

Minutes of the meeting of Stawell Parish Council
Held in the village hall on Monday 4th June 2018 at 7 pm

Present: Cllrs. Penny Badcock, Brian Lishman (Chairman), Linda Osborne.

In attendance: Chris Fry (Clerk) and 4 members of the public.

1129 Apologies for Absence: Cllrs. Rod Conaway and Simon Thomas.

1130 Declarations of Interest: None.

1131 Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 14th May 2018.

These were taken as read, agreed and signed as a true record.

1132 Matters Arising:

a. Somerset Village of the Year 2018.

Noted.

b. Blocked drains in Stawell.

The Clerk read a letter received From a Stawell parishioner about the dreadful mess that the Hill Road running down to the Righton's Grave crossroads gets in when and after it rains. A poor position outside Larch Farm deteriorates further when water from the "Fruit and Honey" lane meets the road running past Larch Farm. At the beginning of May a team were siphoning out the pits of all the drain gratings down the hill. The connecting drain which should take all the water coming down the system and set it running down the open ditch at the side of the road does not seem to have been functioning for a very long time, with the result that all the water pours out of the last grating back onto the road. As it stands the cost of originally installing the drains, and now that of cleaning out the pits under the grills is of no value.

After a discussion the Clerk was asked to send a copy of the letter (with identification suitably redacted) to SCC Highways (Laurence Hackling) with a request that a site meeting could take place – when the blocked culvert in Ford Lane could perhaps also be inspected.

1133 District/County Councillors' Councillors' Reports: -

Cllr David Huxtable said the SCC ended the financial year almost balancing the budget (within 1%). Regarding the possibility of a Somerset Unitary Authority coming about, a conversation is taking place. There are considerable financial savings which could be made. He also felt it would be simpler for all services to be "under one roof". The position had changed a lot since the idea was first brought up over 10 years ago, with many such authorities being formed and discussed.

1134 Financial Matters:-

2 cheques was signed as follows:

No 419 payee CN Fry £ 120.00 (June net salary).

No 420 payee CN Fry £ 80.95 (Expenses).

- a. **Internal Audit Certification.** The Clerk reported the internal audit had now been completed with the internal auditor suggesting that the two signatories to each cheque issued should also initial the counterfoils. He went on to outline the certification statements to the councillors present.
- b. **Governance Statement.** This was explained to the councillors and acceptance of it was proposed by Cllr Osborne and seconded by Cllr Badcock, all in agreement. It was then signed by the Chairman and RFO (Clerk).
- c. **Accounting Statements.** The Clerk (as RFO) had already signed this on 2nd June and acceptance of it was proposed by Cllr Badcock and seconded by Cllr Osborne, all in favour. The Chairman then signed appropriately.

The Clerk said the necessary documentation would now to be sent to the External Auditors.

1135 Planning –

No new applications received in time for this meeting but a special planning meeting will be held on Monday 18th June to consider one, reference 46/18/00006, at Longpath Cottage Sutton Mallet.

At 7.30 the Chairman opened the meeting up to the public.

The Clerk was able to confirm the details of the special planning meeting to be held on 18th June 2018 in the village hall at 7 pm.

No other matters were raised by the public.

1136. Correspondence.

a. GDPR seminar.

The Clerk reported on the seminar he attended at SALC Somerton on this subject. It was confirmed that Parish Councils do not need to appoint a GDPR Officer (thereby saving considerable expense). The main areas where data was held were where a cemetery or allotments were controlled by parishes, or where payroll agents were employed, or in the retention of planning applications. In the latter case the Local authority archives all applications so there is no need for them to be retained by parishes, once they have either been approved or gone to appeal. It is important to not mention parishioners' names in minutes.

b. Parish Councillor Vacancies.

With the retirement of the Vice Chairman, Terry Matthews, there were now 2 vacancies on the parish council. Mr Hugh Gange-Harris, a Stawell resident has been approached by Cllr Simon Thomas and has expressed a desire to serve and he was present at this meeting. The motion to adopt him to fill one of the vacancies was proposed by Cllr Lishman and seconded by Cllr Osborne, all in favour. The Clerk handed Hugh the Members Interest forms to complete.

c. Fingerpost Restoration Project Training Course.

The Clerk read an email from SCC who are co-ordinating a project aimed at surveying and refurbishing all historic fingerpost signs within the county. Volunteers are being sought to carry out this work and everyone must attend a training course before starting. Although three volunteers per village are sought, the Clerk plus the Footpath Officer will be attending at North Petherton Community Centre on Friday 15th June between 9.30 and 13.30 for the training.

1137 Matters for Report and Items for next Meeting.

The following items are placed under this heading as the Clerk had not expected to have anything to report:

a. Unfinished house next to the Old School .

The Clerk said he had reported the sorry state of this site following the last meeting and SDC planners have registered it for investigation.

b. Blocked Culvert in Ford Lane.

Already mentioned in 1132 (b) above.

c. Yurt in Ford Lane.

The Clerk said he had reported this to SDC planners following the last meeting, who have confirmed it has been registered for investigation.

Any Other Business and Date of Next Meeting

Date of next meeting: - Monday 2nd July in the Village Hall at 7 pm.

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.04 pm.