

**Minutes of the meeting of Stawell Parish Council  
Held in the village hall on Monday 3d June 2019 at 7 pm**

**Present:** Cllrs Penny Badcock, Hugh Gange-Harris, Brian Lishman (Chairman) and Simon Thomas, also David Huxtable (SCC) and Stuart Kingham (SDC).

**In attendance:** Chris Fry (Clerk) and one member of the public,

**1233 Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Linda Osborne.

**1234 Declarations of Interest:** None.

**1235 Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019** were taken as read, agreed and signed as a true record.

**1236 Matters Arising: -**

**a. Overgrown bank in Ford Lane**

An Ariel photograph of Stawell from years ago was shown, showing the bank in a well-kept state. Cllr David Huxtable said he thought SCC would be prepared to transfer the ownership back to the householder so long as it would be kept tidy. Brian Lishman said he would consult the deeds concerning the bank and the relevant householder regarding the overgrown hedgerow. A resident agreed to accompany the Chairman to view the area.

**b. Sutton Mallet broadband speeds.**

The Clerk said this has been a long-standing issue in Sutton Mallet (as it is in Chedzoy). Phase 2 work by Giggaclear has ground to a halt. Through his connection with Chedzoy PC the Clerk is aware that David Hall (SCC) is trying to arrange a meeting, to explore possible alternatives, between himself, Paul Coles (BT) and Chedzoy PC Chairman. The Clerk suggested he email Paul Coles and enquire if Sutton Mallet is included in the upgrade, and to request a representative of Stawell PC can be included in the meeting.

**1237 Somerset County Council report:**

David Huxtable reported as follows:-

**a. Adult Social Care.**

David recommended the BBC Panorama programme about this to all present. Somerset SCC had invited the cameras in to reveal the complex and expensive department. At present 70% of SCC's income goes to fund adult and childrens' social care.

**b. "Climate Emergency".**

In answer to a parishioner's question about progress since this announcement was made, David Huxtable said action had started and was on-going on single use plastic bags, the introduction of a green fleet of buses and the roll-out of charging points for electric vehicles.

**Sedgemoor District Council** – Stuart Kingham reported as follows:

- a. A comprehensive upgrade** of Bridgwater Town Centre is underway, designed to install new street furniture, cycle racks and to upgrade trees, to include the West Quay area – designed to improve the environment and visitor experience. Costs of £310,000 is made up as follows: - SDC £148,000, Town Council £35,000, Bridgwater Town Team £10,000 and EDF Community Fund £116,000. Completion is scheduled for July 2019.

**The Chairman opened the meeting to the public at 7.35 pm.**

The following matters were raised by the public:

a. **Agenda and Minutes.**

It was pointed out that the agenda for tonight's meeting and minutes of the last one were not on the website. With the webmaster on holiday it had not been possible to post these before the meeting (which was only three weeks since the last one), and that, in any event, legal requirements had been satisfied with them being placed on the notice board. Gratitude was expressed to the webmaster for all his voluntary work.

b. **Village Hall Grant.**

A question was put enquiring if the Parish Council had consulted parishioners before granting the assistance to the village hall to help in covering the cost of necessary kitchen refurbishment. It was pointed out that the grant was just a minor part of the overall cost of circa £22,500 with the bulk of the cost being covered by a grant from Viridor, a condition of which was that outside funding to cover 10% was available elsewhere. It was mentioned that the hall committee itself was funding the electrical upgrade (£3000) from phase 1 to phase 3, and that the upgrade was needed to bring the facility in line with current health and safety regulations.

Cllr Penny Badcock said she considered it was a fundamental function of the parish council to do what they thought best on behalf of the parishioners. The Chairman said it was up to the hall committee to ensure value is maximised, and he was advised by Simon Thomas that this was indeed the case

c. **Titles of the various annual meetings.**

The fact that the titles of the annual meetings varied so very little, was raised.

**The Chairman closed the meeting to public discussion at 7.50 pm.**

**1238 Financial Matters:**

Two cheques was signed as follows:

No 400 £120 payee CN Fry (June net salary).  
No 429 £100 " SDC (uncontested election fee).

The Clerk reported that a letter of intended financial support had been issued to the hall committee and he read this out.

**1239 Planning – No new applications but:-**

The Chairman said there were two appeals in progress:

- a. **Land to the South of Goosegreen Farm Sutton Mallet.**
- b. **Wood Lane Farm Stawell.**

**1240 Correspondence.**

a. **Community Speed Watch.**

The Clerk read an email outlining "Auto Speed Watch" – a scheme designed to manage traffic speeds by means of a small gadget attached to a telegraph pole which can record speeds and electronically advise the authorities.

It was felt that community speed watch teams were probably more of a deterrent to speeding vehicles.

b. **Avon and Somerset PCC Newsletter.** The latest one has been received.

**1241 Matters for report & items for next meeting:**

- a. Overgrown bank in Ford Lane.
- b. Overgrown hedge in Ford Lane.

**Any Other Business.**

**a. VE Day 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2020.**

The Clerk outlined an email giving quite detailed plans by SAAFA (the armed forces charity) for the weekend of 8<sup>th</sup>–10<sup>th</sup> May 2020. Simon Thomas said the hall committee has also received the email, and they were intending to make appropriate plans locally.

**b. Sutton Mallet phone kiosk.**

The Clerk advised where the correct specialist paint could be obtained, if required.  
Noted.

**c. Rural Housing Week Briefing.**

The Clerk read an email from SDC who are offering briefing sessions as part of the Rural Housing Week2019, with Hugh Gangs-Harris requesting to attend the session at 2.30 pm on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July at Bridgwater House, King Square Bridgwater.

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

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.05 pm.