

**Minutes of the 954<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Stratton-on-the-Fosse Parish Council  
Held in the Village Hall on 19 September 2016**

**PRESENT:** Councillors: Mr John Padfield(Chairman), Mrs J Davies(Vice-Chair), Mr D Stock, Mr K Fosdyke, Mrs S Crawshaw, Mr M Daniels, Mr A Norris, Mrs H Murtagh, Mrs C Downes.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Dist Cllr John Carter, Mrs R Carter, County Councillor H Siggs.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

Action

**1. APOLOGIES:** Mr Jeremy Padfield, PCSO Housley.

**2. MINUTES:**

The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 218 July 2016 were approved and signed.

**3. CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR:**

3.1 Mrs Cathy Downes was introduced by Cllr Crawshaw as a candidate for co-option onto the Council. Cathy, it was stated, had given her time and support in organizing the setting-up of the car-scheme and it was thought would be an asset to the Parish Council. Cllr Crawshaw nominated Mrs Cathy Downes and Cllr Stock seconded the proposal.

3.2 All Councillors present agreed for Cathy to be co-opted and the Declaration of Office was duly signed.

**4. DECLARATION OF NEW INTERESTS:**

There were none.

**5. MATTERS ARISING:**

<b>Action Points – From the Meeting of 18 July 2016</b>			
	Action by date	Name	
1.	Adopt Financial Regulations and place on Web-site – when completed.	pending	Cllr Daniels
2.	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. <b>Clerk to check funding available or other avenues.</b>	Pending until next mtg	Clerk
3.	Send letter from PC to resident re hedge cutting spilling onto the pavement; ongoing problem in the last few years. <b>Residents at numbers 12 &amp; 14 Middlemead to be contacted re above stating if help needed to get in touch with PC</b>		Cllr Stock Clerk
4.	Cllr Jeremy Padfield to engage a person to weed spay around the village. Cllr Jeremy Padfield stated that he would contact the Bursar at Downside to ask if its groundsman could weed spray the village on a permanent basis. <b>Contacted Bursar but no response as yet. Minuted at 14.2</b>	pending	Cllr Jeremy P

5.	To be placed on the L/man's List: Bus Shelter clean, attention given to the Old Telephone Kiosk, remove debris at the back of pinch points. L/man to attend to the sign obscured at South end of village. <b>Minuted at 14.1</b>	complete	L/Man
6.	Report to Highways: Manhole Sunk opposite 9 Middlemead, Water valve sunk southside of junction to Middlemead. The above give considerable vibration to house and complaints received from residents. <b>Acknowledged with reference numbers:</b> <b>294729 Sunken inspection Cover opposite 9 Middlemead Road Label U2741/10</b> <b>294730 Water Valve sunk southside of junction to Middlemead Road Label A367/6</b> <b>Minuted at 15.1 15.2</b>	reported	Clerk
7.	Drains blocked throughout village. On the B3355 on the bend at the Rugby Club trees in need of cutting back. Report to highways. <b>Acknowledged Ref No.19.7</b>	Pending	Clerk
8.	Enquire if the Community Gardens was eligible for the Centenary Fields Programme as it is leased from Downside. <b>Emailed need to inform of length of lease.</b>	Oct Mtg	Agenda
9.	Certificate of Insurance to be placed on Web-site	Asap	Clerk Cllr Daniels

## 6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

6.1 Councillors were in receipt of Harvey Siggs July Report, which had been received after the last Parish Council Meeting extracts are as follows:

### Highways Maintenance

- We repaired 18,818 potholes between April 2015 and March 2016, a decrease of 4% when compared with the previous year. 1,656 planned highway inspections were undertaken, 100% of which were completed within the time tolerances defined within the Highway Safety Inspection Manual. A total of 25,095 safety defects (including potholes) were identified during planned and reactive inspections of the network; this is very similar when compared with the previous year.
- The establishing of a Highways Asset Management Team has improved the way we manage the highway asset to make sure that we target investment where and when it is most needed to reduce our short-term and reactive maintenance costs. The team has commenced the development of new systems to help identify and prioritise surface treatment schemes using whole life costing principles.
- We have continued our investment in structural maintenance delivering over 1,600,000m<sup>2</sup> of surface dressing and more than 400 schemes across the county incorporating works disciplines such as resurfacing, drainage, footways and earthworks.
- Despite further reductions in revenue funding the Rights of Way (RoW) team have worked hard to maintain their performance indicator 'ease of use' at 77% for a second year running. Maximising volunteers' hours has been essential in maintaining the ease of use indicator and in 2015/16 volunteer hours increased to over 18,000 hours (an increase of over 6,000 hours compared to last year). The new 'Adopt a Path' volunteer scheme was launched in July 2015.

