

**Minutes of the 983rd Meeting of the Stratton-on-the-Fosse Parish Council
Held in the Village Hall 18 March 2019**

PRESENT: Councillors: Mr John Padfield (Chairman), Mrs J Davies (Vice-Chair),
Mr A Norris, Mr M Daniels, Mr D Stock, Mr Jeremy Padfield, Mrs H Murtagh.

IN ATTENDANCE: Dist Cllr John Carter, PCSO Rob Nell, Beat Manager, Clerk.

PUBLIC FORUM:

1. **APOLOGIES:** Councillors: Dist Cllr Rachel Carter.
2. **MINUTES:**
The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 18 February 2019 were approved and signed.
3. **DECLARATION OF NEW INTERESTS:**
There were none.
4. **CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLORS:**
The Chairman stated that Andrew Hobbs was investigating whether somebody from Downside would stand as a Parish Councillor.
5. **MATTERS ARISING:**

1	Adopt Financial Regulations and place on Web-site – when completed.	In due course
2.	Paul Emery to paint signposts 8-off at a cost of £300 each approx. To date 4off painted and paid for £1,130.00 <i>Contact to enquire when re-starting painting?</i>	Pending clerk
3	War Memorial in need of repair – <i>Obtained 1 quote from builder. Paul Phibben provided quote of £180 approx. - all Cllrs present agreed to accept this quote.</i>	
4	Footpath at Mogg Hill in need of attention. Contact landowners Mr & Mrs Jackson for the path to be made wider – by spraying the vegetation. Wayne Palmer cannot do, but suggested weed kill on the vegetation to widen the path. <i>Cllr Jeremy Padfield will make enquiries to whose responsibility the footpath is from Care Haskins f/path officer at MDC</i>	Cllr Jeremy Padfield
5	Meeting to be arranged with Ed Short re completing a spreadsheet for PC Accounts. Ed Short decided against being involved due to security issues. Other options to be looked at. <i>Minuted at 20.3</i>	Cllr Daniels
6	Inspection of salt/grit Bins to ascertain whether any needed to be filled. Chair will inspect Grit Bins before Clerk orders salt. Clerk notified Highways of Grit Bins in need of refilling. Highways placed on list to be filled. <i>Contact MDC with a request to fill all grit bins that are not full.</i>	Clerk
7	Instruct Gould & Swayne to act as solicitors re Downside Lease and notify King Stone solicitor for Downside. <i>Confirmation received from Gould & Swayne with form to be filled out and returned.</i>	Clerk Chair
8	Forward dates of APM to Rob Nell for Beat Manager Jan Ellis <i>Confirmed will attend</i>	Completed
9	Mole Hills in Community Gardens to be raked over to ascertain were new activity is located. <i>Cllr Stock reported not so many Moles at present.</i>	pending
10.	Tabards & pickers to be loaned from MDC for the annual litter pick.	Clerk
11.	Nettlebridge footpath in need of attention – Cllr Carter would investigate. <i>Inspection team will be sent to investigate and report back.</i>	Dist Cllr John Carter
12	Chilcompton PC to be asked how they maintain Mogg Hill footpath	Clerk

6. **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:**
No Report received.

7. **POLICE REPORT:**

- 7.1 PCSO and Beat Manager Jan Ellis were in attendance. Jan Ellis confirmed that she would be attending the APM on 15 April 2019 to talk on the role of PCSO and issues involving Stratton.
- 7.2 Farm Watch was proving to be a success; with one vehicle seized and two people arrested. The police and farmers were working together to share intelligence.
- 7.3 It was noted that there had been a downside to crime in the area since more police presence was seen.
- 7.4 PCSO Rob Nell read out his Report as follows:
21/02/2019 08:57:49: victim said that he was closing the road. There was a black land rover than ignored the cones and drove straight past the cones and nearly hit the victim in the process. Police report completed. Ongoing enquiries.
25/02/2019 10:59:53 diesel spillage near and on the roundabout towards Radstock.
Details have been taken by the police. Highways made aware.
01/03/2019 14:24:56 vehicles coming in and out at a farm near the a37. Leaving mud on road, around 2:00pm, concerns for weather. Police made highways aware and they will make contact with the farmer.
14/03/2019 10:09:58 four way traffic light system is not working causing a hazard. Vehicles are attempting to cross over crossroads with b3153 **
- 7.5 I have started farm patrols in the area and speaking to farmers on a daily basis.

PCSO Rob Nell, Beat Manager Jan Ellis, Dist John Carter left the Meeting at this point 7.57pm

8. **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:**

Dist Cllr Carter stated that Mendip District Council wanted to dispose of green spaces that it owned and to this end were producing a register. Therefore it might be a good opportunity for parishioners to purchase.

9. **PLANNING MATTERS:**

Applications: None.

Approval: None.

Road Closure: Chapel Lane to Stockhill, Binagar – 11 March 2019 for 22 days.

10. **FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

The Clerk's Salary for the period **January – March 2019** amounting to **£729.66** was agreed by all Councillors present to be paid. **Cheque No. 001200**

The Clerk's **Expenses** amounting to **£8.04** was agreed by all Councillors present to be paid. **Cheque No.001201**

11. **FINANCIAL REGULATIONS:**

This was pending along with Standing Orders.

12. **BURIAL GROUND:**

There was nothing to report.

