

**Minutes of the 910th Meeting of the Stratton-on-the-Fosse Parish Council
Held in the Village Hall on 25 June 2012**

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| PRESENT: | Councillors: Mr John Padfield,(Chair) Mr R Jones (Vice Chairman), Mr W Quinn, Mrs L Gittings, Mrs J Davies, Mr D Stock, Mrs I Duggen. | | |
| IN ATTENDANCE: | Clerk | | |
| | <i>The Lord's prayer was said.</i> PUBLIC FORUM: There was no discussion. | | ACTION |
| 1. | APOLOGIES: Cllrs, Mr M Daniels, Mr Jeremy Padfield, Mr A Norris, Dist Cllr S Priscott, CC Gloria Cawood, PCSO Hounsley. | | |
| 2. | MINUTES: The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 28 May 2012 were approved as a true record and duly signed. | | |
| 3. | DECLARATION OF INTEREST: There were none. | | |
| 4. | ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN & SIGNING OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE: Cllr John Padfield thanked the Council for re-electing him during his absence and confirmed that he would take on the office again. He then duly signed the Acceptance of Office as Chairman. | | |
| 5. | FOOTPATH LIAISON OFFICER: The position will become vacant when Cllr Gittings leaves the parish. However, if another Councillor took on the role before this happened then Cllr Gittings would be available to give guidance. Cllr Gittings nominated Cllr Irene Duggen to take over her role as footpath liaison officer and all Councillors present agreed. Cllr Duggen stated that she would be willing to take on this role. | | |
| 6. | MATTERS ARISING: There were none, other than shown as Agenda items. | | |
| 7. | COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT: CC Gloria Cawood's Report had been circulated to Councillors. Lengthsman item to be discussed under Street Cleaning. | | |
| 8. | DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT: There was no report received. | | |
| 9. | POLICE MATTERS: There was no report received. | | |
| 10. | PLANNING MATTERS: <i>Applications:</i> Ref: 2012/ 1064 : Location: Benter House, SOF tennis court. Proposal: Erection of enclosure fencing to new all weather <i>This was dealt with by the Planning Committee who felt that this would not interfere with anybody and submitted a "No Objection" to Mendip District Council.</i> | | |

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| | <p>Ref: 2012/1044 Applicant: Mrs Broadway Location: Beaumaris, Fosse Road, SOF Proposal: Erection of new Bungalow. <i>The Parish Council was concerned about the close proximity of the static caravan (mobile home) and the Clerk was to include this in the reply to Mendip District Council.</i></p> <p>Ref: Applicant: Downside Abbey & School Proposal: Replacement fencing <i>The Parish Council held No Objection to this proposal.</i></p> <p><u>Notified of Approval by MDC:</u> There were none.</p> | |
| <p>11.</p> | <p>FINANCIAL MATTERS:</p> <p>11.1 The Clerk's salary for the period April – June 2012 was approved by all to be paid. The Chairman then read aloud a letter received from the Clerk regarding salary. It stated that in 12 years the Clerk had only risen by 2 rungs of the salary ladder (from 15 to 17) although it was the usual practice of rising each year until the maximum of 27 was reached. Also the Clerks' Salary-Scale issued by SALC had remained static for 3 years. Therefore, although it was not prudent to ask for a salary rise in this financial climate, Councillors were asked to consider raising the pay scale to Level 20 . This would mean a rise of £ 50.64 per quarter. Also over the past 12 years the workload had increased considerably – especially with the new PAYE regulations – therefore Councillors were asked to consider the Parish Council paying the Clerk's PAYE contributions. The payment for the year end 2012 was £419.86 The Chairman asked for a vote to these 2 proposals and all Councillors present agreed and cheques were made out as follows: Cheque No000867 amounting to £524.82 and Cheque No000872 amounting to £50.64 Making a Total of £575.46 for the period April – June 2012 Cheque No. 000873 amounting to £419.86 for P.A.Y.E. for the Year End 2012</p> <p>11.2 An Invoice and time sheets from Chris Perkins (the Lengthsman) for hours worked amounting to £300 was agreed by all Councillors to be paid, Cheque No. 000866 The Clerk to send direct to Chris.</p> <p>11.3 Cllr Quinn reported that the Lengthsman would be interested in quoting for the grass cutting of the Community Gardens. Cllr Stock will arrange a meeting with Marie Taylor and Clare Bendall to discuss how often the cutting was needed and report back to Cllr Quinn. This item would be discussed again at the next Meeting.</p> <p>11.4 The payment for the cutting of the Community Gardens by Mr Palmer last month, amounting to £ 225 had been authorised by the Chairman and a cheque issued. Cheque No.000865</p> <p>11.5 Another Invoice for this month had been received from Wayne Palmer, for the cutting of the Community Gardens, amounting to £225 and was agreed to be paid by all Councillors present. Cheque No.000869</p> <p>11.6 Cllr Jones stated that he had paid £25 to Mr Holder for petrol to cut the Football Field. This amount will pay for three cuts. Mr Holder will inform Cllr Jones when these are completed and Cllr Jones will pay and ask the Parish Council for a refund. All Councillors agreed to this arrangement. All Councillors present agreed to reimburse Cllr Jones for the money spent so far. Cheque No.000875</p> | <p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Stock</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> |

