

**Minutes of the meeting of Stawell Parish Council  
Held in the village hall on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 7 pm**

**Present:** Cllrs Rod Conaway, Hugh Gange-Harris, Brian Lishman (Chairman) and Stuart Kingham (SDC).

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

**1203 Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs Penny Badcock and Simon Thomas and Linda Osborne, also Cllr David Huxtable (SCC)..

**1204 Declarations of Interest:** None.

**1205 Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2019** were taken as read, agreed and signed as a true record.

**1206 Matters Arising: -**

**a. Damaged Footpath fingerposts in Ford Lane.**

The Clerk is awaiting a reply to his email to Laurence Hackling (SCC Highways) on this matter.

**b. Overgrown bank in Ford Lane.**

Stuart Kingham said he had been advised by SDC Clean Surroundings that the bank is not in the ownership of SDC. A parishioner reported the hedge adjoining the bank was seriously overgrown and is causing visibility on the corner to be severely impaired, and that she had been advised that the Parish Council should be initially consulted and requested to approach the landowner about rectifying the situation. The deeds are to be examined to try to establish ownership.

**c. Sutton Mallet phone kiosk adoption.**

The Clerk has emailed the owners of the kiosk, Community Heartbeat (Charity), requesting more details of the Parish Council's financial costs involved in the installation of a defibrillator. Stuart Kingham said the cost of defibrillators was coming down, and he further suggested an approach to Judy Cooper of SDC might lead to some grant aid towards the cost. The Clerk to email appropriately.

**d. Hazardous steps near Phone box "library".**

The Chairman will be arranging a meeting on site to take matters forward.

**e. "Somerset Wood".**

The Clerk has been advised that maintenance costs for each tree planted is estimated to be £25 for the first five years after planting – or £5 pa. There are thought to be seven WW1 fatalities from Stawell and two from Sutton Mallet. The nine trees would represent a total maintenance cost of £225 over five years or £45 pa. The Clerk will establish when funding needs to start and a formal motion to support the scheme will be put to the Parish Council thereafter.

**1207 County Council – none**

**District Council –.**

Stuart Kingham reported that a recent full SDC meeting has approved the 2019/2020 budget and this would result in a £5 pa increase in a Band D property. SDC's share of the Council Tax is just a small proportion of the total.

**The Chairman opened the meeting up to the public at 7.22 pm.**

**a. Broadband speeds in Sutton Mallet.**

A resident of Sutton Mallet attended the meeting and said that Connecting Devon and Somerset states on its website that all Parish Clerks will be consulted on the matter of the failure of GiggaClear. The Clerk confirmed that no such contact had been made. It was mentioned that a Highbridge firm, West Wi-Fi might provide an alternative solution. The Clerk was able to say that Chedzoy (his other parish) was in the same position as Sutton Mallet and that at their recent meeting David Hall (SCC) had agreed to try to set up a meeting between himself, Paul Coles of BT and the Chairman of Chedzoy PC to investigate possible alternatives. The Clerk felt it would be perfectly in order for Brian Lishman to be at that meeting, when it takes place. Brian also added that he would speak to David Hall on the matter.

**The Chairman closed the meeting to public discussion at 7.33 pm.**

**1208 Financial Matters:-**

Two cheques was signed as follows:

No 386 £120.00 payee CN Fry (February net salary)

No 387 £ 16.80 payee CN Fry (Expenses).

The Clerk said he needed a new copy of the reference book "Local Council Administration by Charles Arnold-Baker 11th edition" which can be purchased through SALC at a 20% discount bringing the cost down to about £104, or £52 if shared with Chedzoy (they have already agreed). Unanimously agreed. A formal motion should be passed at the next meeting.

**1209 Planning –**

No new applications.

**1210 Correspondence.**

**a. RTL2 Accumulated funds.**

The annual summary showed Stawell with a "nil" balance.

**b. Community Defibrillator Campaign.**

A promotional communication has been received which the Clerk will keep to hand.

**c. Hub Café.**

The Chairman attended the March gathering but reported that no CPSO turned up. The Clerk to chase this up.

**1211 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".**
- f. Sutton Mallet Broadband Speed.**

**1212 Any Other Business and Date of Next Meeting**

**Any Other Business –**

**a. Sedgemoor Local Plan.**

SDC formally adopted the Sedgemoor Local Plan 2011/2032 on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2019. The adopted Local Plan, The Policies Map and other supporting documents as listed in the Adoption Statement are available to view at:

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

**b. Council Tax Scam.**

With annual council tax bills due to land on doormats across Sedgemoor from 11<sup>th</sup> March, residents are warned to be on the lookout for scammers offering to lower the banding for an up-front fee.

**Date of next meeting, Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 at 7.00pm in Stawell Village Hall.**

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.40 pm.