

**Minutes of the 952nd Meeting of the Stratton-on-the-Fosse Parish Council
Held in the Village Hall on 16 May 2016**

PRESENT: Councillors: Mr John Padfield(Chairman), Mrs J Davies(Vice-Chair)
Mr D Stock, Mr A Norris, Cllr Fosdike, Mrs S Crawshaw,

IN ATTENDANCE: Dist Cllr Rachel Carter,Clerk, Press.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Action

1. TO ELECT A CHAIRPERSON:

The Clerk asked for nominations for Chairperson. Cllr Norris nominated John Padfield and Cllr Davies seconded this proposal. The Clerk asked if there were any other proposals and, as there were none, asked for a vote by a show of hands for John Padfield to be Chairman. This was carried unanimously and John Padfield was asked to take the Chair, which he accepted.

2. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE:

The Chairman would sign the Declaration of Acceptance at the next meeting in June.
Cllr Crawshaw arrived at this point.

3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR:

Cllr Judy Davies was proposed for vice-Chair by Cllr Norris and seconded by Cllr Fosdike. This was carried unanimously and Cllr Davies duly accepted.

4 TO APPOINT COUNCILLORS:

Councilors to oversee various items were as follows:

- Planning Working Party: Councillors Davies, Norris, and Daniels.
- Burial ground Working Party:Councillors John Padfield,Stock,Fosdike.
- Financial Working Party: Councillor Daniels, Fosdike, Murtagh.
- Lengthsman: Councillor Jeremy Padfield.
- Web-site: Councillor Daniels.
- Footpaths: Mr Trevor Letcher.

- Bank Signatories: John Padfield, Judy Davies, Valerie Attwood.

5. APOLOGIES: Cllrs Daniels, Jeremy Padfield, Murtagh, Dist Cllr John Carter.

6. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 18 April 2016 were approved and signed.

7. DECLARATION OF NEW INTEREST:

7.1 There were none.

- 7.2 The Clerk reported that Councillors had been forwarded their personal Declaration of Interests Forms from MDC, which they were asked to check were all correct, especially any organizations to which Councillors belonged. Organizations such as Ramblers, Rotary, Cam Valley Wildlife Group etc.
- 7.3 Also that farmers – even if tenants - should declare land which is farmed and any subsequent buildings along with the farm house (supplying a map if necessary).
- 7.4 Also the Clerk had forwarded Guidance Notes for the register of Members' Interest to Concillors.

8. MATTERS ARISING:

| Action Points – From the Meeting of 18 April 2016 | | Action by | Name |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| | | Date | |
| 1. | Adopt Financial Regulations and place on Web-site – when completed. | pending | Cllr Daniels |
| | Report to Highways that signs at North end of village were obscured by trees. Also that the White Post Roundabout was in need of cutting. Clerk to chase this item. <i>H/ways(Derek) will speak to tree surgeon 3/2/16 Clerk contacted tree surgeon direct; stated not responsible for cutting trees on opposite side of road (maybe Carnival Club).</i> | Chase H/ways | |
| 2. | <i>Inspection undertaken and declared not a hazard. Suggested contacting Call Centre to report and ask for another inspection of site and get ref number</i> Clerk had contacted call centre and reported again. It was noted that when the tress were in full leaf it was a problem <i>Further note that the trees are on this side of wall, therefore Highways responsibility.</i> | Pending | Clerk |
| 3. | BHF (PADS) Make further enquiries as to what training given and how much time this involved. Funding run out – new scheme to run in March. <i>No information received to date</i> | Chase Pending until next mtg | Clerk |
| 4. | Contact MDC regarding the Dog Fouling Bib which I in need of emptying Contact Dave Grabham re SID's siting which is on the opposite side of the road to which it was decided at the site meeting. Also it did not appear to be working properly. | completed | |
| 5. | <i>SID's report received details at Item</i> | Notified | |
| 6. | Contact Highways regarding the road – 300 yds out of the village towards Shepton Mallet (Southside) – Where the road had recently been repaired it was now breaking up. | Notified | |
| 7. | Contact Highways re potholes in Middlemead | Notified | |