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| <p>11.7 Cllr Jones reported that 55 Golden Jubilee Mugs had been given to children under 13; 25 had been sold for £3.50 each (amounting to £87.50 the Clerk to bank), leaving 20 Mugs which can be offered to Councillors first and then advertised for sale in the Parish Newsletter. Cllr Jones presented an Invoice amounting to £389.40 for the purchase of the celebration mugs – all Councillors present agreed for this to be paid. Cheque No.000871</p> <p>11.8 The Clerk presented an Invoice from the Internal Auditor, Mr Keith Cockroft, amounting to £40 along with a letter stating that the Internal Audit had been inspected by himself and found to be in order. All Councillors present agreed for this to be paid. Cheque No.000870</p> <p>11.9 An Invoice from Future-interactive to cover hosting of the Parish Web Site for the period 14 May 2012 – 13 May 2013 amounting to £67.20 was agreed by all Councillors present to be paid. Cheque No.000868</p> <p>11.10 The Clerk confirmed that the Insurance Documents had been received.</p> <p>11.11 Also the Clerk had established that 18yr old youths on work experience, shadowing the Lengthsman and using equipment (apart from a chainsaw), would be covered under the present Parish Council insurance policy. They would need to be supervised at all times and not be allowed to work on the public highway.</p> <p>11.12 The Clerk would place the Annual Inspection of the Playground on the September Agenda, as the Community Gardens’ play equipment would be 1 year old in October 2012 and a yearly inspection was needed for Insurance purposes.</p> <p>11.13 The Bank Statements were reconciled and signed.</p> | <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk Agenda Sept</p> |
| <p>12. STREET CLEANING/LENGTHSMAN SCHEME: Cllr Quinn distributed his report to Councillors in which he noted the following</p> <p>12.1 Tasks Chris had completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fixed a 30 mph sign in Green Lane. • Repositioned and secured Stop signs at Norton Down. • Repaired and filled holes in the roof of the telephone Kiosk. • Strimmed and tidied the banks opposite Fosse Cottages. • Strimmed edges and entrance of Mogg Hill footpath to clear grass. • Cleared access to footpath stiles at Pitcote and near the White Post roundabout. <p>12.2 As a large amount of vegetation has accumulated on the pavements, Cllr Quinn will help Chris clear this in stages and, as progress is made, the drains will be cleared of obstructions. These are mainly hedge cuttings from Downside properties.</p> <p>12.3 Cllr Quinn stated that now Chris (lengthsman) had completed his pestercide course he was qualified and could spray the numerous weeds in the village. Cllr Quinn proposed that the Parish Council purchase a spray kit either; a kit back pack costing £385 or a cartridge unit (no mixing of chemicals and a 35 hour for one charge). The latter is the one Chris prefers. It was agreed by all to purchase the cartridge unit, but to request a refund from Mendip District Council. Also Cllr Quinn was asked to inform Chris that the equipment could only be used for Stratton Parish Council. The Parish Council would retain the cartridges and so remain in control of the equipment.</p> <p>12.4 The Chairman would organise purchase of the equipment, as he already deals with the company.</p> | <p>Chair</p> |

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| | <p>12.5 Equipment and/or funding from Somerset County Council or Mendip District Council, which was highlighted in a meeting Councillors had attended at the Bath & West recently, was further discussed. Gloria Cawood had mentioned in her Report that a report, with a recommendation that the Lengthsman Scheme be reintroduced, had been forwarded to Highways Cabinet Member, Harvey Siggs. The funding would be less then before with 2 pilots, one in a new area and one based on an existing scheme. Gloria thought it likely that the latter would be in this area. Gloria suggested that Parishes involved last time might write to Harvey Siggs welcoming its resurrection and agreeing to give it another go. Also that Mendip District Council, of which Harvey Siggs is Leader, might contribute to this proven scheme.</p> <p>12.6 A letter had been received from SCC about a strimmer project, but Councillors concluded that cutting of the footpaths was not a duty of the Lengthsman and a volunteer would be needed to use it on the footpaths. The Parish Council had until 20 July 2012 to register its interest, therefore the Clerk to place on the Agenda for further discussion.</p> <p>12.7 The Clerk had contacted Highways Service Manager, Andrew Taylor at SCC regarding obtaining funding for equipment for use by Chris (lengthsman) as spoken about at the Bath & West Meeting attended by Councillors. The reply from Mr Taylor stated that he was currently looking into this matter and would be in touch with the outcome.</p> | <p>Clerk</p> <p>Agenda</p> |
| <p>13.</p> | <p>FOOTPATHS:</p> <p>13.1 Cllr Gittngs had mapped circular walks in the village for Walking for Health. These were split into 3 – North, Centre and South.</p> <p>13.2 Cllr Gittings suggested that, if the Parish Council obtains copyright maybe funding could be obtained for printing and copies could be placed in the Kiosk. Also the walks could be placed on the Parish Web-site. Cllr Daniels would request permission to print from Somerset County Council.</p> | <p>Cllr Daniels</p> |
| <p>14.</p> | <p>HIGHWAYS:</p> <p>14.1 The Clerk had made enquiries from Highways, Jeff Bunting about developments regarding the alteration of the chicane at the Green Lane/Bainsbury location in Stratton, discussed at a site meeting. A reply received stated that this had been submitted as a possible candidate for this financial years' Local Transport Plan program and an update from the LTP team had been requested. Even if the LPT is unable to deliver this work then, resources permitting, Jeff Bunting will fund a scheme from his minor works budget this financial year.</p> <p>14.2 The Clerk had reported the poor state of the pavement at Nettlebridge Hill on the A37.</p> <p>14.3 Cllr Davies stated that some of the vegetation at junctions needed cutting. The Clerk would contact Highways reporting several junctions on the “school run” from Holcombe. Cllr Gittings also stated that the lay-bys on the A367 through the village needed cutting back, as visibility was impeded when moving off if parked.</p> <p>14.4 It was reported that Cllr Norris had concern about dead trees on the A367 between Killings Knapp and the White Post Roundabout. The Clerk to report to Highways.</p> <p>14.5 Road signs throughout the village needed the vegetation cutting back.</p> | <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> |