13. COMMUNITY GARDENS:

- 13.1 The monthly inspection maintenance report of playground equipment was received from Cllr Stock with nothing to report.
- 13.2 It was noted that the moles were still in evidence. Also that two wooden posts were pushed in by climbing frame.
- 13.3 It was also reported that the plastic tubes had been taken off the newly planted trees again. Cllr Daniels and Cllr Stock had spent time putting these back. Further removal would be monitored. Although a few were lost in the heatwave of last summer, it was reported that 60 of the trees were still alive.

14 STREET CLEANING/LENGTHSMAN SCHEME:

The Lengthsman, Wayne Palmer, would resume duties and it was decided to keep last year's Lengthsman's Contract.

15. HIGHWAYS:

- 15.1 It was suggested that a mirror at the crossroad at Tunnel Road would be a good idea and also at the War Memorial. The Clerk to make enquiries of Highways and also how responsible the Parish Council would be if an accident occurred at these sites if a mirror was installed.
- 15.2 Cllr Jeremy Padfield stated that although the road was being widened at Silver Street when the new school and houses were built, nothing was being altered from the Rugby Club towards Norton Crossroads. It was suggested that the Parish Council contact BANES Council to register its concern over this stretch of road and the need for it to be widened when the new build was in place. Stratton Parish Council would wish that BANES Council bring it to Somerset County Council's Highways attention. The Clerk to contact BANES Council on this issue.

16. FOOTPATH:

Cllr Jeremy Padfield would contact Clare Haskins, footpath officer at MDC, to ascertain who was responsible for keeping Mogg Hill footpath to the one metre width requirement.

17. WEB-SITE:

- 17.1 Parish On-Line was discussed; This was integrated with SCC and MDC and would show street furniture, lights and assets such as grit bins and bus shelters on a map. It will allow layers of maps and, by clicking a box, all footpaths and lampposts would be indicated.
- 17.2 All parishes in BANES are on this system and Cllr Daniels and Dist Cllr John Carter were trying to promote this and show its benefits. Cllr Daniels will draft a letter on behalf of the Parish Council to aid progress in this matter.

18. CORRESPONDENCE:

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| 1 | MDC | Training Sessions for Councillors |
| 2 | SWP | Somerset Waste Partnership – Monthly Briefing February |
| 3 | St Margaret's Hospice | Newsletter |
| 4 | MDC | Parish Forum - Agenda 28 February |
| 5 | MDC | Parish Bulletin March |
| 6 | Suzanne Kingsberry | Update on Village Hall Car-park security. The car park light has been installed and the angle has been altered following a few comments from villagers on the Facebook page. No further comments so am assuming that everyone is happy! A fake CCTV camera with associated signs has been installed - hopefully this will be a deterrent.

It is hoped to run a 2019 Village Day, but this is reliant on the level of support we receive. |
| 7 | SALC
NALC | Affordable Housing Commission's Call for Evidence
Email responses to the consultation by 21 March 2019
To chris.borg@nalc.gov.uk |
| 8 | Ordnance Survey | If PC Council uses maps would be grateful for feedback. Survey closes 21 March 2019 |
| 9 | MDC | Mendip Local Plan Part II – Sites and Policies – Focused Consultation
Respond by 5pm 24 April 2019 by email to planningpolicy@mendip.gov.uk or by hand to Council Offices Shepton.
Hearing Sessions open 23 July 2019 – 2 August 2019 at MDC Shepton |
| 10. | MDC | Election Papers – Parish Councillors |

19. MATTERS OF REPORT & ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

- 19.1 The Clerk distributed Election Papers for the forthcoming election of Councillors. The Clerk agreed to deliver the papers to Mendip Council Offices by hand if, when completed, Councillors left them with John Padfield for collection by Friday 29 March at the latest.
- 19.2 The Clerk to forward APM invites to the relevant groups within the parish.

Cllrs Jeremy Padfield, Alan Norris, Dist Cllr John Carter left the Meeting at this point 8.43 pm

SOFT-WARE PACKAGE:

- 20.1 Cllr Daniels stated that, in line with the Transparency Scheme, Stratton did not (since Year End 2018) have to engage an external auditor, but had to detail all Financial Information on its Web-site.
- 20.2 It was felt that security was compromised by having all its Financial information in a manual ledger book and that its information should be backed-up on a computer.

- 20.3 To this end soft-ware packages were being looked at; namely three - Scribe Accounts, AdvantEDGE and Easy PC Accounts. Of these Cllr Daniels thought the best for the Parish Council Accounts were AdvantEDGE, due to a number of points; the software was written professionally, data backed up after each use, individual committees could be separated. The cost for the first year would be £353 which included set up fee and 2 hours training. Subsequent cost would be £123 plus VAT for 4years (within a 5 year contract)
- 20.4 The Clerk had stated that for the next three months her time was taken up with end of year Council matters, plus personal matters, therefore Cllr Daniels offered to operate the new system at the start of the new Financial Year for two months. Thereafter, the Clerk would take over after training and help from Cllr Daniels.
- 20.5 The Chairman thanked Cllr Daniels for time spent in investigating the soft-ware and asked for a proposal. Cllr Daniels proposed that the Advantage package was bought and all Councilors present agreed Cllr Murtagh suggested that a demonstration video was available to the Clerk to ascertain that she could work with the soft-ware.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

- 21.1 The date of the next Meeting, will be on **Monday 15 April 2019 at 6.30 pm.**
- 21.2 To be followed by the **Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30 pm.**
- 21.3 There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

CHAIRMAN

DATE