

**Minutes of the 928<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Stratton-on-the-Fosse Parish Council  
Held in the Village Hal 17 March 2014**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Councillors: Mr John Padfield (Chairman), Mr M Daniels, Mrs J Davies, Mr D Stock, Mr W Quinn.		
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Dist Cllr R Carter, Clerk, 2 members of Public		
	<b>PUBLIC FORUM:</b>		ACTION
1.	<b>APOLOGIES:</b> Mr Jeremy Padfield, Mr A Norris, Mr R Jones.		
2.	<b>MINUTES:</b> 2.1 The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 20 January 2014 were approved as a true record and duly signed.  2.2 <i>To be noted that there was no Meeting held in February 2014.</i>		
3.	<b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST:</b> There were none.		
4.	<b>MATTERS ARISING:</b> The Clerk reported on the following action taken since the last meeting:		
	<b>ACTION POINTS</b>	<b>ACTION BY DATE</b>	<b>NAME</b>
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. Clerk had emailed letter re above with cc to Harvey Siggs Jeff Bunting emailed stating that: "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>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>	PC decided not to pursue this matter further	
2.	Adopt Financial Regulations and place on Web-site <i>Clerk &amp; Cllr Daniels held meeting to discuss Forwarded Councillors Draft financial Regs Propose to Adopt at Meeting when completed</i>	Meeting	Agenda
3.	Dog Fouling Bin Needs to be positioned When positioned notify MDC who will place sign FOC When positioned notify MDC who will arrange to empty  <i>CC Harvey Siggs arrived at this point 20.03</i>	asap As/when As/when	Clerk Clerk

4.	<p>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.</p> <p><b><i>The vegetation coming south to chicane(Bath View to Bainsbury View) still needs to be cut. Clerk to contact Harvey Siggs who had previously agreed to deal with this matter.</i></b></p>		Urgent asap	Clerk Harvey Siggs
5.	<p>Contact Dog Warden MDC to ask advice and/or extra signs denoting consequences to dog fouling on Playing Field Contacted Dog Warden stated that would look at and report back. <b><i>Clerk had not been contacted by Dog Warden and is difficult to contact. Clerk to chase</i></b></p>		Chase	Clerk
6.	<p>Meet to discuss future Contract for Lengthsman Duties <b><i>Obtain list of tasks from Cllr Quinn</i></b></p>		Completed	
7.	<p>New Lamp Post erected in middle of traffic calming island. Notify Western Power/SCC as Health &amp; Safety issue. Contacted SCC(Phone&amp; email)who will report back- <b><i>The chairman read out the email received from Phil Green-Highways Lighting, in which it was confirmed that the contractor was unable to install the light at the preferred rear of the path due to other utilities located in this area. The column has been placed in the nearest position which does not intrude on footpath users. Also it was confirmed that the diameter of the column is bigger than sign posts that are located at pinch points, but still remain the same thickness of steel.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Mr Rose arrived at this point 20.11</i></b></p>		Completed	Clerk
8.	<p>Cllr Daniels stated that the Planning web-site at MDC had not been accessible since last September, which was thought to be unacceptable. Dist Cllr Carter would make enquiries to find out what was happening. <b><i>Cllr Daniels reported that the site was now accessible, but Planning Applications cannot be accessed for previous months. Clerk to make enquiries from MDC</i></b></p>		Next Mtg	Clerk
9.	<p>It was confirmed that the Community Gardens Committee would discuss the Annual Playground Inspection Report at its next Meeting on 24 January 2014 <b><i>Confirmed that this had been filed and items identified would be dealt with in due course.</i></b></p>		Completed	Comm Gardens
10.	<p>A meeting was still to be held to discuss details of the Lengthsman Contract. It was decided that this should be discussed at the Community Gardens Committee meeting to be held on Thursday 24 January 2014 <b><i>Cllr Daniels had forwarded Councillors a summary of Lengthman's duties that had been agreed.</i></b></p>		Completed	Comm Gardens
11.	<p>With Cllr Gittings resignation, a new footpath officer was needed. It did not need to be a Councillor and a parishioner Trevor Letcher was suggested. The Chairman would approach him to ask if he would be interested. <b><i>The Chairman reported that Mr Trevor Letcher would take on the role of footpath officer.</i></b></p>		Completed	

