllr Davies also received thanks from a Member of the Public for funding for St Peters heating project.

060726 **To receive a report from District Councillor Moya Shannon –** Top of the list is the new Local Plan and the strategic opportunities, key issues and priorities workshop. Each Parish will be allocated a planning officer to go through the Local Plan. The Community Governance review was launched on the 17th July, this is affecting

Frampton on Severn and a number of other local parishes. A play strategy consultation is taking place, the window for commenting closes on 10th August. Dist Cllr Shannon has carried on working on the tow path project mentioned at the last meeting. There has been a meeting with Rebecca Charley, SDC, and Reece Williams from CaRT and Paul Burnside, Frampton on Severn PC. This is reliant on getting funding through SDC's CIL funding pot. Reece Williams has advised that CaRT have not got any funding available, but they can project manage, provide labour and engineering advice so 'match funding' in kind what can be raised financially.
At last nights DCC, there were four planning applications discussed; one from Arlingham. Interesting detail, once the Inspector had had their say, there was nothing that could be done about it other than go to judicial review. Arlingham do not have a Neighbourhood Plan which was a hindrance.
Stroud District Council have got some tough budgetary decisions to make, no savings made on operational costs but there are going to be cuts made elsewhere. These are due to come to committee to be discussed in September. The old Local Plan has been invited to a hearing possibly sometime in August, then a report will be received hopefully in October. One question is can SDC deliver the housing has been allocated in view of the problems with jcts 12 and 14 and most likely 15. If it is not possible, where is the evidence that they can deliver the amount of housing that they have now been allocated under the new Local Plan.
The Lido is still on track; Culture grants are opening on 24th August closing on 5th October.

19:25 Cty Cllr left the meeting.

070726 **To discuss Stroud District Councils New Local Plan 2026 'Help Share the Future of Stroud District' consultation and parish registration.**

19:40 Dist Cllr Shannon left the meeting

080726 **To review Stroud District Councils Parish and Town Council Charter,** to resolve whether Fretherne with Saul Parish Council should adopt the Charter. – This Charter was discussed it was widely agreed that it appeared to be a box ticking exercise. One small point at the beginning of the Charter needed to be clarified with Stroud District Council – the Parish Council is not responsible for the bins pr road safety matters. It was agreed to adopt the Charter. Proposed, seconded with all in favour.
Action: Clerk to advise Stroud District Council re the reference to bins and road safety.

090726 **Planning Applications**
Application Number: S.26/1184/FUL
Location: St Peters Church, Framilode, Gloucester, Gloucestershire.
Application Type: Full Planning Application
Description: Installation of an electric air-to-air heat pump system and erection of a shed.
Respond by date: 31.07.2026
The application was discussed fully, there was some slight concern about noise from two air-to-air heat pumps but Council agreed that there was no objection to the application. Proposed, seconded with all in favour.

19:45 Two members of the public left the meeting.

Planning Decisions
Application Number: S.26/0602/FUL Land Parcel, Priding, Saul, Gloucestershire.
Description: Erection of detached dwelling and garage, formation of new vehicular access and associated works
Decision: Awaiting decision

100726 **The Chairman will move the adoption of the following resolution; that under the Local Government Act 1972 and Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) 1960, Council delegates the planning responses, between the dates 30st July to 24th September 2026, to the Clerk in consultation with the Parish Councillors via email.** Some planning applications have limited respond by dates or are circulated during a period when there are no planned parish council meetings. In this instance, the planning application will be circulated to the Councillors by email, reviewed and responses sent to the clerk. The Clerk will then respond to the planning application on the SDC website. The response will be formalised at the September 2026 meeting. However, contentious planning applications will need to be discussed at a formal meeting where members of the public are able to raise points. – This was agreed. Proposed, seconded with all in favour.

