

**Minutes of the meeting of Stawell Parish Council
Held in the village hall on Monday 3d September 2018 at 7 pm**

Present: Cllrs. Penny Badcock, Rod Conaway, Hugh Gange-Harris, Linda Osborne and Simon Thomas (Vice chairman). Also Cllr Stuart Kingham (SDC).

In attendance: Chris Fry (Clerk) and 8 members of the public.

1153 Apologies for Absence: Cllrs. Brian Lishman and Cllr David Huxtable (SCC).

(In the absence of the Chairman (Brian Lishman) the Vice Chairman (Simon Thomas) took the chair.

1154 Declarations of Interest: Cllrs Simon Thomas re item 1158 grants to mixfits group and Art group, Linda Osborne re item 1159 planning, Riod Conaway re item 1159 planning and Cllr Stuart Kingham (SDC) in respect of item 1159 – Planning.

1155 Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd July 2018 and the special planning meeting of 16th July 2018 were taken as read, agreed and signed as a true record.

1156 Matters arising.

The Chairman opened the meeting up to the public at 7.20 pm.

a. Drainage. problems at Slocombe Hill Stawell.

The Clerk said he had reported the problems to SCC highways, involving sending them a scanned copy of the letter from the parishioner which outlined the problem very succinctly. With no response received the Clerk said he was following this up;

b. Poor visibility at entrance to Grenfell Farm.

Following a general discussion and bearing in mind the several examples around the village of faded and missing road signage, and a few suggestions we have for new ones, the Clerk was asked to try to arrange a meeting with someone from SCC Highways department to try to take matters forward.

1157 County/District Councillors' Councillors' Reports: -

County – none.

District – Cllr Stuart Kingham reported that the SDC Planning department had been shortlisted for a prestigious award for excellence in planning – with 25000 participants. The Chairman wished to record the congratulations of the Parish Council to them for this achievement.

1158 Financial Matters:-

2 cheques was signed as follows:

No 425 payee CN Fry £ 120.00 (September net salary).

No 426 payee CN Fry £ 92.97 (expenses).

There was unanimous agreement to the grant applications of £25 each to the fixfit and Art groups for equipment and the following further 2 cheques were issued:

No 427 payee Karen Roberts £ 25.00 (Painting/Arts group grant).

No 428 payee Denise Rogers £ 25.00 (Mix fit group grant).

(Receipts to be obtained).

1159 Planning.

a. Planning reference: 46/18/00010/DT.

Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015.

Proposal: Application for prior approval for the proposed change of use of agricultural building to 4no Dwellings and associated operational development.

Location: Wood Lane Farm, Wood Lane, Stawell, Bridgwater TA7 9AB.

Applicant: Miss Easter.

A general discussion took place on the proposal. Wood Lane, being an unadopted lane, means that right of way along it is entirely a private matter for residents with a right of way over this lane.

The Clerk was asked to convey the following comments to be sent in to SDC Planners on the proposal:-

The Parish Council of Stawell objects to this proposal on the following valid planning grounds:

“There is some debate about the ownership of Wood Lane itself, although it is certainly un-adopted. Residents have right of way along the lane to access their properties. The verges are owned by the various land owners. There is an ancient 15 acre wood at the end of the lane which is of considerable historic interest and disturbance in the area therefore needs to be kept to a minimum.

The arable land is of high quality and requires heavy agricultural vehicles (combined harvesters, big tractors towing huge grain trailers and hay/straw transporters etc.) to farm it, particularly at harvest time. The livery stables in the lane also generates considerable visiting traffic and horse riders as well. There are no passing places in the lane.

The over-riding concern of the Parish Council is of increasing traffic using an already hazardous junction at the Stawell Road (adopted) with Wood Lane (un-adopted) junction to access the 4 new dwellings now being proposed within the barn. Visibility of vehicles emerging from Wood Lane is already a contentious problem for Parishioners, with the view to the right (down on to the moor) being almost blind. It is not an overstatement to describe the current situation as being an “accident waiting to happen”.

The Parish Council suggests the Highways Department re-assess the situation as Stawell Road is public highway, and in the interest of public safety the volume of additional traffic represented by this proposal should not be underestimated”.

b. Application reference: 46/18/00009/CAN.

Proposal: Erection of a general purpose agricultural building for the dry storage of hay and machinery.

Location: Land to the south of Goosegreen Farm, Sutton Mallet, Bridgwater Somerset TA7 9AR.

Applicant: Mrs Wills.

This application is very similar to a previous one – reference 46/17/00015/CAN of late 2017/early 2018 which was refused. A full discussion took place following which the Clerk was asked to sent the following comments to the SDC planning department.

The Parish Council of Stawell strongly objects to this proposal on the following valid planning grounds:

“The location paddock already holds thousands of litres of rainfall. The run-off from the roof of the proposed building would greatly worsen an already significant flood problem at the lower end of Moor Road and would have a detrimental impact on the street scene of the village. Moor Road being the main residential area of Sutton Mallet.

The applicant’s main farming enterprise is based some 15 miles distant of Sutton Mallet and it would seem more appropriate for this type of storage facility to be sited there, rather than this small paddock so remote from the enterprise.

The activity created by this development would be unwelcome in the village when compared to the grazing of livestock in the paddock which has for many years been its use.

It seems unjustifiable to burden the village’s single track road network, which already has to cope with both residential and agricultural traffic, HGV’s, school transportation, buses and cyclists with the additional traffic this application would involve.”

1160 Correspondence.

a. Highways Structural Maintenance Programme.

The Clerk read an email from Peter Elliott, Communications Officer SCC which introduced a new web page where the public can find details of all planned structural maintenance work for the current financial year.

The web page can be found at: <https://www.travelsomerset.co.uk/structural-maintenance/>

b. Use of Drones within the Parish.

The Parish Council of Curry Mallet reports that a drone has been sighted flying regularly over that village. They would like to know if any other parishes have a similar experience. There has been no such nuisance reported here.

c. Civic Service at Priddy Church 23d September 2018.

The Chairman of SCC Mr Nigel Taylor has issued an open invitation and there is still time to apply to attend at: CDJames@somerset.gov.uk

d. Defibrillator Question.

The Clerk of Wootton Courteney Parish Council is enquiring if any parish has experienced anything like she has in that they obtained a defibrillator from South West Ambulance Service in 2013 for £ 1875 and although they thought they had bought it. SW Ambulance Service has now advised them that the warranty has expired and they want the equipment returned to them.

Noted.

e. Have your say on the future of public transport in Somerset.

The Clerk read an email from SCC inviting residents of the county to have their say on a new strategy which shapes the future of public transport provision in the county.

Go to www.somersetconsults.org.uk .

1161 Matters for Report and Items for next Meeting.

None.

1162 Any Other Business and Date of Next Meeting

Date of next meeting: - Monday 1st October 2018 in the Village Hall at 7 pm.

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.10 pm.