- Overall the County had a mild winter, which was in fact the third warmest in the UK since 1910. As a result there were only three F1 actions (F1 – The pre-salting of roads that are on the County’s Precautionary Salting Network when frost or icy conditions are expected) in November, and remarkably, only one in December and that was on New Year’s Eve! El Nino in the Pacific took its toll however, and February, March and April were colder than average and our last F1 action was extremely late on 27 April! In total we had 47 F1 actions and no full F2 actions (F2 – during extended periods of cold weather or snow the precautionary salting of roads providing access to other settlements off routes are treated on an “as needs” basis once the Precautionary Salting Network is clear). There were only a couple of occasions of snow which fell on high ground only. These were treated with increased salt spread rates without the need to call on the farmers/agricultural contractors for assistance.

#### **Small Improvement Schemes Programme**

- Over the last year we have continued the delivery of our successful ‘Small Improvement Schemes’ (SIS) programme which enables local communities (through their local County Councillor) to request proposals for small highway improvements. To date the schemes have generally focussed on improving road safety and accessibility. Towards the end of last year we relaunched the SIS programme and invited a further round of scheme requests. A total of 39 were submitted by Members and these are now in the initial stages of feasibility and design.

#### **Traffic, Transport, Road Safety**

- We currently operate 38 Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) over 351 sites across the County and have successfully worked with 10 communities to take over the management and deployment of these signs themselves.
- With the demand for sign maintenance increasing along with the current budget pressures, the maintenance of the traditional finger arm signs are no longer a priority in terms of sign maintenance, however, we value the importance of our historic fingerpost signs and are keen to work with local communities to help preserve them and find other ways to fund their maintenance. We are currently working with partners and contractors, including Exmoor National Park and Heritage, to develop a guidance document that will include the surveying, restoration and maintenance of these fingerposts.

#### **Transporting Somerset**

- Over the last year Transporting Somerset ensured around 9,000 pupils who were entitled to free home to school transport were safely delivered to and from school every day and provided transport for over 600 SEN pupils many with individual transport needs. Transporting Somerset has provided over 200,000 trips to enable individual service users to reach their care placements and health patients to attend clinics and hospitals
- In May 2016 we suffered the loss of a major bus operator, Webberbus. This operator provided a significant local bus network and also operated eight school contracts for Somerset County Council. The team had less than 48 hours in which to assess the impact on the Local Bus network and arrange emergency contracts and to ensure the school contracts were covered by other operators. We have subsequently been through a re-tendering process on all of the emergency contracts which has resulted in all but two of the emergency bus service contracts being taken on commercially and a slight saving on school contract costs.

6.2 CC Harvey Siggs reported that the Government Grant to local Councils would disappear in 2020 and that Councils in the West were bidding together to deal with such things as infrastructure, better train services along with training and skills as productivity was low in the South West.

6.3 On a local level he had attended meetings regarding the White Post development and exhausted his position to “stir things up”. He thought the Parish Council needed to make a more forceful response. He noted that if a school was incorporated in the plans then the developer found it easier to obtain planning.

6.4 He was aware that BANES would not want to put a school at this site in terms of numbers attending. Therefore the Parish Council needed to be more vocal with BANES in respect of facts and figures.

6.5 He reported that no date for the Planning Application was yet available and that the Planning would go to the Planning Board.

***Cllr Murtagh arrived at this point. 8.19 pm***

6.6 Dist Cllr Carter will check if the planning is still for one application (for school and houses) and report back to the Parish Council.

6.7 CC Harvey Siggs reported that a Guidance for Finger Posts would be distributed within the next couple of weeks.

6.8 On a personal level, CC Harvey Siggs stated that he will be standing down next May and would not put himself up for re-election. He had enjoyed his 12 years, especially the Parish Council side to the job and was always open to invites for mince pies!

6.9 The Chairman thanked Harvey for the representation he had given Stratton over the White Post planning and stated that mince pies and wine were available at the December meeting. J Carter

***CC Harvey Siggs left the Meeting at this point 8.26 pm***

**7. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT:**

7.1 Dist Cllr Rachel and John Carter stated that they both thoroughly enjoyed Village Day and thought it was well organized.

