

**Minutes of the 917th Meeting of the Stratton-on-the-Fosse Parish Council
Held in the Village Hall 18 February 2013**

PRESENT:	Councillors: Mr John Padfield,(Chair), Mr D Stock, Mr W Quinn, Mrs J Davies, Mr A Norris, Mrs L Gittings, Mr M Daniels.		
IN ATTENDANCE:	CC Gloria Cawood, PCSO Housley, Clerk,		
	<i>The Lord's prayer was said.</i>		ACTION
	PUBLIC FORUM: There was no discussion.		
1.	APOLOGIES: Cllrs, Mr R Jones(Vice Chairman), Mr Jeremy Padfield.		
2.	MINUTES: The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 21 January 2013 were approved as a true record and duly signed.		
3.	DECLARATION OF INTEREST:		
4.	MATTERS ARISING: 4.1 The Clerk reported on the following action taken since the last Meeting:		
	<u>ACTION POINTS</u>	ACTION BY DATE	NAME
1.	Re fly-tipping on bridle-path, Watery Lane - black bags including timber <i>Ian Glover Enforcement Officer to offer a solution to problem of dumping in bridle path/Watery Lane A site meeting to be arranged with Jeremy and John.</i>	Phoned 10/01/13 Ref 507131	Clerk Jeremy P John P
2.	<i>Received verification in writing from Highways that the work on Chicane, agreed at a meeting with Charlie Higgins and Jeff Bunting, would be completed in this Financial Year</i>	Email 25/01/13	Jeff Bunting
3.	Contact Highways to chase already reported issues: Drains - Green Lane to SM end village Pavement Radstock end village towards lay-by Nettlebridge pavement <i>Highway supervisor (Blanchflower) phoned Drains not bad enough to warrant attention Pavement in village ok Nettlebridge pavement ok Councillors disagreed with all above comments the Clerk to go back to Highways & register complaint</i>	Emailed 23/01/13	Clerk
4.	Contact Highways re Norton Down Cross roads: No Stop Sign & road markings covered by tar-mack. Scene recently of another accident. <i>Confirmed Post & Sign replaced. H/ways proposing to improve signing & lining at this junction to increase driver awareness before end of financial year.</i>	Emailed 23/01/13 Action taken 25/01/13	

5.	Contact Highways re filling Grit Bins Confirmation from Highways that bins would be added to the re-filling programme	23/01/13 Action taken	Clerk		
6.	Registered for Data Protection sent forms 21/01/2013 to be completed and forwarded with £35 cheque for Annual subscription. Still to complete	asap	Clerk MD		
7.	Pro-forma requested from SALC on complaints procedure (PC) Given to Cllr Daniels Complaints procedure (Staff). Think about setting up grievance panel small group Cllrs eg like line manager - meet only if problem - 3 Cllrs not Chair as he has to be available if there is an appeal.	Action taken	Clerk		
8.	F O I - procedure to be followed to insert in SO's	Asap	MD Clerk		
9.	Place Standing Orders on Web-site	Asap	MD		
10.	County Councillor's Report -forward	Received forwarded	Clerk		
11.	Invoice from W Palmer to be given to Clerk	Next mtg	Cllr John Padfield		
12.	Secure Quotes for the cutting of Community Garden grass. 3 quotes received by Clerk given to Cllr Daniels at meeting. To discuss at Community Gardens Committee meeting 14 March 2013 Place item on Agenda	18/02/13 18/02/13	MD Clerk		
13.	Bolt on entrance gate in Community Gardens to be modified. Jeremy Padfield dealing with this issue	asap	Jeremy P Lengthsman		
14.	Contact PCSO to record damaged Grit Bin Bath View Crime no 7566-13	Action taken	Clerk		
15.	Contact Insurance Company re damaged Grit Bin £250 excess on policy - confirmed lid now tied on.	Action taken	Clerk		
16.	Submit new Account Forms to Nat West c/w Mins Back to Bank twice as given wrong the information & forms plus 1 phone call. Signatures needed to be collected twice because of this. Awaiting response from Bank.		Clerk		

4.2 The Clerk asked Councillors if all Declaration of Interest returned by MDC were correct? Nick Jagger at MDC needs confirmation. The Clerk had received acknowledgement that all was correct from Cllrs Quinn, Stock, Gittings, Daniels – all other Councillors present confirmed everything in order. The Clerk to notify Mendip that all Forms are correct.

