

**Minutes of the 907th Meeting of the Stratton-on-the-Fosse Parish Council
Held in the Village Hall on 19 March 2012**

PRESENT:	Councillors: Mr R Jones (Vice Chairman), Mr Jeremy Padfield, Mr A Norris, Mr W Quinn, Mrs L Gittings, Mr M Daniels, Mrs J Davies, Mr D Stock.	
IN ATTENDANCE:	Clerk,	
	<i>The Lord's prayer was said.</i> PUBLIC FORUM: There was no discussion. <i>In the absence of Cllr John Padfield, the Vice-Chairman Richard Jones took the Chair.</i>	ACTION
1.	APOLOGIES: Cllrs John Padfield,(Chairman), Irene Duggen, CC Gloria Cawood, Dist Cllr S Priscott PCSO Housley, Pearson.	
2.	MINUTES: The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 20 February 2012 were approved as a true record and duly signed.	
3.	DECLARATION OF INTEREST: There were none.	
4.	MATTERS ARISING: 4.1 The Clerk stated that she had contacted Western Power again, as nothing had been heard from Western Power since delivering an email in January (reporting that Somerset County Council had denied responsibility for the telegraph pole at Middlemead). After an intensive telephone call, in which Mr Cook reputed the fact that it was in any way connected to Western Power, the Clerk insisted that Mr Cook contacted Mr Bennet, Lighting Department SCC, in order to clarify the ownership of the pole. The Clerk then e-mailed the contents of the telephone conversation to Mr Cook with an understanding that this issue would be treated as urgent, as it was a Health and Safety matter due to the light attached to the pole being part of a traffic calming scheme and it not being in the correct position at present. 4.2 The Clerk stated that the missing 30mph signs at the end of the village had been reported. The signs had been removed to paint and it was confirmed by Councillors that these had now been replaced.	Clerk
5.	COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT: 5.1 STREET SURGERIES – With such a big Division geographically surgeries are difficult to hold, but I have been out and about. Two street surgeries planned for February had to be called off because of ice and snow. While the sun did not exactly shine on Holcombe , it was good to meet local people and find out what matters to them. 5.2 Boundary Commission proposals out for consultation. The boundaries for the new divisions can be seen using the following link : www.lgbce.org.uk Under the proposals, my County Council Division (Mendip Central and East) changes: Kilmersdon, Holcombe and Stratton-on-the-Fosse go with Chilcompton etc to a new Division (suggested to be called Mendip Hills) I would be interested to learn your views on these changes and particularly those which affect your parish. We understand that the Commission will be reluctant to change radically what they have come up with, though some slight tinkering may be permitted. The Commission has based the boundaries on 55 Divisions as submitted by Somerset County Council.	

<p>5.3</p>	<p>BUDGET In March I sat through many hours of budget meetings. Among other things, I spoke out against cuts to SCC Youth Service and Young Carers. Finally and only after huge headlines appeared in the press about the shame and scandal of these cuts did the Cabinet Member agree to more consultation at the marathon Full County Council meeting. Why had not thorough consultation taken place BEFORE the cuts appeared in the budget papers which came out?</p> <p>Predictably, my party’s alternative budget was voted down by the Conservatives, even though it offered another £4.4m savings. See article info@somersetlibdems.org.uk</p> <p>Among others, I pressed the Cabinet on gulley emptying, which we were told would now be emptied once every two years. Rural areas like ours tend to suffer more from blocked drains, resulting in flooding. For once our bombardment had an effect and we were told there would be flexibility and requests from parishes for emptying would be answered.</p> <p>Mendip District Council Lib Dems offered amendments to the Conservative’s budget, which were rejected out of hand by the Conservatives. They seemed very upset at our proposals to tackle youth unemployment, rural isolation and renewable energy. We also proposed to put £50,000 from reserves in the Arts Budget, which currently stands at £0 due to previous cuts.</p>	
<p>5.4</p>	<p>MORE SOMERSET FAMILY SILVER GOING The sell-off of the Quantocks, including Great Wood, where many of our children have gone on school camps, has been strongly opposed by my party, but like the motion I proposed on libraries, our pleas fell on deaf ears. Everything must go no matter how low the bid. The family silver is not being sold, it’s being given away! Yet, I have been advised that Stoke St. Michael Parish Council cannot progress the handover of the Millennium Woodland because the Quantock sale is taking too much officer’s time!</p>	
<p>5.5</p>	<p>BATH AND WEST SHOWGROUND BRIEFING Plans for the development of the Bath and West Showground site went through Mendip Planning last year and a small working party has been set up to oversee and advise on projects coming forward. There are concerns about the impact a retail park might have on Shepton Mallet’s economy. Rural councillors representing this area are concerned about the impacts as a result of increased traffic, quality of life of those living around the site and the possibility that the Showground might disappear altogether as a retail park, hotel complex etc. develops. While this could increase employment in the area, our working party concluded that a balance needs to be kept and a strong recommendation was made that traffic issues are addressed fully.</p>	
<p>5.6</p>	<p>SPEEDING TRAFFIC - Nunney Parish Council is asking residents whether they support a 20mph speed limit in the village. Holcombe, Kilmersdon, Stoke and Wanstrow among others expressed an interest in so-called ‘new’ guidelines for speeding traffic.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT: There was no report received.</p>	