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| 8. | Send letter from PC to resident re hedge cutting spilling onto the pavement; ongoing problem in the last few years. | asap | clerk |
| 9. | Speak to resident in connection with dog fouling in the Community Gardens . | Asap | Jeremy |
| 10 | Transfer notices from the old Notice Board to new Notice Board | completed | |

10 COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT:

- 10.1 A report giving facts and figures for schools and children in care was forwarded by C C Harvey Siggs.
- 10.2 It stated that 503 children were in care in Somerset (a lower rate than the national average) and more than half with foster carers, the remainder placed with independent foster carers or independent residential homes.
- 10.3 Schools – 91/4% are rated good or better by Ofsted an increase from 84% in 2015. Somerset schools are now ranked 20th out of 152 local authority areas on Ofsted standards; with Somerset being the top performing shire county on Ofsted standards.

11. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT:

Regarding the recent controversial building development proposal at the white Post, Dist Cllr Rachel Carter stated that builders have to have 106 agreement to give back to the Community i.e. School, Doctors etc. Dist Cllr Carter was of the opinion that the proposed planning was going to happen and that nothing would alter this fact. The fight was not therefore with the developers, but with Planning and with Highways regarding the traffic situation. Both Rachel and John Carter would also fight for the boundaries to be altered to move one mile from Stratton-on-the-Fosse; as District Councillors this was the best that could be achieved – gifting BANES that portion of Stratton.

12. PLANNING MATTERS:

- 12.1 The Chairman had received an email from Mr Ian Appleyard in which it stated that the planning application ref 2016/0333/FUL Stratton Motor Services had now been referred to the chair and vice Chair of the Planning Board. The decision rests with them, whether the application will be determined at committee, or delegated to the officer to refuse.
- 12.2 Dist Cllr Carter stated that she was backing the Planning Application.

The Press arrived at 8.21 pm

Applications:

Ref: 2016/ 0782/LBC

Location: Downside School, The Stokes House

Proposal: House re-roofing with new tiles

Councillors saw no reason to object to this application and recommended approval

Ref:2016/0456/FUL

Location: Vereker House, Pitcot Lane, SOF

Proposal: Conversion of stables & hay store to ancillary residential accommodation

Councillors had visited the site and thought there was plenty of parking space and that this proposal would enhance the property. Recommend approval.

Ref:2016/0959/LBC

Location: Clare Cottage, Watery Lane, SOF

Proposal: Carpentry repairs, re-pointing & new windows.

The listed officer had viewed the property and had given a good report – Councillors thought it was being done sympathetically and recommended approval.

Ref:2016/0968/HSE

Location: The Cottage, Nettlebridge, Oakhill

Proposal: Repair & renovation of existing 2 storey detached derelict outbuilding & addition of single storey lean-to extension at rear.

Councillors recommended approval of this application.

Ref:2016/0917/CLE

Location: The Lodges, Green Lane, SOF

Proposal: Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for an existing use to change the use of 6 holiday lets to 6 dwellinghouses.

Councillors thought that, as people were living here at the moment, there was no difference in permanent habitation. Councillors recommended approval.

Ref:2016/0980/OTS

Location: Land to the North of White Post Inn, Midsomer Norton

Proposal:

The decision was made to discuss this application more fully at the next Meeting in June.

Permission granted by MDC

None received.

Permission refused by MDC

None received.

Temporary Road Closure

Edford Hill, Stoke St Michael from 06 June 2016 to last 12 days.

13. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT ON LAND AT WHITE POST:

- 13.1 This application (as noted above) had been received just before the Meeting and it was thought this was not enough time to give due diligence to this application. Therefore the Clerk had obtained an extension to the return date to MDC of 21 June 2016, to be discussed at 20 June Parish Council Meeting.
- 13.2 It was noted that there had been an insert in the Parish Newsletter which raised points that were relevant to the Parish Council's objection to this application.

14. LOCAL PLAN PART II:

- 14.1 The Chairman read out an email from Mendip District Council (Andre Sestini), which acknowledged the concerns raised that development sites in the Parish boundaries on the edge of Midsomer Norton were not highlighted to the Councillor at the Chilcompton drop in session. Therefore Stratton did not submit a response to the consultation, as it was informed that there were no development proposals in the consultation concerning Stratton-on-the-Fosse. Although correct in terms of the immediate village – clearly this did not include the larger housing proposals north of white Post.
- 14.2 The Parish Council now has until 10 June 2016 to register its comments. The Chairman together with Cllr Daniels will forward the Parish Council's response to Mendip.

