

**Minutes of the 919th Meeting of the Stratton-on-the-Fosse Parish Council
Held in the Village Hall 15 April 2013**

PRESENT:	Councillors: Mr John Padfield,(Chair), Mr R Jones (Vice Chair), Mr D Stock, Mrs J Davies, Mr A Norris, Mrs I Duggan, Mr W Quinn, Mr Jeremy Padfield.		
IN ATTENDANCE:	Clerk, 3 members of the public.		
	<i>The Lord's prayer was said.</i>		ACTION
	PUBLIC FORUM: There was no discussion.		
1.	APOLOGIES: Mrs L Gittings, Mr M Daniels, PSCO, CC Cawood.		
2.	MINUTES: The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 18 March 2013 were approved as a true record and duly signed.		
3.	DECLARATION OF INTEREST: 3.1 There were none. 3.2 Declaration of Interests had been returned by Mendip District Council. Those filled out to Mendip's satisfaction (Cllrs Jones, Quinn, Stock, Norris) to be kept as a record by the Clerk. Those incorrectly filled out (Cllrs Jeremy Padfield, John Padfield, Gittings, Davies, Duggan, and Daniels) to be altered and signed and returned to MDC.		Clerk Cllrs
4.	MATTERS ARISING: 4.1 The Clerk reported on the following action taken since the last Meeting:		

ACTION POINTS	ACTION BY DATE	NAME
<p>1. <i>Contacted Ian Glover Enforcement Officer to offer a solution to problem of dumping in Bridal way/ Watery Lane.</i> <i>John and/or Jeremy will arrange a meeting.</i></p>	10/01/13	Jeremy P John P
<p>2. Highways response on already reported issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drains - Green Lane to SM end village - not bad enough to warrant work. • Pavement Radstock end village towards lay-by - was ok in its opinion • Nettlebridge pavement - vegetation - was ok in its opinion <p>Councillors not in agreement with H/ways - Clerk to contact. Received further emails that work would now be taken forward into next Financial Year and would hopefully be started in April. Details were read out by the Chairman:</p> <p>Received email confirmation from Jeff Bunting that promised work on chicane will be completed now by end April 2013 Email received from Charlie Higgins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The drains along the main road from Green Lane towards Shepton have sunk and the road edge along This stretch is in need of repair. 1 drain at Mt Mellory and 2 drains opposite Green Lane which have collapsed. <p><i>This area has been identified for minor patching works any adjustment of ironwork will be included as part of the works.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pavement from the end of the village(towards Radstock) to the lay-by has been made narrow by encroaching vegetation. <p><i>An order for works will be issued to side back the footway/vegetation.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pavement at Nettlebridge Hill needs attention due to encroaching vegetation etc. <p><i>An order for works will be issued to side back the footway/vegetation.</i> In the meantime I have asked our Area Superintendent, Steve Palmer to inspect the sites and check that any of the above mentioned items do not need urgent attention.</p>	<p>asap</p> <p>26/03/13</p> <p>20/03/13</p>	Clerk
<p>3. Pot Hole at Church Lane/Stratton Road - Clerk to Chase Now completed.</p>	March 2013 Completed	Clerk
<p>4. Light reported opposite war memorial - Clerk to chase as still not working.</p>	Asap	Clerk
<p>5. Contact David Huxtable about Stratton's failed bid for the Community Enablement Grant. Reasons why turned down? Phoned & e mailed awaiting a reply</p>	Next meeting	Clerk

5. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT:

The Report had been forwarded to all Councillors – a summary of which follows:

5.1 A Fond Farewell

As you know, I have decided not to stand this time for Somerset County Council. On May 2nd. you will elect a new councillor for the Division. I will continue as the Mendip District Councillor for Cranmore, Doulting, Downhead, Nunney, Whatley and Chantry.

It has been a great honour to be a County Councillor in this area for 24 years. Stepping down has not been an easy decision for me. I have loved (almost) every minute of it. From the start my main interest was Education for which I have been lucky enough to hold a number of senior positions from the beginning. But my greatest pleasure has always been in serving my local community. It has been fantastic to be able to help so many people and to work with so many hard-working, dedicated parish councillors who like me care so much for their local communities.

There are many reasons why I have decided the time is right to do stand down:

Our children live in Shropshire and Chris and I are now lucky enough to be the grandparents of 5 children aged 5 years and under. We'd like to see them more often. When I made the decision to stand down, both of us had elderly mothers, who needed more of our time and attention. Sadly, Chris's mum died last Tuesday aged 97 years old. My mother, 10 years younger lives over 200 miles away in Derbyshire. It would be good to make more visits.

We have now reached retirement age (though we are hardly the retiring type) and want more time with each other and our families. There are still things we want freedom to do before we get too old to enjoy them!