7.	<p>POLICE MATTERS: PCSO Housley was not present but had sent a Report as follows: 03/03 Youths were heard shouting at night on a drive. 05/03 On Green Lane someone was seen going through the road closed sign in a vehicle. It was in fact the security guard he will be there the whole time the water work is being completed. 09/03 The barriers on the road closure on Green Lane were moved on top of a wall? No damage done though.</p>	
8.	<p>PLANNING MATTERS: <u>Applications:</u> There were none. <u>Notified of Approval by MDC:</u> There were none.</p>	
9.	<p>FINANCIAL MATTERS: 9.1 The Clerk's salary for the period Jan-March 2012 amounting to £524.82 was agreed by all Councillors present to be paid. Cheque No.000858 9.2 The Clerk presented an Invoice for the Village Hall hire for the following periods: Yr End 2012 19 hours @ £7.50 per hour £142.50 Yr End 2011 18½ hours @ £7.50 “ “ £138.50 Yr End 2012 21½ hours @ £7.50 “ “ £161.00 TOTAL: £442.00 This amount was agreed to be paid by all Councillors present. Cheque No.000859 9.3 The commemorative mugs agreed to be given to parish children and not yet been ordered, as only 15-off had been requested to date and the closing date was 7 April 2012. Cllr Jeremy Padfield would make enquiries in the meantime from a local potter to ascertain supply and costs.</p>	Cllr Jeremy Padfield
10.	<p>STREET CLEANING/LENGTHSMAN SCHEME: 10.1 Tasks completed by Chris on 9 February 2012: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearing hedge cuttings and debris from the pavements and drains below the Village Hall. • Cut back overhanging branches and brambles that were obstructing the pavement from the last chicane towards Killings knap. • Warning reflectors and signs cleaned on the the traffic bollards. • The bus shelter panels cleaned and the area around tidied. • Litter and debris were removed from the pavement from Green Lane junction to opposite Oval House. • The bank was dug back to allow the water to drain away from the 2nd chicane below Bath View. 10.2 The matter of training in the use of pesticides was raised and who would pay for the course, as other Parish Councils would have the benefit if Chris had a pesticide certificate. Cllr Daniels declared that this had already been decided at a previous meeting with the Parish Council agreeing to pay the cost. Councillors agreed that Chris should take the course and then ask to be reimbursed. Chris also to arrange the course himself. 10.3 It was agreed by all Councillors present that the name of lengthsman should remain with Chris being known as “Stratton Lengthsman”. 10.4 The Clerk had drawn up a 12 month Contract for the lengthsman, which Cllr Quinn would give to Chris to sign and return one copy to the Clerk at the next meeting.</p>	Chris Cllr Quinn

11.	<p>VILLAGE HALL CAR-PARK: Cllr Jones stated that the approximate cost was expected to be in the region of £12K-£14k to resurface the car-park, but to date there had been no response to quotes requested.</p>	Cllr Jones
12.	<p>WAR MEMORIAL: The Chairman confirmed that he would contact the Stonemason to check how to best clean the war memorial.</p>	Chair
13.	<p>BT KIOSK:</p> <p>13.1 Cllr Quinn stated that materials were being sourced, ie Racing Green durable paint, and that he and Chris (lengthsman) were hoping to start work on the Kiosk now that the weather had improved. Cllr Norris would then be able to install shelves.</p> <p>13.2 Councillors also thought that the Kiosk might be personalised.</p> <p>13.3 Cllr Gittings had e-mailed Councillors photographs of another Kiosk that had been utilised as an information point for its village. Councillors thought this to be a favourable idea.</p>	Cllr Quinn
14.	<p>COMMUNITY GARDENS:</p> <p>14.1 Cllr Stock stated that he had made regular weekly inspections of the play-park and gave his recorded report as follows: 25/02 Okay – litter removed. 14/03 Tidy. 11/03 Litter removed. 18/03 Nothing to report.</p> <p>14.2 Cllr Jones had received comments that the gravel was too thick on the Boules Rink and that it needed more sand spread on top. Cllr Stock stated that someone would be inspecting the Rink shortly to give advice. Cllr Jones also commented that if tournaments were to be arranged then the Committee would have to add another Rink.</p> <p>14.3 At the last Parish Council meeting, the issue of access to the Community Gardens at Middlemead was raised. Councillors had noted that the entrance was not as was expected. This was thought to be a Health and Safety issue, as Emergency vehicles could not gain access at this point.</p> <p>14.4 Cllr Stock produced the plans for the Community Gardens for inspection by Councillors, who noted that the present gate was not shown. Cllr Stock stated that Councillors had been invited to look over the plans in the planning stage, but had failed to take up the offer. A discussion took place, regarding Downside Abbey and emergency vehicles having to gain access via private land.</p> <p>14.5 Councillors came to the conclusion that the present entrance had been designed in all good faith and everyone involved had worked hard to achieve a beautiful job. However, it was felt by Councillors present that, the gate needed to be altered -ie swapped over – and then this will not pose a problem. The Parish Council recognise that the entrance is not as it should be and must be put right in the future. Councillors are aware however, that the Community Garden Committee has no monies left and therefore this will not be reversed immediately.</p>	