110726 **To discuss the Play Inspection Company Ltd inspection report following the Councils walk around the Memorial Hall Playing Field inspecting the equipment.** Each piece of equipment has been reviewed in light of the report, this will now be discussed and next steps agreed. An informal meeting with the Memorial Hall Committee was held on 23rd July. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss matters pertaining to the playing field and equipment, strengthening a working relationship with the Memorial Hall Committee to maintain and, where possible and agreeable, improve the facilities. Cllrs Brown and Butler to report. - One member of the Memorial Hall Committee attended the meeting with Cllrs Brown & Butler and the Clerk. This meeting was to build a working relationship with the Committee and establish if there is anyway the PC can help them (but the PC is not an endless pot of money). Do they have a schedule of for work on the equipment, could between the two bodies work out a schedule? A discussion re what maintenance work was needed including on the PC equipment; various questions were asked around MH insurance, activities on the playing field, dogs on the playing field/signage, Memorial Hall website and email address. The final question put to the MH was are the PC falling short of supporting you – no! The discussion then moved to the Parish Councils equipment which was

inspected by Cllrs Butler and Brown and the Clerk. It was explained that some maintenance was needed on the PC equipment but could be done by someone who is happy to do maintenance. Would any of this be covered by applying for Grass Root Neighbourhood funding. The possibility of a work party to do jobs on the playing field – the raised beds, the pond, the fruit tree area etc. The Clerk reminded everyone that the land belongs to the Memorial Hall and they would need to be consulted before working party's could be arranged, proposed a work schedule to them.

Action: Clerk to resend the play equipment report and a list of which play equipment belongs to the Parish Council and which is the Memorial Halls. Cllr Butler to contact the dog warden re dog fouling notices. Clerk to advertise for a Maintenance agreement. Cllr Butler to draft a work schedule for a work party.

120726 **Clerks report – to update on actions raised at the May meeting and other matters arising**.

- Declaration of Vacancy was reported to the Monitoring Officer and Stroud District Council Democratic Services. The Formal notice of Vacancy has been placed on the Parish notice boards, website and a post on social media.
- In light of the Declaration of Vacancy, the Monitoring Officer has advised that the formal complaint has been closed but will be kept on file for a further six months for records.
- The trees at **Upper Framilode Pound** have been reduced and the ivy stripped out of them. However, the buddleia at the end of the Pound is very overgrown and requires considerable reduction. Severn Vale Trees have been asked for a quote to complete the work.
- The next **Severn Voice** meeting is on August 12th, are there any matters arising that Fretherne with Saul would like adding to the agenda. A spokesperson from the Council will need to attend the meeting to present any points raised.
- The yellow lines along Church Lane to Sandfield Bridge have been repainted. The contractors will return in the next couple of weeks to complete the work.
- The work on the Jubilee bench at the end of the Playing Field is still to be completed. Council to discuss revisiting the quotes to complete the work.

A quote of £130 to reduce the buddleia has been received. This was proposed, seconded with all in favour.
Points to be raised at the Severn Voice meeting are around the domesticising of areas along the canal bank by boat owners and parking issues along adjacent roads/lack of parking available in CaRT carpark.
Can the PCSO request enforcement once the yellow lines are painted?

Action: Cllr Lever will chase up the work on the bench. Clerk to contact the PCSO re enforcement and other matters in the Parish.

130726 **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 Pay July '26	£409.64
Clerk	Admin inc Pay August '26 (to be paid August)	£409.64
JRB Enterprises	Dog Poop bags for the Playing Field dispenser	£100.74
Severn Vale Trees	Reduction of trees on Upper Framilode Pound	£150.00
Severn Grass Services	Village Maintenance inv 516	£385.06

Proposed, seconded with all in favour

To ratify payments made, and income received, between meetings

Water Plus July '26	Allotments	£58.14
W Douce	Refund of annual rent and part bond refund	£75.00
GCC Highways	Occupation Licence	£125.00
Work Place Depot Ltd	Pipe Protectors – Ramps	£549.74
Aspli Safety Ltd	Ramp warning Signs	£96.83

Proposed, seconded with all in favour

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

To receive an update on Business Banking – The Clerk and RFO gave an update on the Terms of the Commercial Instant Access Account which has changed name and terms recently making funds more accessible.

140726 **To discuss matters pertaining to the allotments.**

- Four allotments have recently been returned to the Parish Council, three have already been taken by new tenants.
- An 8-yard closed skip has been hired for the allotments for a two-week period.
- The raised beds remain untenanted following their return to the PC, Councillors to consider reducing the cost of the raised beds to attract new tenants or consider making them a community led project.
- The raised beds, due to not being tenanted, are now overgrown and weed ridden. The grass between them is unmown. Councillors to consider bringing them back to a presentable condition prior to being advertised.

After discussion it was agreed that the raised beds would be offered at two beds for £15 per rental year. It was also agreed that an advert could be placed for work to be done on the raised beds, removing rubbish, weeding, strimming, topping up and covering with weed suppressant. A budget of £500 was set for the work on the beds.

