

**Minutes of the Stratton-on-the-Fosse Annual Parish Meeting
held in the Village Hall
on Monday 20 April 2015 at 7.30p.m.**

PRESENT: Councillors Mr John Padfield (Chair), Mrs J Davies, Mr A Norris, Mr M Daniels, Mr E Hall, Mr D Stock, Mrs C Bushill, Mr I Jackson, Mrs H Murtagh Mr Jeremy Padfield,.

IN ATTENDANCE: Dist Cllr R Carter, Mr Trevor Letcher, Clerk, Members of the Public.

1 APOLOGIES: Cllrs Mr M Daniels, CC Harvey Siggs, PCSO Housley.

2 MINUTES:

Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 28 April 2014 were approved as a true record and duly signed.

3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

There were none.

4 MATTERS ARISING:

There were none.

5 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

The Chairman stated that the main business at the monthly meetings was devoted to the day to day running of parish affairs. Dealing with local issues such as highway and footpath maintenance, lighting, village cleaning. Planning applications, updating information on the Council Website and supporting local activities within the parish.

Highways

The Parish Council is very concerned about the speed of traffic particularly in built up areas. Stratton suffered from several fatalities, due to high speed of traffic, 20 years ago. We fought for some scheme which could physically slow the traffic. Stratton's traffic calming scheme is not perfect, unfortunately there is an element of drivers who just disregard road signs and regulations. The Parish Council has approached SCC to join a scheme for Speed Indicators, which will be erected at both approaches of the village at intervals throughout the year to flash up vehicle speeds.

The Parish Council has had an enquiry to restart the Speed Watch Scheme. The Parish Council still has the speed gun, so if anyone is interested training can be given.

Footpaths

The Chairman thanked Trevor Letcher for taking on the role of Footpath Officer when Linda Gittings left the village.

Trevor's report states: The paths SM19 are in good shape. SM19/29 has recently been cleared of brambles. SM 19/45 has been very muddy during the Winter period, but is now walkable. Bristol gates have been erected on path SM 12/1 opposite Claire Cottage. The bridge on path SM 12/3 has been out of action for over one year and there is no report when it will be repaired.

Village Cleaning

Wayne Palmer has started his second year keeping the village clean and tidy as well as mowing the grass around the Community Gardens. The Parish Council appreciate the work that he does.

The Chairman also wished to thank Rachael Carter for organizing some of the students who litter picked around the village las year, but with the problems of “Health & Safety” they cannot continue.

Many thanks also to the large number of people who turned out last week for our annual Litter Pick which resulted in collecting about 40 bags of rubbish.

War Memorial

The Memorial is badly in need of a clean. As it was the anniversary of the start of WW1 the Parish Council has obtained quotations for it to be professionally cleaned and applied for a grant from the War Memorial Trust. The application was successful and the Parish Council now await to hear how much it will receive in June. The overall cost is in excess of £2,000.

Councillors

Councillors were devastated at the loss of two of their long serving Councillors:

Richard Jones’s contribution to this Council was invaluable, he could always be relied upon for sound advice and was Vice Chairman for many years and of course for his leadership as Chairman of the Village Hall Trust.

Bill Quinn will also be sadly missed as he was responsible in setting up the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and later to co-ordinate the Lengthsman Scheme which was part funded by SCC to keep the Village tidy. Bill was responsible for monitoring the jobs for the Lengthsman to undertake.

The Parish Council was already short of a number of Councillors and to lose both Richard and Bill was concerning; an appeal was made for volunteers to join the Council and it was with delight that co-option of five Councillors took place. (Eliot Hall, Helen Murtagh, Ian Jackson, Cathy Bushill and Grahame Downs).

Several of our Councillors and our Clerk have been ill, but hopefully all are progressing well now.

There will not be an election for this Parish Council as there were not an excess of nominations.

Dist Cllr Carter arrived at this point.

Web-Site

Malcolm Daniels is in charge of the village Web-site. The Chairman thanked him for keeping everyone informed of information from the different organizations. On his behalf the Chairman appealed for updated information.

Community Garden/Village Hall

The Parish Council continues its involvement with both the Village Hall and the Community Gardens, as they are very important in providing a great service to the whole community.

The Chairman ended by thanking Valerie for her work as Clerk during the past year and indeed for the past 12 years at least. The Chairman also thanked all of the Councillors for their attendance and participation in the business at the monthly meetings. He gave many thanks to Stratton's District and County Councillors Rachael Carter and Harvey Siggs and to PCSO Nikki Housley.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT:

- 6.1 The Clerk had submitted the Accounts for the Yr End 2014 to an Internal Auditor– Mr Keith Cockcroft – who had completed the check and was satisfied.
- 6.2 It was confirmed that the Audit for the Year End 2014 had been inspected and returned by the external Auditors Grant Thornton, who were satisfied with the Accounts.
- 6.3 The Clerk gave a detailed Financial Report of Income & Expenditure for the Financial Year 2014/2015. (Details of which were distributed to Councillors and those present at the Meeting).
- 6.4 The Audit for Yr End 31 March 2015 was now in progress and the Notice of Inspection had been placed on the Notice Board. The Accounts to be inspected by an Internal Auditor (Mr Ty Schlector). The Audit Return to be forwarded to Grant Thornton by 01 July 2015.
- 6.5 The Accounts were made available for inspection.