	<p>14.6 A suggestion that Chris the Lengthsman might be able to complete the job was put forward. Cllr Quinn and Cllr Daniels will hold a site meeting with Chris to ascertain if this is a possibility and report back. Cllr Jeremy Padfield stated that he would be able to remove the old posts, but new posts would have to be purchased.</p> <p>14.7 Cllr Jones will speak to Marie (Community Garden Committee) and relay the Parish Council's decision.</p>	<p>Cllrs Quinn Daniels</p> <p>Cllr Jones</p>
<p>15.</p>	<p>HIGHWAYS:</p> <p>15.1 The sunken manhole which had been reported to Highways was confirmed as being repaired.</p> <p>15.2 Cllr Gittings reported that the pavement between Green Lane and Bath View was being encroached by the earth sliding down from the adjacent bank. Councillors were aware that this had been discussed with Charlie Higgins and Richard Blanchflower at a previous site meeting called for potholes in South Road. At this time it was suggested to put slabs in place to hold the bank back. This was subsequently done by Highways, although Chris removed the mess left behind after the installation.</p> <p>15.3 The traffic calming in place at this site is angled and therefore dangerous to pedestrians from oncoming large vehicles. Councillors thought that removing the half road barrier and replacing this with the pinch point used elsewhere in the traffic calming scheme would make it safer for pedestrians.</p> <p>15.4 The Clerk to contact Highways to request a site meeting for both of these issues, stressing that Councillors feel that this is a Health and Safety issue.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>16.</p>	<p>FOOTPATHS:</p> <p>16.1 It was confirmed by Councillors that the Mogg Hill footpath had been repaired now by Somerset County Council at both ends (ie Chilcompton and Stratton), although the middle part had been left.</p> <p>16.2 It was noted by Councillors that there was a problem on Mogg Hill footpath with dog fouling and it was thought by all present that Dog Fouling Bins would be a good idea. The Clerk to enquire if Chilcompton would place a bin at its end of the footpath if Stratton placed a bin at its end.</p> <p><i>Cllr Jeremy Padfield left the meeting at this point 8.57 pm</i></p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>17.</p>	<p>PARISH FORUM REPORT:</p> <p>17.1 Cllrs Gittings & Daniels attended the Parish Forum held at the Bath & West Showground. There was a workshop section where Parish Council's were asked to consider what service from Somerset County Council it could not do without. During the open forum afterwards, Cllr Daniels referred to the Lengthsman Scheme stating that SCC saved money if Parishes had the scheme. The Coleford Recycling Depot – hours of opening and costs – were mentioned.</p> <p>17.2 Subsequently, Cllr Daniels and Cllr Quinn have compiled a list of costings that the Lengthsman has performed which would have otherwise been the responsibility of Mendip District Council or Somerset County Council:-</p>	

