

**Minutes of the 918th Meeting of the Stratton-on-the-Fosse Parish Council
Held in the Village Hall 18 March 2013**

PRESENT:	Councillors: Mr John Padfield,(Chair), Mr R Jones (Vice Chair), Mr D Stock, Mrs J Davies, Mr A Norris, Mrs L Gittings, Mr M Daniels, Mrs I Duggan, Mr Jeremy Padfield.		
IN ATTENDANCE:	CC Gloria Cawood, Dist Cllr Steven Priscott, Clerk,		
	<i>The Lord's prayer was said.</i>		ACTION
	PUBLIC FORUM: There was no discussion.		
1.	APOLOGIES: Mr W Quinn.		
2.	MINUTES: The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 18 February 2013 were approved as a true record and duly signed.		
3.	DECLARATION OF INTEREST: There were none.		
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.	<i>Contacted Ian Glover Enforcement Officer to offer a solution to problem of dumping in Bridal way/Watery Lane. John and/or Jeremy will arrange a meeting.</i>		Jeremy P John P
2.	Highways response on already reported issues: Drains - Green Lane to SM end village - not bad enough to warrant work. Pavement Radstock end village towards lay-by - H/ways stated ok. _Nettlebridge pavement - vegetation - H/ways stated ok. Councillors not in agreement with H/ways - Clerk to contact.	Emailed No reply to date To Chase	Clerk
3.	Contact David Huxtable about Stratton's failed bid for the Community Enablement Grant. Reasons why turned down? <i>Tried several times to contact by phoned and email. No reply to date</i>	Phoned Emailed	Clerk
4.	PCSO Housley - when informed of Village Day/Farm Day - will organise "no Waiting" cones.	asap	PCSO
5.	Data Protection (ICO.gov.uk) <i>Registered sent forms 21/01/2013 to be completed To forward with £35 cheque for Annual subscription. Still to complete</i>	asap	Clerk MD

6.	Freedom of Information - procedure to be followed to insert in SO's To discuss	By next meeting	Clerk John P	
7.	Place Standing Orders on Web-site	Asap	MD	
8.	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.	Asap	MD John P Clerk	
9.	Meeting to be held with, Chairman, Clerk to discuss above issues ie FOI Data Protection, Complaints procedure and Standing Orders. Meeting still to be held	By next meeting	John P Clerk	
10.	County Councillor's Report -forward	Received forward	Clerk	
11.	Invoice from W Palmer to be given to Clerk	Next mtg	John P	
12.	Bolt on entrance gate in Community Gardens to be modified.	asap	Jeremy P	
13.	Submitted new Account Forms to Nat West Bank Received forms back to reorganise a signature that was not the same as already held by the Bank. Clerk established PC still wanted to go ahead with new Account, and that Cllr Jones would provide ID at Nat West.	asap	Clerk RJ	
14.	Forward VH Booking form to Jane Parfait	posted	Clerk	
15.	Drop Kerbs - locate Cllr Gittings past report on drop kerbs. Cllr Gittings and the Clerk held no record of the Report on drop kerbs. Gloria stated that she would see if she or Highways held a copy.	Next mtg	Gloria	

4.2 The Clerk reported that the light opposite the War Memorial had been reported, but Councillors reported that it was still not working – this may be because the reference number was not given Cllr Jeremy Padfield stated that he would take a note of the pole reference and report to the Clerk.

Clerk

4.3 The Clerk stated that she would chase the pot holes in Stratton Road at the Church Lane junction which had not been filled in, as was on the school run and especially bad for cyclists.

Clerk

5. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT:

5.1 Dist Cllr Steven Priscott apologised for his lack of attendance, but that his work had to take precedence.

5.2 Dist Cllr Priscott clarified that Stratton also had another District Councillor, which it shared with another parish, but that this Dist Cllr would be stepping down at the next Election in May.

