

**Minutes of the 894th Meeting of the Stratton-on-the-Fosse Parish Council
Held in the Village Hall on 17 January 2011**

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| PRESENT: | Councillors: Mr John Padfield(Chairman), Mr R Jones (Vice-Chair), Mr A Norris, Mr M Daniels, Mr D Stock, Mrs L Gittings, Mrs J Davies, Mr Jeremy Padfield, Mr P Phibben. | |
| IN ATTENDANCE: | Clerk, Dist Cllr Steven Priscott, PCSO Housley, PC Walton. | |
| | <i>The Lord's prayer was said</i> | ACTION |
| 1 | APOLOGIES: Cllr Mr W Quinn, Mr A Hobbs, CC Gloria Cawood. | |
| 2 | MINUTES: The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 22 November 2010 and 20 December 2011 were approved as a true record and duly signed. | |
| 3 | DECLARATION OF INTEREST: There were none | |
| 4 | MATTERS ARISING: 4.1 The Clerk had been in contact with Aon (the Parish Council insurers) and established that the Public Liability section on the PC's policy has been extended to cover the Community Gardens. A covering letter was organised to be sent to Marie Taylor in time to meet the 31 December 2010 deadline. Also a copy of the complete Insurance Schedule has been forwarded to Marie. The Clerk had also been asked to find out about an ASSET insurance which was needed to cover the Community Gardens. Aon confirmed that this was to cover playground equipment and could be added to the Parish Council insurance for an extra premium, but could not be included until the suppliers had installed the equipment. The Parish Council would have to be solely responsible for the maintenance of the equipment and for its weekly/annual inspection. The Clerk suggested that this item be addressed when the budget was discussed. 4.2 Other matters and reports by the Clerk are covered by the Agenda. | |
| 5 | POLICE MATTERS: 5.1 The new Beat Officer assigned to Stratton (Darren Pearson) was unfortunately off for a month; therefore PC Darren Walton (Beat Manager for Shepton Town Centre) had attended the meeting along with PCSO Housley. The purpose of the visit was to reassure the Parish Council about the ongoing police investigation at Downside Abbey and School. The investigation concerned a past offence and therefore being historical nobody working at Downside presently was being investigated. The Deputy Head of Downside had been reassured that there will be a police presence in Stratton in case there is disruption due to press interest. At the moment the CPS have yet to decide whether to bring a case. 5.2 PCSO Housley had only one incident to report:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A car stolen from Barlake Farm on 15/01/11 – the keys were in the vehicle. • The car reported after the December meeting by the Clerk in South Street in a dangerous condition had gone. Although Councillors stated that it does | |

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| | <p>reappear. PCSO Housley will take another look.</p> <p>5.3 The Chairman enquired how cutbacks would affect policing. PC Walton stated that there were no plans to lose any PCSO's through redundancy, but replacements will not be found if/when personnel leave the job. The police will also reduce, through not renewing contracts after 30 year employment for example. Also there would be changes to station front offices; with opening times restricted or by appointment only. Shepton Mallet enquiry office will be closed from June 2011 offering appointments only.</p> <p>5.4 On behalf of Cllr Quinn, who was absent, a request to send a regular Police Report was made. This would assist in his role as Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. PC Walton stated that a new system will commence shortly, with a Beat Manager based at Frome, with Database and E-mail to forward incidents directly to parishes concerned.</p> <p>5.5 The question was raised as to what action to take if drugs were suspected of being traded within the village. PC Walton stated that the police took this matter seriously and the best procedure to follow was to take vehicle registration numbers, noting time observed, and pass to police. Crime Stoppers could also be contacted with any suspicions.</p> <p><i>PCSO Housley and PC Walton left the Meeting at this point 8.15 pm</i></p> | |
| 6 | <p>PLANNING MATTERS:</p> <p><u>6.1 Applications:</u> There were none.</p> <p><u>6.2 Notified of Approval by MDC</u> Ref: 2010/2671 3 Stratton Court SOF Erection of single storey rear extension & new chimney stack.</p> | |
| 7 | <p>FINANCIAL MATTERS:</p> <p>7.1 The Clerk's Petty Cash for the period Oct 2009-Dec 2010 amounting to £49.26 was agreed by all present to be paid. Cheque No.000815</p> <p>7.2 The Clerk's adjustment to Salary for the period Apr-Jun & Jul-Sep 2010 amounting to £10.32 was agreed by all Councillors to be paid. Cheque No.000816</p> <p>7.3 The Clerk presented an Invoice for Printer Ink amounting to £25.75 this was agreed to be paid by all Councillors present. Cheque No.000814</p> <p>7.4 The Clerk produced and Invoice for BT Phone/Broadband amounting to £114.21 which all Councillors present agreed to be paid. Cheque No.000813</p> <p>7.5 The Bank Statements for the month of December 2010 were reconciled and signed.</p> <p>7.6 The Clerk talked through the Budget Forecast figures, which had been e-mailed to Councillors, to set the Precept request for 2011-2012.</p> <p>A discussion followed on expected future expenditure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An email from the lead Council of Coleford in the Lengthsman Scheme was read to Councillors outlining its future. The Scheme is financial secure until September 2011 and then if the 5 member Councils wished to carry it on the estimated cost would be £1,000 per Council. Councillors all agreed that this was a very valuable and worthwhile service and good value for money. Councillors were in agreement that the Parish Council should continue to fund the Scheme. | |

