

**Minutes of the 986<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Stratton-on-the-Fosse Parish Council  
Held in the Village Hall 17 June 2019**

**PRESENT:** Councillors: Mr John Padfield (Chairman), Mrs J Davies (Vice-Chair),  
Mr A Norris, Mrs H Murtagh.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Dist Cllr Josh Burr, County Councillor Mike Pullin, Clerk.

***PUBLIC FORUM:***

1. **APOLOGIES:** Councillors: Mr M Daniels, Mr Jeremy Padfield, PCSO.
2. **MINUTES:**  
The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 20 May 2019 were approved and signed. The Clerk to amend Minutes: Marie Taylor is not on Community Gardens Committee.
3. **DECLARATION OF NEW INTERESTS:**  
Cllr Murtagh declared an interest in PCSO's report on a burglary.
4. **CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLORS:**  
No candidates at present.

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 Contact to enquire when re-starting painting? <i>In January Paul suffered a heart attack and is still recuperating at the moment – Clerk to contact again in 2 months.</i>	Pending Clerk
3	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. Cllr Jeremy Padfield will make enquiries to whose responsibility the footpath is from Care Haskins f/path officer at MDC The Chilcompton Clerk had advised that the Farmer had help maintain its side of the footpath. <i>Footpath has now been strimmed, but awaiting footpath officer to inspect.</i>	Cllr Jeremy Padfield  pending
4	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. Chair to inform of sites.</i>	Clerk  chase
5	Instructed Gould & Swayne to act as solicitors re Downside Lease and notified King Stone solicitor for Downside. <i>Letter from Downside re “peppercorn” rent to be forwarded to Gould &amp; Swayne solicitors.</i>	Clerk pending
6	Nettlebridge pavement in need of attention – Cllr Carter would investigate. Inspection team will be sent to investigate and report back. Chairman read email stating this had now been done. Councillors thought nothing had been done – Cllr Daniels will take a look. <i>Chairman to ask postman for residents address for PC to write.</i>	Pending Clerk Chase
7.	Make enquiries from MDC Highways whether a mirror could be erected at the crossroad at Tunnel Lane and the War Memorial, as a Health & Safety measure for traffic. Also ascertain if the PC would be responsible if an accident occurred at these sites if a mirror was installed. <i>Some Councillors thought this was not needed.</i>	Clerk pending

8	Make enquiries as to what Somerset County Council propose to do about the road from Norton Down to the Rugby Club when the Norton Hill development is built. Emailed BANES Council – no response Emailed Mendip Council and Highways – replied sent to correct department. <b>Clerk informed that this planning was passed in February and SCC Highways did not raise any objections to the road. Also informed that Stratton was not entitled to be informed of this planning as in Banes. See Dist Cllr Report. Minutes Item 10.5</b>	Clerk pending
9	Letter of thanks to Rachel & John Carter and to ask if they would consider joining the Parish Council. <b>The Clerk had not received a reply, but Cllrs had been told that they would not accept as they needed a break.</b>	Completed
11	Letter Chief Constable to praise the policing in Stratton. <b>Replied saying how delighted to receive such a letter.</b>	completed
12	Forward cheque to Came Co for a 3year insurance contract.	completed
13	Sign to be purchased “Please Park in Village Hall car-park” Cllr Daniels to ask Marie Taylor where best to obtain.	pending
14	Bus Shelter clean to be placed on Lengthsman list. <b>Placed on list</b>	pending
15	2off Rubbish Bins to be purchased from Glasdon - <b>Bins Received</b>	completed
16	Removal of BT Kiosk, Cllr Stock to enquire at reclamation site. <b>Cllr Norris stated that he would like to have the Kiosk if it could be moved. The Chairman stated that he would be able to organize.</b>	Agenda Item

#### 6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT:

CC Mike Pullin stated that it might be a good idea for the Parish Council to make a Green Statement to actively promote recycling. The Clerk to place item on July’s Agenda.  
**C C Mike Pullin left the Meeting at this point 8.20 pm**

#### 7. POLICE REPORT:

- 7.1 PCSO Rob Nell could not attend the Meeting due to shift times but had sent a Report as follows:
- 03/06/2019 01:36:30 Member of public reported that a white modified off-road landrover came into the street - caller woke up to the sound of it - old style discovery - had no lights on, the vehicle spotted caller watching them and sped off towards Midsomer Norton Patrolled the area, left before the police attended.
  - 06/06/2019 14:12:37 Member of public reported that their garage has been broken into. They run a tree surgery company. Tools stolen. Ongoing enquiries
  - 07/06/2019 15:00:14 Member of public in Middlemead has had ornaments in their garden moved. Reassurance visit. Niche Filed
  - 08/06/2019 11:41:01 Road Traffic Collision at Chilcompton end - 2 vehicle accident. Ongoing enquiries
  - Speeding vehicles in the village will be issued with sec 59.
- 7.2 PCSO Rob Nell does regular patrols in the village and the farms on his beat.
- 7.3 Force website [www.avonandsomerset.police.uk](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk) have a dedicated ‘your area’ section, by entering your postcode/area you will automatically be directed to our beat pages where you can identify your local beat teams and contact individual Officers via an email link. These emails are monitored on a daily basis.
- 7.4 It was reported that a Neighbourhood Watch was in the process of being started. A meeting was to be held on Tuesday 16 July in at the Village Hall from 5.30 pm until 7.00 pm. It was suggested that the Parish Council could purchase Neighbourhood Watch Signs.

