

**Minutes of the meeting of Stawell Parish Council  
Held in the village hall on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 at 7 pm**

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

**Also present:** Cllr David Huxtable (SCC) and James Ventnor (Agent – Tamlyns).

**In attendance:** Chris Fry (Clerk) and 20 members of the public,

**1303 Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs Rod Conaway and Simon Thomas.

**1304 Declarations of Interest:** None.

**1305 Minutes of Parish Council Meeting** held on 3d February 2020 were taken as read, agreed and signed as a true record.

**The Clerk apologised for not including an item raised at the February meeting by Cllr Penny Badcock about possible leaking pipe at the lower end of Ford Lane.**

**1306 Matters Arising:** - None.

(See County Councillors report for “Road safety issues throughout Stawell”).

**1307 County/District Councillor’s’ reports.**

**County** – David Huxtable reported as follows:

- a. **The latest monthly SCC report** is due this week.
- b. **SCC budget 2020/2021.**

Last week’s meeting of the full County Council agreed this. SCC are investing £2 million more than that directed by Central Government in bus services. It is also investing £1 million for environmental climate emergency projects by Town and Parish councils.

c. **Speed Limit Zones.**

There are to be 20 mph zones at all primary schools in Somerset.

d. **Road Safety Issues throughout Stawell.**

David happens to have a meeting with Katherine Tyson later this week and he kindly offered to bring the subject up with her.

**District.** None.

**The Chairman opened the meeting up to public discussion at 7.20 pm** and the following issue was raised:-

**Bird Wires off Ford Lane.**

The landowner involved here gave a short talk on this. Strictly speaking strong black thread (rather than wires) is suspended on bamboo sticks on certain crops as a means of deterring rooks and crows from eating them. It does not work with pigeons. He can only recall perhaps a handful of rooks and pigeons being killed over the years. Noisy rook scarers are not used as they can startle nearby horses.

**1308 Financial Matters:**

**Parish of Stawell Heritage Society (POSHS).**

A request for grant aid to assist in the costs of a new website for this newly formed and worthy local organisation will be considered at the April meeting.

Two cheques was signed as follows:

**No 447 £ 240.00 payee CN Fry (March net salary).**

1309 Planning – Two new applications:-

a. Reference: 46/20/00001/CM.

Applicant: Mr S Griffiths.

Location: The Old Linhay, Stawell Road, Stawell Bridgwater TA7 9AE.

Proposal: Erection of a single storey extension to the south elevation to form a sun room.

The Chairman outlined this proposal, advising the single storey extension to form a sun room was on the back (south) elevation, and it would neither overlook or be overlooked by any other dwelling. The immediate neighbour has registered his full support. It is only marginally larger than that which would be allowed under “Permitted Development”.

The Chairman suggested the Parish Council supports the proposal and a vote was taken which unanimously supported this view.

The following comments were sent to SDC Planners:-

**“The Parish Council of Stawell supports this proposal. The single storey extension to the back (south) side of the property is only slightly larger in size than would otherwise be allowed under permitted development. It will not overlook or be overlooked by any existing dwelling. There are at present (and we are very close to the end of the consultation period), no objections registered by any consultee, indeed the only response is one of full support.”**

b. Reference: 46/20/00002/CM.

Applicant: Mrs Fitzgerald Wilson.

Location: Little Hollow, Church Road, Sutton Mallet Bridgwater TA7 9AT.

Proposal: Erection of a dwelling with a detached garage.

A full discussion took place on this proposal and details of views both for and against it were heard at length, and these have been appropriately lodged on the SDC planning portal.

It was felt that the historic heart of the village was threatened by the proposal. Loss of privacy, increased traffic flow and a potentially chaotic development phase could be involved, with all the accompanying disruption. It was felt it would lead to further development which would be detrimental to the settlement.

In support of the proposal it was said that the landowner wished to down size but still remain part of the community. The whole plot is surrounded by hedgerow. The modest increase in village dwellings represented by this proposal could even benefit the wider community by bringing in some new residents in the family home the landowner would be vacating. Village life could well be enhanced by some modest population growth. The increase in traffic would be minimal and the development process would be temporary, and with two parallel access roads servicing the residential areas nearby, disruption would be kept to a minimum.

The Agent dealing with the application was present and spoke, advising that SDC planning policy dictates the course of such applications. Following the refusal of the previous application last year, a site meeting with planning officers was held and the advice received was that the current location of any future development would be most likely to be acceptable to the planners. Following the removal of development boundaries in 2012 “self builds” are now encouraged. It should be remembered that these days it is legally necessary to consult with various safeguarding agencies. Under current guidelines this proposal meets current building criteria.

The Chairman acknowledged the legitimacy of the objections, all of which would be considered by the planning officer. He suggested the parish council should support the proposal and a vote was taken which unanimously supported this view.

The Clerk was asked to submit the following comments to the SDC planners:-

**“The Parish Council of Stawell (including Sutton Mallet) supports this proposal. It is felt the Planning Officer should take appropriate account of the objections raised and submitted. It should also be noted that there is a considerable degree of support throughout the parish for the proposal”.**

**The Chairman closed the meeting to public discussion at 8.10 pm.**

1310 Correspondence.

- a. **Bird Wires off Wood Lane** - Dealt with above.

b. **Defibrillator.**

Although unable to attend the meeting, Cllr Simon Thomas sent an email advising that a free first aid and defibrillator course is shortly to be held, hosted by a former parish councillor. He was concerned that the defibrillator should be insured, particularly against theft and as it is not currently covered under the village hall insurance he wonders if the parish council insurance does so.

**The Clerk was asked to establish the position here.**

c. **Lead thefts from local Church rooves.**

Sedgemoor DC are advising that there have been thefts of lead from the rooves of six Churches across the county, and seem to have been met with very little police action. Church councils are reminded of the potential danger, particularly churches in isolated positions and accessible by country lanes. The thieves seem to operate at times of full moons.

**1311 Matters for report & items for next meeting:**

a. **Parish of Stawell Heritage Society** – grant aid request.

**1312 Any Other Business and Date of Next Meeting**

**Any other business** – None.

**Date of next meeting, Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020 at 7.00pm at 7 pm in the Village Hall.**

**There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.25 pm.**