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| | <p>14.6 Councillors voiced concern about hedges over the pavement throughout the village. This made the pavement narrow - placing pedestrians on the edge of the pavement – making this a safety issue. Cllr Jones would flag this up in the Parish Newsletter.</p> <p>14.7 Street Lights reported not to be working opposite Oval House and near Little House. Clerk to report.</p> | <p>Cllr Jones</p> <p>Clerk</p> |
| 15. | <p>COMMUNITY GARDEN:</p> <p>15.1 Cllr Stock reported that he had checked the play park regularly on a weekly basis and everything had been in order since the last meeting.</p> <p>15.2 Cllr Stock reported that the Charity Bus made a regular visit to the park.</p> | |
| 16. | <p>BT KIOSK:</p> <p>16.1 Cllr Quinn, along with Chris, had filled in holes and sanded ready for painting.</p> <p>16.2 Cllr Duggen volunteered to paint the kiosk and would purchase the Hamorite paint, in racing green, and the brushes needed.</p> | <p>Cllr Duggen</p> |
| 17. | <p>WAR MEMORIAL:</p> <p>This was to be put on hold for the present.</p> | <p>Cllr Padfield</p> |
| 18. | <p>PARISH FORUM REPORT:</p> <p>The next Parish Forum Meeting would be 30 July 2012.</p> | |
| 19. | <p>WEB-SITE:</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p> | |
| 20. | <p>CORRESPONDENCE:</p> <p>Correspondence was read and dealt with accordingly:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nat West Bank Statements Current £50 2. Chris Perkins Invoice £300 3. Martha Care Charity Donation request. 4. David Heath MP Surgery Posters 5. BANES Gypsies & travellers site allocations – preferred options consultation paper. 6. SCC Mendip Strimmer Project – Trainings supplemented & strimmer supplied. 7. NALC Planning Guidance Booklets. 8. Came & Co Insurance confirmation and documents received 9. Keith Cockroft Internal Audit Invoice £40 10. V Attwood Salary review - scale adjustment & PAYE reimbursement 11. W Palmer Invoice for grass cutting 12. Future- Invoice Web Hosting | |

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| | <p>interactive</p> <p>Magazines/ Brochures: Clerks Direct</p> <p>Bank Statements: May 2012 Business Reserve A/C 20,214.05 Current A/C 50.00</p> | |
| 21. | <p>MATTERS OF REPORT & ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:</p> <p>21.1 Cllr Jones reported that a third quotation had been received and was the most competitive to date at £11,375 plus VAT, totalling £14,838 The Clerk would verify with SALC if the Parish Council or the Village Hall could claim back the VAT. The Village Hall Trustees have approximately £2,500 to put towards this project to date. A possibility to move forward with this would be if the Parish Council were to give a certain sum of money and gave a loan to cover the rest. This issue to be discussed further at a future meeting.</p> <p>21.2 Cllr Jones asked for a Dog Bin to be sited at the Stratton end of the Mogg Hill footpath. All Councillors present agreed that this would be a good idea. Also that Chilcompton Parish Council was asked to install a Bin at its end of the footpath. The Clerk was instructed to purchase a Dog Fouling Bin in green from Glasdon.</p> <p>21.3 Agenda items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charities – decide to which to donate. • Strimmer – discuss if want to take up offer from SCC • Car-park – discuss cost and if VAT refundable. • Cllr Gittngs offered her apologies for the next meeting. • Community Garden grass cutting – how often. | <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> |
| 22. | <p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING:</p> <p>22.1 The date of the next Meeting will be on Monday 16 July at 7.45 pm</p> <p>22.2 There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.39 p.m.</p> | |

CHAIRMAN _____ **DATE** _____