

**Minutes of the 906th Meeting of the Stratton-on-the-Fosse Parish Council
Held in the Village Hall on 20 February 2012**

PRESENT:	Councillors: John Padfield,(Chairman), Mr R Jones (Vice Chairman), Mr A Norris, Mr W Quinn, Mrs L Gittings, Mr M Daniels, Mrs J Davies, Mrs I Duggen, D Stock.	
IN ATTENDANCE:	Dist Cllr S Priscott , CC Gloria Cawood. Clerk,	
	<i>The Lord's prayer was said.</i> PUBLIC FORUM: There was no discussion.	ACTION
1.	APOLOGIES: Cllrs Mr Jeremy Padfield, PCSO Housley, Pearson.	
2.	MINUTES: The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 16 January 2012 were approved as a true record and duly signed.	
3.	DECLARATION OF INTEREST: There were none.	
4.	MATTERS ARISING: The Clerk had contacted SALC for guidance after a Town Council's saying of the Lord's Prayer at the start of a meeting was declared illegal. The Clerk was informed to declare that the Parish Council was to proceed as usual until further clarification of this judgement was received.	
5.	COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT: 5.1 CC Gloria Cawood reported that as a result of a meeting with Clare Haskins from Somerset County Council, in which she was unaware that the path had become so bad, the work on the path had been started and would be finished by end of the Financial Year. Fencing still has to be discussed with the landowner. It was noted that the usage width was now at least 1 metre wide, although the surface material was thought to become cloggy when wet (which would pose a problem for buggies) and needed to be monitored. 5.2 Gloria had approached Harvey Stiggs about gully clearing, which in the present budget is once every 2 years, but was informed that this is flexible. Parish Councils should report drains when needed to be cleared. Stratton had received a road sweep 2 weeks ago and, as this only moves more debris into the drains which were already blocked, the Clerk to ask for a drain clearance. 5.3 Gloria reported that it would shortly be announced that Stratton-on-the-Fosse would be in the same ward as Chilcompton in the new boundaries formation. The Parish Council thought this a sensible decision.	Clerk
6.	DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT: Dist Cllr Priscott stated that Mendip District Council had prepared a balanced Budget and had made savings in Financial year 2012/13 without cutbacks or redundancies. It had also retained a healthy reserve. There would be a 0% increase in rates. Some money was being made by MDC buildings being let out to other businesses. This was seen as a long term budget.	

7.	<p>POLICE MATTERS: PCSO Housley was not present but had sent a Report as follows: 20/01/12 2 calls relating to youths on school grounds not leaving when asked. 21/01/12 Youths lighting a fire at the back of the village hall. On police attendance there was no sign of youths or a fire. 29/01/12 Report of someone hearing a chainsaw being used then a voice saying "Timber". Police attended and found nothing untoward. 07/02/12 Youths caught taking building materials from Downside grounds. 3 Individuals from the village have since been arrested. 15/02/12 Youths smoking in the park.</p>	
8.	<p>PLANNING MATTERS: <u>Applications:</u> There were none.</p> <p><u>Notified of Approval by MDC:</u> Ref:2011/3177 Mr & Mrs Rapp Benter House Internal Alterations to ground floor.</p>	
9.	<p>FINANCIAL MATTERS: 9.1 Cllr Jones stated that he was in receipt of costs for commemorative mugs for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee as follows: For earthenware mugs 50-off would cost £ 3.20 each 100-off " " 2.80 " 252-off " " 2.60 " 504-off " " 2.40 " There would be an extra cost of 10p per mug per colour wanted. Also the price would be dearer for bone china mugs. The above mugs would depict "Stratton-on-the-Fosse" and "Diamond Jubilee"</p> <p>9.2 After discussion, it was decided that children within the parish aged 12 years and under would receive the mugs free-of-charge and that any Adults wishing to purchase a mug would be charged £4 per mug.</p> <p>9.3 Cllr Jones would attach a request form to the Parish Newsletter.</p>	Cllr Jones
10.	<p>STREET CLEANING/LENGTHSMAN SCHEME: 10.1 Tasks completed by Chris on 9 February 2012:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fixing and realigning a stop sign at Norton Down crossroads. • Clearing and tidying around chicanes. • General litter picking on pavements etc. around the village. • Removing debris and rubbish around drains to allow a clear run of water. <p>Cllr Quinn reported that he had spent some time along with Chris on this day and was glad to report on the cleanliness of the village, but was very disappointed to see hedge clippings scattered over the entire pavement area outside one of the Linkmead properties just below the Village Hall. Cllr Quinn stated there was a need for parishioner support to keep the village tidy.</p> <p>10.2 The Chairman asked for the Minutes to include the Councillors' gratitude not only to Chris, the Lengthsman, who had done a very good job during the last 4½years, but to Cllr Bill Quinn for the commitment he had shown during this time. Bill had not only co-ordinated, but had assisted Chris in much of the work involved. All Councillors present were in agreement.</p>	