The Press left the Meeting at this point 8.37 pm

15. BURIAL GROUND:

The Chairman would arrange a Meeting of the Working Party to start things moving.

Dist Cllr Carter left the Meeting at this point 8.42 pm

16. INSURANCE RENEWAL:

- 16.1 The Clerk reported that 3 quotes plus the renewal quote for Annual Insurance had been obtained. It was recommended by the Clerk to stay with Came & Company and take out insurance with Hiscox, as this was not only the cheapest quote but also the most comprehensive received. Also the Clerk had found the brokers Came & Co good at giving advice and assistance in past dealings. All Councillors present agreed to take out Hiscox insurance with Came & Company.
- 16.2 The Chairman and the Clerk read out the policy schedule to Councillors to ascertain the Council had adequate insurance and that risks were covered such as indemnity and public liability. All Councillors present agreed that these was covered within the policy.
- 16.3 The option of a 3 year contract at £ 587.29, as opposed to 1 year at £ 618.21, was discussed. This would mean that Hiscox would not increase its price, but there would be a small addition each year for index linked and Government tax. All Councillors present agreed for the Clerk to take out a 3 year policy with Came & Company (Hiscox) with a proviso that no admin charge would be payable if a change was made to the policy during this time. If this was not possible then the Clerk would take out a 1 year policy. The Clerk to arrange payment by the due date of 01 June 2016.

17. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

- 17.1 Invoice from **Came & Company** for Insurance policy renewal amounting to **£618.21 for 1 year** or **£ 587.29 for 3years** was agreed by all present to be paid. **Cheque No.001075**
- 17.2 Invoice from **Wayne Palmer** for Lengthsman duties amounting to **£450** was agreed by all Councillors present to be paid. **Cheque No.1074**
- 17.3 Invoice for **Village Hall Hire** for **Yr End 2015** (11 months) amounting to **£140.25** was agreed by all Councillors present to be paid. **Cheque No.1072**
- 17.4 Invoice from **SALC** for Annual Subscription amounting to **£180.85** was agreed by all Councillors present to be paid. **Cheque No.1073**
- 17.5 **Data Protection** Annual Subscription amounting to **£35** was paid by **DD**.
- 17.6 **Zen Internet Domain Name Annual** charge **£11.99** and monthly charge **£4.79** was paid by **Direct Debit**.
- 17.7 Charity donations were agreed to be put on the next Agenda.
- 17.8 Notice of Inspection now had to include 10 days in July therefore the inspection dates this year would be **01 July - 11 August 2016** to be confirmed with the Chairman before placing the Notice on the Web-site.
- 17.9 The Bank Statements were reconciled and signed.

18. COMMUNITY GARDENS:

- 18.1 The Clerk received the monthly Inspection Report of the Playground from David Stock, showing everything was in order.
- 18.2 Cllr Stock reported that a resident tree surgeon had looked at the trees, free of charge, 2 years ago and gave his recommendations on how to look after them. On further inspection recently he stated that, in his opinion, the trees had not been looked after adequately and the trees were now badly affected. Cllr Stock stated that the Lengthsman had been detailed to look after the trees, but obviously this had been neglected.
- 18.3 The Chairman read out a letter from Cllr Daniels in regard to the Lengthsman's report/worksheet. It was noted that the Parish Council has to account publicly for invoices over £100 under the Transparency Scheme and that the monies paid to the Lengthsman have to be accounted for more precisely. Cllr Daniels suggested that the detail should include the day worked (date), the times worked, details of the work carried out and the number of hours completed on each task.

19. STREET CLEANING/LENGTHSMAN SCHEME:

19.1 The Lengthsman tasks were as follows:

November: 6 hours

Cut Bank opposite Green Lane and verge next to pavement.

Cut area for Cllr Daniels in park.

Cut grass and trimmed Park.

Cleaned out Chicanes.

March: 9 hours

Cut Park three times.

Trimmed around wooded area and all equipment.

Removed wooded area and all equipment.

Removed weeds from around Village Hall.