CC Gloria Cawood arrived at this point

Clerk

5. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

5.1 The Report had been forwarded to all Councillors – a summary of which follows: January was a pretty hectic month as everyone tried to catch up after the Christmas break, hindered by snow and heavy rain.

Community Enablement Grant – All our bids received were in by January 31st. - from Stratton-on-the-Fosse, Leigh-on-Mendip, Kilmersdon and Stoke St Michael. David Huxtable, Cabinet Member for Resources turned down all 4. The reasons given were that “they did not meet the criteria because they not represent a transfer of services and there was uncertainty about the sustainability of the proposals.” Well done to the 4 Parishes for giving it a go. I think we probably all agree that a scheme which enables Parishes to take on County services in perpetuity for next to nothing was never going to a great success. It now seems that the budget is underspent by over £200,000.

Parish Warden Scheme- The schemes submitted by the parish Councils above are now to be looked at as part of a Parish Warden Scheme. We will wait and see what officers come up with, and will wanting to ensure some autonomy for individual parishes and much reduced bureaucracy.

Prestleigh – Bath and West Housing Development Prestleigh Residents were horrified to discover that plans were afoot to build 24 new houses on the Showground. Other plans included a Free School for Autistic children and young people and other developments. There are concerns already that it could lead to the demise of the Bath and West Show as a popular annual agricultural event as every bit of green space disappears for industrial, and housing and other development. I am organising a meeting with Evercreech and Doulting Parish Councils.

New Homes Bonus Money- Proposals going to Mendip Cabinet next week will set aside £100,000 to be used by local District Councillors in their Wards. This amounts to £2,000 per Councillor to be spent over the next 4 years as far as I can gather. As the District elections come in 2 year's time, only half of this is able to be spent. For a one member Ward like mine, there will be £1,000 available over two years. The minimum grant will be £200. The Parishes in my Ward are Cranmore, Doulting, Nunney, Downhead and Whatley. If the proposals go through, grants will be available from April.

Council Budgets- it's that time again! As usual, there is much pre-occupation about where the axe will fall, but we do know that both Mendip and Somerset will set a 0% council Tax rise, leading to more cuts in services and jobs. I do have concerns about the impact of the 'bedroom tax', the impact of the introduction of Council Tax for everyone including the lowest earners. Conservative run Mendip decided not to reduce the 'Empty Homes Discount'. Mendip Lib Dems proposed reducing this from 6 months to 3 months, which seems fair even to me as a landlord when times are so hard for the poorest in our society because of the recession.

Help for Rough Sleepers in Mendip- I have received a number of queries, from people in our patch regarding provision for rough sleepers in our District. I am told that no-one in our District needs to sleep rough when temperatures fall below zero. Safe and warm accommodation is provided at the Salvation Army Hall in Shepton Mallet. To access the service ring 01749 677097. I have attached a poster and would be grateful to Parishes if they could circulate this information as widely as possible.

