

**Minutes of the 914th Meeting of the Stratton-on-the-Fosse Parish Council
Held in the Village Hall 19 November 2012**

PRESENT:	Councillors: Mr John Padfield,(Chair), Mr R Jones(Vice Chairman), Mr Jeremy Padfield Mr W Quinn, Mr A Norris, Mrs I Duggan, Mrs L Gittings. Mrs J Davies, Mr M Daniels.		
IN ATTENDANCE:	Clerk		
	<i>The Lord's prayer was said.</i>		ACTION
	PUBLIC FORUM: There was no discussion.		
1.	APOLOGIES: Cllrs, Mr D Stock, CC Gloria Cawood,		
2.	MINUTES: The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 15 October 2012 were approved as a true record and duly signed.		
3.	DECLARATION OF INTEREST: There were no new Declarations of Interest.		
4.	MATTERS ARISING: The Clerk reported on the following action taken since the last Meeting:		
	<u>ACTION POINTS</u>	ACTION BY DATE	NAME
1.	Send MDC copy of Code of Conduct	Forwarded	Clerk
2.	Submit Declaration of Office to MDC	Forwarded	Clerk
3.	Following advice on FOI, Data Protection, Complaints procedure from SALC - Email to request Pro-forma on complaints procedure, Website ICO.gov to check if registered for F.O.I.	Next mtg	Clerk
4.	Data Protection - procedure to be followed to insert in SO's	Asap	Cllr Daniels
5.	Place Standing Orders on Web-site	Asap	Cllr Daniels
6.	County Councillor's Report -forward	Completed	Clerk
7.	Receipt for Weed Spray Equipment For Chris Perkins(lengthsman) for payment to be given to Cllr Quinn	received	Cllr John Padfield
8.	Receipt for weed spray cartridges - bring to meeting	received	Cllr John Padfield
9.	Invoice from W Palmer to be given to Clerk	Next mtg	Cllr John Padfield
10.	Secure Quotes for the cutting of Community Garden grass.	asap	Cllr Daniels
11.	Condition of road between Green Lane & Bainsbury View - report to Highways - to affirm that this is the correct site of road surface damage.	Chase	Clerk

12	Update Gloria Cawood on situation re traffic calming alterations	completed	Clerk
13	Post Police survey received back form Cllr Quinn	Forwarded	Clerk
14	Lengthsman to strim Mogg Hill footpath	Completed	Cllr Quinn
15	Post Planning decision to MDC	Forwarded	Clerk
16	Post Cheques - Cam Valley Wildlife Group - R Jones	Forwarded	Clerk
17	Pay Shaw & Sons - Account Ledger	Forwarded	Clerk
18	Photocopy Account Book pages Yr End 2013 to date - give to Cllr Daniels	At meeting	Clerk
19	Set up a spread sheet for PC's Payments & Receipts	Next mtg	Cllr Daniels
20	Bring up-dated figures to next meeting - Budget forecast	Completed	Clerk
21	Forward Cllr Duggan September's Minutes	asap	Clerk
22	Invite Downside to put forward a representative for the Community Gardens Sub-Committee	asap	Clerk

There were no other matters of report, other then shown as Agenda items.

5. **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:**

5.1 Councillors had been emailed Gloria's Report – a summary of which follows:

Progress on the Health and Well-being Grant –Thanks for the applications. The closing date of October 31st. has passed and I am now processing them. I'll let you know if there is anything left. Here's a good example:

Stoke St Michael's bid for just under £1,000 for a path to the allotment to enable wheelchair users and prams to access has been approved by me. This scheme hits criteria such as encouraging healthy eating for all as well as in growing your own on the Parish allotment. The grant was for materials and the Parish Council will pay the Parish Lengthsman to carry out the work, while members of the community have agreed to join in and help too.

The allotment had its start a few years ago when a bid for £5,400 was successful under the old Councillor's Community Grant, which was shared by **Stoke and Batcombe** Parishes. It has been so encouraging to see how these two schemes have developed and how; thanks to the Parish Councils, other grants and community spirit they have been so successful.

Mendip Local Plan – Your Views are Wanted - The consultation draft was agreed on Monday 5th. November and will be out for consultation in Mendip until January 17th. It will go to the Secretary of State for approval with a hope that it can be adopted June 2013.