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| April 18 | Cut Park and trimmed | 3 hours |
| April 26 | Cut Park and trimmed | 3 hours |
| May 02 | Grass Cut Park | 1 hour |
| May 03 | Grass Cut Park | 1 hour |
| May 04 | Cut grass for Cllr Daniels & extra by bin area & trimmed wooded area | 1 hour |
| May 10 | Cut footpaths leading out of Village | ½ hour |
| | Cut chicane and verge by Bainsbury View | ½ hour |
| | Cut around all trees in the park ready for spraying | ¾ hour |
| | Cut around Village Hall car-park and kitchen area of Hall | 1 ¾ hour |
| May 11 | Cut the verge leading up to Killings Knap & chicane leading into Village. | 1 ¼ hour |
| May 16 | Cut Park & trimmed | 3 hours |

- 19.1 Councillor Jeremy Padfield had discussed the Lengthsman's worksheet with Wayne and it had been agreed to supply a more formal sheet, maybe in the form of a spreadsheet, in future.
- 19.2 Cllr Stock reported that there were many weeds around the Village. The Chairman stated that Wayne (Lengthsman) did not hold a weed spraying license and that Jeremy was looking into finding someone with a license to fulfil this work.
- 19.3 It was noted that the Bus Shelter was in need of a clean and it was thought appropriate to be placed on the Lengthman's list.
- 19.4 Councillors also noted that the Old Telephone Kiosk was in an awful condition – the Chairman would ask Jeremy to place this item on the Lengthsman's list.

20. HIGHWAYS:

- 20.1 The Clerk to notify Highways of the following items in need of attention:
- Manhole sunk opposite 9 Middlemead.
 - Water Valve sunk southside of junction to Middlemead.
 - The above 2 items gave considerable vibration to house and complaints had been received from residents about this.
- 20.2 A detailed report (which had been forwarded to Councillors) had been received from Dave Grabham regarding the recent siting of SID's at each end of the Village. Stratton-on-the Fosse will continue to receive a temporary SID on a regular basis.

21. POLICE MATTERS:

There had been nothing received.

22. FOOTPATH:

Nothing to report.

23. THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS:

- 23.1 The Chairman stated that he had been asked by several parishioners what arrangements the Parish Council had for celebrating the Queen's Birthday. Mr Roddy Mellotte had asked Downside Abbey if it was organizing anything
- 23.2 Mr Mellotte stated that he could purchase a Flag, if needed, at the cost of £50 to be reimbursed by the Parish Council. All Councillors present agreed that a Flag would be useful now, and for future events, and it was agreed for one to be purchased by Mr Mellotte on the Parish Council's behalf; enabling the PC to claim back the VAT.

24. WEB-SITE:

Nothing to report.

25. CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1 Mendip Society Walk & Event Programme April-August 2016. **Gave to Cllr Fosdike.**
- 2 Fields in Trust & RBL Centenary Fields Programme – protecting valuable green space across the country.
Application Form to agree an appropriate site & complete A Deed of Dedication to protect the green space in perpetuity. Note this does not require any change to the ownership & management of the site which remains entirely at local level. **Gave to Chairmain.**
- 3 Paul Emery Details of services provided – any repairs or cleaning services. **It was suggested that a quote was obtained for painting Stratton's finger posts.**
- 4 Devon & Somerset C C Connecting Devon & Somerset launched a Voucher Scheme to provide subsidies to install alternative broadband technology to premises across Devon & Somerset. Vouchers worth up to £500 are now available for residents & businesses across the entire programme area who experience broadband speeds below 2Mbps. The subsidy will cover the cost of connecting to an improved broadband service to boost broadband speeds to a minimum of 10Mbps. Benefitters from the voucher scheme will still be entitled to a superfast broadband connection under phase 2 of the CDS programme if their connection is below 30Mbps. The procurement process for phase 2 is expected to conclude in the Autumn of 2016.
Information at www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/cds-broadband-voucher-scheme/
- 5 MDC Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
A steady increase in complaints re Parish Councillors failing to disclose the above are being received.
Reminder to Councillors of the importance of ensuring that their Register of Interests is up-to-date.
A Guide to Interests for Parish Councillors.
- 6 Harvey Siggs Facts & Figures re children & young people in Somerset.
- 7 Somerset Waste Partnership Newsletter
- 8 SCC Chris Rae Change Officer 01823 359 624 Somerset Choices - Somerset's free web-site. Advertise events for free. Contains a directory of local events & services. Sign up & add your events, community groups & services to the website. Need PC's help to encourage other providers within community to become involved as well.
To register www.somersetchoices.org.uk
Need help www.somerset.gov.uk/choicesfeedback
The aim is for Somerset families to find out where they can find local services & information about local events.
Therefore regardless of whether the PC choses to publicise events on Somerset Choices – could the web address be added to the PC Website and Parish Newsletter.

