

**Minutes of the 870th Meeting of the Stratton-on-the-Fosse Parish Council
Held in the Village Hall on 17 November 2008**

PRESENT:	Councillors, Mr R Jones (Vice-Chair), Mrs J Davies, Mr W Quinn, Mr D Stock, Mr A Norris, Mrs L Gittings, Mr Jeremy Padfield, Mr Paul Phibben, Mrs R Martin.	
IN ATTENDANCE:	The Clerk, Dist Cllr Gus Halfhide, 2 members of the Public	
	<i>The Lord's prayer was said as usual.</i>	ACTION
1	<p>APOLOGIES: Councillors, Mr John Padfield, CC Gloria Cawood.</p> <p><i>In the absence of Councillor John Padfield the Vice Chairman Mr Richard Jones will chair the Meeting.</i></p>	
2	<p>MINUTES: Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 20 October 2008 were approved as a true record and duly signed.</p>	
3	<p>DECLARATION OF INTEREST: There were none.</p>	
4	<p>MATTERS ARISING:</p> <p>4.1 Dist Cllr Gus Halfhide presented the parish maps that he had obtained from MDC, these being the largest that he could obtain.</p> <p>4.2 Dist Cllr Gus Halfhide reported on information he held on Web-sites. The Domain Name could be obtained from as little as £9 per year and Hosting the site, with 500 megre bites cost £4 per month equalling £48 per year.</p> <p>4.3 Item11.6 regarding Freedom of Information, the Clerk would bring the completed form to the next meeting.</p> <p>4.4 The Chairman was in procession of a quote from Syd's Agri & Garden Services for work on the extended burial ground at St Vigors. Councillors were informed that 2 quotes had been received and this was the cheapest and the contractor had been used by the Parish Council previously. The work quoted was for strimming the long grass and spraying re-growth, to rotervate and level, stone pick as required, seed and roll. The total amount, including all materials, labour and hire charges were for an estimated price of £395 plus VAT.</p> <p>4.5 Cllr Jones, due to the urgency of the work to be completed and the reasonable quote, had taken the decision to go ahead with the work and the contractor had already made a start. All Councillors present agreed that this was the correct decision and were happy that work had begun.</p>	Clerk
5	<p>POLICE MATTERS: There was nothing to report.</p>	
6	<p>CREATE HOUSE:</p> <p>6.1 The Chairman introduced Mr Gerry Scovell, the owner of the Stratton Motor Services and invited him to address the Meeting.</p> <p>6.2 Mr Scovell reported that he had purchased the property known as Create House as a business venture. The aim was to demolish the building and in due course the Parish Council would be presented with Planning Application.</p> <p>6.3 Mr Scovell understood that the vermin issue had been taken care of, but if any problems arose in the future he hoped to work with the Parish Council. With this in mind he would keep the Parish Council informed of future developments.</p>	

	<p>6.4 Dist Cllr Halfhide stated that he would contact MDC and let them know that Mr Scovell was the new owner.</p> <p>6.5 A proposal to drop the pursuit of Section 215 was taken and all Councillors present agreed.</p> <p>6.6 Mr Scovell stated that the electric, BT and water supply had all been addressed. Also the asbestos would be taken care of when needed – water needed to be sprayed when demolition took place. The Post Box might have to be relocated – hopefully nearby, but will also have to be closed during demolition for Health & Safety reasons.</p> <p>6.7 The Clerk had been informed by Mr Gridley of MDC that A Mr Fear had bought the property, but Mr Scovell reported that he had bought it from him.</p> <p><i>2 Members of the public left the Meeting at this point 8.15 pm.</i></p>	Dist Cllr Halfhide
7	<p>PLANNING MATTERS: The plans were on view and Councillors looked them over and then discussed.</p> <p><i>Permission granted:</i></p> <p>Ref: 030892/003 Mr D Golledge - Pitcot Cottage, SOF Conversion OF loft & insertion of 2 dormer windows.</p> <p>Ref: 107727/006 Mr M Winsley – Homeleigh, Pitcot Lane, SOF Area of land changed from agricultural use to residential with the addition of garage & agricultural machinery store & an area of land to change from residential to agricultural</p> <p>Ref: 076609/003 Mr S Fox - Mendip View, SOF Single storey rear & side extension & erection of double garage</p> <p>Ref: SM 19/40 part & SM 19/41 part – Flowers Cottage Public Path Diversion Order 2008</p> <p><i>Applications:</i></p> <p>Ref: 107727/007 Applicant: Mr Winsley Location: Homeleigh, Pitcot Lane Proposal: Replace existing conservatory with 2 & single storey extensions</p> <p><i>Councillors had viewed the site recently on a previous application. All Councillors present thought this to be a good idea – a natural progression – which could not be seen from the road.</i></p> <p>Ref: 1100221/032 & 032 Applicant: Trustees of Downside Abbey Location: Downside Abbey Bookshop Proposal: Alterations to building to provide café, increased bookshop area & additional facilities.</p> <p><i>All Councillors present thought this proposal to be a good idea, which would also tidy up the building.</i></p>	