7.2 They reported that an infrastructure and levy charge for developers was under discussion at the moment, which if implemented would mean that Parish Councils would be able spend the money received as it wished.

**8. POLICE REPORT:**

The Chairman read out the Police Report received from PCSO Nikki Housley, which contained the following information:

- 20/08 Road traffic accident Nettlebridge Hill.
- 24/08 Road traffic accident Nettlebridge Hill.
- 03/09 Road traffic accident Nettlebridge Hill.
- 11/09 2 Road traffic accidents Nettlebridge Hill.

## 9. PLANNING MATTERS:

### Applications:

#### **Ref:2016/2133/OHL**

Location: Lodge Farm,Field adjacent to Foss Road A367

Proposal: Removal of existing lines & poles and erection of overhead line & poles.

***Councillors recommended approval of this application.***

#### **Ref: 2016/2194/VRC**

Location: Bainsbury View,Fosse Way, SOF

Proposal: Application for variation of condition 2

Garage to have pitched roof & roof above master bedroom slightly raised.

On planning ref 2015/1426/FUL.

***It was recommended to submit a Refusal of Permission for the above planning application for variation of condition 2.***

***The original application was altered to give a decent roofline to the neighbouring residents and the Parish Council had recommended approval on this basis. The new variation has renegaded on the original plan and Councillors feel that this will destroy the roofline. This would appear to be a minor amendment, however the original planning concern was issued with this roofline set lower.***

### Permission granted by MDC

**Ref:2016/0959/LBC** Clare Cottage,Watery Lane,SOF

Carpentry repairs,Re-pointing and a new window.

**Ref:2016/1851/APP** Bainsbury View,SOF

Approval of details reserved by condition 3(external facing materials) on planning 2015/1426/FUL.

### Road Closure

Bath Road, SOF From 12 September 2016 for 26 days for drainage works.

- 9.1 A meeting had been held with Charlie Higgins from Highways with the Chairman and Cllr Fosdyke in attendance where drainage throughout the village and A367 at Nettlebridge was discussed. In relation to the meeting, Charlie had emailed a Report explaining further the issues discussed, which the Chairman read to Councillors.
- 9.2 Councillors present at the site meeting were disappointed that there was no mention of signage to be placed on the dangerous bend at Nettlebridge. Cllr Fosdyke would contact Highways in regard to this matter.

Cllr  
Fosdyke

## **10. FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

The Clerk's Salary amounting to **£722.46** for the period **July-Sept** and back pay of **£22.56** for period **April-June** were agreed by all Councillors present to be paid. This was in accordance with the new April 2016 pay-scale. **Cheque No.001085**

**Petty Cash** amounting to **£24.82** for the period was agreed by all Councillors present to be paid. **Cheque No.001087**

**BT/Broadband** amounting to **£146.20** was agreed by all Councillors present to be paid. **Cheque No.001088**

An Invoice from **Wayne Palmer (Lengthsman)** amounting to **£450** for **2 months** work was agreed to be paid by all Councillors present. **Cheque No.001086 & 001090**

An Invoice for Petrol for grass cutting the football field amounting to **£40.50** to be paid to **John Padfield** was agreed to be paid. **Cheque No.001089**

The Clerk was instructed to send a letter of thanks to Barry for the magnificent job of keeping the Football Field in shape.

The Clerk was in **Receipt** of a cheque amounting to **£234** for a **Burial payment**. **Cheque No.000689**

The Clerk reported that the Audit Return had not yet been received from the Auditors, but when it is Cllr Daniels will place on the Web site.

It was agreed that the Finance Committee would agree a date to meet to discuss the Budget.

The Bank Statements were reconciled and signed.

## **11. CAR SCHEME:**

11.1 Cllr Crawshaw reported that the funding of the car-scheme would be covered for the first year; with the Public Liability Insurance paid by Mid-Somerset Car Scheme Partnership for the first year (until September 2017) and the printing of leaflets covered free of charge.

11.2 There would be a sum of £20 for Pay as you go for the mobile phone and advertising expenses.

11.3 Cllr Crawshaw thanked everyone involved with getting the scheme off the ground.

## **12. BURIAL GROUND:**

12.1 It was reported that the first burial in the new Cemetery had taken place and payment had been received. It was agreed that the vicar of St Vigors church would continue to keep records of the burials.

12.2 The Chairman stated that the burial working party had not met since the last Parish Council Meeting, but that a further meeting will take place soon.