The boundaries of Mendip Central and East have changed again and my Division is to be split three ways. Stratton-on-the-Fosse. Kilmersdon and Holcombe are now to be part of a new Mendip Hills Division. Batcombe and Upton Noble will become part of Mendip South. The new Central and East Division will now include Coleford and smaller parishes as far east as Buckland Dinham. It seems the opportune time to move on.

So, I'll miss you all, but will keep an interest in my old area and think of you often.

5.2 This Month's Update

Planning Matters have been at the fore.

The Draft Local Plan, scheduled to be submitted to the Secretary of State mid-April, is now unlikely to be sent in until the summer. In the meantime, it looks like local factors will not be taken into account when considering planning applications.

SOLAR PANEL AND WIND FARMS

Following the drop- in sessions for the Aggregate Industry application for a four mast wind farm east of Asham Wood, a number of issues have been raised. These include concerns about the height of the masts, the effects on the important SSSI of Asham Wood, the visual impact and the fear that this would set a precedent for further applications in this area. (The Witham Friary/Wanstrow applications indicate that our area is becoming increasingly popular for wind turbines, suggesting that the area is well suited to wind energy.) There seem to be a mix of views for and against.

The south facing aspect of the road to the north of the A361 seems to be attracting the attention of other energy producers too. Following hard on the heels of the Hurlingpot Farm, Doulting application (which was turned down on the grounds of visual impact, but is to be appealed) there is now an application for a 5.25mw solar farm on the A361 at Little Sharpshaw Farm, Nunney. So far I have had few views from parishes or the public on this. I attended the drop-in session on April 2, 2013 to find out more. There was a great deal of interest from members of the public. Kilmersdon parish, outside my District Ward has a controversial application too.

WHAT FUTURE FOR THE BATH AND WEST SHOWGROUND

PRESTLEIGH

Doultong Parish Council has expressed concern about proposed developments at the show ground, which lies largely in Prestleigh. The parish council and Prestleigh community is not against any development at all here, but are worried that the Bath and West Showground could cease to exist, the population of Prestleigh will more than double and problems with traffic will increase.

I arranged a meeting with the Chief Executive and Leader of Mendip, to include the Chairman of the parish council. We were dismayed that this meeting was postponed, but I attended an informal meeting with the Deputy Leader and Chief Executive. We were concerned about rumours that all sorts of applications were to come forward, including for housing, a school for autistic children and a hospice for ex-servicemen. We were assured no plans had come forward. Later in March, Prestleigh residents were informed by the Bath and West that applications were to be made for the school and the hospice.

I have written to the Chief Executive, Leader of Mendip and the Somerset and Devon Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Chairman to ask what is going on. It is of great concern that the LEP seems to have been approached about plans to develop the show ground prior either Mendip or the local parish council being informed. The LEP has one County Councillor on it as the only democratically elected representative. We have heard nothing from him. It doesn't seem that localism has much to do with taking the views of local people into account.

6. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT:

No Report received.

7. POLICE MATTERS:

PCSO not present and no Report received.

8. PLANNING MATTERS:

8.1 Applications:

None received

8.2 Permission:

Ref:2012/2865 Heatercott House, Stoke St Michael – Tennis Court

9. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

10.1 The Clerk presented an Invoice for BT/Broadband amounting to **£108.54** for the period Jan-April 2013. All Councillors present agreed for this to be paid. **Cheque No. 000926**

10.2 Petty Cash amounting to **£32.80** was agreed by all Councillors present to be paid. **Cheque No.000927**

10.3 An Invoice from Playdale Playgrounds Ltd amounting to **£453.12** for Play Equipment for the Community Gardens was agreed by all Councillors to be paid. **Cheque No.000924**

10.4 An Invoice from Safety Signs & Notices amounting to **£52.14** for 2 “No Dogs” signs for the Community Gardens. **Cheque No.000923**

10.5 The Annual Subscription to SALC amounting to **£179.08** was agreed by all Councillors present to be paid. **Cheque No.000925**

10.6 An Invoice from Wayne Taylor amounting to **£135** for grass cutting the Community Gardens was agreed by all Councillors to be paid. **Cheque No.000928**