Gloria Cawood, County and District Councillor

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	<p>5.2 Gloria reported that the Community Enablement grant had been turned down as the bid from Stratton did not meet the criteria. The Chairman and Cllr Daniels had spent a great deal of time in filling out the required form. CC Gloria Cawood suggested that Stratton should complain to David Huxable about Stratton's turned down bid. If not forthcoming with the details then should state the Freedom of Information act to gain information.</p> <p>5.3 The Parish Warden Scheme which was for 4/5 parishes over 4 years with a grant of £3k was not thought to be a good deal. The Chairman stated that the Parish Council had considered this in case Chris Perkins retired in the near future and the monies would help train another lengthsman.</p> <p>5.4 The Community Environment Scheme with a grant of £2k between 5 parishes, which maybe a playgroup could take advantage of, might be worth considering. Gloria suggested that Stratton's District Councillor might have more information and be able to help with this.</p>	Clerk
6.	<p>DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT:</p> <p>6.1 Nothing received.</p> <p>6.2 It was suggested that the leader of MDC Harvey Stiggs was approached to enquire what had happened to Dist Cllr Steve Priscott and if he was still Stratton's representative. Also the name of Stratton's second District Councillor.</p> <p><i>Goria Cawood left the meeting at this point 20.37</i></p>	
7.	<p>POLICE MATTERS:</p> <p>7.1 PCSO Housley reported that Stratton now had a new Beat Manager- Linsey Robinson – who unfortunately could not attend the Meeting.</p> <p>7.2 PSCO Housley gave her Report as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Downside reported youths on the grounds on motor bikes. A Section 59 had been issued, which will mean that the bikes will get taken way if a nuisance is caused by them again. Police have suggested that Downside to block off this entrance by a kissing gate. • A Report received 12 Feb 2013 of a den opposite Bath View. The police had investigated and discovered a table and chairs but no sign of drugs or alcohol. Somerset County Council were to be notified and asked to dismantle and in the meantime the police will keep an eye on the site. • Mendip District Council had been approached regarding the graffiti on road sings and these were in the process of being cleaned. <p>7.3 PCSO Housley reported that crime level on her patch was very low at the moment.</p> <p>7.4 PCSO Housley asked to be informed when Village Day and/or Farm Day was to be held and she would try to attend. Cllr Quinn requested "No Waiting" cones for use on Village Day and PCSO Housley stated that she would pick up signs if emailed the date needed. It was noted that the cones were advisory and not compulsory.</p>	PCSO
8.	<p>PLANNING MATTERS:</p> <p>8.1 <u>Applications:</u> Ref: 2012/2865 Heathercott House, Stoke St Michael BA3 5HW – Tennis Court Councillors all agreed to recommend approval as this application would not affect any other person.</p> <p><i>PCSO Housley left the meeting at this point 20.59</i></p>	

<p>9.</p>	<p>FINANCIAL MATTERS:</p> <p>9.1 The Clerk presented an Invoice for printer ink amounting to £27.62 which was agreed by all present to be paid. Cheque No.000919</p> <p>9.2 An Invoice for Lengthsman duties from Chris Perkins (number 38 for 8 hours 07/02/2013) amounting to £100 was agreed by all Councillors present to be paid. Cheque No.000920</p> <p>9.3 An Invoice for Playdale Playgrounds Ltd, amounting to £3,480 being the deposit towards the Basket Swing ordered for the Community Gardens, which had already been agreed by Councillors at a previous meeting had been paid. Cheque No. 000918</p> <p>9.4 Bank Statements were reconciled and signed.</p>	
<p>10.</p>	<p>COMMUNITY GARDENS:</p> <p>Cllr Stock gave the Clerk his monthly Report – a weekly check-list on the play area. Everything had been okay apart from litter left.</p>	
<p>11.</p>	<p>STREET CLEANING/LENGTHSMAN SCHEME:</p> <p>11.1 The Chairman acknowledged that Cllr Bill Quinn had stepped down from co-ordinating the Lengthsman and although he had sent a letter of thanks wished to thank him in person for his past help with the Lengthsman scheme over the years and the Parish Council would miss his input. Cllr Quinn replied that he had thoroughly enjoyed this task and thanked Cllr Daniels for standing in at such short notice. Cllr Quinn stated that he was still prepared to assist with any information needed to whoever takes on the role.</p> <p>11.2 Cllr Daniels confirmed that he had taken on the Co-ordination role for the Lengthsman initially for 6 months and asked that Councillors email him any tasks needing attention. The tasks performed by the Lengthsman this month were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Started tidying at the Bath View end of the Village. • Measured for litter bin and post. 	
<p>12.</p>	<p>HIGHWAYS:</p> <p>12.1 The Chairman read out a letter received from resident Major Mellotte to Mendip Highways congratulating the department on a quick response to notification of pot holes outside his residence.</p> <p>12.2 The Clerk was asked to report pot-holes at the junction of Church Road and Stratton Road.</p> <p>12.3 Also Councillors did not agree with Highways that the recent items reported were not in need of attention.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The drains along the main road from Green Lane towards Shepton which have sunk. • The southside of Bainsbury View to the Telephone Exchange the side of the road was in need of attention. • The south side of Bath View (going across the road - utility trench) road in need of attention. • The pavement from the end of the village towards Radstock to the lay-by has been made narrow by encroaching vegetation. • The pavement at Nettlebridge Hill needs attention due to encroaching vegetation etc. <p>The Clerk to make their views known to Highways.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