	<p>12. The Clerk to write to the Bursar (copy to the Abbot) at Downside, in support of the Cricket Club's wish to play on this site. Also for the reason why the Cricket Club had been asked to leave. <i>It was reported that the Cricket Club now had a new venue planned for next year at Chilcompton, but Cllr Stock thanked the PC on the Club's behalf for its support/concern.</i></p>		Completed	
5.	<p><b>DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT:</b></p> <p>5.1 Dist Cllr Carter reported that Downside pupils would deal with the weeds in the Community Gardens, but will do at a later date when actively growing.</p> <p>5.2 Dist Cllr Carter praised the collection of rubbish/fly-tipping when reported to Mendip District Council via the new 0300 number.</p> <p>5.3 Dist Cllr Carter stated that she had visited the site of the proposed planning application at Oval House and thought that this was acceptable.</p>			
6.	<p><b>PLANNING MATTERS:</b></p> <p><u>Applications:</u></p> <p>6.1 <b>Ref:2014/0079/HSE</b> Claire Cottage, Maitlands Close, Nettlebridge  <b>Proposal</b> Rebuild of link &amp; new fenestration to roof &amp; North elevation  <i>Dealt with by Planning Committee and recorded No Objection with MDC</i></p> <p>6.2 <b>Ref:2014/0337/HSE</b> Ivy House, Nettlebridge, Oakhill  <b>Proposal</b> Creation of Garden Wall  <i>All Councillors present agreed to No Objection being recorded with MDC</i></p> <p>6.3 <b>Ref:2014/0255/HSE</b> Oval House, Fosse Rod, SOF  <b>Proposal</b> New driveway &amp; parking for ¾ vehicles Part demolition of an existing boundary wall &amp; pedestrian gate. Erection of new stone wall. Addition of a dropped curb for access.</p> <p>The Chairman asked Mrs Mellotte to give details of the proposed Planning Application. Mrs Mellotte explained that the property would lose parking due to the selling for development of the garage site. Therefore have applied for planning for parking on Oval House land, otherwise vehicles will have to park on the highway. The plans show that vehicles will be able to turn around and arrive in forward gear and leave in forward gear.</p> <p>Cllr Daniels raised concerns over the length of the vehicle depicted on the plans ie not a very large vehicle. In his opinion, this will present a problem. Plus he thought the wall should be lowered for visibility reasons. Also Downside's entrance was almost opposite. Cllr Daniels would not be happy to agree to the application without modifications made as suggested above.</p> <p>The Chairman suggested that with a chicane being adjacent to exit/entrance a vehicle will be able to pull out and gain good visibility.</p> <p>The Chairman asked for Councillor's views and the Clerk recorded that Cllr Stock, Cllr Davies and Cllr Quinn held no objection to the proposed planning application. A vote for No Objection was taken by a show of hands and this was passed by 3 votes to 1. The Clerk to submit the Parish Council's decision of "No Objection", but with reservations with the turning circle and to request that Mendip District Council check it is adequate for a vehicle to re-enter the highway safely.</p>			

	<p><i>Mrs Mellotte left the Meeting at this point 20.32</i>  <i>Dist Cllr Carter left the meeting at this point 20.32</i>  <i>CC Siggs left the Meeting at this Point 20.32</i></p> <p><b>6.4 Royal British Legion Old Site</b>  The Chairman reported that there had been a successful outcome after the meeting with developers, Parish Council and concerned resident in regard to the planning at the old RBL site. The plans had been altered to incorporate matter of concern to the Parish Council and owner of the neighbouring property Mr Ian Rose.</p> <p><i>CC Siggs returned to the Meeting at this point 20.36</i>  The revised Plans have been forwarded to Mr Rose, the road will now pass his house and he is happy with the changed plans which incorporate matters discussed at the meeting. He is also now hopeful that access will be given over the road so as to build an accessible carport.</p> <p><i>Mr Rose left the Meeting at this point 20.37</i></p> <p>6.5 <u>Permission granted by MDC</u> : None</p> <p>6.6 <u>Authorisation by MDC</u>:  Gate on Public Footpath SM 19/40 Pitcot,Stokes Bottom</p> <p>6.7 Cllr Daniels reported that the new MDC Planning Web-site which he accesses to place on the Parish website was not as good as the old site. Only the current months planning can be accessed and there appeared no facility for finding Planning at a different month.  The Clerk to contact MDC to voice the Parish Council’s comments.</p>	Clerk
7.	<p><b>COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT:</b></p> <p>7.1 CC Siggs stated that he would mention the Parish Council’s concern over the new lay-out of the Planning Department’s Web-site to Matthew Williams at MDC.</p> <p>7.2 CC Siggs stated that the last 2 months had been spent dealing with flood issues. The dredging was in question at the moment to how effective this measure would be. The river Parrot was tidal and needed a barrage to be effective. The pipes put in place will remain. Also a move to local management as Environment Agency had not done a particularly good job. The situation was now moving from Emergency to Recovery.</p> <p>7.3 The Chairman stated that Harvey Siggs and his team should be commended for its work in connection with the floods.</p> <p><i>CC Siggs left the meeting at this point 21.00</i></p>	CC Siggs
8.	<p><b>POLICE MATTERS:</b></p> <p>8.1 PCSO Housley was not in attendance, but a Report had been received as follows:  01/02 Break-in to the school sheds: tools and diesel taken.  13/02 Break-in to a work shop at Church Farm.  13/02 Break-in to a work shop at a farm on Pitcot Lane; spanners taken.  14/02 Tree down in Green Lane.  16/02 Call re older youths in the play area in the park. Police attended; the teenagers were in order no drinking ,smoking, or drugs.</p> <p>8.2 PSCO Housley stated that, although attendance at Parish Meeting had not been possible due to shift patterns or operational commitments, if there were pressing concerns or issues she would be happy to meet with individuals to discuss.</p> <p>8.3 The play area will be put on patrols especially during a late shift.</p>	

