

**Minutes of the 889<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Stratton-on-the-Fosse Parish Council  
Held in the Village Hall on 19 July 2010**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Councillors: Mr John Padfield(Chairman), Mr R Jones (Vice-Chair), Mr M Daniels, Mr A Norris, Mr W Quinn, Mr D Stock, Mrs L Gittings, Mrs J Davies.		
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Dist Cllr Gus Halfhide, CC Gloria Cawood, Clerk.		
	<i>The Lord's prayer was said as usual.</i>		ACTION
<b>1</b>	<b>APOLOGIES:</b> Cllrs Jeremy Padfield, Linda Gittings (late arrival due to attending Parish Forum meeting).		
<b>2</b>	<b>MINUTES:</b> The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 21 June 2010 were approved as a true record and duly signed.		
<b>3</b>	<b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST:</b> There were none		
<b>4</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING:</b> Cllr Jones reported that Demetri Benfield had moved out of the parish and would no longer attend meetings. The Clerk should record his resignation.		
<b>5</b>	<b>POLICE MATTERS:</b> PCSO Housley was not present and there were no matters to report. <i>Cllr Gittings arrived at this point 8.00 pm</i>		
<b>6</b>	<b>PLANNING MATTERS:</b> <i>Applications:</i> 6.1 There were no planning applications to discuss.  6.2 It was reported that a meeting in regard to the Cookswood Quarry development was to be held on 21 July 2010 at MDC in Shepton Mallet. Councillors thought that the overriding question was how highway problems would be monitored.  6.3 Dist Cllr Halfhide reported that Mendip District Council would shortly be publishing advice on "Garden Grabbing".		
<b>7</b>	<b>FINANCIAL MATTERS:</b> 7.1 The Clerk's salary for the period <b>April 2009-March 2010</b> had been paid at the previous years' rate, therefore incurring a deficit of <b>£20.64</b> . All Councillors present agreed for this underpayment to be paid. <b>Cheque No.000804</b>  7.2 The Clerk had paid <b>£1</b> retaining fee to <b>BT Adopt a Kiosk</b> and all Councillors present agreed for this to be reimbursed. <b>Cheque No. 000804</b>  7.3 The Clerk presented an Invoice amounting to <b>£25.75</b> for printer ink, which all Councillors present agreed to be paid. <b>Cheque No. 000802</b>  7.4 An Invoice for BT Telephone /Broadband for the period <b>April-July 2010</b> amounting to <b>£107.56</b> was agreed by all Councillors present to be paid. <b>Cheque No.000801</b>  7.5 The Bank Statements for the period of June 2010 were reconciled and signed.		