12.3 The Clerk reported that it had been recommended by SALC for Councillors to attend a Cemetery Course.

### **13. COMMUNITY GARDENS:**

- 13.1 The Monthly Inspection Report completed by Cllr Stock was received by the Clerk; with nothing major advised.
- 13.2 Cllr Stock reported that another bin would be erected in the Gardens when a post was received.

### **14. STREET CLEANING/LENGTHSMAN SCHEME:**

- 14.1 The following list of tasks completed by the Lengthsman over the last 2 months:
  - Work hours completed 30 hours amounting to £450.
  - Cut hedge back opposite Bath View behind chicane.
  - Cut around Watery Lane signs.
  - Strimmed around Signposts.
  - Cut verges leading to Killens Knap.
  - Cut hedges before all signs leading into the Village
  - Cut all wood away from signs.
  - Stimmed around chicanes both ends of Village.
  - Removed all weeds from chicanes through Village.
  - Cleaned Bus Shelter
  - Cut around styles.
  - Cut and weeded around Village Hall.
  - Tidied car-park.
  - Cut grass banks eg South Street and opposite Green Lane.
  - Cut Community Gardens and strimmed all play areas.
  - Cut lower branches off trees above pavements.
  - Weeded and cleaned leave opposite Oval House by Downside.
- 14.2 It was reported that the Community Gardens were looking negelected. Also the area around the Village Hall. Several villages had made complaints to Councillors about the state of the village. The Chairman stated that the Parish Council had a problem with weed control as Wayne Palmer was not licensed to use pesticides and it would cost £500 approximately to obtain. Downside had been asked to help but was not interested.
- 14.3 Cllr Daniels stated that the Lengthsman's budget for Year End 2016 had been half of other years. Cllr Daniels suggested that the Lengthsman's contract for next year was looked at, with a view to splitting the tasks ie grass cutting etc and somebody licensed for the weed control. Agenda
- 14.4 Dist Cllr Rachel Carter suggested that tubs at either end of the village would look nice. The Chairman suggested placing "The look of the Village" on the Agenda. Agenda

## 15. HIGHWAYS:

15.1 Councillors Fosdyke and John Padfield had held a site Meeting with Charlie Higgins of Highways regarding issues along the A367.

15.2 Charlie Higgins had emailed a report of the Meeting, (which the Chairman read out), contents as follows:

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss concerns raised following an observational road survey of the A367 carried out by Councillor Kristofer Fosdyke, dated 18<sup>th</sup> July 2016.

I thought it would be useful to put in writing our position in terms of dealing with reports of safety defects, points raised and actions taken.

As a Highway Authority, Somerset County Council has a statutory duty under the Highways Act 1980 to maintain the Highway Network, ensuring that the Highways are safe and the public can use them without obstruction.

To ensure a consistent countywide approach a formalized inspection system that prescribes the frequency of inspections and the method of assessment, recording and actioning of defects have been adopted.

**Somerset's 'Highway Safety Inspection Manual'** The carrying out of Safety Inspections and subsequent repair in Somerset is based on many criteria including 'Well-maintained Highways – Code of Practice for Highway Maintenance Management'

The programme of inspections is based on the hierarchy of the road or footway and the frequency of inspections varies from once a month for all A/B roads and town centres to once a year for all minor roads in the County, which receive very little traffic.

Between these two are a number of alternatives depending on the hierarchy of the road. The repair time to safety defects is also variable again based on the hierarchy and the severity of the defect some must be repaired within hours while others have a repair time of up to 28days. Should you experience or receive any reports regarding potential safety defects please call Somerset Direct (0300 123 2224) who will ensure the details are forwarded to the appropriate officer for action. Through the year, our Highways Team based at the Mendip Area Highways will identify, prioritise and order maintenance works based on need and relative risk. Any problems identified from site inspections or notification from the public will be programmed for repair accordingly. If any safety issues arise in the meantime, these will be assessed and resolved as part of the County Council's reactive maintenance programme in accordance with the **Highway Safety Inspection Manual' Carriageway Defects / Potholes**

### **Guidance for Identifying Safety Defects**

An area anywhere in the carriageway where part or all of the bituminous / concrete layers have been removed. The definition includes carriageway collapses, potholes to surrounds to ironwork and missing cat's eyes. A pothole (Shape Edged Depression) will become a safety defect when it is a depth greater than or equal to 40mm and it is greater than or equal to 150mm in diameter.