	<p>10.3 Cllr Quinn requested that the Parish Council conveyed its thanks to Robin Bradbury who had co-ordinated the Lengthsman scheme for the past 4½years. All present agreed for the Clerk to send a letter.</p> <p>10.4 The Chair also thanked CC Gloria Cawood who was instrumental in setting up the scheme. Gloria stated that Stratton Parish Council had made her proud for taking on the scheme initially and of keeping it running.</p> <p>10.5 Cllr Quinn also requested that the Clerk sent a letter confirming a 12 month contract with Chris and the Parish Council. A copy of this should be signed by Chris and returned.</p> <p>10.6 Cllr Quinn also wished to clarify the method of payment to Chris. Councillors thought that Cllr Quinn should continue to supervise/detail the lengthsman's workload (keeping a duplicate book as before) and that Chris should submit an Invoice to the Clerk. It was suggested that payment should be made monthly. The contract would run from April-March with a stand-down during December and January. Chris would also make himself available for any extra work needed, such as weed kill. Although Chris would have to take a day course for using weed kill, which would be £144 approximately. The storage of chemicals would be stored at Church Farm. All Councillors agreed that Chris should be sent on a course and the possibilities of funding would be looked into and reported by the next meeting.</p> <p>10.7 It was thought that Stoke St Michael would be recruiting Chris and that Kilmersdon was hoping to do so. Also Coleford was keen to retain Chris, but as yet Holcombe's intentions were unknown.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Funding</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>VILLAGE HALL CAR-PARK:</p> <p>15.1 Cllr Jones stated that he had been advised that it would not be viable to use the cheaper alternative surfacing for the car-park. Therefore the cost of resurfacing would be in the region of £13K - £14K. The possibility of funding from Mendip District Council under a Village Grant Scheme is to be explored and if this was coupled with a contribution from the Parish Council this could still be undertaken.</p> <p><i>Gloria Cawood left the meeting at this point 8.48 pm</i></p> <p>15.2 Cllr Jones confirmed that he is applying for various grants at the moment.</p> <p><i>Dist Cllr Priscott left the meeting at this point 8.50 pm</i></p>	<p>Cllr Jones</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p>WAR MEMORIAL:</p> <p>The Chairman confirmed that he would contact the Stonemason to check how to best clean the war memorial.</p>	<p>Chair</p>
<p>13.</p>	<p>BT KIOSK:</p> <p>Cllr Norris confirmed that he will liase with Cllr Quinn regarding the shelving in the kiosk, once the weather improves.</p>	<p>Cllr Norris Quinn</p>

14.	<p>COMMUNITY GARDENS: Cllr Stock stated that he had made regular weekly inspections of the play-park and gave his recorded report as follows: 22/01/2012 11.00am Checked everything ok. 27/01/2012 10.30 am Bonfire. Rang PCSO twice. Logged. No damage. 04/02/201 10.30 am Litter. 04/02/2012 9.30 am Litter. 14/02/2012 9.00am Drawing/indent in the surface of the boules area. 15/02/2012 Photos taken of above & rang police on 101. 15/02/2012 Youths smoking in Hut. Police contacted. Gave warnings and will keep watch.</p>	
15.	<p>HIGHWAYS: 15.3 Councillors noted that more Holcombe Inn signs had been placed around the parish. 15.4 Notification of a road closure had been received from Mendip District Council as follows: Green Lane from 5th March 2012 for a period of 12 weeks.</p>	
16.	<p>FOOTPATHS: The Mogg Hill Footpath had already been discussed. Nothing else to report.</p>	
17.	<p>PARISH FORUM REPORT: 17.1 Cllr Gittings reported that the topic of the meeting had been Allotments. If more than 6 persons in the Parish wanted access to an allotment that the Parish Council had to help. It was the Parish Council's role to act as a hub of information ie to put persons wanting to own allotments in touch with landowners who might be prepared to rent land. 17.2 Therefore, the Parish Council should advertise – enquiring whether any persons are interested in having an allotment and if so to contact the Clerk. Also to let the Parish Council know if any person had spare land to utilize. The current recommended size of an allotment and been reduced by a third. Cllr Daniels would place an announcement on the Parish Web-site.</p>	Cllr Daniels
18.	<p>WEB-SITE: Cllr Daniels stated that he still had a problem with parishioners not informing him of events taking place. This was regretful as placing a notice on the Web-page is good promotion.</p>	

19.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE: Correspondence was read and dealt with accordingly:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="235 149 1390 338"> <tr> <td data-bbox="235 149 300 260">1.</td> <td data-bbox="300 149 440 260">SALC</td> <td data-bbox="440 149 1390 260">Agenda Mtg Coxley VH 5 arch 2012 Minutes Community Planning – how to get involved Mtg 1 March 2012</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="235 260 300 338">2.</td> <td data-bbox="300 260 440 338">Mendip Society</td> <td data-bbox="440 260 1390 338">Newsletter – Poster Weekly walks in Mendip area</td> </tr> </table> <p>Magazines/ Brochures: Clerks & Councils Direct Planning: <i>Approval</i> Ref:2011/ 3177 Benter House Internal Alterations. Bank Statements: Jan 2012 Business Reserve A/C £15,193.03 Current A/C 50.00 Cheques: None</p>	1.	SALC	Agenda Mtg Coxley VH 5 arch 2012 Minutes Community Planning – how to get involved Mtg 1 March 2012	2.	Mendip Society	Newsletter – Poster Weekly walks in Mendip area	N/B
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20.	<p>ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: A suggestion for Cllr Jeremy Padfield to be invited to speak at the Annual Parish Meeting was put forward. All Councillors agreed that for Jeremy to speak on modern day farming would be a good idea. The Chairman to speak to Cllr Padfield.</p>	Chair						
21.	<p>MATTERS OF REPORT & ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: 21.1 The issue of the Community Garden entrance at Middlemead was thought by most Councillors in need of investigation. It was thought to be a Health and Safety issue. Therefore it was suggested that the Community Garden Plans be brought to the next Parish Council Meeting. Cllr Stock agreed to obtain a copy for the Meeting. 21.2 Items for the next Agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Gardens – Entrance at Middlemead.- Plans investigated. • The Chairman offered his apologies for the next meeting and Vice-Chairman Cllr Jones agreed to Chair. </p>	Cllr Stock						
22.	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 22.1 The date of the next Meeting will be on Monday 19 March 2012 at 7.45 p.m 22.2 There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.24 p.m.</p>							

CHAIRMAN _____ DATE _____