

**Minutes of the 880th Meeting of the Stratton-on-the-Fosse Parish Council
Held in the Village Hall on 19 October 2009**

PRESENT:	Councillors, Mr John Padfield (Chair), Mr Jeremy Padfield, Mr A Norris, Mr W Quinn, Mrs L Gittings, Mrs J Davies, Mr D Stock,	
IN ATTENDANCE:	The Clerk.	
1	<i>The Lord's prayer was said as usual.</i>	ACTION
1	APOLOGIES: Councillors: Mr R Jones, Mr D Benfield, Mr A Hobbs, Mr P Phibben, C C Gloria Cawood.	
2	MINUTES: The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 21 September 2009 were approved as a true record and duly signed.	
3	DECLARATION OF INTEREST: There were none.	
4	<p>MATTERS ARISING:</p> <p>17.14 The Clerk reported that the cherry tree was free-of-charge. The PC needed to pick a tree from a list of 6, details of which could be found on the Internet depicting height etc. Then 2 representatives of the Parish should be present for the planting. Cllr Stock volunteered to deal with this along with Cllr Benfield.</p> <p>8.1 The Clerk reported that enquiries had been made about the perch seat ordered with the bus shelter. Queensbury stated that the perch seat was not viable at the present site, as it would make the walkway too narrow, but would forward a credit note if the original quote had included the seat. The Clerk was to ask Queensbury for measurements and illustrations on the perch seat to ascertain how far it would protrude.</p> <p>The Clerk also questioned Queensbury about the positioning of the shelter and was informed that the shelter could not be positioned the other way around as it had to be cm from the kerb edge and have a walkway of 1.2 metres. Councillors were at a loss to understand Queensbury's decision that the new modified shelter could not be placed the other way around when Highways, who were present at the first site meeting for the original shelter, approved the site.</p> <p>Other matters/updates follow as they appear on the Agenda.</p>	<p>Cllrs Stock Benfield</p> <p>Clerk</p>
5	POLICE MATTERS: PCSO Housley was not available. There were no matters to report.	
6	<p>PLANNING MATTERS: <i>No Planning Applications</i> had been received since the last meeting.</p> <p><i>Approval</i> Ref: 2009/1271 Mr M Wise Brick Cottage, Pitcote Lane, SOF Single Storey rear extension c/w balcony – insertion of window & rooflight</p>	
7	<p>FINANCIAL MATTER:</p> <p>7.1 The Clerk presented an Invoice for Ink Cartridges amounting to £25.75 which all Councillors present agreed to be paid. Cheque No.000779</p> <p>7.2 The Clerk presented Telephone and Broadband costs amounting to £107.83 and all Councillors present agreed for this to be paid. Cheque No. 000778</p> <p>7.3 The Clerk presented bank statements for the month 4 Sept-5 Oct 2009 for the Current Account and Reserve Account at £50 and £17,725.36 respectively, which were signed</p>	

