

**Minutes of the 911th Meeting of the Stratton-on-the-Fosse Parish Council
Held in the Village Hall on 16 July 2012**

PRESENT:	Councillors: Mr John Padfield,(Chair) Mr R Jones (Vice Chairman), Mr W Quinn, Mr A Norris, Mrs J Davies, Mr D Stock, Mrs I Duggan, Mr Jeremy Padfield, Mr M Daniels.	
IN ATTENDANCE:	Clerk	
	<i>The Lord's prayer was said.</i> PUBLIC FORUM: There was no discussion.	ACTION
1.	APOLOGIES: Cllrs, Mrs L Gittings, CC Gloria Cawood.	
2.	MINUTES: The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 25 June 2012 were approved as a true record and duly signed.	
3.	DECLARATION OF INTEREST: There were none.	
4.	MATTERS ARISING: The Clerk reported on the following action taken since the last Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Dog waste bin had been ordered from Glasdon and will be delivered to Cllr Jones. • Highway matters had been reported Signs ref 272999 Grass cutting laybys ref 272995 grass cutting on school run ref 272994. • Tress alongside A367 from Killings Knapp to White Post – dead elms will be removed (Steve Scriven, County Arboriculturalist). • Street Lights reported opposite Oval House and between Bainsby and Bath View. • SALC contacted regarding VAT claim on the VH car-park. • Emailed to Councillors – Gloria Cawood's report, new Standing Orders and Code of Conduct to adopt, Training course dates, Parish Forum. <p>There were no other matters of report, other then shown as Agenda items.</p>	
5.	COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT: CC Gloria Cawood's Report had been circulated to Councillors – a summary follows: 5.1 Health and Well-Being Budget Scheme announced – If agreed on Wednesday, £10, 000 will be available to each Councillor for one-off grants of at least £500. The funding must be allocated/ spent by January 31st . and is to be directed towards voluntary/community groups or parish councils. It can be used for capital or revenue projects and spent on anything that can demonstrate a Health and Well-Being benefit for the community. The money is to help people to live independently for longer and for people, families and communities to take responsibility for their own well-being. Examples given include funding of activities such as health walks, play schemes for children, equipment for community sports clubs\venues, using community venues for a variety of classes such as Zumba, growing programmes to encourage people to grow their own vegetables, learn to cook\healthy eating, smoke free playgrounds etc. Groups\Parishes can work together on a joint bid. Health and Well-being priorities for the Council are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People,families,communities take responsibility for own health & well-being. • Families and communities are thriving and resilient. • Somerset people are able to live independently as long as possible. 	

	<p>Update: The July Cabinet confirmed this scheme. It emerged that this is one-off 580,000 Government funding to prepare for the transfer of some health responsibilities from the NHS to the local authority. There was some debate from the floor about whether this NHS funding should be spent on non-health related matters. We are still awaiting the criteria, which will be finalised by the Chief Executive and Director of Public Health. Funding has to be drawn down by me before 31st. January. If possible, try to get bids/ideas to me by 31 August.</p> <p>5.2 Community Enabler scheme</p> <p>A one-off £500,000 scheme, which may or may not be called the Community Enabler Scheme has been set up using under-spends from last year’s budget. It appeared from what was said that this funding, was meant to support schemes costing up to £8,600 each, It appeared that the idea was that Parish Councils could come up with schemes, perhaps with two or more parishes joining together to take over County Council services. If I have got it right, the parishes would continue to run these services with no further funding from the County Council. It sounded like the ‘Strimmer Scheme’, where help is given to parishes to take this on from the County Council and thereafter the parishes take responsibility for verge cutting, running the youth club, clearing the drains etc., which the county council has either stopped doing or cut back on. From then on parishes can find funding from the precept.</p> <p>Our best example of doing this sort of thing was the Parish Lengthsman, but the County Council continued to put funding into this until it was cut completely this year. [I am still awaiting any answer from Harvey Siggs about whether a pilot to resurrect the Lengthsman scheme is to be carried out in our area.] Is there a possibility of using this money to extend this scheme or try it in another area of the Division? Would parishes want to get together to employ a youth worker using the funding? Or.....????</p> <p>As with the other scheme, we are still awaiting criteria, but I will let you know when I know. If you could aim at getting the first tranche of bids or even ideas in to me by 31st. August I will have time to submit and we might have a chance of getting our scheme approved by whoever has that power.</p> <p>Please feed in your bids to me ASAP. If more than one parish is willing to go for a scheme, then I will help co-ordinate the bid before I send it in. I understand we will have little officer resource, but I will as always be as persuasive as possible.</p> <p>5.3 The Clerk was instructed to put in a bid to Gloria Cawood for a dog waste bin, a litter bin and weed spray equipment.</p>	Clerk
6.	<p>DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT:</p> <p>There was no report received and Councillors registered their disappointment that the District Councillor had not attended recent Meetings. The Clerk was asked to email to request that a Report was forwarded if/when attendance was not possible.</p>	Clerk
7.	<p>POLICE MATTERS:</p> <p>There was no report received. The Clerk to email to request that a Police Report was forwarded if/when attendance was not possible.</p>	Clerk
8.	<p>PLANNING MATTERS:</p> <p><u>Applications:</u> Ref:2012/1362 Applicant: Downside Abbey & School Proposal: Recovering of copper roofs over Lady Chapel & Sacred Heart Chapel All Councillors present agreed to a “No Objection”to this application.</p>	