**8. PLANNING MATTERS:**

**Applications:**

Ref: 2019/1274/LBC Benter Lodge, Bath Road, SOF

Replacement of existing bathroom with shower room. Widening of 2 off internal doors.

**Approval:** None

**Withdrawn:** Ref:2019/0819/FUL Erection of 8off affordable key workers dwellinghouses

**Road Closure:** None

**9. AUDIT:**

9.1 The Internal Auditor's Report was received and read out by the Chairman. It was noted that the Internal Auditor had made no comments for consideration. After review, all Councillors present approved the Report.

9.2 Section 1 (Annual Governance Statement 2018/19) was read out to Councillors, by the Chairman, and agreed and approved by all Councillors present. It was then signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

9.3 Section 2 (Accounting Statements 2018/19) which had been prepared and signed by the Clerk was read to Councillors and approved by all Councillors present, then duly signed by the Chairman.

9.4 The External Auditors were PKF Littlejohn LLP. This year, as last year, Parish Councils can opt out of having an External Audit if its Payments and Receipts are each less than £25k in Year End 2019. In line with this, the Parish Council would submit an Exception Certificate to the External Auditors, along with a Contacts List.

9.5 The Clerk reported that the completed Annual Return for Yr End 2019 along with all relevant documents would be given to Councillor Daniels to be placed on the Parish Website; to be placed by 01 July 2019.

9.6 For Audit purposes the Notice of Inspection (of the Accounts) now had to include 10 days in July, therefore the inspection dates this year will be 01 July - 09 August 2019 confirmed with the Chairman before placing the Notice on the Parish Web-site and Notice Board.

9.7 Parish Council Reserves were £18,341.75 and Community Garden ring-fenced monies £1,641.88

***Dist Cllr Josh Burr arrived at the Meeting at 8.36 pm  
(in the middle of agreeing and signing the Audit Return)***

**10. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT:**

Dist Cllr Josh Burr introduced himself to Councillors and enquired if there were any questions/problems.

10.1 The following items were brought to Dist Cllr Burr's attention:

- Vegetation at Norton Down crossroads was in need of cutting back.
- Bushes at the side of the road from Killings Knapp towards the White Post were obscuring motorist view.
- Concrete slabs covering drains have become dislodged on RH side of the main road after Manor Farm towards the White Post.
- Last drain out of the Village (on LH Side past 30mph sign) dropped; has already been corrected four times – needs to be properly sorted.

Dist Cllr Burr stated that he would look into all the above items and report them to the relevant department.

- 10.2 Nettlebridge residents had been in discussion with First Bus regarding the bus stop issue. It was noted that the Parish Council had pursued this in the past, but had reached a dead-end with First Bus.
- 10.3 Also speeding in Nettlebridge had been raised.
- 10.4 Parking on the main road at Nettlebridge, from visitors to Harridge Wood, was causing a concern; it was hoped to receive funding for provisions to be made for parking.
- 10.5 The Dist Cllrs have discussed with Senior Officers the opportunity to work across Council boundaries on 106 agreements; such as the recent Norton Hill development - responses as follows:
1. First, do you know if the PC across the border would be considered a statutory consultee in planning matters like these?  
The Parish Council would not be considered a statutory consultee in this application
  2. Regardless of this, would it be advisable for the PC to make representation to B&NES about the application?  
If you wish to make comments direct to B&NES, these would be taken into account in their final decision, of course providing they are relevant and submitted before decision is issued.
  3. Finally, whether S106 money arranged from the development could or should be used on both sides of the border, and whether there's any arrangement for this kind of cross-council working?  
Any S106 monies would only be available to B&NES in this case and there are no arrangements in place for cross council working in terms of S106.

Some points of clarification on this proposal and s106 in general from Andre Sestini, Principal Planning Officer. BANES granted an outline planning permission in Feb 2019 for a 630 place primary school, 40 houses, 15 sheltered dwellings and a 65 bed care home on land off Silver Street (the reference number is 18/0205.OUT). The s106 agreement forms part of the outline application. This has been agreed and approved and there is no scope to change this. There are additional detailed applications still under consideration/ to be submitted but these will not provide an opportunity for additional works to be added to the s106. This would only change if the promoter needed to put in a new application – e.g. to increase the number of houses. I can't see any other current applications at consultation on the BANES website. Land has been previously promoted in Mendip under the control of the agent (at White Post) but there are no applications or discussions on a planning application at this time.

