

**Minutes of the 881st Meeting of the Stratton-on-the-Fosse Parish Council
Held in the Village Hall on 16 November 2009**

PRESENT:	Councillors, Mr R Jones (Vice-Chair) , Mr A Norris, Mr W Quinn, Mrs L Gittings, Mrs J Davies, Mr D Stock, Mr D Benfield.	
IN ATTENDANCE:	The Clerk, Dist Cllr Gus Halfhide.	
1	<p><i>The Lord's prayer was said as usual.</i> As Cllr John Padfield was absent, the Vice-Chair Cllr Richard Jones took the chair.</p>	ACTION
1	<p>APOLOGIES: Councillors, Mr John Padfield, Mr Jeremy Padfield, Mr A Hobbs, C C Gloria Cawood.</p>	
2	<p>MINUTES: The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 19 October 2009 were approved as a true record and duly signed after it was duly noted that Dist Cllr Gus Halfhide had forwarded his apologies for the last meeting.</p>	
3	<p>DECLARATION OF INTEREST: There were none.</p>	
4	<p>MATTERS ARISING: 4 (17.4)Cllr Benfield reported that he had made contact to organise the cherry tree planting. This was to be on the Community Garden site but the exact spot had yet to be finalised also the specimen of tree had yet to be decided. The planting ceremony would be sometime in January 2010.</p> <p>14.1 The Clerk confirmed that an e mail had been sent to MDC in the first instance in relation to adopting Stratton's red telephone kiosk. This had to be approved by Mendip before the purchase from BT.</p> <p>Other matters/updates follow as they appear on the Agenda.</p>	
5	<p>POLICE MATTERS: 5.1 PCSO Housley was welcomed to the meeting by the acting Chair Cllr Richard Jones. PSCO Housley reported on theft from outbuilding, criminal damage to the telephone box and adjacent slabs broken on the verge. Attempted burglary and actual burglary from a commercial building. The later was being investigated and the police were in possession of a name.</p> <p>5.2 Cllr Norris pointed out that the broken slabs would only add to the safety issue at this spot. The pavement was being narrowed by the encroaching bank and as traffic calming chicanes were directly opposite this was a hazard for pedestrians. The Clerk would report this to Highways as a safety issue.</p> <p>8.05 PCSO Housley left the meeting at this point.</p>	Clerk
6	<p>PLANNING MATTERS: <i>No Planning Applications or Approvals</i> had been received since the last meeting.</p>	
7	<p>FINANCIAL MATTERS: 7.1 The Annual Subscription of £5 for membership of the Cam Valley Wildlife Group was agreed by all Councillors present to be paid. Cheque No.000780</p> <p>7.2 Councillors submitted their contribution to the Clerk towards the RBL Poppy Wreath. The Clerk would send a personal cheque for the full amount of £15</p> <p>7.3 The reconciled Bank Statements up until November 2009 were signed by the acting Chair. The balance being £17,091.78 plus £50</p>	

<p>8</p>	<p>BUS SHELTER:</p> <p>8.1 Cllr Jones stated that he had received the latest Invoice from Queensbury, which included the reduction for the perch seat.</p> <p>8.2 The Clerk confirmed the perch seat measurements as 80mm wide and 40 mm depth. It was of the opinion of some Councillors that the seat could be installed although Queensbury have declared otherwise</p> <p>8.3 Discussion took place regarding the positioning of the shelter. Chilcompton's shelter was mentioned as an example of a narrow pavement with the shelter with its back on the kerb by Cllr Gittings. Cllr Quinn stated that from start to finish the position of the shelter had been a mess and added that SCC had not been so critical as to its position. The Clerk confirmed that a letter had been filed since the erection from Roger Tyson stating that SCC would approve the shelter positioned with the back at the kerb. The Clerk reported that Queensbury would re-position the shelter if the Parish Council bore the cost.</p> <p>8.4 Cllr Norris proposed and Cllr Davies seconded that a letter should be sent to Queensbury requesting that the shelter be turned around - at no extra cost to the Parish Council - enclosing a copy of the letter from SCC</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>HIGHWAY MATTERS:</p> <p>Cllr Gittings commented that a sweep of the village had taken place, but that it would have been better if it had been done later after all the leaves had fallen. The Clerk stated that in the past Mendip had been asked to organise a sweep before Remembrance Sunday and suspected that this had been noted for future years.</p>	
<p>10</p>	<p>FOOTPATHS:</p> <p>10.1 Dist Cllr Gus Halfhide reported that MDC would cease to do any Right of Way maintenance and that Sheila Petheridge will transfer to SCC Highways.</p> <p>10.2 Gus Halfhide also reported that the Ramblers Association, having stopped putting in gates/styles, can now resume working with safety training. There had been some confusion as the Rights of Way team had not been informed.</p> <p>10.3 Cllr Gittings reported that the footpath CL5/25 Green Lane to Abbey Road (at the back of New Rock Trading Estate) was blocked. The Clerk to raise this with the Chilcompton Clerk, as this is a dead-end footpath.</p> <p>10.4 The footpath SM19/15 is blocked by a fallen tree which has fallen across the fence. Councillors thought Downside would not have to repair the fence now which had been reported as dangerous to walkers previously. The Clerk to contact Downside with copy via email to Sheila Petheridge.</p> <p>10.5 Cllr Jones read out the Clerk's email to Cllr Hobbs regarding the maintenance work on Mogg Hill footpath. In his reply Cllr Hobbs thought the idea of Downside boys undertaking this on the Community Scheme was a good idea.</p> <p><i>The Clerk was given a copy of the Audit Report Yr Ended 31 March 2009 for the Parish Lengthman's Scheme</i></p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>File</p>