Signed / Date



Proposed, seconded with all in favour.
Action: Clerk to advertised the work on the raised beds.

150726 **Ecology and Biodiversity in our Parish –** To discuss the addition of the 'Ecology and Biodiversity in Our Parish' page on the website as circulated to the Councillors. This includes details about the diminishing number of toads as per the information provided by Toad Watch, the rewilding work at St Marys, Fretherne as well as areas around the rest of the Parish. Discussion on this point included tidying up the allotment pond. This was approved. Proposed, seconded with all in favour.
Action: Clerk to upload the page.

160726 **Defib Management & Training –** to agree a meeting to instruct all Councillors on the management of the defib, including the Clerk, to include regular checks and pad changes. A group training session is being looked into for interested members of the Parish – Cllr Jeffries & the Clerk to update. The Clerk has found two bodies inc South Western Ambulance Service re defib and CPR training, free of charge but do ask for a donation. GWAA also do training on the same basis – free but ask for a donation.
Action: Clerk to put a notice on the website and social media asking if there are any parishioners who would like to have training for this to establish the interest. Cllr Jeffries to arrange instruction for the Councillors in checking the defib and pads and completing reports and do a quick bullet point guide for checking the equipment. As well as registering someone else on the Council on the website.

170726 **To discuss the Village Maintenance contract –** The Chairman has been given informal notice that the Severn Grass Services will not be continuing the role of village maintenance after the end of this season.
Action: The Clerk will send out Invitation to Tender for the contract at the end of season.

The Chairman raised a motion to extend the meeting past the 21:00 finish time. Proposed, seconded with all in favour.

180726 **To receive an update on the proposals and considerations for the disused Section of the Stroudwater Navigation Canal at Upper Framilode:**

- To discuss the progress that has been made in arranging work to be carried out in the next few months
- Councillors have had an online meeting with GRCC (Gloucestershire Rural Community Council) re funding guidelines. Cllr Lever to give feedback
- To provide feedback from the meeting Cllr Lever and the Clerk had with Sarah, the Stroud District Council Community Engagement Officer. Cllr Lever to give feedback
- Both Community Engagement Officers recommendation was that before any funding applications could be made, it was important to establish community and business engagement, provide proof that this was of interest to the community and a benefit to the area. One way to do this was to hold meetings and complete a questionnaire. To discuss arranging this event and set a date.
- Solar pump information – Cllr Bierer to give update
- To discuss information provided by a member of the Parish pertaining to silt.
- To discuss the issues around pumping following this extended period of heat and no rain including addressing the Abstraction Licence.

To resolve that pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Section 1(2), the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of this item due to information relating to the financial or business affairs of tender companies.
To discuss:

- Tender pricing
- Strengths and weaknesses of tenders
- Commercial risks
- Recommendation of the preferred contractor.

Various aspects of the proposed work began to be discussed including the creation of islands in the channel. Access to the canal. Councillors agreed that the canal requires a full and robust discussion, it was proposed that an Extra meeting be arranged in early September to solely discuss all aspects of the canal. Proposed, seconded with all in favour.
Action: Clerk to circulate dates for the meeting, availability to be confirmed by the Councillors. To enquire about the creation of islands, removal of silt and to clarify the possible access limitations.

190726 **Council Performance Review -** To consider the Council's current performance in relation to communications, project delivery, attendance, and member participation, and to agree appropriate actions – The Council held a confidential discussion regarding councillor engagement and the responsibilities of members, including the importance of timely responses to correspondence and active participation in Council business. It was noted that effective administration of the Council is dependent upon councillors engaging with requests and providing information or responses within appropriate timescales. The Chairman clarified that the discussion was intended to address the general functioning of the Council and was not directed at any individual member . During the discussion, a councillor expressed concern regarding how some of the comments had been perceived. The matter was acknowledged and discussed appropriately. The Council agreed on the importance of clear communication and members fulfilling their responsibilities to enable the Clerk to carry out her role effectively.

Cllr Jeffries left the meeting at 10:05 pm

Signed / Date 28-09-2026

200726 **Date of next meeting 30th September 2026. –** there will now be an Extra Ordinary Meeting to discuss the disused section of the Stroudwater Navigation in early September, date to be confirmed.

Meeting closed at 10:20 pm

Signed: 28-09-2026

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 c and any disability), Crime and Disorder, Health & Safety and Human Rights.

Signed / Date