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| 9 | SCC Road Team | Safety | <p>Aims to reduce the number of casualties on the county's roads through a programme of education, training & publicity.</p> <p>Route 60+ is run for older drivers. This presentation lasts for 60 mins approx. Note do not have to be 60 to attend.</p> <p>If this workshop would be well attended & of interest to parishioners in this age range please contact Somerset Road Safety roadsafety@somerset.gov.uk phone 01823 4234430</p> |
| 10 | MDC | | <p>Re concerns over the development sites in the Parish boundaries on the edge of MSN, which were not highlighted at the Chilcompton drop in session. Re consultation on Local Plan Part II, although consultation closed in December, PC has until 10 June 2016 to respond to Local Plan Part II</p> <p>This is separate from formal consultation re planning application for land at White Post will come forward in due course.</p> |
| 11 | MDC | | <p>Re Declaration of Interests Forms – further info required from 3 Councillors(Murtagh,Hall,Fosdike)</p> |
| 12 | MDC | | <p>Reported issues noted by Highways ref nos below Potholes 294337 Road surface SM end 294338</p> |
| 13 | SCC | | <p>SID's reports A367 south bound 14 April – 28 April 2016</p> |
| 14 | MDC | | <p>Parish Info Bulletin May 2016</p> |
| 15 | SCC | | <p>Environment Maintenance Information sheet2016 Grass Cutting Dates Hedges & Banks, Weed Spraying (Please notify Somerset Direct if spot any noxious or invasive weeds growing on the highway network ie Ragwort, Japanese & Himalayan Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam & Giant Hogweed.</p> |
| 16 | SCC | | <p>Mineral & Waste Development Scheme.</p> |

Planning Application: Ref:2016/0782/LBC Downside
 2016/0456/FUL Vereker House, Pitcot Lane
 2016/0959/LBC Clare Cottage, Watery Lane
 2016/0968/HSE The Cottage, Nettlebridge
 2016/0917/CLE The Lodges, Green Lane
 2016/0980/OTS Land to North of the White Post Inn MSN

Permission granted: None

Road Closure: Temporary Rod Closure, Edford Hill, Stoke St Michael

Bank Statements: Business Reserve A/C April 25,472.65
 Current A/C 50.00

Cheques:SOF Village Hall Trust £ 140.25
 SALC £174.00
 ZEN £ 16.78 DD
 ICO £ 35.00 DD

26. MATTERS OF REPORTS & ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

26.1 Cllr Crawshaw reported that she would meet with Dist Cllr Rachel Carter and Mr Roddy Mellotte – who had agreed to be Co-ordinator – to discuss the next steps in order to start up the scheme. The date proposed for the scheme to go live is July 2016.

26.2 Items that needed to be formalized would include the need for:

- Public Liability Insurance. The Clerk reported that the Parish Council’s insurance would cover injury outside the car to and from destination. However, it was thought that the drivers’ car insurance would not be adequate, as the scheme would be sued and would therefore need its own public liability insurance. If this was the case then SCC would be able to help organize.
- A name for the scheme would be needed.
- A mobile phone and whether Contract or Pay As You Go was best.

26.3 Although, when initially contacted about the scheme, Chilcompton and Holcombe were enthusiastic, on reflection it was thought to start-up in Stratton only in the first instance.

26.4 Cllr Crawshaw would email the Clerk and Councillors in the next 2 weeks with the outcome of the discussions and decisions made on the above issues.

Cllr
Crawshaw

26.5 The Car Scheme to be placed on the next Agenda.

Agenda

27. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

27.1 The date of the next Meeting will be on **Monday 20 June 2016**

27.2 There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.40 pm

CHAIRMAN

DATE