	by the Chairman.	
8	<p>LITTER BIN:</p> <p>The purchase of a litter bin for the lay-by at the White Post roundabout was discussed. The Clerk had been informed by Mr Errington at MDC that the Council would empty the bin only if the one purchased was approved by them. The 2 designs were Stanford costing £715 and Metal Chieftain costing £350. Also, before siting the bin, approval would have to be obtained from Highways which should not be a problem if in a lay-by, but Mendip would resist the request if on private land. All Councillors present thought that the cost of the bin was the deciding factor and agreed not to proceed with this item.</p>	
9	<p>HIGHWAY MATTERS:</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the trees in need of cutting back at Killings Knapp had been reported to Highways but that an e-mail needed to confirm the exact location and that the trees were not on private land. Councillors confirmed that the trees were on the left hand side of the A367 from the junction at Killings Knapp towards the White Post Roundabout. It was thought that the trees were planted on the verge, but the Clerk was to stress that this was a safety issue and therefore Mendip would be obliged to cut them back.</p>	Clerk
10	<p>FOOTPATHS:</p> <p>It was reported that the length of fencing on footpath SM/19/15 at the copse behind Abbey Gardens is in need of attention and is a danger to walkers. It was confirmed that it was the landowner's responsibility and the Clerk to contact Downside.</p> <p>The footpath following on from Mogg Hill has narrowed as grass is overgrown, but it was confirmed by Cllr Gittings that the landowner was not obliged to maintain the footpath only to keep the footpath open. The Clerk suggested that Downside boys might be willing to do work on the footpath as part of the Community Services being set up, as the footpath was used for younger children in the village to walk to school. The Clerk to contact Cllr Hobbs with this suggestion and, if willing to take on this work, to check that this is alright with the landowner (Dr Jackson).</p>	Clerk Clerk
11	<p>PARISH FORUM:</p> <p>The Clerk distributed Cllr Gittings Report on the Parish Forum Meeting that she and Cllr Stock had attended. A summary of which follows:</p> <p>In 2004 the legislation (Criminal Justice Act) that compelled councils to provide for Gypsies/Travellers was removed, but the Housing Act 2004 placed an onus on Local Authorities to assess accommodation needs – including Gypsies/Travellers. This assessment showed that Mendip has the 4th highest need to accommodate Gypsies/Travellers in the south-west. At present MDC do not meet this need. The removal of Gypsies/Travellers from land which they occupy illegally is extremely time and people consuming, very expensive and often the case is lost at the High Court as the Council cannot offer an alternative site if moved. To overcome these problems and to comply with legislation, MDC have calculated a need to supply 57 static and 30 transit caravan pitches. (This will be in addition to those already in place at Gypsy Lane, Frome).</p> <p>The MDC Steering Committee has drawn up a draft strategy for the new sites and a document should be out for consultation shortly. Sites will comprise 6-8 pitches, unlike the current Frome site which MDC say from experience is unworkable. It is anticipated that this matter will be dealt with by 2011 but will remain an ongoing project until at least 2020.</p>	

12	<p>LENGTHSMAN SCHEME: Cllr Quinn distributed his report on the lengthsman scheme which included the following:</p> <p>12.1 A meeting with Richard Grove and the representatives of the 5 Parish Councils in the Scheme, to present a case to obtain funding for the lengthsman scheme next year (3rd year), was to be held on 28 October 2009. Cllr Quinn commented that Robin Bradbury, Coleford PC, does a good job at organising the Scheme. Cllr Gittings commented that without the lengthsman helping with the village footpaths they would not have been maintained.</p> <p>12.2 The lengthsman (Chris) had started work on the Burial Ground, but it would need several visits to make good. The Chairman stated that he would supply Chris with weed killer spray in the spring.</p>	Cllr Padfield
13	<p>WEB-SITE:</p> <p>13.1 The Clerk reported that a List of Councillors names and addresses had been forwarded to Malcolm Daniels for insertion on the Web-site.</p> <p>13.2 The Clerk reported that, as from this meeting, Minutes would be forwarded to Malcolm at the same time as Councillors each month. Back-dated minutes would be forwarded in due course.</p>	Clerk
14	<p>CORRESPONDENCE: Correspondence was read and dealt with accordingly:</p> <p>14.1 British Telecommunication's invitation to Parish Councils to adopt its local red telephone kiosk for only £1. Applications to be submitted by 19 December 2009. All Councillors present thought this to be a good idea and the Clerk to contact the planning officer at Mendip in the first instance.</p>	Clerk
15	<p>MATTERS OF REPORT & ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: The Chairman declared that he would not be available to chair the next meeting, but that the Vice-chairman Richard Jones would be present.</p>	Apology Chair
16	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING:</p> <p>14.1 The date of the next Meeting will be on Monday 16 November 2009 at 7.45 p.m.</p> <p>14.2 There being no other business the meeting finished at 8.55 p.m.</p>	

CHAIRMAN _____ DATE _____