

**Minutes of the meeting of Stawell Parish Council
Held in the village hall on Monday 4th February 2019 at 7 pm**

Present: Cllrs Rod Conaway, Hugh Gange-Harris, Brian Lishman (Chairman) and Linda Osborne, also Cllr David Huxtable (SCC).

In attendance: Chris Fry (Clerk) and 5 members of the public,

1193 Apologies for Absence: Cllrs Penny Badcock and Simon Thomas.

1194 Declarations of Interest: None.

1195 Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 3d December 2018 were taken as read, agreed and signed as a true record.

1196 Matters Arising: -

a. Parish Council attendance at the Hub Café Saturday 9th February 2019.

It was agreed that the Chairman would attend. CPSO Nick Mizen also attending.

b. Damaged Footpath fingerposts in Ford Lane.

The Chairman reported he had discovered that SCC had trimmed the “road” side of the hedge, thereby causing the damage. Cllr Huxtable didn’t think SCC carried out this kind of work. In order to clarify matters the Clerk was asked to contact Laurence Hackling (SCC highways) about it, copying in David Huxtable.

c. Overgrown bank in Ford Lane.

A parishioner recalled that SDC had purchased the bank at some point in the past for £1. The landowner is normally responsible for maintaining it in good condition. The Chairman said he would bring the matter up with his neighbour, the leader of SDC.

d. Weston and Banwell Harriers.

The Clerk reported on a phone call from the secretary of the harriers saying that, due to a cancellation, they would be visiting Moorlinch the next day. The Chairman was aware of this and he had alerted the Moor Road residents who had previously complained. The Clerk said he gained the impression that he would be advised ahead of future visits.

1197 County Council – David Huxtable reported as follows:-

a. SCC Budget.

He said SCC could well be “under budget” at the 2018/2019 financial year end.

b. He mentioned **Highway Improvements** – see item 1200 © below.

c. He mentioned the SCC project “**Somerset Wood**” – see item 1200 (h) below.

District Council – None.

The Chairman opened the meeting up to the public at 7.28 pm.

The matter of the conditions at the ford in Ford Lane was discussed with the Chairman reporting that it had been dug out each side of the lane and collecting water was higher at one side than the other, indicating the connecting pipe was at least partially blocked. Laurence Hackling was aware of the situation here.

The Chairman closed the meeting to public discussion at 8.45 pm.

1198 Financial Matters:-

Two cheques was signed as follows:

No 384 £120.00 payee CN Fry (February net salary)

No 385 £ 65.95 payee CN Fry (Expenses).

The Precept request for 2019/2020 of £3800 has been submitted to SDC.

1199 Planning –

No new applications.

1200 Correspondence.

a. Sutton Mallet phone box adoption.

The Clerk outlined the current position, with BT advising they had transferred ownership of the kiosk to the Community Heartbeat Trust following a couple of emails which were not replied to. (The Clerk has no record of these emails). This charity takes over some of the kiosks which would otherwise be taken away by BT and uses them as sites for defibrillators, with the support of the local Parish Council and local parishioners. This was generally felt to be a good use of the kiosk and an invaluable asset to the Community.

The Clerk was asked to enquire the extent of Parish Council support that would be involved, with the matter to be discussed further at the next meeting.

b. Untidy garden in Ford Lane.

This was reported to Cllr Hugh Gange-Harris who contacted the Clerk who raised the issue with SDC planners. As the garden in question was owned by Homes in Sedgemoor the problem was reported to them. They had made a pre-arranged visit only to get no reply from the doorbell or landline. A further visit is planned and if the same thing happens then they will issue the tenant with an official warning.

c. SCC Road Improvements.

The £9.98 million one off pot of money awarded to SCC by the Dept of Transport is to be used in the first part of 2019 for various scheduled projects.

d. Hazardous steps at the Ford Lane/Stawell Road junction near the Kiosk.

This problem which was raised by a parishioner was discussed at length. It was considered that a hand rail was needed to improve safety. The Chairman said he would meet with a volunteer from the village to see what was needed and they would take the matter forward.

e. “Becoming a Councillor – Will you stand for it?”

With the District Council elections due this May, SDC are holding an evening event for anyone interested at Bridgwater House King Square on Tuesday 12th February. Doors open from 5.45pm for a 6.00pm start.

f. Sedgemoor Local Plan (2011-2032): Publication of Inspector’s Report.

The Inspector’s Report on the Examination of the Sedgemoor Local Plan 2011-2032 has been received from the Planning Inspectorate and is available to view on the following website:

<https://www.sedgemoor.gov.uk/LocalPlan>

g. Somerset Water Pollution Article.

The Clerk read an email from SCC detailing a successful prosecution of a Somerset farmer following contamination of a stream near Stoke St Gregory. All farmers. Landowners and businesses should have measures in place to prevent pollution.

h. SCC Project “Somerset Wood”.

A joint email has been received from the Clerks of Cheddon Fitzpaine and West Monkton Parish Councils about a proposal to establish a lasting memorial to those from Somerset who fought and fell in the First World War. The wood will lie within the parishes of Cheddon Fitzpaine and West Monkton. Parishes are being asked to sponsor future maintenance of a tree or trees. There are believed to be only a couple of parishes who were unscathed resulting in approximately 250 parishes within Somerset who will have an interest in this project. The two small parishes concerned are unable to take on the cost of this maintenance and Stawell is being asked to Precept funds annually proportionally to the fallen from our parish. The cost of this from the initial planting of a metre high “whip” to a 12-15 ft tree is anticipated to be about £25 per tree.

A discussion took place and it was felt the project was a very good proposal and well worthy of support. The Clerk was asked to enquire into the anticipated full extent of financial liability here and the matter will be discussed further at the next meeting.

1201 Matters for report & items for next meeting:

- a. **Damaged footpath fingerposts in Ford Lane.**
- b. **Overgrown bank in Ford Lane.**
- c. **Sutton Mallet phone kiosk adoption.**
- d. **Hazardous steps near Kiosk "library".**
- e. **"Somerset Wood".**

1202 Any Other Business and Date of Next Meeting

Any Other Business – None

Date of next meeting, Monday 4th March 2019 at 7.00pm in Stawell Village Hall.

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.24 pm.