

**Minutes of the meeting of Stawell Parish Council
Held in the village hall on Monday 3d February 2020 at 7 pm**

Present: Cllrs Penny Badcock, Rod Conaway, Hugh Gange-Harris, Brian Lishman (Chairman) and Linda Osborn.

Also present: Cllr David Huxtable (SCC) and Dawn James (SRA Community Engagement Team) and John Rpowlands (Environment Agency).

In attendance: Chris Fry (Clerk) and 10 members of the public,

1293 Apologies for Absence: Simon Thomas.

1294 Declarations of Interest: None.

1295 Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd December 2019 were taken as read, agreed and signed as a true record.

1296 Matters Arising: -

a. SRA Community Engagement Team visit – Talk.

Dawn James from the SRA Community Engagement Team said she was one of a team of two which was created fairly recently to work across Somerset to assist the public in “bouncing back” from flood issues. They are not technicians or engineers. They provide nature based solutions to flooding. The team are contactable by the public as follows:

Dawn James: DJames@somerset.gov.uk or mobile 07976 697258.
Emma Giffard: egiffard@somerset.gov.uk or mobile 07890581048.

John Rowlands of the Environment Agency spoke about the King Sedgemoor Drain and Sowey flood relief work. He said that six years ago, during the severe floods, David Cameron visited Somerset and declared that whatever funding was needed to put matters right would be made available. John said the Environment Agency had a 20 year plan of improvements for flood defences. They are working to increase the capacity of the KSD which was previously substantially widened back in the 1970s, and that of the Parrett by one third, as well as the Sowey. He said that it was a matter of careful balance, with improvements in one place often leading to difficulties in another. The local enterprise agency (South west) was providing funding and the EA are working to a strict time line.

John ended by saying the overall aim was to improve matters, but that flooding could not be eradicated, and it's impact could be lessened and the duration of flood events shortened.

Events open to the public are being held in Weston Zoyland (17th February), Othery (18th February) and Aller (19th February), in the appropriate village halls, which would be advertised locally.

1297 County/District Councillor's' reports.

County – David Huxtable reported as follows:

- a. Raised kerb near the kiosk library. This has now been repaired.
- b. Potholes in Ford Lane. These have been reported.
- c. A new SCC activity update is due shortly.

District. None.

1298 Financial Matters:

A Mendip Community Transport grant aid request was considered and following a discussion it was unanimously agreed to end a cheque for £100 to them.

Two cheques was signed as follows:

No 447 £ 240.00 payee CN Fry (February net salary).
No 448 £ 100.00 “ Mendip Community Transport (grant aid).

The Chairman opened the meeting to the public.

a. Parked car outside the Church.

This obstruction to visibility for vehicles emerging from Ford Lane was again mentioned. Following the last meeting Simon Thomas had a word and the car was moved to the village hall car park, but now it is back again causing a danger. The Clerk was asked to request Simon to have another word. The idea of a “box junction” arrangement was felt as inappropriate.

b. Vehicle speeds along Stawell Road.

A parishioner said it felt as if passing cars were travelling at excessive speeds, particularly where there were many parked cars. The Chairman said speeds could be deceptive and it was felt the idea of applying for a 20 mph limit was not appropriate.

There being no other items the Chairman closed the meeting to the public.

1299 Planning – No new applications.

1300 Correspondence.

a. Various highway issues.

Poor visibility at the Wood Lane/Stawell Road junction. The safety issue here is well documented and the householder whose property is most directly affected wrote to SCC highways back in 2018 with a suggestion that a bollard be sited at the junction to provide a degree of protection from vehicles nearly clipping the wall of the property, be considered. Sadly no reply was received.

The Clerk was asked to follow up.

Fading “slow” signs both ways at the Ford Lane junction on the A39 and “give way” markings throughout the village. The Clerk was told over a year ago that the A39 markings would be considered “over the coming months”. And a list of all the fading “give way” markings throughout the village were reported last October.

The Clerk was asked to follow up.

b. Damaged raised kerb near the kiosk library. This has recently been repaired.

c. Age UK – Somerset. Services for the over 60’s.

The Clerk has been sent various posters, leaflets and flyers relating to services for the over 60’s.

1301 Matters for report & items for next meeting:

None.

1302 Any Other Business and Date of Next Meeting

Any other business –

a. Deloitte Ride across Britain.

This charity bike ride from Land’s End to John O’Groats will take place between 5th and 13th September 2020 in nine stages.

Further details can be found at:

www.rideacrossbritain.com .

Date of next meeting, Monday 2nd March 2020 at 7.00pm at 7 pm in the Village Hall.

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.56 pm.