Tasks performed by the Lengthsman for the period Feb 2011 – Feb 2012

- 23/02/11 Cut back branches obstructing traffic sign above Norton Down
Crossroads towards Killings Knap B3355
Realign and secure direction sign at bottom of Green Lane (unclassified junction
with A367
Inspection and clearance of blocked drain covers on A367
- 09/03/11 Branches around Sign at Tunnel Lane(unclassified at junction with B3355
Cleaning of A367 road signs throughout village part 1
Clear blocked drain covers below village hall and opposite Sunny Mead
Clear rubbish and debris from pinchpoint above Bath View
- 23/03/11 Cleaning of A367 road signs throughout village part 2
Cleaning traffic bollards on A367 pinchpoints
Clean debris around pinchpoint between Green Lane and Bath View to prevent
drain ingest.
- 06/04/11 Cleaning of A367 road signs throughout village part 3
Weeds Clearance Linkmead to village hall A367
- 20/04/11 Realign Direction sign at bottom of Green Lane (unclassified junction
with A367)
Reinstall Footpath Direction sign that was ripped out when contractors cut the
verge at White Post Roundabout A367
Clean 30 mph signs at south end of village at request of S.C.C. Highways
Division A 367
Style clearance at Green Lane Crossroads which was totally obstructed
(unclassified road)
- 04/05/11 Clear Pavements of weeds Linkmead to Abbey Road A367
Strim Bank Green Lane junction with A367 to pinchpoint to allow traffic a clear
view
- 18/05/11 Clear Weeds Middlemead to Village Hall on A367
Clear Brambles from upper Linkmead to 1st Pinchpoint north A367
Clear Branches obstructing speed limit sign Church Lane (unclassified and bus
route)
- 01/06/11 Strim and clear style at Picot Cross Roads off A367
Branches and Hogweed obstructing pavement 1st Chicane North A367
- 15/06/11 Clear Branches from Traffic Warning signs at Norton Down, three signs in
total junction B3355 with B3139
Strim and clear style at A367 north of roundabout path toward Charlton
Weed Clearance large part of village A367
- 29/06/11 Clear Brambles from Stop Sign Green Lane to A367
- 13/07/11 Clear footpath kissing gate at Mogg Hill on S.C.C. Defined walking route
to the School

27/07/11	Clear around footpath stiles at White Post (A367), Pitcot Cross Roads(unclassified), Green Lane toward Stock Hill(unclassified). Very Overgrown had to look for fingerposts!	
10/08/11	Clear brambles and weeds from 1st Chicane North to Green Lane A367	
24/08/11	Clear around drains and pinchpoints of debris to prevent drain ingest. Strim and clear bank junction Green Lane and A 367 to allow clear view of traffic emerging	
07/09/11	Weed Clearance from The Mead to Village Hall A367	
21/09/11	Remove branches obstructing traffic signs Norton Down and Killins Knap A367	
05/10/11	Clear brambles over Pavement on A367 Clean Traffic Signs B3355 at Norton Down Cut back a tree on traffic island junction B3355 and A367	
19/10/11	Brambles cleared from Pavement Green Lane to Abbey Road A367 Cut branches away from Stop sign at the bottom of Green Lane Junction A367	
02/11/11	Reposition pinchpoint warning sign below Kings Arms on A367 which had been twisted round. Reposition and secure stop warning sign approaching Norton Crossroads from Rugby Club B3355.	
16/11/11	Installing 8 grit bins including digging out sites for three A367 Cleared debris from around the drain covers part of village on A367 to prevent drain ingest.	
30/11/11	Clear Weeds from Pavement Abbey Rd to Village Hall entrance A367 Started cleaning road traffic signs north of village A367	
09/02/12	Fix and reposition stop signs at Norton Down B3355/B3139 crossroads. Clear debris from around chicane at Banesbury View A367 to prevent drain ingest. Cleared debris from around the drain covers part of village on A367 to prevent drain ingest. Clean warning reflectors on traffic bollards and signs on chicane 1 A367	
24/02/12	Clear drain area of Hedge Cuttings and Debris at Linkmead on A367 to prevent drain ingest. Cut overhanging branches at 1st chicane north A367 obstructing pavement Clean warning reflectors on traffic bollards and signs on chicane 2 A367.	
17.3	Cllr Daniels, (as a parishioner, not a councillor), copied this in a letter to the Chief Executive Officer at Somerset County Council, but as yet has had no response.	

