

**Minutes of the 893rd Meeting of the Stratton-on-the-Fosse Parish Council
Held in the Village Hall on 20 December 2010**

PRESENT:	Councillors: Mr John Padfield(Chairman), Mr R Jones (Vice-Chair), Mr A Norris, Mr W Quinn, Mr M Daniels, Mr D Stock, Mrs L Gittings.		
IN ATTENDANCE:	Clerk, Dist Cllr Gus Halfhide,		
	<i>The Lord's prayer was said</i>		ACTION
1	APOLOGIES: Cllrs, Mrs J Davies, Mr Jeremy Padfield, PCSO Housley, Dist Cllr Steven Priscott., CC Gloria Cawood.		
2	MINUTES: The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 22 November 2010 were not deemed a true record. The signing of which was deferred until the next meeting with the relevant alterations completed.		
3	DECLARATION OF INTEREST: There were none		
4	MATTERS ARISING: There were none, other then covered by the Agenda.		
5	POLICE MATTERS: 5.1 PCSO Housley was not present and the Clerk was not in receipt of her Report. 5.2 Dist Cllr Gus Halfhide reported that SCC will cut all but 1 or 2 PCSO's, but that the police themselves will be funding PCSO's Therefore the police will decide what cuts will need to be made. The Chairman understood that the Yeovil area would only loose 2 PCSO's.		
6	PLANNING MATTERS: 6.1 <u>Applications:</u> There were none. 6.2 <u>Notified of Approval by MDC</u> Ref:2010/1657 Change of use of land for Community Gardens.		
7	FINANCIAL MATTERS: 7.1 The Clerk's salary for the period October-December 2010 amounting to £524.82 was agreed by all Councillors present to be paid. Cheque No.000812 7.2 The Bank Statements for the month of November 2010 were reconciled and signed. 7.3 The Clerk collected £1.50 from Councillors present towards the total cost of £15 for the RBL Memorial Wreath..		
8	HIGHWAYS: 8.1 <u>Flashing traffic signs:</u> The Chairman read aloud a letter from Dave Grabham at SCC giving details of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) These portable vehicle activated signs are installed on existing posts for a fixed period of time. The sign is blank when approached by a vehicle and emits a radar beam which rebounds from the vehicle to the device which then calculates the vehicles speed. If the vehicle is travelling within the speed limit the sign face remains blank, but if the vehicle is travelling in excess of the speed limit the sign flashes the speed limit to the driver reminding him of the speed limit within which he is travelling. SIDs record the speed of each vehicle (irrespective of whether or not it is exceeding the speed limit) and the numbers of vehicles that pass the SID. They do not record vehicle details (registration numbers or tax discs etc.) and are intended purely as educative rather than for enforcement purposes.		

	<p>8.2 Each location receives a SID every 4 months for a period of 2 weeks. The information collected is presented in the form of a report to the Parish Council and other interested parties following its removal. The information can be used to identify patterns of speeding vehicles and days or times during a particular day when speeding traffic is a problem.</p> <p>8.3 SCC only funds identified ‘critical’ locations (often combined with personal accident injuries), but locations can be community funded (Parish Council) The cost is £750 per annum to have a SID at one location 3 times (every 4 months).</p> <p>8.4 The Clerk was also in receipt of an e-mail from Jeff Bunting regarding the request from the Parish Council for a speed count. This has had to be put on hold due to a severe cut-back in funding, but will be progressed when possible.</p> <p>8.5 <u>Green Lane:</u> A discussion took place and Councillors decided not to progress with obtaining Signs until the traffic rod was put in place by Highways. The Clerk reported that Jeff Bunting had been notified of the request for this, but due to the financial cut-backs it was on hold.</p> <p>8.6 The issue of heavy goods using Green Lane was again raised. The Clerk had not received any further information from CC Gloria Cawood regarding the signs discussed at the last meeting. The Chairman suggested obtaining a quote for traffic signs restricting heavy goods and for the Parish Council to erect them.</p> <p>8.7 <u>Grit Bins:</u>The Clerk had contacted Charlie Higgins at Highways regarding the idea of using animal food bins as grit bins (to be provided by the Parish Council). Charlie Higgins, although informed that Gloucestershire Council provided the bins itself, stated that this was not acceptable to Highways. It was suggested that the Clerk asked Highways to record the reasons for not allowing the animal food bins to be used for grit in an e-mail.</p> <p>8.8 With regard to the parishioners request for grit bins, Dist Cllr Gus Halfhide confirmed that Ashwick Parish Council will provide a grit bin for its end of the lane in question in Nettlebridge.</p> <p>8.9 It was suggested that the Parish Council should identify grit bins in the Parish. Cllr Gittings suggested that an obvious site to place a grit bin would be adjacent to Fosse House Nursing Home. Dist Cllr Gus Halfhide reported that Highways will fill grit bins if informed when running low.</p> <p>8.10 The Clerk had organised with Highways for 10 bags of grit to be collected by a representative of the Parish Council from Highway’s Frome depot. The Chairman had agreed to fetch them and the bags were now in his possession.</p> <p>8.11 Cllr Quinn confirmed that no-one would be prosecuted if an injury occurred after spreading grit.</p>	
<p>9</p>	<p>LENGTHSMAN SCHEME:</p> <p>9.1 Cllr Quinn stated that as previously mentioned the Lengthsman Scheme has been suspended for 2 months to conserve funds. Having stood Chris down on 2 December 2010 he will resume duties on 2 February 2011. An emergency service will be available with any cost incurred funded by the relevant Parish Council. Cllr Quinn reported that it would be the 3rd anniversary of the scheme in September 2011.</p> <p>9.2 The Clerk was instructed to include the Scheme for discussion in the budget forecast.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