Police Commissioner Elections – Thursday, November 15th -I have been helping Pete Levy, the Liberal Democrat candidate. He is the only one brought up in Somerset. He is a former policeman and has served in the Military Police as well as having been a member of the Police Authority, a record on policing which none of the other candidates can match. He went to Writhlington School, where many young people in our area go. I do hope that like me you will encourage people to go out and vote.

Parish Warden Scheme

Following representations to the County Chief Executive from **Stratton-on-the-Fosse** and me, a review of the Lengthsman Service was undertaken. It was found to be very good value for money, with evidence that there were savings for both County and District Councils – even though Mendip contributed zilch. **Stratton, Kilmersdon, Holcombe and Stoke** (along with Coleford from an adjoining Division) match funded the scheme.

The new proposal is for 4 parishes to get together to employ someone as what the powers that be call a Parish Warden, with the job of taking on some County Council services. For an initial one-off grant of £3,000 the four parishes will be able to employ a Parish Warden, whose duties will be to take on a number of County Council Services for the next 4 years. Yippee! Training will be provided by the County Council the warden will be able to liaise with County's Area Highways about the duties they are taking over from County and any further costs will come from the Parishes only.

Initial indications from Parishes in my area are far from positive. Perhaps we will learn something of the advantages of the scheme at the **Local Choices meeting for Parishes on Thursday, November 8th 7pm to 9pm**, which might encourage greater take up. It sounds rather like the Strimmer Scheme, about which you were not enamoured and I understand funding comes from the Enablement Budget.

I am told that only three projects in Somerset have put in for a share of the £518,000 on offer for this scheme meant to encourage parishes, community and voluntary groups to take on County Council services. One-of grants of up to £50K are available for this. A £20,000 bid for a County Youth Club which had had all its funding cut, was refused on the grounds that the funding was not meant for services the County had already cut, but might be reconsidered. We might learn what the funding can be used for on Thursday, in which case weed-killing (stopped by the Conservatives this year) might be of interest. And perhaps we could ask for funding for other services in our area which have been cut.

Confused? You're not on your own!

5.2 *Cllr Gittings stated that CC Cawood had asked for a meeting to be set up to discuss the above scheme, which had been arranged for 28 November 2012 in Stratton's Village Hall. Although it was considered by many that this was not a viable scheme, it was decided that Councillors Quinn, Daniels and John Padfield would attend the meeting to gain further information.*

5.3 *As the host Parish, coffee and biscuits would need to be supplied. Cllr Daniels would ask his wife (Francis) to organise.*

Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) - Another recent announcement by County has been that any parish that wants one can have a SID. The installation will be paid for on a one-off basis, but thereafter it will be down to the Parishes to maintain them, manage the records and information from them and help move them from one parish to another. I am uncertain where this one-off funding has come from – possibly unspent Enablement Funding or from the massive reserves being stacked up for a 'rainy day'?

5.4 *The Chairman stated that he had alerted the Clerk to Mendip's supplying SID's to parishes at no cost. The Clerk had contacted the relevant department and registered Stratton's interest. Stratton is now on a list to be supplied with SID's, but the location of it needs to be forwarded.*