5.3 The Community Environment Fund was up for bids from Parish Councils, this would run for 2 years and bids would be considered as and when received. Dist Cllr Priscott was encouraging groups to place bids. The criteria being that this had to benefit the Community. Therefore equipment such as a strimmer might be an acceptable bid, as this would benefit both the Community Gardens and the Lenthsmen scheme. Cllr Daniels proposed to make a bid for equipment and Cllr Davies seconded this with all Councillors present in agreement. Cllr Daniels will

MD
Jeremy

9.2 **District Council New Homes Bonus Grants**

We` now have details of the grants arising from the Government's **New Homes Bonus**. Each District Councillor will have access to £2,000 to be spent over a period of two years. I am inviting my parishes, voluntary groups, village halls etc to apply to me by July 31st. for the first round. This is called the **Community Environment Grant**. Bids must be for a minimum of £200. I attach the application forms and criteria. I can only accept application forms from my own Ward - Cranmore, **Doultling, Nunney, Downhead and Whatley/Chantry** parishes. Other parishes in the Division should apply to their own District Councillors. (Some Wards in this Division have two District Councillors who can pool their budgets, so apply to both.)

There is also a larger New Homes Bonus grant pot of £250,000 for bigger projects costing over £10,000 and can come from community and voluntary organisations, parish councils, social/community interest groups/businesses. This is called the Local Legacy Fund and bids can be for £10,000 - £100,000. Applications should be in to matthew.cheney@mendip.gov.uk by April 15th. 2013.

9.3 **Solar Panel and Wind Farm Applications**

Doultling – AEE Renewables has indicated that they are likely to appeal against the decision by Mendip Planning Committee to refuse the **Hurlingpot Solar Farm application** at Doultling. This was considered in January and the company has up to 6 months to appeal. The officer recommendation was for approval. I had a large number of representations on this – for and against. Sadly, I was unable to attend the meeting as I was in London meeting Education Ministers for two days as part of my County Council duties, but did send in my views. Given the strong case made by the officers, the appeal could go either way.

Nunney and Trudoxhill Solar Panel Application– The same company, AEE-Renewables is applying for a solar farm at land on Sharpshaw Farm on the Ridgeway, north of the A361. This has only just come to me so it will be interesting to see what local people think. Both Parishes have the matter on their agenda.

AGRenewables/Aggregates Industries – Wind Farm Application – You will recall that planning permission was granted by Mendip District Council in 2012 for a wind monitoring mast east of Torr Works. The current proposal is for up to four turbines, north of the A361 on fields to the east of Asham Wood.

9.4 CC Cawood stated that she thought that Stratton had put the best bid together to fit the criteria and was disappointed that it was not successful in its bid for the Community Enabler Grant. She was also aware of the time and work that had gone into the preparation. Councillors could still not understand why Stratton had not been successful and the Clerk had emailed to enquire why but was still awaiting a reply.

9.5 The Chairman stated that the Mendip grants had already been discussed with Dist Cllr Priscott.

9.6 CC Cawood stated that the Strimmer Project is still available, with strimmer and training given with an end of season service at no charge. In return the Parish Council would agree to keep certain areas clear – this was negotiable.

9.7 The Chairman asked if CC Cawood still held on file the Report on dropped kerbs in the parish from Cllr Gittings dated 20 October 2008. CC Cawood would investigate.

9.8 CC Cawood stated that she would not be standing at the next Elections in May as a County Councillor, although would still be on the District Council. The Chairman hoped Gloria could make the APM on 15 May and stated that Councillors appreciated her past work especially concerning the Lengthsman Scheme.

Gloria left the Meeting at this point 8.29 pm

10. TO DISCUSS STANDING ORDERS:

10.1 Cllr Daniels had been tasked to place the Standing Orders on the We b-site, but to date some terms had not been met. A meeting, (between the Chairman Cllr Daniels and the Clerk), to discuss these issues had unfortunately not taken place and this matter still needed to be finalised.

Cllr Jeremy Padfield arrived at this point 8.32 pm

10.2 A discussion to clarify certain points, eg the need for the dates of Parish Council Meetings to be listed and the lack of a Parish Plan, was started. Several Councillors did not agree with Cllr Daniels that, (other than stating every 3rd Monday of the Month), specific dates of Meetings were not a necessity. Also that the Parish Council were not obliged to have a Parish Plan. The Clerk stated that this was also the information that had been received from Mr Lacey at SALC. Cllr Daniels disagreed, stating that his information had been obtained from the Local Ombudsman Website.

10.3 Cllr Daniels reported that he had spent many hours collecting information on this matter (which Councillors totally agreed with), but in view of this discussion felt he had to resign from participating any further.