<p>11</p>	<p>LENGTHSMAN SCHEME:</p> <p>11.1 Cllr Quinn reported on a meeting he had attended on 28 October 2009 along with representatives from the other 4 parishes and CC Gloria Cawood when the future of the scheme had been discussed. The present funding is in place until March 2010, but future funding is a problem, although a grant is promised. It was proposed that parishes be asked to double their contribution.</p> <p>11.2 Coleford and Stoke St Michael Parish Councils had decided to double their contribution. At the moment Stratton pays £500 which equates to 8hours work every 2 weeks at £25 The Chairman raised the question as to whether Stratton Parish Council could afford £1,000 to double its contribution to the scheme. The Clerk stated that the Budget Forecast for the Precept would be on the Agenda for the next meeting. Dist Cllr Gus Halfhide pointed out that it would equal 4p per household.</p> <p>11.3 A vote was taken and all Councillors present unanimously agreed to double Stratton Parish Council's contribution to the scheme to £1,000 per annum. Cllr Quinn was given authorisation to report this fact to Coleford Parish Council who managed the scheme.</p> <p>11.4 Jobs performed since the last meeting by Chris included overhanging branches and brambles from traffic warning signs cleared and gateways on the path to Chilcompton cleared and strimmed, also the bank opposite Green Lane strimmed.</p> <p>11.5 Cllr Quinn reported that the burial ground needed to be rotavated, raked and reseeded and a rotavator would have to be hired. Cllr John Padfield would take care of weed killing in the Spring.</p> <p>11.6 Cllr Gittings request that the drains be cleared of leaves, which Cllr Quinn had already pencilled in.</p>	<p>Cllr Quinn</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>WEB-SITE:</p> <p>The Clerk reported that Malcolm Daniels had not received that necessary information to access the Stratton Web-site, but after e mails between Cllr Phibben, herself and Andy Relf, Malcolm is now in possession of the relevant information and has placed the updated List of Councillors and the latest Minutes on the Web-site. Malcolm stated that in the New Year he will have more time to spend on reviving the Parish Web-site</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>CORRESPONDENCE:</p> <p>Correspondence was read and dealt with accordingly:</p>	
<p>14</p>	<p>MATTERS OF REPORT & ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:</p> <p>14.1 Cllr Stock suggested that flashing 30 mph signs to encourage motorists to slow down would be a good idea in the village and asked for this item to appear on the next Agenda.</p> <p>14.2 Cllr Jones queried the positioning of the Parish Notice Board and how many parishioners saw it. It was ascertained that it was moved from its more central position to the site outside the Village Hall due to vandalism</p> <p>14.3 Dist Cllr Gus Halfhide reminded Councillors that the next Parish Forum was on 3 December 2009. It was to be held at Shepton Mallet Council Office and was a drop in event between 5 and 8. It would be discussing housing needs for 2026</p>	<p>Agenda</p> <p>Agenda</p>
<p>15</p>	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING:</p> <p>15.1 The date of the next Meeting will be on Monday 14 December 2009 at 7.45 p.m. Please note this in <i>not</i> the usual 3rd Monday of the Month but 1 week earlier.</p> <p>15.2 There being no other business the meeting finished at 9.15 p.m.</p>	

CHAIRMAN _____ DATE _____