

**Minutes of the 865th Meeting of the Stratton-on-the-Fosse Parish Council
Held in the Village Hall on 19 May 2008**

PRESENT:	Councillors, John Padfield (Chairman) Richard Jones (Vice-Chair), Judy Davies, Alan Norris, Bill Quinn, Linda Gittings, Jeremy Padfield, David Stock,	
IN ATTENDANCE:	The Clerk, 3 members of the public.	
1	<p>ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON: <i>The Clerk opened the meeting by asking for nominations for a Chairperson.</i></p> <p>1.1 Cllr Norris proposed the outgoing Chairman Mr John Padfield and Cllr Stock seconded this proposal. 1.2 The Clerk asked if there were any other nominations – there were none. 1.3 A show of hands for John Padfield to act as Chairman was carried unanimously.</p>	ACTION
2	<p>DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Cllr John Padfield signed the Declaration of Office. <i>Cllr John Padfield took the Chair at this point.</i></p>	
3	<p>APOLOGIES: Councillors, Paul Phibben, Rosemary Martin, CC Gloria Cawood.</p>	
4	<p>MINUTES: Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 21 April 2008 were approved as a true record and duly signed.</p>	
5	<p>DECLARATION OF INTEREST: There were none.</p>	
6	<p>COUNCILLORS APPOINTED: Vice Chairman: Richard Jones Planning: Judy Davies, Alan Norris, Richard Jones. Street Cleaning: Bill Quinn Footpaths: Linda Gittings</p>	
7	<p>MATTERS ARISING: There were none other then topics that were already on the Agenda and the Clerk gave a report at that point.</p>	
8	<p>POLICE MATTERS: The PCSO was not available.</p>	
9	<p>PLANNING MATTERS: Ref: 110960/001 Location: Old Rock Farm Proposal: Erection of porch extension, single storey side ext, conservatory & roof ext Creating 3rd storey within rear roof valley. Because of the return date, the Planning Committee had looked at this and its findings had been forwarded to MDC. The Chairman read out the report. The comments sent to Mendip: <i>Recommend approval. The proposal will enhance the already attractive house. The upper floor windows are as the back of the house and not overlooked by anything or anybody. The house is set far back from the road.</i></p>	

	<p>Ref:076609/003 Location: Mendip View Proposal: Single storey rear & side extension & erection of double garage. Because of the return date, the Planning Committee had looked at this and its findings had been forwarded to MDC. The Chairman read out the report. The comments sent to Mendip: <i>The Parish Council wholeheartedly support this application and thinks it will improve the appearance of the property.</i></p> <p>Ref:109030/006AG Location: General Permitted Development Order Proposal: The Chairman read out to the meeting. This was for information purposes only.</p>	
10	<p>FINANCIAL MATTERS:</p> <p>10.1 The Clerk presented Councillors with the Audit Return for the Year End 2008. The Chairman read out Section 2 and, with all those present in agreement, completed the relevant boxes. The Clerk and Chairman then signed the form.</p> <p>10.2 The Clerk stated that the Audit Return and relevant documents would be delivered to Mr Keith Cockcroft who would, it had been agreed, perform the Internal Audit for 2008.</p> <p>10.3 The Invoice from Future-interactive for Hosting the Parish Web-site amounting to £84 was agreed by all present to be paid. Cheque no.000725</p> <p>10.4 The Annual Insurance Premium due on 01 June 2008 was discussed at length.</p> <p>10.5 It was confirmed that all Councillors and the Clerk were covered if on Parish Council business.</p> <p>10.6 The Clerk pointed out that although street furniture was covered – to cover the cost of replacing lamp-posts – if a bus shelter was erected than it would have to be added. The extra premium for this would be £13.33 for every £1,000.00 c/w tax.</p> <p>10.7 The Clerk also pointed out that if/when play equipment was installed then the same rate of extra premium would apply - £13.33 for every £1,000.00</p> <p>10.8 The Clerk would again try to obtain a quote for the re-build of the war memorial for insurance purposes. This is to ascertain whether the Allianz quote of £64,000 for insurance purposes is correct.</p> <p>10.9 The premium amounting to £980.78 was agreed by all to be paid. Cheque No.000724</p> <p>10.10 The Clerk reported that no monies for charity were given for the Year End 2008. Councillors asked the Clerk to bring any requests from charities to the next meeting.</p>	<p>Clerk Internal Auditor</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
11	<p>CHILDREN’S PLAYGROUND:</p> <p>11.1 A Parishioner spoke with great passion to the meeting about the need for a place in the village for youngsters to enjoy. The vision was for wooden play equipment within a natural setting incorporating flower beds which would be a place for young people and older people of the village to gather. It was to be sited on the Sports Field where the old equipment used to be.</p>	