Notified of Approval by MDC:

Ref:2012/0846

Applicant: Sunnymead

Proposal: 2 storey side extension and new driveway.

It was noted by Councillors that the Parish Council had not been notified by Mendip District Council regarding the Planning Application at 1 Middlemead. This was for a drop kerb and access for 2 parked cars. The Clerk to raise this with MDC.

Clerk

9. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

9.1 The Chairman stated that the Clerk had reservations about the legality and linguistics of payment by the Parish Council of the Clerk's PAYE. Therefore, the Clerk requested that the Parish Council revised the pay scale. The Clerk requested that this rose to level 26, which would have already been reached if moving up the scale yearly had taken place. The monthly payment would be £230.98 amounting to **£692.94 quarterly**. This would mean the Parish Council would pay £50 more per Annum then with the agreement made at the last Meeting. All Councillors present agreed to this proposal. Therefore the back-pay for the last quarter amounted to **£117.48** **Cheque No.000886**

9.1 The Clerk reported that the External Auditor's Report had not yet been received.

9.2 The Clerk presented the list of charities that had been given donations in the past. After discussion, all Councillors present agreed to keep to the same charities and donate the same total of £400 as last year. Therefore the charities and amounts are as follows:

Little Angles	£ 100	Cheque No. 000885
CAB	£ 50	000880
R.N.L.I.	£ 50	000884
Victim Support	£ 50	000882
Age Concern	£ 50	000881
Air Ambulance	£ 100	000883

9.3 Bank statements were reconciled and signed.

9.4 The Lengthsman Invoice for a 3 week period (14/06 26/06 12/07 - sheet no 83,84,85) amounting to **£300** was agreed by all Councillors present to be paid. **Cheque No.000879**

9.5 An invoice for paint for the Kiosk amounting to **£24.03** from Mrs Irene Duggan was agreed by all Councillors present to be paid. **Cheque No.000878**

9.6 An Invoice (**ref 004 dated 16/07/12**) for grass cutting of the Community Gardens, amounting to **£225.00** from Wayne Palmer was agreed by all Councillors present to be paid. **Cheque No.000877**

9.7 Cllr Jones presented an Invoice for Petrol for the cutting of the Football Field amounting to £25 – all Councillors present agreed for this to be paid. **Cheque No.000876**

9.8 The Clerk was in receipt of new Standing Order and Code of Conduct requirements which had been e-mailed to Councillors. These items would be placed on September's Agenda.