6.	<p>DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT: Nothing received. The Clerk Confirmed that an email had been forwarded asking for a Report if not attending. The Clerk to make further enquiries as to whether Steve Priscott was still Stratton's District Councillor.</p>	
7.	<p>POLICE MATTERS:</p> <p>7.1 There was no report or apology received.</p> <p>7.2 The Clerk was to add the new Beat Manger to the email list to send Agenda and Minutes.</p> <p>7.3 The Clerk to invite the new Beat Manger to a Parish Council Meeting.</p> <p>7.4 Cllr Daniels had emailed the PCSO regarding the accident on Monday in Stratton, but to date had not received a reply (1 week later). Cllr Daniels had also tried to make contact via the PCSO's mobile number – to no avail. It was thought that it was unacceptable that messages were not diverted if the PCSO concerned was unattainable.</p>	
8.	<p>PLANNING MATTERS:</p> <p>8.1 <u>Applications:</u> <i>None received.</i></p> <p>8.2 <u>Notified of Approval by MDC:</u> Ref: 2012/2371 Location: Norton Hill Lodge Proposal: Timber framed double Garage & Store <i>Approved with Conditions.</i></p>	
9.	<p>FINANCIAL MATTERS:</p> <p>9.1 Cllr John Padfield submitted an invoice for the Weed Spray Cartridges amounting to £129.01 to be paid. Cheque No.000910</p> <p>9.2 The Clerk's request for a cheque to be re-issued for the Citizen Advice Bureau was agreed by all Councillors present. Amount of £50 Cheque no.000909</p> <p>9.3 An Invoice from Chris Perkins(Lengthsman) for £205.00 was agreed by all Councillors present to be paid. Cheque No.000908</p> <p>9.4 A notification from Chris Perkins regarding an hourly pay increase from £12.50 to £14 was discussed by Councillors. It was decided that the Clerk should write to Chris stating that the Parish Council would only consider the increase after the present Contract ran out – when a new contract would be drawn up.</p> <p>9.5 The Bank Statements were reconciled and signed.</p> <p>9.6 Grass cutting quotes for the Community Gardens were still awaited, but would be brought to the next Meeting.</p> <p>9.7 The Clerk presented figures accessing the Parish Council's expenditure up till Yr End 31 March 2013 for Budge purposes.</p> <p>9.8 The Parish Council would be approximately £3K over budget for this Financial Year, which had already been forecast. This was due to the extra expenditure in connection with the Community Gardens (insurance, grass cutting, playground inspection etc) and for the Year End 2013 the extra outlay would come from the Parish Council's contingency fund.</p>	

	<p>9.9 It was decided by all present to discuss the Budget more fully at the next meeting, to give Councillors time to digest the figures supplied by the Clerk.</p> <p>9.10 The Clerk stated that the Precept request officially needed to be sent to Mendip District Council by 4 January 2013. However, SALC had advised Parish Council's not to deliver its Precept request until after the Government's decision on capping – anticipated on 08 December 2012. Stratton will be bringing its Meeting forward to the 10 December 2012, but in the event that information is not available - and with much to debate and decide on this Precept – the Clerk has agreed with Mendip District Council that, if necessary, Stratton can delivery its Precept Request after the January Meting (22 January 2013)</p>	
<p>10.</p>	<p>COMMUNITY GARDENS:</p> <p>10.1 Cllr Quinn had drawn up a Check List to assist in the inspection of the playground. Cllr Quinn submitted Cllr Stock's Report, using this Check List, in his absence. The Report confirmed that the playground had been inspected weekly since the last Meeting and that nothing needed attention.</p> <p>10.2 The Clerk confirmed that the Annual Playground Inspection had taken place and that the Report should be received by next Meeting.</p>	
<p>11.</p>	<p>STREET CLEANING/LENGTHSMAN SCHEME:</p> <p>11.1 Cllr Quinn distributed his report to Councillors in which he noted the following: Tasks carried out by Chris included: Cutting back and strimming around a direction signpost to Holcombe on the A367. Cleared branches etc from around the 30 mph sign in Church Lane. Carried out modification and installed a dog waste bin on the wall opposite the entrance to the Mogg Hill footpath. Strimmed around the Mogg Hill footpath entrance and surrounding area. Strimmed edges of Mogg Hill footpath to the Copse entrance gate. Cut back branches that were obstructing the Watery Lane name sign. Cut back bank from Green Lane to the chicane opposite Bainsbury View to allow a clear view of traffic for vehicles approaching the main road from Green Lane. Strimmed and cleared the bank opposite Fosse Cottages down to the old RBL car park. Removed overhanging branches etc and tidied the area around the War Memorial in preparation for Remembrance Day. Tidied the area around the bus stop and cleaned the Perspex panels of the bus shelter. Checked and cleared away around drains – some on the A367 need to be cleaned by SCC with specialist equipment.</p> <p>11.2 Cllr Quinn had confirmed with Chris (lengthsman) that he will stand down from the end November 2012 until February 2013.</p> <p>11.3 Cllr Quinn praised the Lengthsman for his efforts during the past year – a difficult year with the rapid growth of grass etc – and thought that Stratton was fortunate to have a person who can tackle a varied amount of tasks.</p> <p>11.4 Cllr Quinn brought to Councillors attention the Community Warden Scheme proposed by Somerset County Council. Cllr Quinn's opinion was that this proposal was unworkable.</p>	