<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>VILLAGE DAY:</b></p> <p>8.1 Cllr Stock reported that at the recent meeting of the Village Hall, the Committee had decided that it would not ask for a donation towards Village Day from the Parish Council this year. It was thought that the Parish Council had already been generous with helping with the legal costs for the Community Garden scheme.</p> <p>8.2 The Chairman and Cllr Jones reported that they had gone through the lease in connection with the Community Gardens and everything was satisfactory. Thatcher &amp; Hallam had scanned the lease and had found it to be sound. Cllr Jones stated that an open evening was to be held on 22 July 2010 for parishioners to voice their views and comments.</p>	
<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>HIGHWAYS:</b></p> <p>9.1 The Clerk reported that she had not had any feed-back from other parishes that she had contacted regarding the purchasing of flashing traffic lights. CC Gloria Cawood declared that she would look into this regarding cost etc.</p> <p>9.2 A reply from Jeff Bunting of Highways, to the Clerk's email regarding the unsuitable traffic now using Green Lane, was read out. Jeff Bunting reported that the imposition of a weight restriction was costly and unlikely to be progressed further. Consideration could be given to the installation of Advisory No HGV signs although the extent of the problem would have to be ascertained first. Notification and details of offending vehicles should be forwarded to Jeff Bunting if the Parish Council wished to pursue this matter.</p> <p>Cllr Gittings thought that the problem was caused by traffic being diverted by a sign at Chilcompton. It was established that there is no need to deliver anywhere on route and the narrowness of the lane made it unsuitable for HGV's. Not only did these vehicles cause problems for motorists, they posed a danger to children from the school who use the lane on a regular basis.</p> <p>C C Cawood declared that Batcombe had erected its own sign to divert HGV's. The Clerk to place this item on the next Agenda.</p> <p>9.3 Cllr Gittings reported that the pavement at Nettlebridge on the A367 was again overgrown with vegetation and fallen debris from the wall.</p> <p>9.4 Cllr Norris reported that although the verge had been cut at Green Lane the contractors had not completed the job in a satisfactory manner. A hedge cutter had been used, which was not appropriate, and debris had been left in the road. The Parish Lengthsman had since cut and tidied up this area.</p> <p>The Clerk was asked to contact Highways to complain.</p> <p>Dist Cllr Halfhide stated that the Parish Councils were being formally contacted to address issues and re-negotiate contracts on grass cutting.</p> <p>9.5 Cllr Quinn reported that the 2 large direction signs on the A367 at Killings Knapp had been replaced now by Highways. Also the verge at the junction with the A367 from Norton Down had been trimmed.</p>	<p>CC Cawood</p> <p>Agenda</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>LENGTHSMAN SCHEME:</b></p> <p>10.1 Cllr Quinn handed his report to Councillors, the main tasks undertaken being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strimmed a large area of brambles and vegetation at St Vigors new burial ground in preparation for the application of the weedkill.</li> <li>• Secured a road warning sign on the approach to Norton Down crossroads and cleared branches that were covering it.</li> <li>• Cleared branches from the stop sign on the junction of Green Lane and the main road.</li> <li>• Strimmed the bank from the corner of Green Lane opposite Bainsbury View on the main road along to the chicane below Bath View to allow visibility to traffic entering the A367 from Green Lane.</li> <li>• The chicane warning sign below Bath View was cleared of obstructing branches.</li> </ul> <p>Cllr Quinn spent the day with Chris, in the interests of safety, whilst the above tasks, plus litter picking, were carried out.</p> <p>10.2 CC Cawood stated that this was a valuable scheme and although this year was financial secure, next year was uncertain. Cllr Quinn stated the Chris has to find finance for public liability insurance and a first aid course annually, and obviously is concerned regarding the future of the scheme.</p> <p>10.3 Dist Cllr Halfhide suggested addressing the issue of financial help from both Councils by presenting a petition. This idea could be brought up at the next Parish Councils/ Lengthsman meeting the budget for 2011/2012 was being planned now, therefore this should be submitted at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p><i>Cllr Davies left the Meeting at this point 9.05 pm</i></p>	
<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>FOOTPATHS:</b></p> <p>11.1 CC Cawood reported that Nunney will not have to pay for its street fair this year, but the legality issue will be looked into for next year.</p> <p>11.2 Cllr Gittings had reported missing signs and a footpath blocked by crops. The footpath at Old Mill was closed, but a request had been made for it to be re-opened.</p> <p><i>CC Gloria Cawood left the Meeting at this point 9.07 pm</i></p>	
<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>PARISH FORUM REPORT:</b></p> <p>12.1 Cllr Gittings reported on issues regarding <b>Planning</b> brought up at the above meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was stated that MDC planning always send Clerks the reason for its decision. The Clerk did not agree.</li> <li>• It was suggested that if the PC have initial concerns then these should be e-mailed before the 21 days.</li> <li>• The Parish Council should register a Refusal if it does not like anything on the Plans.</li> </ul> <p>Cllr Gittings will e-mail the Clerk the Planning Pointers for reference.</p> <p>12.2 Issues regarding <b>MDC Ground Care</b> was discussed (ie playground/verges):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contractors were being looked at now. If the Parish Council had any ideas that they wished to be considered (adding or taking away jobs) contact MDC.</li> <li>• The Willows being the only piece of ground within the parish that was</li> </ul>	<p>Cllr Gittings</p>

	<p>under MDC care.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stuart Finney was the person to contact if needed.</li> </ul>		
<b>13</b>	<p><b>WEB-SITE:</b></p> <p>13.1 Cllr Daniels reported that he was now tidying up areas on the Website and would be liaising with Cllr Jones for Village Hall information.</p> <p>13.2 Cllr Gittings reported that the Vicar had shown an interest for the Church to have a link.</p> <p>13.3 The Clerk reported that Cllr Daniel's offer of information on a bank account had been forwarded to Emily Malik. Cllr Daniels had since been contacted and Little Angels had since obtained its own solution.</p>		
<b>14</b>	<p><b>CORRESPONDENCE:</b></p> <p>Correspondence was read and dealt with accordingly:</p>		
<b>15</b>	<p><b>MATTERS OF REPORT &amp; ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:</b></p> <p>15.1 The neglected gardens owned by Downside tenants were again brought to the meetings attention. Cllr Hobbs was to have taken up this issue, but as he was not present, it was to be placed on the next Agenda.</p> <p>15.2 The Chairman questioned if Dist Cllr Maxine Oxford was still in office as the Parish Council had not had any contact with her for several months. Dist Cllr Halfhide confirmed that she was still officially Stratton's District Councillor. The Clerk reported that Maxine Oxford had received the Minutes until recently when she had been taken off the contact list. The Chairman stated that Councillors appreciated Gus covering the Parish and thanked him for the advice and input received over the past months. It was agreed by all Councillors present that the Clerk should write to praise Gus for covering and to register a complaint about Maxine Oxford.</p> <p>15.3 Cllr Gittings, having received a Residents Opinion Survey 2010, questioned whether this was anonymous as stated, (although it was numbered and therefore it could be married up with the recipient), and the cost. Dist Cllr Halfhide stated that the Data Protection would not be invalidated as long as the information was used as directed. He would make enquiries about the cost of the survey.</p>	<p>Agenda</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Dist Cllr</p>	
<b>16</b>	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING:</b></p> <p>16.1 The date of the next Meeting will be on <b>Monday 20 September 2010 at 7.45 p.m</b></p> <p>16.2 There being no other business the meeting finished at 9.36 p.m.</p>		

CHAIRMAN \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_