

**Minutes of the 925th Meeting of the Stratton-on-the-Fosse Parish Council
Held in the Village Hall 18 November 2013**

PRESENT:	Councillors: Mr John Padfield (Chairman), Mr M Daniels, Mrs J Davies, Mr A Norris, Mrs L Gittings, Mrs I Duggan, Mr Jeremy Padfield, Mr D Stock, Mrs L Gittings.														
IN ATTENDANCE:	County Cllr Harvey Siggs, Dist Cllr Rachel Carter, Clerk.														
	PUBLIC FORUM: There was no discussion.		ACTION												
1.	APOLOGIES: Mr R Jones (Vice Chair), Mr W Quinn, C Cllr Harvey Siggs.														
2.	MINUTES: The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 21 October 2013 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: <table border="1" style="width: 100%; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 60%;">ACTION POINTS</th> <th style="width: 20%;">ACTION BY DATE</th> <th style="width: 20%;">NAME</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> 1. Contact Charlie Higgins at Highways to establish why the planned alterations to the Chicane had not happened and why the alternative work had taken place without the PC's opinion sought before work completed. <i>Clerk had emailed letter re above with cc to Harvey Siggs</i> <i>Jeff Bunting emailed stating that:</i> <i>"The width of the kerbed build-out was reduced to encourage vehicles to take a different path through the chicane; the kerbing on the footway opposite was raised to reduce the problem of vehicles over-running. By reducing the width of the build-out the amount of lateral clearance between vehicles and the kerb line is increased and therefore a consequent reduction in collision risk between pedestrians and vehicles should follow. After careful reflection, I believe that the new arrangements have achieved this and whilst I note that your council's concern on this matter the site constraints that exist at this location make any other form of improvement difficult to achieve within budget."</i> <i>Councillors were still unhappy that the Parish Council had not been consulted before the new design was implemented. CC Harvey Siggs will look into this matter.</i> </td> <td style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">Next Meeting</td> <td style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">Harvey Siggs</td> </tr> <tr> <td> 2. Adopt Financial Regulations and place on Web-site <i>Clerk & Cllr Daniels held meeting to discuss Forwarded Councillors Draft financial Regs Propose to Adopt at Meeting</i> </td> <td style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">January Meeting</td> <td style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">Agenda January</td> </tr> <tr> <td> 3. Drop Kerbs - Clerk waiting reply from Chris Betty (replacement to Jeff Bunting) Received email 8 Aug 13 which was forwarded to Councillors Chairman read out: The suggested sites have been registered and will be looked at and work completed when finances permit. <i>Clerk to write to prioritise 2 sites: at Old PO and junction of South Street.</i> </td> <td style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">On MDC's List to do Will contact With update Awaiting reply</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			ACTION POINTS	ACTION BY DATE	NAME	1. Contact Charlie Higgins at Highways to establish why the planned alterations to the Chicane had not happened and why the alternative work had taken place without the PC's opinion sought before work completed. <i>Clerk had emailed letter re above with cc to Harvey Siggs</i> <i>Jeff Bunting emailed stating that:</i> <i>"The width of the kerbed build-out was reduced to encourage vehicles to take a different path through the chicane; the kerbing on the footway opposite was raised to reduce the problem of vehicles over-running. By reducing the width of the build-out the amount of lateral clearance between vehicles and the kerb line is increased and therefore a consequent reduction in collision risk between pedestrians and vehicles should follow. After careful reflection, I believe that the new arrangements have achieved this and whilst I note that your council's concern on this matter the site constraints that exist at this location make any other form of improvement difficult to achieve within budget."</i> <i>Councillors were still unhappy that the Parish Council had not been consulted before the new design was implemented. CC Harvey Siggs will look into this matter.</i>	Next Meeting	Harvey Siggs	2. Adopt Financial Regulations and place on Web-site <i>Clerk & Cllr Daniels held meeting to discuss Forwarded Councillors Draft financial Regs Propose to Adopt at Meeting</i>	January Meeting	Agenda January	3. Drop Kerbs - Clerk waiting reply from Chris Betty (replacement to Jeff Bunting) Received email 8 Aug 13 which was forwarded to Councillors Chairman read out: The suggested sites have been registered and will be looked at and work completed when finances permit. <i>Clerk to write to prioritise 2 sites: at Old PO and junction of South Street.</i>	On MDC's List to do Will contact With update Awaiting reply	
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4.	Dog Fouling Bin When positioned notify MDC who will place sign FOC When positioned notify MDC who will arrange to empty	As/when As/when	Clerk Clerk	
5.	Traffic signs obscured by vegetation - Highways have cut around sign, but vegetation obscuring motorist view is the responsibility of landowner. Landowner being Downside. The work on the overgrown vegetation at Green Lane junction had been completed. Chairman reported that Downside had made an excellent job of cutting back at the junction, but wondered if a further 50 yards along the main road toward the lay-by could be cut back also. <i>Downside acknowledged letter but stated that because it was now term time the work might be delayed. Harvey Siggs will request that Highways completes the job</i>	phoned letter letter asap	Clerk Clerk Harvey Siggs	
6.	Rubbish collected at Pinch Points - left message not got back Needs digging out.	Chase	Clerk	
7.	Reported to MDC - drains along A367 and Green Lane blocked	Chase	Clerk	
8.	Organise Playground Inspection due 8/10 October 2013 Will inspect within next 4 weeks Ok with insurers, that as requested to inspect in place will be covered by insurance. <i>Enquire if inspection taken place and when to expect Report</i>	Report to follow Asap Inform Jeremy	Clerk	
9.	Contact Dog Warden MDC to ask advice and/or extra signs denting consequences to dog fouling on Playing Field Contacted Dog Warden stated that would look at and report back. <i>Clerk had not been contacted by Dog Warden and is difficult to contact. Clerk to chase</i>	Chase	Clerk	
10.	Purchase of Lap-top & Printer - obtain quotes. <i>Cllr Daniels circulated quotes for both.</i>	completed		
11.	Playground Inspection Report for last Month	completed		
12.	Contact Chris Perkins (L/Man) to request he informs PC of his intentions regarding working as Lengthsman. Request URGENT reply. <i>Received email relinquishing position.</i>	completed		
13.	Meet to discuss future Contract for Lengthsman Duties <i>Obtain list of tasks from Cllr Quinn</i>	Asap	MD Chair Jeremy	
14.	New Lamp Post erected in middle of traffic calming island. Notify Western Power/SCC as Health & Safety issue. <i>Contacted SCC(Phone& email)who will report back</i>	Chase	Clerk	
15.	Contact Tessa Munt MP to register PC's interest in receiving a Defibrillator. Letter sent 23 Oct 2013	Awaiting decision		
16.	Attend Meeting to discuss footpath problems on Thurs 21 Nov 2013 at Batcombe 4.15 - 6.30	21/11/13	MD	
The Clerk reported that a letter had been received (30/10/13) from Mrs Rose, Church Row, and a reply had been sent (31/10/13)				Clerk
5.	COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT: 5.1 CC Harvey Siggs reported that 25 million had to be removed from budget in the next Financial Year. Council Tax had been held for the last 5 years and the Council was not keen to raise, but cuts would have to be found elsewhere.			