	<p>11.5 The Cleaning of the War Memorial was brought to Councillors attention by Cllr Daniels, who suggested that the Clerk contacted the War Memorial Trust for advice on cleaning and a possible grant towards this.</p>	
<p>12.</p>	<p>HIGHWAYS:</p> <p>12.1 The Clerk to report the following issues to Highways: At Bainsbury View the pavement is encroached by overgrown bushes. Blocked drains throughout the village due to build up of leaves. The chicanes need special attention ie a broom rather than a mechanical sweep. A flood issue opposite war memorial on Fosse Road – a long standing problem, which has been previously reported several times to no avail. The Clerk to copy Gloria Cawood. Warning sign (Giveaway sign) at end of Watery Lane not in place – smashed in hedge.</p> <p>12.2 A discussion took place regarding the accident that had happened last Monday at the Killings Knapp junction, resulting in a fatality. Councillors were concerned that several accidents had happened already at this spot and that visibility was impaired, due to overgrown hedges. The Clerk to report to Highways that trees and hedges on the verges were in need of cutting back, as they impaired visibility particularly exiting from the entrance to Manor Farm Also that the warning sign at this junction was always turning around and therefore can not be seen on the approach to the junction. Cllr Daniels suggested that a Stop sign before the bend would be more appropriate.</p> <p><i>Cllr Jeremy Padfield left the meeting at this point</i></p> <p>12.3 The Clerk to contact Highways and Gloria Cawood highlighting the Parish Council’s concern over the above safety issues at this junction.</p> <p>12.4 Also the Clerk to contact the PCSO and Beat Manager and invite to the next Parish Council Meeting to discuss this issue.</p>	
<p>13.</p>	<p>FOOTPATHS:</p> <p>13.1 The Clerk to chase previous reports on the overgrown footpath needing attention between the Pub at Nettlebridge and Pitcote crossroads.</p> <p>13.2 Cllr Norris reported the footpath at the MSN end of the village towards the lay-by needed attention as it was overgrown with earth and grass which considerably restricts the width.</p> <p>13.3 Cllr Gittings reported that the Ramblers had cleared a style at the back of Pitcote Farm.</p> <p>13.4 The Clerk reported that Mendip District Council had been informed of the site of the recently installed dog fouling bin. Councillors reported that it had been emptied.</p>	