	<p>Cllr Daniels estimated that with Stratton Parish Council hiring a Lenghtsman it saved both District and County Councils between £4k and £5k per annum, but the grant of £1k had been withdrawn supposedly to make a saving.</p> <p>17.4 Cllr Gittings stated that SCC wanted Parish Councils to take on jobs within its parish, for example, in one parish has trained a parishioner and supplied a strimmer. Therefore finance might be granted to purchase equipment.</p>																																	
18.	<p>WEB-SITE:</p> <p>18.1 Cllr Daniels reported again that he was still not receiving any information from parishioners to place on the Web-site. It was suggested that the Clerk to include a request for information on the APM Invitations to parish groups and clubs.</p> <p>18.2 Cllr Daniels stated that there was a link to Walk For Life, which promoted walking, on the parish web-site. Suggestions for walks in the parish had been requested by them and any walks provided will be linked with Stratton's web-site. Cllr Gittings will locate walks and determine their length before reporting back to Cllr Daniels.</p>	Clerk																																
19.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE: Correspondence was read and dealt with accordingly:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>Tessa Munt MP</td> <td> <p>Community Payback Scheme Work groups = 10 offenders – 7 hour work day – supervised. Examples of work undertaken: ground clearance, footpath clearance, Painting & decorating inside and out, repointing wall, litter picking, assistance with setting up for events, maintenance of flower beds. For further info on scheme contact: Joy Roberts, CP Team Manager, South Somerset/Mendip/Bath Avon & Somerset Probation Trust Court Ash House, Court Ash YEOVIL, Somerset, BA20 1HG Tele 01935 709109 Email: joy.roberts@avon-somerset.probation.gsi.gov.uk <i>Chair read out and all Councillors present thought it to be a good idea to arrange for a group to litter-pick through the village.</i></p> </td> <td>Clerk</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td>Compass Disability Services</td> <td> <p>New website – FOC with additional service chargeable. Form to be returned by 31/03/2012 indicating if amendments/ Additional services needed. If do not wish to be included tick Appropriate box</p> </td> <td>MD</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>St Johns Ambulance</td> <td> <p>Available to purchase – a defibrillator from £1,195 c/w training. <i>Councillors dismissed this as no suitable site to place the equipment was felt to be available.</i></p> </td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>Crime-stoppers</td> <td>Leaflet plus donation request</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>Somerset Waste Partnership</td> <td>Revised bank Holiday Collection Dates 2012</td> <td>File</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>The Mendip Society</td> <td>Walks programme News Magazine 2012</td> <td>MD Web</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>Western power</td> <td>Newsletter</td> <td>LG</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>SCC</td> <td>Adoption and Fostering Posters</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	1.	Tessa Munt MP	<p>Community Payback Scheme Work groups = 10 offenders – 7 hour work day – supervised. Examples of work undertaken: ground clearance, footpath clearance, Painting & decorating inside and out, repointing wall, litter picking, assistance with setting up for events, maintenance of flower beds. For further info on scheme contact: Joy Roberts, CP Team Manager, South Somerset/Mendip/Bath Avon & Somerset Probation Trust Court Ash House, Court Ash YEOVIL, Somerset, BA20 1HG Tele 01935 709109 Email: joy.roberts@avon-somerset.probation.gsi.gov.uk <i>Chair read out and all Councillors present thought it to be a good idea to arrange for a group to litter-pick through the village.</i></p>	Clerk	2.	Compass Disability Services	<p>New website – FOC with additional service chargeable. Form to be returned by 31/03/2012 indicating if amendments/ Additional services needed. If do not wish to be included tick Appropriate box</p>	MD	3	St Johns Ambulance	<p>Available to purchase – a defibrillator from £1,195 c/w training. <i>Councillors dismissed this as no suitable site to place the equipment was felt to be available.</i></p>		4	Crime-stoppers	Leaflet plus donation request		5	Somerset Waste Partnership	Revised bank Holiday Collection Dates 2012	File	6	The Mendip Society	Walks programme News Magazine 2012	MD Web	7	Western power	Newsletter	LG	8	SCC	Adoption and Fostering Posters		
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	9 Local Government Boundary Commission	Electoral Review – draft recommendations.	
Magazines/ Brochures: Clerks & Councils Direct Planning: None Cheques: V Attwood – Clerk’s Salary Village Hall Trust – V Hall hire			
20.	ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: 20.1 It was confirmed that Cllr Jeremy Padfield would speak at the Annual parish Meeting. 20.2 Cllr Jones would organise Posters to be placed around the village, denoting time, place, speaker and wine and nibbles. 20.3 The Clerk to send out invitations to all groups, clubs and schools within the Parish.		Cllr Jeremy Padfield Cllr Jones Clerk
21.	MATTERS OF REPORT & ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: 21.1 The issue of litter around the village was discussed. Although Councillors were willing to perform the Annual clean-up, it was decided to contact the Community Playback Scheme in the first instance. Information passed on from Tessa Hunt MP (included in Correspondence) indicated that this might be a job that would be applicable to the scheme. The Clerk to investigate and report back. 21.2 Items for the next Agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apologies given from Cllr Davies for the next meeting. • Gate at entrance to Community Gardens. 		Clerk
22.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 22.1 The date of the next Meeting will be on Monday 16 April 2012 at 6.30 p.m 22.2 Followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30 pm. 22.3 There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.		

CHAIRMAN _____ DATE _____