	<p>5.2 Parish Councils had been informed of Salt collection dates and venues, although Highways will fill existing Grit Bins, suggested that Councillors check and notify Highways if Bins not filled. C C Siggs stated that information on what the public could/could not do in the event of ice and snow, regarding insurance cover, was being sought.</p> <p>5.3 CC Siggs reported that due to cuts, Somerset County Council would be cutting back on work such as clearing drains and gullies, but Parish Councils would be encouraged to take on these jobs, working closely with the Area Superintendent. CC Siggs would arrange pick-up of any leaves collected by Councillors from drains and gullies if contacted.</p> <p><i>County Councillor Harvey Siggs left the Meeting at this point 20.22</i></p>	
6.	<p>DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT: Dist Cllr Carter reported the following:</p> <p>6.1 The Village Sign was not present, but Dist Cllr Carter was informed by Councillors that it had been removed for repair.</p> <p>6.2 Downside had met with the Community Gardens Committee and as a result students would be organised to weed the Gardens.</p> <p>6.3 Cllr Carter queried whether the Parish Council was happy with its Polling Station facilities. Councillors confirmed that it was.</p> <p><i>Dist Cllr Carter left the Meeting at this point 20.24</i></p>	
7.	<p>POLICE MATTERS: There was no PCSO present and no Report received</p>	
8.	<p>PLANNING MATTERS: <u>Applications:</u> Ref : 2013/2126/HSE Location: The Mead, SOF Proposal: 2 Storey side extension</p> <p><i>This was discussed and Plans looked at by all Councillors present. It was thought that, with the extension, the area for parking/turning would be made much smaller. Concern was also raised at the close proximity to the traffic calming chicane and parking at the moment. Although on the revised application it was noted that there were no nearby trees or intention to remove trees, on the original application a large nearby tree was a concern of the Parish Council and a resident.</i></p> <p><i>On the above points raised, Councillors present thought the Parish Council should register an “Objection” with Mendip District Council, but it was decided that the PC Planning Sub-Committee would visit the site to inspect first before sending comments to Mendip D C.</i></p> <p><u>Permission granted by MDC : Ref: 2013/1158 Fosse Farm</u> Erection of 2 agricultural storage/livestock buildings.</p>	JD AN Clerk
9.	<p>FINANCIAL MATTERS:</p> <p>9.1 An Invoice for petrol to cut the football field grass amounting to £25 was agreed by all present to be paid. Cheque No. 000968</p> <p>9.2 Bank Forms were reconciled and signed.</p>	