14.	<p>PARISH FORUM REPORT:</p> <p>14.1 Cllr Gittings reported that at a Rural Parish Forum Meeting the Mendip Community Transport scheme explained that it relied on donations. That anybody could use this facility, not only those with bus passes, but would need to pay a fare. A route to the RUH Hospital was also available. To use the service, registration was needed and booking 14 days prior to travel.</p> <p>14.2 Cllr Gittings reported that the Localism Bill would have an impact on Planning. For example, land could be offered for Planning and an appeal of “not in my backyard” would not be acceptable. Cllr Gittings also stated that any Parish land not built on should be registered ie the Football Field and Community Gardens. It was thought that the Community Gardens were already registered.</p> <p>14.3 Cllr Gittings had questioned why the Mobile Library from Wincanton only stopped at the Red Brick Farmhouse on a Monday and not anywhere else in the village. Cllr Gittings had since discovered that a Mobile Library from Wells stopped at Bath View, but being at the far end of the village did not receive many customers. Therefore the Mobile Library service will now stop at the Kings Arms car-park every 4th Tuesday between 11.00am-11.30 am with the next visit being 11 December 2012.</p> <p>14.4 Cllr Gittings reported that Gloria Cawood had attended the seminar regarding the Parish Warden Scheme, which had been reported on in her County Councillor’s Report previously – a meeting to discuss further to be held on 28 November 2012.</p>																						
15.	<p>WEB-SITE:</p> <p>Cllr Daniels stated there was nothing new to report.</p>																						
16.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE:</p> <p>Correspondence read and dealt with accordingly.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="224 1138 1390 1984"> <tr> <td data-bbox="224 1138 315 1249">1</td> <td data-bbox="315 1138 532 1249">MDC</td> <td data-bbox="532 1138 1390 1249">Precept Requirements by 4 Jan 2013 Stay of execution if needed 22 Jan 2013</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="224 1249 315 1360">2</td> <td data-bbox="315 1249 532 1360">Chris Perkins</td> <td data-bbox="532 1249 1390 1360">Lengthsman Invoice £205 (Sheet 90 18/10/12 & Sheet 91 01/11/12)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="224 1360 315 1472">3</td> <td data-bbox="315 1360 532 1472">Chris Perkins</td> <td data-bbox="532 1360 1390 1472">Letter re salary increase from 2013 from £12.50 per hour to £14.00 per hour. <i>Look Contract and send letter as discussed previously.</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="224 1472 315 1583">4</td> <td data-bbox="315 1472 532 1583">CAB</td> <td data-bbox="532 1472 1390 1583">Return of cheque to alter NAME Suggest CAB BANES as this covers MSN</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="224 1583 315 1694">5</td> <td data-bbox="315 1583 532 1694">Nat West</td> <td data-bbox="532 1583 1390 1694">Phoned in information needed for Bank Signatures</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="224 1694 315 1806">6</td> <td data-bbox="315 1694 532 1806">Mendip Community Transport</td> <td data-bbox="532 1694 1390 1806">Request for Grant - <i>Put on File</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="224 1806 315 1984">7</td> <td data-bbox="315 1806 532 1984">Age Concern Victim Support Air Ambulance</td> <td data-bbox="532 1806 1390 1984">Thank you letters for donation</td> </tr> </table>	1	MDC	Precept Requirements by 4 Jan 2013 Stay of execution if needed 22 Jan 2013	2	Chris Perkins	Lengthsman Invoice £205 (Sheet 90 18/10/12 & Sheet 91 01/11/12)	3	Chris Perkins	Letter re salary increase from 2013 from £12.50 per hour to £14.00 per hour. <i>Look Contract and send letter as discussed previously.</i>	4	CAB	Return of cheque to alter NAME Suggest CAB BANES as this covers MSN	5	Nat West	Phoned in information needed for Bank Signatures	6	Mendip Community Transport	Request for Grant - <i>Put on File</i>	7	Age Concern Victim Support Air Ambulance	Thank you letters for donation	
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	RNLI			
8	Somerset Waste Partnership	Collection days revised – <i>To place on Web site</i>		
	Magazines/ Brochures:	Clerks & Councils Direct Issue 84 Cam Valley Wildlife Group Autumn 2012 War memorial Trust Bulletin No 55		
	Planning:	Permission: Ref:2012/2371 Norton Hill Lodge		
	Bank Statements:	05 Nov 2012 Business Reserve A/C 14,160.52 Current A/C 50.00		
	Cheques:	Chris Perkins Lengthsman £205.00 John Padfield £129.01 CAB BANES – Reissued 50.00		
17.	MATTERS OF REPORT & ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:			
	17.1 The Chairman read out the email received from Mr Dale James from Middlemead registering his disappointment at not receiving a reply to his previous email. This was in regard to issues revolving around the installation of the Community Gardens, which he reported when replying to the Village Hall’s survey to parishioners views on tar-making the car-park.			
	17.2 The main points of his concerns were mud on the road and pavements whilst constructing the Community Gardens, the volume of parked cars in Middlemead making it impossible for him to park outside of his house, and the neglect of the trees planted in the Community Gardens.			
	17.3 The Clerk stated that, during a telephone conversation with Mr James, it had been stressed that the Parish Council were not involved with the building of the Community Gardens or with the landscaping of it. Mr James had also been invited to a Parish Council meeting to air his views, but had not taken up the invitation. His previous email had been forward to the Village Hall Chairman and the Chairman of the Parish Council and had been noted at the Parish Council meeting.			
	17.4 The Clerk would contact Mr James outlining the previous points ie it not being Parish Council’s responsibility regarding mud and landscaping issues concerned with the Community Gardens. Also that the Parish Council had no jurisdiction regarding parking in residential roads. Also to inform Mr James that a new Sub-Committee had recently been formed which would consider matters concerning the Gardens.			
	17.5 Items to be placed on the next Agenda: To discuss Precept requirements. Welcome PCSO and Beat Manager			
18.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING:			
	18.1 The date of the next Meeting will be on Monday 10 December at 7.45 pm			
	18.2 There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.			

CHAIRMAN _____ **DATE** _____