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| | <p>The Chairman stated that the Parish Council was fortunate to have resources to cover the extra cost if needed. to keep the Scheme running.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purchase of another Bus Shelter was deferred until a survey was carried out to consider demand and monitor need. There would not be a grant available, but monies could be taken out of the contingency fund. • Election costs for the year 2011 were likely to remain the same as for 2007 at £299 if not contested, when it could be £800, and in this unlikely event the money could be taken out of the Parish Council’s reserve. • The monies given to Charities, it was agreed by all Councillors present, to total £400 as in the previous year. • The Clerk’s salary rise was unknown (it had been frozen this year), but it was felt could be accommodated without increasing the Precept. It was proposed to look at changing the BT Phone/Broadband package to a cheaper provider. • The Clerk stated that the Insurance premium would rise considerably to account for the inclusion of insuring the Community Gardens’ playground equipment. The equipment had, as yet, not been purchased, but as a rough guide this would be in the region of £500 • The maintenance/inspection of the playground equipment, which the Parish Council had agreed to oversee, was estimated to be £500. • Legal costs still to be met by the Community Gardens had agreed to be met by the Parish Council. This sum was not known, but would be taken out of the Parish Council’s reserve fund. • The maintenance of the Burial Ground was discussed. It was estimated that the cost of levelling and reseeding the plot would be around £500. A quote would be needed. When this had successfully been completed, the lengthsman could maintain the plot on a regular basis. <p>7.1 At the end of the discussion two proposals were made; one to keep the Precept the same as last year and one to raise the Precept by £500. The Clerk asked for a show of hands and the result was as follows: A proposal to raise the Precept by Cllr Daniels and 2nd by Cllr Davies by £500 to £7,500 2-off. A proposal to leave the Precept as last year at £7,000 proposed by Cllr Gittings and 2nd by Cllr Jeremy Padfield 5-off The motion to keep the Precept the same at £7,000 was carried. The Clerk to inform Mendip District Council.</p> | Clerk |
| 8 | <p>HIGHWAYS:</p> <p>8.1 The Clerk was asked to report the following items to Highways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The broken finger sign post in Green Lane at the junction triangle. • No light on the 30mph sign at the North end of the village. • A pot hole/subsidence at the junction of Church Lane and Stratton Road. • Pot holes in Green Lane. <p>8.2 The Clerk was asked to request a gullies and drains clearance from SCC.</p> <p>8.3 The Clerk reported that an e-mail had been sent to Charlie Higgins at Highways requesting the refusal of Highways to allow used cattle feed bins to be used as grit bins to be put in writing. As yet no reply had been received. Cllr Daniels and Cllr Quinn have yet to complete a survey on the placement/need of grit bins. A price of £156 for 70cubic ft grit bin was suggested, although the Clerk stated it could be purchased at a lower price.</p> | Clerk Clerk Cllrs Quinn Daniels |

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| | <p>Mags/Brochures: : Councils & Clerks Direct</p> <p>Bank Statements: December 2010 Business Reserve £15,997.62 Current £50.00</p> <p><i>From the last Meeting</i></p> <p>Cllr Gittings noticed from the Report taken from the last meeting that cycling was being encouraged and wondered if anymore had been heard about making a cycle path along part of the A367. Cllr Jones stated that no commitment had been obtained from Sustrans and SCC did not have funds for the project.</p> <p>Cllr Daniels had looked at the renewable energy Report where various councils would work together to sustain renewable energy. This report covered BANES but he wondered if Mendip also had such a report</p> | | |
| 14 | <p>MATTERS OF REPORT & ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:</p> <p>14.1 The Chairman would look at the details of the Localism Bill and report back at the next meeting. This item to be put on the next Agenda.</p> <p>14.2 The Clerk handed Councillors a copy of new Standing Orders for them to read with a view to adopting them at the next Meeting. This item to be put on the Agenda.</p> <p>14.3 Cllr Jones gave his apologies for the next meeting.</p> | Agenda | Agenda |
| 15 | <p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING:</p> <p>15.1 The date of the next Meeting will be on Monday 21 February 2011 at 7.45 p.m</p> <p>15.2 There being no other business the meeting finished at 9.28 p.m.</p> | | |

CHAIRMAN _____ DATE _____