10.	<p>BUDGET FOR YEAR END 2015:</p> <p>10.1 The Clerk read out the forecast figures for the Year End 2014, which had been circulated to all Councillors. There was a short discussion in which it was highlighted that the Lengthsman costs had been less this year at £500 and would normally be in the region of £2,000. Although it was noted that this was off-set by a grant of £2,000 given to the Village Hall for the tarmacking of the car-park.</p> <p>10.2 The Clerk stated that the date of returning the Precept request to MDC was officially the 4 January 2014, but that the actual dead-line was end January.</p> <p>10.3 The setting of the Precept was to be placed on the December Agenda.</p>	Agenda
11.	<p>PURCHASE OF LAPTOP:</p> <p>11.1 Cllr Daniels distributed quotations to Councillors present from PC World, Cribbs Causeway and Microbitz, Wells. £379.99 and £415.00 ex VAT respectively. West Wilts Trowbridge had also been contacted but had not quoted.</p> <p>11.2 A discussion took place and it was agreed by all Councillors present to purchase from Microbitz, Wells, £415 as the price difference was not great and it was thought that the after-sales service would be more easily accessible if needed.</p> <p>11.3 Two quotations for printers with ink costs were circulated, Epsom: £112 Printer & £64.37 Ink and HP: £122 Printer & £60 Ink. It was noted that there was little difference in the cost of both printers and Cllr Daniels suggested that the Clerk made the final decision.</p> <p>11.4 There would also be an Annual cost for Antivirus of £19.99 inc VAT and a one off payment for an updated version of a BT Router of £49.99</p>	
12.	<p>FINANCIAL REGULATIONS:</p> <p>The Financial Regulations to be placed on the January Agenda</p>	Jan Agenda
13.	<p>COMMUNITY GARDENS:</p> <p>13.1 Cllr Stock gave the Clerk his weekly Inspection Report of the Playpark conducted since the last PC Meeting. Also the Report that had been conducted during the month of September.</p> <p>Cllr Jeremy Padfield gave a Report on the Community Gardens as follows:</p> <p>13.2 The contractor would soon be planting the Silver Birch copse.</p> <p>13.3 The tractor type planters will be planted by Downside students. It was hoped that a response to a newsletter article would result in adoption and that one area of the village would be responsible for one planter.</p> <p>13.4 Cllr Jeremy Padfield reported that at the last Community Gardens Committee Meeting it had been decided to order two signs for Boules and a Health & Safety Sign at a cost of £450</p> <p>13.5 The Clerk requested that Minutes of the Community Gardens Committee meetings be forwarded to her.</p>	Cllr Stock
14.	<p>STREET CLEANING/LENGTHSMAN SCHEME:</p> <p>The Clerk had forwarded a letter to Chris Perkins (lengthsman) requesting an urgent reply regarding his intention to carry-on as Lengthsman to Stratton Parish Council. An email from Ann Perkins(Chris's wife), informing the Parish Council of his resignation, had been received. The Chairman read out both communications.</p> <p>Therefore the Parish Council needed to recruit another Lengthsman and it was decided that a working party was needed to discuss drawing up a Contract. It was suggested that</p>	Chair MD

	grass cutting of the Community Gardens was included in the Lengthsman Contract. Cllr Jeremy Padfield left the Meeting 21.19	JP
15.	HIGHWAYS: 15.1 It was reported that the Stop Sign at Norton Down crossroads (junction B3355 & 3139) was broken. The Clerk to report. 15.2 It was noted that ivy growing on a resident's wall(Downside View)was encroaching the pavement making it a hazard for pedestrians. It was thought by Councillors to be a Downside property and therefore the Clerk was to contact Downside to request this be removed.	Clerk Clerk
16.	FOOTPATH: 16.1 A meeting on Thursday 21 Nov 2013 to discuss footpath problems at Batcombe 4.15-6.00 pm will be attended by Cllr Gittings and if not available by Cllr Daniels. 16.2 Cllr Duggan had received a complaint from a resident that Mogg Hill footpath was again being made a mess by cows. After discussion, Councillors were of the opinion that this was part of living in the country and was something that could not be controlled.	LG MD
17.	PARISH FORUM REPORT: There was nothing to report and the next Meeting would not be until next Year.	
18.	WEB-SITE: Cllr Daniels would appreciate any photographs to place on the Web-site.	
19.	CORRESPONDENCE 1 Mrs Rose Letter re delivery of Parish Newsletter . Church Row Replied stating that PC was not involved with Newsletter. 2 Chris Perkins Resignation letter. . . 3 Downside Reply to requesting cutting more of hedges long A367 . Discussed at Action Point 5. 4 MDC Polling Districts & Places Review. . PC must take a review of polling places 1.Electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances 2 As far as is reasonable & practicable that every polling place is accessible to who are disabled. PC happy with facilities. 5 War Memorial Trust Leaflet . Can add to War memorials On-line. Contact war Memorial Trust for advice and grants. Clerk to keep on file for future reference. 6 Highways Email from Jeff Bunting re Alteration to traffic calming scheme. . Discussed at Action Point 3	