10.4 The Complaints Procedure, which Cllr Daniels had emailed Councillors, was then read out and discussed. The important things, depicted in italics, were agreed by all to adopt.

10.5 Councillors agreed to insert 10 working days for acknowledgement of a complaint and 30 working days to resolve and the Clerk or Chairman will advise the complainant within 30 working days of the outcome of the complaint.

10.6 The Data Protection form (for registration) was still to be completed.

11. COMMUNITY GARDENS:

11.1 Cllr Stock gave the Clerk his monthly Report – a weekly check-list on the play area. Everything had been okay apart from litter left.

11.2 Cllr Jeremy Padfield reported that the Community Gardens Committee had looked at all 4 tenders for the grass cutting which ranged from £45 per cut to £80 per cut. It had been decided by the Committee that the tender would be given to Mr W Palmer who had held the price from last year, it was also felt that the would be more flexible as he resided in the village. Three cuts per month had been established at a cost of £135. The cutting would run from 01 March 2013– 31 October 2014.

11.3 Cllr Jeremy Padfield reported that the second Basket Swing at a cost of £5,550 plus £1,110 VAT making a total cost of £6,660 was scheduled to be installed in the next couple of days.

11.4 Cllr Jeremy Padfield stated that the Community Gardens Committee now held £13,000 in the bank plus the repayment of any VAT. The Clerk confirmed that this would be claimed at the beginning of April and would probably take around 6

	<p>11.5 The next project for the Community Gardens Committee would be the picnic area. The quotation for this was between £10,500 and £12,500 plus VAT. This project was to be put on hold until the VAT had been received from past purchases.</p> <p>11.6 Cllr Jeremy Padfield reported that the Village Day Meeting was to be held on 18 April 2013 at 7.30 pm at the Kings Arms and all parishioners welcome.</p>		
<p>12.</p>	<p>STREET CLEANING/LENGTHSMAN SCHEME:</p> <p>12.1 Cllr Daniels reported that Chris Perkins (lengthsman) had not been able to complete much work around the Village as the weather had been either too cold or wet. He had arranged to visit on a different day ie Tuesday, but the weather had still been too bad to work.</p> <p>12.2 Councillors stated that the bank in South Street needed strimming, plus the seat near St Vigors Church needed attention ie painting/staining.</p> <p>12.3 The Lengthsman’s contract was discussed and it was felt that the pay-rise to £14 requested was not unreasonable, as Chris had not had a pay-rise for 4 years. All Councillors agreed to this request.</p> <p>12.4 The Clerk to draw up a Contract and forward to Chris Perkins to accept and sign.</p>	<p>L/man</p> <p>Clerk</p>	
<p>13.</p>	<p>HIGHWAYS:</p> <p>13.1 Councillors questioned whether Highways would be able to complete the 3 road schemes that had been promised to be finalised by the end of the Financial Year. The Clerk to contact for an answer.</p> <p>13.2 The Clerk to chase the repairing of pot-holes at Church Lane/Stratton Road.</p> <p>13.3 Service channels were also in need of repair and drains by St Benedicts were blocked.</p> <p>13.4 Councillors reported that the light was still out opposite the war memorial – the Clerk to chase.</p> <p><i>Dist Cllr Steven Priscott left the meeting at this point 9.12pm</i></p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>	
<p>14.</p>	<p>FOOTPATHS:</p> <p>Nothing to report other then it was noted that Mogg Hill footpath was now being kept clear of cattle mess.</p>		
<p>15.</p>	<p>PARISH FORUM REPORT:</p> <p>There was nothing to report.</p>		
<p>16.</p>	<p>WEB-SITE:</p> <p>There was nothing to report.</p>		
<p>17.</p>	<p>CORRESPONDENCE:</p> <p>Correspondence read and dealt with accordingly:</p>		
<p>1.</p>	<p>MDC</p>	<p>Revised recycling & refuse collections Notice board and emailed Councillors.</p>	
<p>2.</p>	<p>NHS</p>	<p>Somerset joint strategic needs assessment 2012 – emailed Cllrs</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p>CC Cawood</p>	<p>Report emailed cllrs including the following attachments Community Environment Fund Community Environment Form</p>	