Agenda

	<p>9.9 Cllr Daniels suggested that he attended the Clerk's Training at a cost to the Parish Council of £20 payable to SALC – all Councillors present agreed. Cheque No.000888 The Clerk would book a place when informed by Cllr Daniels which venue he wished to attend.</p>	Clerk
<p>10.</p>	<p>COMMUNITY GARDENS:</p> <p>10.1 Cllr Stock stated that, apart from there being more litter than usual as a party had been held in the Gardens, everything was in order on his weekly inspections since the last Parish Council Meeting. Cllr Stock thought an extra Litter Bin might be a good idea.</p> <p>10.2 Councillors thought that it would be a good idea for Cllr Stock to attend a course on playground inspection. This would enable Cllr Stock adequate knowledge to continue the weekly inspection on behalf of the Parish Council.</p> <p>10.3 Cllr Stock had made enquiries from Clare and was informed that 1 cut of the grass per week, plus hedge cutting, was needed. The Chairman suggested 3 cuts per month would suffice as funds were being exhausted. More information is needed from the Community Gardens before the Lengthsman can quote for the work. Grass cutting quotes would be sought when the exact work and frequency was determined.</p> <p>10.4 It was thought by all Councillors present that there was a need for a Management Committee for the Gardens. Councillors Daniels, Quinn, Padfield and Stock would arrange to meet with Marie and Clare (Community Garden Committee members) to discuss requirements for the maintenance of the Gardens and a training course for Cllr Stock.</p>	<p>Cllrs Daniels Quinn Stock Padfield</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>STREET CLEANING/LENGTHSMAN SCHEME: Cllr Quinn distributed his report to Councillors in which he noted the following:</p> <p>11.1 The direction sign finger post at Green Lane junction towards Stockhill and the direction sign on the A367 opposite Watery Lane have been replaced by Somerset County Council Highways.</p> <p>11.2 Tasks carried out by Chris included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic signs repositioned and secured at Norton Down. • Branches etc removed from traffic warning signs (B3355) towards Norton Down. • Continued weed and debris clearance in village from pavements towards Linkmead, progressing southwards through the village on subsequent visits. • Clearing drains of debris as progressing through village. • Weeds and debris cleared from around the Village Hall. • Footpath stiles and surrounds trimmed and cleared at White Post. • Footpath direction sign (A367) repositioned. • Stiles on footpath towards Stockhill cleared. <p>11.3 Chris Perkins has received his certificate in relation to the weed kill course and is now qualified in all aspects of weed kill application. The weed kill must be done as a matter of urgency and needs to be done as the heavy growth of vegetation is being removed.</p>	

	<p>11.4 The Chairman stated that the farm equipment Representative had confirmed that the weed sprayer with cartridges would be the best for the Parish Council's needs. The cartridges held 9 litres which would spray 1 hectare (2½ acres). The cartridges cost £82 for a pack of 4 which would cover approximately 6 months weed control. The spray wand cost £125. All agreed for the Chairman to proceed with the purchase, which would be ordered tomorrow.</p> <p>11.5 Cllr Quinn stated that Chris Perkins (the lengthsman) would pay for the equipment, but Stratton, (and other parishes who wished to use the equipment), would need to purchase the cartridges. Cllr Jeremy Padfield queried if the cartridge could be disconnected once it had been engaged. It was agreed that Cllr Quinn would be responsible for the cartridges.</p> <p>11.6 Cllr Quinn queried that the new lengthsman scheme mentioned in Gloria Cawood's report seemed to want the Lengthsman to do all Highway jobs without Mendip District Council or Somerset County Council making any contribution. Cllr Quinn thought that this was putting too much onus on parishes.</p> <p>11.7 It was agreed by all Councillors present not to pursue the offer from Somerset County Council to participate in the strimmer scheme.</p>	Chair
12.	<p>VH CAR-PARK:</p> <p>12.1 The Clerk had been informed by SALC that VAT could only be reclaimed for the cost of tarmacing the Village Hall car-park if the Parish Council was invoiced the full amount. The Parish council then would have to invoice the Village Hall Committee for the amount that it was paying towards the cost.</p> <p>12.2 The Parish Council did not at present give a grant to the Village Hall as, in the recent past, the Village Hall had received a substantial £20K from the Parish Council funds. It was however, thought that the Parish Council could fund the cost out of its constituency funds which would also keep the Auditors happy and the PC could then claim back the VAT. The Clerk stated that £14K would have to be spent before the VAT could be claimed back at the end of the Financial Year and may not be received until 3 months later. All Councillors present agreed for Cllr Jones to present this suggestion in the Parish Newsletter - pointing out that the car-park was also for the use of the Community Gardens - asking for comments to be received by September to be discussed at this Meeting.</p>	Cllr Jones
13.	<p>BT KIOSK:</p> <p>Cllr Jones volunteered to help Cllr Duggan paint the Kiosk – this would depend on the recent very wet weather ceasing. Cllr Norris confirmed that he would install shelves once the painting was completed.</p>	Cllr Duggan Jones
14.	<p>WAR MEMORIAL:</p> <p>This was to be put on hold for the present.</p>	Cllr Padfield
15.	<p>HIGHWAYS:</p> <p>The Clerk to chase the grass cutting at Killers Knapp and lay-bys in the village - already reported after the last Meeting, but not yet cut.</p>	Clerk
16.	<p>FOOTPATHS:</p> <p>Cllr Jones gave his feedback on Cllr Gittings parish footpath map. It was thought to be helpful if it was written in walker language ie stiles and landmarks mentioned.</p>	