It is an important principle that all planning authorities must justify development contributions and these must be directly related to the impact of the development. The developer is not obliged to fund wider improvements to the wider highway network. In fact, Banes as a highway authority did seek additional funding for traffic measures in Midsomer Norton on this application but this was not agreed by their own development control officers as it was not specific to the scheme.

The school's 106 does include widening, footpath and cycle way works to Silver Street north of the Rugby Club. These are both necessary to provide access to the school and integral to the operation of the new primary school with the secondary school which is part of the same academy. Some elements of highways work do actually extend a short distance into Mendip. Somerset county council did respond as a highway authority to the outline application, but did not identify it would have a significant impact on Mendip. This rather undermines the prospects of wider funding. I am doubtful an argument could have been made at the time for the whole of Silver street to be upgraded as primarily the school is to serve residents of Westfield and Midsomer Norton.

In terms of joint working, I do have discussions with my colleagues in BANES both on local plan matters and liaise on land/sites being promoted on the boundaries. There are also specific duties on neighbouring councils to formally engage when preparing their local plans. We do discuss access and infrastructure implications but this is at a strategic level and does not necessarily cover the detail of s106 agreements. Banes and Mendip have different development obligations and priorities but we would liaise on proposals which have a demonstrable impact on Mendip.

**11. FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

Invoice from W Palmer (Lengthsman) amounting to **£325** was agreed by all Councillors present to be paid. **Cheque No.001209**

An Invoice for **printer ink** amounting to **£47.56** was agreed by all Councillors to be paid to the **Clerk. Cheque No.001210**

The Clerk's salary and the Internal Auditor's fee was deferred to July's meeting.

The Bank Statements were reconciled and signed.

End May 2019: Current A/C: £50      Business Reward A/C £29,683.03

**12. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS:**

This was pending along with Standing Orders.

**13. BURIAL GROUND:**

There was nothing to report.

**14. COMMUNITY GARDENS:**

14.1 Cllr Stock presented the Clerk with the monthly playground Inspection Report.

14.2 The Clerk to send Gould & Swayne solicitors the email received from Downside regarding the "peppercorn" rent.

**15. STREET CLEANING/LENGTHSMAN SCHEME:**

The Lengthsman, Wayne Palmer, had completed the following tasks around the village:

- Cut park x 4
- Strimmed around all equipment, benches etc x 4.
- Cut all rough areas around the trees etc in park.
- Strimmed bank out of village by footpath towards Killings Knapp and opposite Green Lane.
- Cut around sign posts in Watery Lane.
- Strimmed footpath by roundabout.
- Strimmed chicanes top of village and opposite Tony Prices.
- Spayed weeds in the wooded area of play park.
- Raked wood bark in play areas of the Community Garden.

**16. HIGHWAYS:**

16.1 The Chairman read out the item regarding AutoSpeedWatch. It was stated in its introduction that Faulkland had installed this device.

16.2 Councillors present thought that this should be looked into and the Clerk would contact Faulkland Parish Council to ascertain whether this would be a viable purchase for Stratton.

16.3 The Clerk to forward CC Mike Pullin details of AutoSpeedWatch.

**17. FOOTPATH:**

Nothing to report.

**18. WEB-SITE:**

There was nothing to report as Cllr Daniels was not present.

**19. CORRESPONDENCE:**

The Correspondence was read and dealt with appropriately.

- |     |                            |   |
|-----|----------------------------|---|
| 1   | MDC                        | Parish On-line News (New on line Version)                         |
| 2   | Insp Mark<br>Nicholson     | Response to appreciation of policing letter sent from PC          |
| 3   | PCSO                       | Police report   |
| 4   | Suzanne<br>Kingsberry      | Enquiry about George V and Queen Mary bust in VH 1912             |
| 5   | Dist Cllr Sam &<br>Josh    | Report  |
| 6   | MDC                        | Market Place event at MDC Council Offices 7/6/2019 12 noon – 2 pm |
| 7   | James Heappey<br>MP        | Weekly Newsletter   |
| 8   | MDC                        | Parish Bulletin   |
| 9   | Avon & Somerset<br>police  | Local Neighbourhood Teams - Newsletter                            |
| 10. | Cllr Daniels               | Email re Downside and “peppercorn” rent                           |
| 11  | Norton Hill<br>development | Emails from Somerset and MDC                                      |

**20. MATTERS OF REPORT & ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:**

Agenda Items:

- Glasdon Invoice
- Clerk’s Salary
- Internal Auditor’s fee
- AutoSpeedWatch
- BT Kiosk
- Neighbourhood Watch Scheme
- Green Statement (to actively promote recycling.)

**21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

- 21.1 The date of the next Meeting will be on **Monday 22 July 2019 at 7.45**
- 21.2 There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.08 pm.

**CHAIRMAN**

**DATE**