9.	<p><b>CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLORS:</b></p> <p>9.1 The Chairman voiced his concern over the lack of Councillors at present on the Parish Council – with recent resignations there are at present 8 Councillors.</p> <p>9.2 A notice of vacancies will be included in the next Parish Magazine.</p> <p>9.3 Traditionally the Parish Council has had a Councillor representing Downside. It was suggested that the Clerk write to Downside, asking if it would consider a representative being on the Parish Council.</p>	
10.	<p><b>FINANCIAL MATTERS:</b></p> <p>10.1 The Clerk’s Salary for the period <b>Jan-Mar 2014</b> amounting to <b>£699.99</b> was agreed by all Councillors present to be paid. <b>Cheque No. 000977</b></p> <p>10.2 The Clerk presented an Invoice for printer ink amounting to <b>£40.62</b> which was agreed by all Councillors present to be paid. <b>Cheque No.000979</b></p> <p>10.3 The Clerk presented Petty Cash which was agreed by all Councillors present to be paid, details as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Apr-Dec 2013 £18.80</li> <li>b. Jul-Sept 2013 £ 1.86</li> <li>c. Oct-Dec 2013 £23.45</li> <li>d. Apr-Jun 2012 £29.16 (outstanding Yr End 2013)</li> <li>e. <b>Total: £73.27 Cheque No. 000978</b></li> </ul> <p>10.4 The Clerk reported that a cheque had been forwarded to MictoBitz for the purchase of the lap-top and printer amounting to <b>£844.78 Cheque No. 0009796</b></p> <p>10.5 Cllr Daniels suggested that the Clerk should be provided with the following items to complete the new lap top/printer package. A protective case costing £40 approximately and a wireless mouse costing approximately £10 All Councillors present agreed.</p> <p>10.6 Cllr Daniels stated that after the grant application (<b>Community Environment Fund</b>) for monies for a strimmer had been lost by the relevant department, a second application had been submitted. This had been accepted and the money received, amounting to <b>£734.84</b> Cllr Daniels was given the go ahead to purchase a strimmer; with the guarantee that the Parish Council would contribute in the event that the price had since risen.</p> <p>10.7 A proposal that the Clerk should be added to the Bank Signatories was agreed by all Councillors present. The Bank Resolution was agreed keeping to the 2 signatures needed on cheques written. The Clerk to complete the necessary forms and return them to Nat West along with a copy of the Minutes recording the Parish Council’s intentions.</p> <p>10.8 Bank Forms were reconciled and signed.</p> <p><i>Cllr Davies left the Meeting at this point 21.28</i></p>	<p>Clr Daniels</p> <p>Clerk</p>
11.	<p><b>TO ADOPT NEW LOGO:</b></p> <p>All Councillors present agreed to adopt the new logo for Parish Council documents.</p>	