	<p>11.2 The project was in the very early stages and the cost was not known as yet, but it was hoped to obtain the assistance of the District Councillor and the PCSO at a meeting to be held on 20 May 2008. Also it hoped that the Parish Council would support such a project.</p> <p>11.3 The Chairman stated that the problem of the proposed site was that to obtain funding the land needed to have a 10-15 year lease. Downside owned this land and in the past it was not willing to lease it. Although he stated that it was worth renewing the request.</p> <p>11.4 The speaker stated that although if sited on the Sports Field it would enhance the Village Hall, another possibility was the car park at the Royal British Legion. This would be more central within the village and, as the RBL was to close in October, the car park was leased from the Duchy. Councillors thought that it would be worth making enquiries.</p> <p>11.5 Cllr Jones felt that a portion of the monies given by the Parish Council to the Village Hall should go towards this project.</p> <p>11.6 Cllr Jeremy Padfield stated that some parishioners were dismayed that the Village Hall Committee had decided to spend £3,000 on tarmac and fencing the side of the Village Hall. This was a particular concern as a children's centre was being built at the school catering from babies to 11 year olds. Therefore the nursery might not be using the Village Hall premises.</p> <p>11.7 A resident living adjacent to the Village Hall spoke of his concern about removing the hedge and replacing it with a post and rail. He did not object to any work done, but was worried about the type of fencing as he had a small child and a gun dog. Also the hedge acted as a sound barrier. He suggested that a panel fence would be more appropriate. Cllr Jones stated that this was not the right place to discuss this matter and suggested that he should address the Village Committee which would be held in 3 weeks time.</p>	
12	<p>BUS SHELTER:</p> <p>12.1 The Chairman read out a Report from Cllr Quinn regarding the positioning of the proposed bus shelter. The suggestion being that it should be on the same side as the old bus shelter and could be used by those travelling in both directions. The pavement was deemed too narrow for a baby buggy to pass through with quarter end panels and therefore a shelter without end panels was needed.</p> <p><i>The Member of the Public left at this point 8.50 pm.</i></p> <p>12.2 Questions which were raised were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was there a penalty by the company installing the shelter if the site was not suitable? • Was Planning Permission necessary? • Did the Parish Council need the approval of Downside if shelter overhung their property? • Would MDC consider moving the pinch points at The Mead? 	