<p>10</p>	<p>FOOTPATHS:</p> <p>10.1 Cllr Gittings reported that stiles had been replaced by kissing gates on the footpath from Pitcot towards Holcombe. Dist Cllr Gus Halfhide reported that the budget had been cut, therefore not as much work would be undertaken next year on footpaths.</p> <p>10.2 In an e-mail to Wendy Burge, CC Gloria Cawood had requested extra time to consult further with the Parish Council, the Abbey and Mr Smith before commenting on the decision of SCC to support the addition of a public footpath from Moggs Hill Wood to Abbey Road. CC Gloria Cawood was of the opinion that the legal case was strong, but was concerned about other issues around safeguarding of the young people at Downside School.</p> <p>10.3 A discussion took place in which Cllr Jones stated that things had changed recently, with a new block for girls adjacent to the path and the increase in the amount of traffic on the road leading to the path. Cllr Daniels having taken the Report home had come to the conclusion that, as this path was used for over 20 years, there was no legal redress. Dist Cllr Gus Halfhide stated that Downside could appeal for safety reasons for the schoolchildren.</p> <p>10.4 Cllr Daniels suggested writing to Wendy at SCC giving the Parish Council views. After a discussion about the merits of closing the path it was agreed that the Parish Council supported the case that the path does not re-open and this had been reported to Wendy Burge previously.</p>	
<p>11</p>	<p>PARISH FORUM REPORT: There was nothing to report.</p>	
<p>12</p>	<p>WEB-SITE:</p> <p>12.1 Cllr Daniels reported that the site had been updated with details of the toddler group Little Angles. Cllr Jones thought the photos of the Village Hall were very good. Cllr Daniels stated that there was still a problem with people reporting activities to him to place on the site.</p> <p>12.2 Cllr Daniels reported that Stratton-on-the-Fosse Parish Council was now on Gateway, a web-site for parish councils run by MDC.</p> <p>12.3 Cllr Daniels long term aim is to have contacts for advice on the site eg dentists etc.</p> <p>12.4 Cllr Daniels reported that so far 200 people had signed up for high speed broadband to be supplied to Stratton, Chilcompton and Holcombe, which at the moment fell short of the 1,000 needed. The survey ends on 31 December 2010.</p>	
<p>13</p>	<p>RUBBISH ADJACENT TO VILLAGE HALL:</p> <p>13.1 Councillors confirmed that the rubbish in gardens adjacent to the Village Hall was still present. The Clerk stated that Environmental had been contacted, but after a site visit when the reported skip was also viewed, it was declared not to be an environmental issue.</p> <p>13.2 Cllr Daniels questioned the decision of closing Coleford tip. The cost of clearing the accelerating fly-tipping would he felt outweigh the cost saved. Dist Cllr Gus Halfhide reported that such points had been aired at the recent meeting on 7 December 2010 and would now be considered by SCC and Somerset Waste Partnership. It was declared that there was no sound reason for choosing Coleford for closure over any other tip and so Somerset Waste Partnership was asked to go back and reassess its decision, and consider different options. The fact being that 4 tips would be closed by end June 2011.</p>	

<p>14</p>	<p>CORRESPONDENCE: Correspondence was read and dealt with accordingly: 1. SCC – Speed Indicator Device: Info Sheet (revised sheet due Jan 2011) Present cost £750 per annum (one installation every 4 months) 2. SCC – Cuts – Items listed. – Chair read various cuts. Tips/Libraries/PCSO’s 3. Community Council for Somerset – Request for additional help: Individual subscriptions/1-off donation/extra annual contribution. Denied. 4. MDC – Information Bulletin Issue 95 Dec 2010 5. Sommer Valley Partnership – Minutes. 6. Renewable Energy – Action area. Handed to Councillor 7. BANES – Draft Core Strategy. (Mendip has own strategy) Look at re plans which Affect Stratton as close to border with BANES. Emails received: 8. Highways – Jeff Bunting – re SID’s & traffic count (Also letter from SCC) 9 Leigh on Mendip PC – re Coleford tip 10 Coleford Parish Clerk -Meeting 7 Dec Coleford tip – forwarded to all councillors 11 CleanUp UK - Litter pick 12 SALC – Snow PC responsibilities - File 13 Chief Supt Dist Commander Nikki Watson Newsletter& Card–f/wd to Cllrs 14 Footpath Mogg Hill–Gloria Cawood’s request for an extension to consultation period Letters sent: Downside pavement overgrown Mags/Brochures: Glasdon Bank Statements: November 2010 Business Reserve £16,520.32 Current £50.00</p>	<p>MD LG Clerk</p>
<p>15</p>	<p>MATTERS OF REPORT & ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: 15.1 Cllr Stock reported that the Community Garden Scheme needed the Parish Council to obtain Public Liability Insurance for the playground. This had to be in place by 31 December 2010 in order to meet the grant conditions. Marie Taylor would contact the Clerk with details. 15.2 Dist Cllr Gus Halfhide reported that the settlement grant for MDC for 2011/2012, announced by government on Monday 13th, December was much worse than had been planned for. In the past %age changes have been based on the previous year's grant; this time the government introduced a new calculation based on overall spending power. The net result is that MDC will receive approx 15% less grant than it did for 2010/2011 which amounts to £1.08 m. This now means an extra £0.25m of savings need to be identified to set a balanced budget for 2011/12. 15.3 The Clerk to place the Budget Forecast on the Agenda. 15.4 The Clerk to verify the date needed to return the Precept request with Dist Cllr Gus Halfhide.</p>	<p>Clerk Clerk Clerk</p>
<p>16</p>	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 16.1 The date of the next Meeting will be on Monday 17 January 2011 at 7.45 p.m 16.2 There being no other business the meeting finished at 9.40 p.m.</p>	

CHAIRMAN _____ DATE _____