Inspections of all sites have now been completed and the following items listed below have been recorded as actionable in accordance with the **Highway Safety Inspection Manual'**

Item 1. Sunken square gully right of highway by 'Sunningdale'

Our Confirm Ref: 296338

Item 15. 2No sunken Gas Boxes by Abbey entrance left of road. (*Reported to Streetworks*).

Our Confirm Ref: 296339

Item 22. Sinking gas box opposite '6 Sunnymead'. (*Reported to Streetworks*).

Our Confirm Ref: 296340

Item 26. Sinking fire hydrant box right of road by '12 Sunnymead). (*Reported to Streetworks*).

Our Confirm Ref: 296342

I trust you will find this satisfactory; I would like to thank your Parish for taking the time to meet with me and hope that I have answered most of your concerns.

15.3 Should you have any urgent matters to report or require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Somerset Direct (0300 123 2224) who will ensure the details are forwarded to the appropriate officer for action.

15.4 Cllr Fosdyke stated that he was disappointed with the meeting and that the concern over lorries through the village had not been addressed. Cllr Fosdyke stated that he would follow this up and contact Charlie Higgins again.

Cllr  
Fosdyke

15.5 Cllr Daniels thought that the question of speed through the village had been shelved since the departure of Cllr Hall. Although SID's were in operation, and speed was measured, there seemed to be a gap in administration with the police unaware and accidents seemingly not recorded. As an example, no information was obtainable from either PCSO Housley or her Supervisor after an accident near the Kings Arms, when a motor biker was knocked off his bike. It was noted that this was also not on the PCSO Report received. Cllr Daniels would follow up this discrepancy with the Police Commissioner and Highways Supervisor. Also the fact that the police and highways should interact and bring information on speed and accidents together.

Cllr  
Daniels

15.6 The painting and repair of the signposts throughout the village would be left until a Somerset County Council document was received about the maintenance of signposts.

## **16. FOOTPATH:**

It was reported that grass on the pavement was being dealt with by Downside.

## **17. WEB-SITE:**

Nothing to report.

## 18. CORRESPONDENCE:

1	SCC	Listening, Learning, Changing engagement initiative seeking the public's views about the Council's priorities & other key issues. Survey available online <a href="http://www.somerset.gov.uk/listening">www.somerset.gov.uk/listening</a> Also invite Parish Councils to give views – survey online <a href="https://somerset.typeform.com/to/hKE73v">https://somerset.typeform.com/to/hKE73v</a> Response needed by Friday 30 September 2016
2	Harvey Siggs	Report - July
3	Somerset Waste Partnership	Monthly Briefing August 2016
4	MDC	Parish Info Bulletin September 2016
5	Connecting Devon & Somerset Partnership	Faster Broadband
6	St Vigors & St John	Report School Year
7	Ken Simmonds	Email to locate friends
8	Wells Cathedral School	New Concert Hall – Cedars Hall Help to advertise – Posters-Website-Newsletter
9	PCSO	Report August/September
10	SCC	GIS Mapping System Info <b><i>Cllr Daniels reported that the GIS Mapping was a good idea with footpaths numbers accessible for example.</i></b>
11	Avon & Somerset Police	Newsletter
12	Highways	Email re Site visit in connection with A367

**Planning Application:** Ref:2016/2133/OHL Lodge Farm field next to A367  
Removal & erection of overhead line and poles.  
Ref:2016/2194/VRC Bainsbury View  
Garage to have pitched roof & master bedroom roof slightly raised.

**Road Closure:** Bath Road SOF from 13 Sept 2016 for 26 days for drainage works.

<b>Bank Statements:</b>	Business Reserve A/C	June	July	August
		23,669.23	22,491.92	22,488.15
	Current A/C	50.00	50.00	50.00

**Letters/Emails sent:** Cllr Downes re Catherine to attend meeting/co-opted.

<b>Cheques:</b>	V Atwood	£745.02	
	V Attwood	£24.82	
	V Attwood	£146.20	
	W Palmer	£250.00	
	J Padfield	£ 25.20	
<b>Receipts:</b>		£234.00	Burial Fee

**19 MATTERS OF REPORTS & ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:**

19.1 Cllr Stock requested that the Parish Council purchased a plaque for the new bench placed in the field, in remembrance of his mother who had died recently and who had been instrumental in suggesting its purchase. All Cllr Councillors agreed to this and Cllr Stock would arrange. Stock

19.2 Agenda Items:  
• The Look of the Village.

**20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

20.1 The date of the next Meeting will be on **Monday 17 October 2016**

20.2 There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.36 pm

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