12.	<p><b>COMMUNITY GARDENS:</b></p> <p>12.1 Cllr Stock presented the Clerk with his weekly report covering the last 2 months (no meeting held in February).</p> <p>12.2 Cllr Stock stated that there were no problems and that the gardens had been well attended lately, due to the warm weather.</p>		
13.	<p><b>STREET CLEANING/LENGTHSMAN SCHEME:</b></p> <p>13.1 Cllr Daniels distributed a Report from the meeting with himself and Cllr Jeremy Padfield regarding Lengthsman duties and job description.</p> <p>13.2 It had been decided to move the weed kill out of the Lengthsman duties and to hire somebody separately to weed kill approximately 3 times a year. The Lengthsman duties would include grass cutting.</p> <p>13.3 Cllr Daniels had subsequently placed an advert in the Somerset Guardian for the position of Lengthsman amounting to £35 plus VAT. The Invoice to be sent to the Clerk. Cllr Daniels would also place the advert on the Parish Web-site.</p> <p>13.4 Cllr Daniels reported that he had received 2 enquires to date by email, to which he had replied, but nothing by post to date. Interviews would be towards the end of the month and all present agreed that Cllr Daniels and Cllr Jeremy Padfield would sit on the interview panel.</p>		<p>Cllr Daniels</p> <p>Cllr Daniels Jeremy Padfield</p>
14.	<p><b>HIGHWAYS:</b></p> <p>14.1 It was reported that there had been an accident at one of the chicanes in fog.</p> <p>14.2 Cllr Quinn reported that Mendip District Council had undertaken a road sweep of the village.</p>		
15.	<p><b>FOOTPATH:</b></p> <p>15.1 The Chairman stated that Mr Trevor Letcher would take on footpath duties since the departure of Cllr Gittings .It was confirmed that he need not be a Councillor to accept this role.</p> <p>15.2 The above reported authorization of a gate on public footpath SM19/40.</p>		
16.	<p><b>PARISH FORUM REPORT:</b></p> <p>There was nothing to report.</p>		
17.	<p><b>WEB-SITE:</b></p> <p>17.1 Cllr Daniels reported that the Internet Service Provider (Future-interactive) has stated that Stratton is using too much user space. This means that either some material is removed or that the Parish Council pays extra. Cllr Daniels will ask what extra payment was needed and update the Parish Council later on receipt of reply.</p> <p>17.2 The Clerk stated that the renewal date of the Annual Subscription was May 2014.</p>		<p>Cllr Daniels</p>

**18. CORRESPONDENCE:**

1.	Irene Duggan	Resignation a Councillor received		
2.	MDC	Community Environment Fund – acknowledgement that 2 <sup>nd</sup> attempt at submitting application received. Apologies for the delay, original form lost, but now processing.		
3.	MDC	Remittance Advice No 11019 dated 14 Feb 2014 amounting to £734.84 for Power Tools.(Received 17/02/14) <b>Now received</b>		
4.	Laura Miller	Mendip Mobile Advice Service – Looking for volunteer drivers minimum age 25 & licenced to drive van category		
5.	Laura Miller	Mendip Mobile Advice Service – Launching on 14 Feb 2014		
6.	PCSO	Police Crime Report		
7.	Somerset Waste Partnership	Response to letter sent – will take Parish Council’s views into consideration when final decision is made on 21 Feb 2014		
8.		Letter confirming closure of Coleford tip c/w info on nearest tips.		
9.	Dist Cllr Ham	Email of Report re Coleford tip c/w Budget Proposal. Request for PC’s to write to voice regret at decision.  <b><i>The Clerk to write in support of Dist Cllr Philip Ham’s Budget suggestions and register its disappointment in the decision to close.</i></b>		
10	SCC Phil Green H/ways Lighting	Email confirming telephone conversation regarding new street light installed at Pinch point – giving reasons for its positioning.		
11	Glason-bury Council	Invitation to all Town & Parish Councils in Somerset to join in opposing the proposed Hinckley C development.		

**Magazines/ Brochures:** Clerk’s & Councillors Direct Issue 91

**Planning: Application** 2014/0079/HSE Maitlands Close Nettlebridge  
 2014/0337/HSE Ivy House Nettlebridge  
 2014/0255/HSE Oval House, SOF

**Authorisation** Gate on Public Footpath SM 19/40

**Bank Statements:** Business Reserve A/C January £ 19,150.00 February £ 13,904.06  
 Current A/C 50.00 50.00

**Letters sent:** Downside re Cricket Club  
 Somerset Waste Partnership

**Cheques:** Valerie Attwood £40.62  
 Valerie Attwood £699.99  
 MicroBitz £844.78 paid

<p><b>19.</b></p>	<p><b>MATTERS OF REPORTS &amp; ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:</b></p> <p>19.1 The Clerk had reported the village lights that were out to Somerset County Council after the last meeting and was informed that this was due to a tree down at the other end of the village; due to a heavy work load, this would take time to repair. The Clerk left a message to reinforce that this was a health and safety issue as the traffic calming system needed to be lit.</p> <p>19.2 In the meantime Cllr Daniels had contacted Scottish &amp; Southern who had not been informed by SCC, or Western power who had placed the poles, but who then rectified the situation immediately.</p> <p>19.3 It was agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on 28 April 2014 and the Clerk would send out Invitations to the relevant Parish Organizations and Clubs within the parish. The Ordinary Meeting would be held beforehand at the earlier time of 6.30 pm.</p> <p>19.4 The next 2 Parish Council Meetings would be held on the following dates:  19 May 2014  09 June 2014</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p><b>20.</b></p>	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING:</b></p> <p>20.1 The date of the next Meeting will be on <b>Monday 28 April 2014 at 6.30pm.</b></p> <p>20.2 This meeting would be followed by the <b>Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm</b></p> <p>20.3 There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.15p.m.</p>	

**CHAIRMAN** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE** \_\_\_\_\_