Barbara Jones arrived at this point.

7 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – None Received

8 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT – Rachel Carter

Rachel Carter gave a Report on the past year, acting as Stratton's District Councillor. Dist Cllr Carter stated that, although till teaching at Downside she was standing down as Housekeeper.

9 PCSO Housley – No Report received

10 FOOTPATH REPORT:

Mr Trevor Lector gave a report of his involvement with parish footpaths during the past year. The Chairman thanked him for his commitment in alerting the necessary bodies when necessary to keep Stratton's footpaths in good order.

11 REPORTS FROM VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS AND SCHOOLS:

The following Organisations and Schools presented very detailed and in-depth reports to the Meeting. A summary of which follows:

11.1 VILLAGE HALL TRUST – Rachel Broadway (read by Chairman)

The year began with the very sad loss of Richard Jones, he is as you can understand greatly missed. He had a soft spot for the Village Hall and the tarring of the Village Hall car-park was the last in a long line of improvements spearheaded by Richard. This has proved to be a great asset to the Village Hall users.

Suzanne Kingsberry is now the Chairman and is doing a fine job of leading the Committee. The VH bookings are still strong but bookings for the daytime are needed now that Mogghill Nursery School is no longer using our facilities. The hope is to attract exercise classes and more regular bookings. The Toddler Group sadly finished in January after running for 12 years. There is a weekly Zumba class, Slimming World, Karate Club and a few band rehearsals, amongst others.

Last year funds were raised through the Village Day, Quiz nights and the regular Village Lottery. The Village Day will be held again this year and a quiz and ploughman's night is planned. The village monthly Lottery is also ongoing. A Race Night at the pub in July and a Quiz in November are planned.

Funds at the start of the Financial Year (August 2014) were £3,000 and the balance at present is £7,500

11.2 MSN RUGBY CLUB - Nigel Rowles(read by David Stock)

In his report Mr Rowles gave an update of the various sections of the Club:

1stxV: Had a poor first half of season but much better second half and was now halfway up new league – Southern Counties South. There were good young players coming through and making a difference at the highest level.

11ndXV: Struggled a bit but improving.

III/IVxV: Good results and good spirit – still running four teams.

The Junior Section was still very popular.

The purchase of extra land was ongoing – the grant not now feasible.

Mr Rowles invited anyone to visit the club to see the action!

11.3 COMMUNITY GARDENS – Jeremy Padfield

The Community Gardens continues to offer fantastic facilities for old and young. Many villagers as well as children from other neighbouring villages come to enjoy the park. Also a local special school that brings children in minibuses to play and enjoy the outdoor space in a safe environment.

A few minor works are being undertaken including topping up the asdug material on some of the paths as well as in the Silver Birch Coppice picnic area. Large Tractor tyres are to be filled with topsoil and anyone with a bit of spare time or interest in gardening would be welcome to help with planting or attending these planters. Also it is intended to keep the area at the bottom of the field tidier and wildlife friendly.

The Committee would like to thank two people who help to keep the community area looking clean, tidy and safe; Dave Stock who monitors and takes care of any litter issues and also

carries out a weekly safety check on all apparatus and Wayne Palmer who acts as the village Lengthsman, tending the grass etc. Also thanks to the Parish Council who pays for the Lengthsman's work.

11.4 CAM VALLEY WILDLIFE GROUP – Mrs Barbara Jones (read by the Chairman)

The Cam Valley Wildlife Group is continuing to make a positive contribution to the local area.

The Botany Survey walks have begun again with the coming of the lighter evenings and we will continue to monitor till September. It meets in various locations on Wednesday evenings. All records go into the National Botanical Atlas of Great Britain.

A full report on the Barn Owl project is in the latest Newsletter. In 2014 a record of 21 nesting pairs and 43 chicks were counted. The weather has been mild which is so helpful.

The group has approximately 180 members who receive Newsletters four times a year. Talks are also held at the Centurion Hotel.

11.5 ST JOHN & ST VIGOR – Headteacher (Read by Cathy Bushill)

A report detailing the activities and progress of the school during the past year was read out to the meeting.

12 SPEAKER:

Mr Trevor Letcher gave a very interesting and enlightening talk on future energy and climate change.

13 MATTERS OF REPORT & ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

13.1 The Chairman asked that all those who had given a Report submit a copy to the Clerk for reference.

13.2 The Chairman thanked all those present for attending and invited them to stay for a complementary glass of wine.

13.3 There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

CHAIRMAN _____ **DATE** _____