13. FOOTPATHS:	Nothing to report other than it was noted that Mogg Hill footpath was now being kept clear of cattle mess.		
14. PARISH FORUM REPORT:	There was nothing to report.		
15. WEB-SITE:	There was nothing to report.		
16. CORRESPONDENCE:	Correspondence read and dealt with accordingly:		
	1.	Haines Gardens Community Gardens - Grass Cutting quote £1,260 (£60 per cut) Given to MD	MD
	2.	Jeff Avis Community Gardens - Grass Cutting quote Approx 22 cuts (£80 per cut) given to MD	MD
	3.	Chris Perkins Community Gardens - Grass Cutting quote (£75 per cut) Given MD	MD
	4.	Playdale Playgrounds Ltd Order and Invoice for half of cost as Deposit £3,480 for Basket Swing	
	5.	Globalape Invoice – Ink	
	6.	Rok Memory Invoice – Ink	
	7.	Chris Perkins Invoice Lengthsman duties no 38 (7/2/2013)	
	8.	SOF Village Hall Booking Form – Regular Booking – Return to Jane Parfitt The VH Committee have decided to apply for Hallmark Status and a requirement is that the hall has a booking system in place. It was decided that the PC requirements were 2hrs for 10 months with an extra 3hrs for the APM in April – making 23 hrs per annum.	Clerk
	9.	R Mellotte Copy of letter sent to Highways re quick response to mending potholes.	
	10	G Cawood Report	
	11	Avon& Somerset Constabulary Crime Reference Number 7566/13	
	12	Jeff Bunting Stop sign replaced within 1 week (225 Jan 2013) New Post ordered & improvements to signing at Norton Down Cross roads before end Financial Yr.	
	13	Jeff Bunting Works on traffic calming system will be completed before end March 2013.	
	14	H/ways Grit Bins will be added to re-filling programme.	
	15	H/ways Phone call from Supervisor stating that pavement at end of Village and Nettlebridge all looked ok. The drains reported were not bad enough to be dealt with at present. Councillors disagreed – Clerk to contact H/ways.	Clerk
	16	Community South West Opportunity to win £1,500 towards a community event or project - Poster Entries to www.communitysouthwest.co.uk	

	<p>Magazines/ Brochures: Cam Valley Wildlife Group Newsletter.</p> <p>Planning: Application: Ref:2012/2865 Heatercott House, Stoke St Michael – Tennis Court</p> <p>Bank Statements: Jan 2013 Business Reserve A/C £ 24,278.68 Current A/C 50.00</p> <p>Cheques: Chris Perkins £100.00 V Attwood (Ink) £27.62 Playdale £3,480.00</p> <p>Letters sent:</p> <p>Emails sent: Jeff Bunting Charlie Higgins PCSO</p>	
<p>17.</p>	<p>MATTERS OF REPORT & ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:</p> <p>17.1 Data protection/Freedom of Information/Complaints procedure and Standing Orders. A meeting of the Chairman, Cllr Daniels and the Clerk to discuss these issues - to take place before the next meeting.</p> <p>17.2 Items to be placed on the next Agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Daniels suggested that the Clerk join the SLCCO at a cost of £75 per year plus a joining fee of £5. • Cllr Norris reported that he had witnessed a resident in a wheel chair having problems gaining access to the pavement in Stratton. The Chairman suggested that a list was drawn up to the best placement of drop kerbs. It was thought that Stratton had a strong case for drop kerbs in view of the local Nursing Home. Cllr Gittings had looked at this problem in the past and made a Report – the Clerk and Cllr Gittings would try to locate the Report. • The Contract for Chris Perkins, the Lengthsman, needed to be discussed at the next Meeting. • To discus grass cutting quotes for Community Gardens. 	<p>Chair MD Clerk</p> <p>Agenda</p> <p>Agenda</p> <p>Agenda</p> <p>Agenda</p>
<p>18.</p>	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING:</p> <p>18.1 The date of the next Meeting will be on Monday 18 March 2013 at 7.45 pm</p> <p>18.2 There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.34p.m.</p>	

CHAIRMAN _____ DATE _____