8	<p>FINANCIAL MATTERS:</p> <p>8.1 The Clerk reported that the printer/photocopier, that the Parish Council had agreed to supply, had not yet been purchased. The Chairman suggested that the Clerk should go ahead and buy a suitable machine, but if the cost was to exceed £100 he should be contracted before purchase.</p> <p>8.2 The Clerk had not yet received the Invoice for the purchase of the Memorial Wreath.</p>	Clerk
9	<p>BUS SHELTER:</p> <p>9.1 The cheque from CC Gloria Cawood for the bus shelter had been received. Although the original amount was to be £2,000 the amount was now £2,600, due to extra monies being available, on the condition that the extra money was used towards a second bus shelter. The purchase of the original shelter could go ahead and the money carried forward to next year, although if not used for a bus shelter it will have to be returned.</p> <p>9.2 Cllr Quinn and Cllr John Padfield had met to check the distance from the kerb before placing an order. Also Cllr Quinn had met with Jeff Bunting from MDC to ascertain that the site was agreeable with Highways – the go ahead was given and the shelter ordered.</p> <p>9.3 The shelter from Queensbury is a Durham model in Holly Green with a 6mm thick polystyrene anti-graffiti coating and a wooden perch seat, flag bracket and info post unit, amounting to £2,484.20 ex Vat.</p> <p>9.4 Jeff Bunting will need to know when the shelter is in position for road markings to be put in place. This is estimated to be within 6-7 weeks.</p> <p>9.5 The Bus Company will need to know when the shelter is moved to its new site. Also a new timetable will have to be supplied.</p> <p>9.6 The order placed, although a Queensbury shelter, is not a model that MDC will adopt and maintain. Cllr Jones pointed out that the Parish now has a Lengths man for such tasks and the Clerk and the District Council thought that due to the financial climate this service from MDC might disappear shortly anyway</p>	(Jeff Bunting) Clerk Clerk
10	<p>HIGHWAY MATTERS:</p> <p>10.1 The Clerk to report lights 9,10,11 between Bath View and Green Lane not working.</p> <p>10.2 The seat in the Mead had been taken away by Mendip and has since been replaced with another, superior seat. Dist Cllr Halfhide has been assured that in future Mendip will contact the Parish Council before removing as a matter of curtesy.</p> <p>10.3 Although the Clerk had been informed that Highways had swept around the monument prior to Remembrance Day, Cllr Quinn reported that the Lengthsman had tidied around this area. Therefore, the Clerk was to request a sweep of the main highway, especially around the pinch points which needed to be manually swept rather than by machine.</p> <p>10.4 Also the drains needed to be cleared as the build-up of leaves were causing a problem with drainage.</p>	Clerk Clerk Clerk

11	<p>FOOTPATHS: Cllr Gittings reported that 78% of Somerset footpaths were now open. The footpaths around the village were very good and walkers could now navigate Nettlebridge without going onto the road.</p>		
12	<p>LENGTHSMAN SCHEME: 12.1 The Chairman proposed that the wording Street Cleaning on the Agenda should be replaced with To receive Lengthsman Report. 12.2 Cllr Quinn reported that the Lengthsman had been busy clearing signs of overhanging branches. Cllr Quinn had contacted the residents to explain what was to be done before commencing. 12.3 Cllr Quinn had a list for designated jobs for next Wednesday, Stratton's designated slot, but confirmed that Cllr Gittings request for posts to be placed would be done in 2 weeks time. 12.4 Cllr Quinn was keeping a pye chart for jobs, which will be handed in due course to Mendip and Somerset Councils for Audit purposes. Coleford PC authorises payment to the Lengthsman.</p>		Clerk Cllr Quinn
13	<p>CORRESPONDENCE: Correspondence was read and dealt with accordingly: 1. A report from Gloria regarding the Bus Shelter had already been discussed. However, Councillors would like to minute the Parish Council's appreciation of her hard work. 2. A letter (1 line long) had been received from Mr & Mrs Devon stating that they no longer owned the property known as Create House. 3. Active MDC – Activities for families and young at heart to be placed on N/B. 4. E-mail from CC Gloria Cawood regarding the LIB Grant (Bus Shelter).</p>		Clerk
14	<p>MATTERS OF REPORT AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING: 14.1 The Chairman proposed that the Minutes were dispatched within 2 weeks of the Meeting, as recently they had been received too near to the impending Meeting. The Clerk agreed to meet this deadline. 14.2 Councillors' contribution to the Memorial Wreath to be placed on December's Agenda. 14.3 Councillors were reminded that mince pies and wine would follow the December meeting.</p>		Clerk Agenda
15	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 15.1 The date of the next Meeting will be Monday 15 December 2008 at 7.45 p.m. 15.2 There being no other business the meeting finished at 8.55p.m.</p>		

CHAIRMAN _____ **DATE** _____