	<p>been received.</p> <p>10.8 The Clerk reported that the Audit Return been received from the Auditors Grant Thornton. The Return needed to be submitted by 29 June 2013. All Councillors agreed for the Clerk to contact Mr Keith Cockcroft to ask him to complete the Internal Audit for the Year End 2013.</p> <p>10.9 The Bank Statements were reconciled and signed. It was noted that there was an outstanding cheque of £69.42</p> <p>10.10 The Clerk stated that a Financial Report had been distributed to Councillors and that this would be fully discussed and further distributed at the following Annual Parish Meeting.</p>	
10.	<p>TO DISCUSS STANDING ORDERS:</p> <p>10.11 A meeting had been held with Cllr Gittings, the Clerk and the Chairman on 27 April to discuss and complete the Model Publication Scheme. The Clerk offered her apologies that this had not to date been typed up, due to illness. The Clerk to complete before the next PC meeting.</p> <p>10.12 The Data Protection Registration, which had been applied for, was now in urgent need of completion. The Clerk to liaise with Cllr Daniels with a view of completing the form and returning to ICO.</p> <p>10.13 The Standing Orders would be completed when the above items were finalised.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk MD</p>
11.	<p>COMMUNITY GARDENS:</p> <p>Cllr Stock presented the Clerk with his monthly Report on the Community Gardens, which confirmed that everything was in working order and there was nothing to report.</p>	
12.	<p>STREET CLEANING/LENGTHSMAN SCHEME:</p> <p>12.1 There was no report in Cllr Daniels absence and no Invoice had been received from the Lengthsman.</p> <p>12.2 The Clerk stated that a letter and a new Contract had been posted to Chris Perkins (Lengthsman), but to date a signed Contract had not been returned to the Clerk.</p>	<p>CP</p>
13.	<p>HIGHWAYS:</p> <p>The Clerk reported on enquiries made from Highways, concerning the closure of the lane opposite Tunnel Lane. Information received on 22 March 2013 was that the road would be closed for some time, as there was a drainage problem with the manholes blowing out and taking surface road with them. Highways have had no success tracing the owner and therefore will have to complete the work itself, which will not be until the new financial year in April.</p>	
14.	<p>FOOTPATHS:</p> <p>14.1 CC Gloria Cawood was to try and locate the past Report on drop kerbs, but to date had not been successful.</p> <p>14.2 Councillors were agreed that drop kerbs were necessary in the village as there was at least one disabled resident and that also Stratton had a Nursing Home.</p> <p>14.3 The Chairman thought that when the Litter Pick was in progress, Councillors could also chart where drop kerbs would be needed.</p>	
15.	<p>PARISH FORUM REPORT:</p> <p>There was nothing to report.</p>	
16.	<p>WEB-SITE:</p> <p>There was nothing to report.</p>	
17.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE:</p> <p>Correspondence read and dealt with accordingly:</p>	

1.	MDC	Declaration of Interest Forms – Copies that are correct for Clerk’s records Originals to complete & return to MDC	Clerk
2.	Mr Philip Rose	Letter requesting full search of PC systems to release Data concerning himself which SOF PC holds. The Clerk reported that a reply had been sent stating that the PC held no information on Mr Rose, apart from the Register of Electors which is not placed in the Public Domain.	
3.	Western Power	Power cuts & improving the electricity network Advice in event of power cut Info about priority service for vulnerable customers News on improvements to electricity network Information on web site www.westernpower.co.uk	
4.	SALC	Annual subscription 2013/14	
5.	CC Cawood	Report emailed cllrs including the following attachments	
6.	ICO	Letter chasing registration for Data Protection.	MD
7.	Safety Signs & Notices	Invoice 2 signs (No Dogs Allowed)) for Community Gardens Committee	Clerk
8.	Playdale	Invoice Equipment for Community Gardens Committee After Sales Folder: CD-ROM Inspection & Maintenance Schedule c/w part numbers for equipment.	
9.	Chris Perkins	Invoice – Lengthsman duties	Not received
10	Grant Thornton	Audit Forms Yr End 2013 to be submitted by 29 June 2013 Notice to go on N/Board.	
11	MDC	Precept received £8,250	

Magazines/ Brochures: Playdale Folder
Planning:
Permission:: Ref:2012/2865 Heathercotte House Stoke St Michael – Tennis Court
Bank Statements: March 2013 Business Reserve A/C £ 21,285.37
Current A/C 50.00
Cheques: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd(Equip C.G.C.) 453.12
Safety Signs & Notices (2 signs C G C) 52.14
SALC (Annual Sub) 179.08
Chris Perkins (L/man duties) ----
V Attwood (BT/Broadband) 108.54
V Attwood (Petty Cash) 32.80
Letters sent: Mr Philip Rose
Mr C Perkins & Contract
Emails sent: H/Ways Charlie Higgins & Jeff Bunting

18. MATTERS OF REPORT & ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

- 18.1 The Chairman suggested next Tuesday 23 April 2013 for a litter-pick around the village. Any Councillors able to help should meet at the Old Post Office at 6 pm.
- 18.2 The Clerk would request the relevant materials(ie Gloves, Pickers and Jackets) from Mendip District Council and arrange to pick up from Shepton Mallet.
- 18.3 Cllr Norris requested that a dog waste bin and a no dog fouling sign be installed at the beginning of the bridal path near the rear entrance to Downside At the moment, with no bin provided, dog owners were leaving plastic bags at this point.