	<p>12.3 These points would be investigated at a later date after Councillors had looked at the proposed site. It was suggested that a representative from Downside was invited to the site meeting. The suggested date for the site meeting was Thursday 22 June 2008 at the Old Bus Stop. Initially the time was set for 7pm but it was thought during the day would suit Downside better.</p> <p>Member of the Public left Meeting at this point 9.05</p>	
13	<p>THE WILLOWS – TREES:</p> <p>13.1 The Clerk reported on the latest communication from MDC stating that the Plane tree would be cut back, the Ash would be felled and the two Willows would be pruned – all with the trees health in mind.</p> <p>13.2 The Clerk had been informed that the tree surgeon had been off sick and therefore the work schedule was behind and if the PC insisted on a site meeting than it could put the work back further. Although the Parish Council had originally wanted a site meeting, it was now thought best to waiver this request in order not to delay the work any further.</p>	Clerk
14	<p>CREATE HOUSE:</p> <p>14.1 The Clerk reported that nothing new had been forthcoming from Mendip regarding the progress of Create House since the last meeting.</p> <p>14.2 Mr Max Gridley of MDC had asked in his last e-mail what ideas the Parish Council had to improve the site. Councillors stated that the only improvement that could be made was to demolish the building. Cllr Norris stated his concern for the asbestos in the roof and the back gabled end.</p> <p>14.3 The Clerk to check on progress, and pass on the Parish Council’s comments, for the next meeting.</p>	Clerk
15	<p>HIGHWAYS:</p> <p>15.1 Cllr Gittings reported that the edge of the road – LH side towards Shepton Mallet 100yards past last chicane – was crumbling and was a danger to riders of bicycles and motor bikes.</p> <p>15.2 Also, although the verge had been cut at the White Post, it needed to be cut back more at the entrance to the footpath SM19/21.</p> <p>15.3 Brambles opposite Bainsbury View (LH side from Shepton Mallet) needed to be cut back as they were impeding the pinch point and therefore visibility.</p> <p>15.4 The Chairman reported that he had asked Brian Pike to cut the verge and that he had been seen fulfilling this task this evening. He would submit his Invoice in due course.</p>	Clerk Clerk Clerk
16	<p>STREET CLEANING:</p> <p>16.1 The Clerk was in receipt of an e-mail from Gloria Cawood which assumed that Stratton had been notified about the lengthmens scheme since the last meeting. The Clerk reported to Councillors that no contact had been made through her and that a message had been left for the Coleford Clerk asking for the latest information, but to date nothing had been heard. Cllr Quinn had also heard nothing about the scheme. The Clerk to make further enquiries.</p>	Clerk

	<p>16.2 St Vigor's churchyard was a mess and would soon need urgent attention. Councillors thought that this would be a good project for the lengthmens scheme.</p> <p><i>Cllr Judy Davies left the meeting at this point 9.30 pm</i></p>	
17	<p>CORRESPONDENCE: The correspondence was read and dealt with accordingly.</p> <p>3. Cllr Gittings would like to go on a training course.</p> <p>15. 2 Cllrs would like to attend- letter given to the Chairman. Andrew Freeman to be informed.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
18	<p>MATTERS OF REPORT AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING.</p> <p>18.1 Cllr Jones had received an e-mail reporting that the Parish Web-site had not been updated since May 2007. The Clerk stated that Minutes and Agendas had been sent on a regular basis to Andy Relf, but that at the APM he had mentioned that there had been trouble with his e-mail facility. Cllr Jeremy Padfield will contact Andy Relf to rectify the matter.</p> <p>18.2 It was reported that 4 cars had been damaged (keys dragged along bodywork) whilst in the Village Hall car park the previous Saturday afternoon. Councillors hoped that this had been reported to the PCSO.</p> <p>18.3 Cllr Jeremy Padfield reminded Councillors of the Open Farm Sunday in June. Any volunteer to help on the day would be welcomed.</p> <p>18.4 Complaints by resident of dog fouling on the Football Field had been received. It was verified that signs, stating No Dog Fouling, were in place and that there was a fixed penalty for this offence.</p> <p>18.5 The Clerk was instructed to put the following items on the Agenda: Charity funding – donations for Year End 2008.</p>	<p>Cllr Jeremy Padfield</p> <p>Clerk</p>
19	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING:</p> <p>19.1 The date of the next meeting will be on Monday 16 June 2008 at 7.45 p.m As the Chairman will be away on this date, the Vice-Chairman Richard Jones will chair the meeting.</p> <p>19.2 There being no other business the meeting finished at 9.50 p.m.</p>	

CHAIRMAN _____ DATE _____