

STAWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Stawell Parish Council held on Monday 5th October 2020 at 7 pm

(Conducted by telephone conference call)

Present: - Cllrs. Brian Lishman (Chairman), Linda Osborne and Simon Thomas.

Also present: - Cllr David Huxtable (SCC).

In attendance: - The Clerk (Chris Fry).

1374 Apologies for Absence: - Cllr Rod Conaway.

1375 Declarations of Interest: - None.

1376 Minutes of the last meeting of 7th September 2020 were taken as read, agreed and signed.

1377 Matters arising from the minutes: -

a. **Planning White Paper:** - (see below).

1378 County Councillor's Report: - David Huxtable reported as follows: -

a. **One Somerset (Unitary Authority Plans):** -

David said the District Councils of Somerset have agreed to support a new unitary authority based on two councils, a children's trust, a combined authority with elected mayor and a shareholder owned shared service delivery organisation.

The County Council supports a single council authority.

David said that there were at present some 400 district and county councillors in Somerset, with as many as 7 representing some areas.

The Secretary of State will now decide which plan will prevail.

b. **Covid-19:** -

Somerset, in common with the rest of the country, is experiencing a surge in infection rates. Due in part to greater testing, the present infection rate in the county is as high, or higher even, as it was in April 2020. Somerset students at colleges and universities throughout the country are counted as Somerset infections, as in many cases they have a Somerset GP. Care Home infection rates continue to be encouraging.

District Councillor's Report: -

In view of the fact that Stuart Kingham is not in attendance there is no report. As we have not seen Stuart recently the Clerk said he would enquire about his welfare.

1379 Financial Matters: -

Three cheques to issue: -

No 470 £120.00 payee CN Fry (October net salary).

No 471 £38.67 " " (expenses).

No 472 £90.00 payee HMRC (paye Jul/Aug/Sept 2020).

Clerk's salary review.

The Clerk reminded the meeting that he is seeking a salary review, with any increase granted by the council to be effective as from 1st April 2021.

Details as follows: -

Payment for four hours per week (a seven member council normally attracts 5 hours per week) 4 hours /week at £12.50 per hour = £50 per week or £2600 per year (currently £1800).
Other expenses to be held as at present.

This review will be placed on the agenda of the next meeting for consideration by full council ahead of the Precept 2021/2022 exercise.

1380 Planning: - No new applications.

a. Planning White Paper.

The Clerk pointed out that the proposed changes to the planning regulations represented the biggest shake-up in 70 years, and the resultant changes would greatly effect guidelines for Town and Parish Councils in the future.
It is considered vital that due comments and observations are presented during the consultation stage which runs until 29th October 2020.

For more details go to: -

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/907647/MHCLG-Planning-Consultation.pdf

1381 Correspondence: -

a. Somerset Waste Partnership – Recycle More: -

The Clerk gave details of current proposals to expand the scope of kerbside recycling and the phasing in of such proposals over the next 18 months or so, starting with Mendip District around the end of October 2020, South Somerset June/July 2021 and Sedgemoor and Somerset West and Taunton in the final two phases.

Somerset's move away from land fill has been completed with the construction of the new £317 million Viridor Resource Recovery Centre (RRC) at Avonmouth, which turns all kerb side rubbish and 60% of non-recyclable materials from Somerset's recycling sites into electricity,

b. Sedgemoor DC budget consultation: -

The current budget consultation runs until 28th October and more details can be found at: -

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/BudgetConsultation20/>

Reminders will go out on Facebook and twitter each week until the Consultation ends.

c. Volunteer Litter Pick in Stawell: -

The Clerk reported that it had been drawn to his attention that several Stawell ladies had been quietly doing “good turns” during the pandemic, namely Janet Dodwell and Lynne Williams, who have been doing a regular litter pick each week. Claire Brown (and probably others?) have been doing regular prescription drop-offs for months, and she is known to do 10-18 people’s requests. There are probably others too.

The Chairman expressed the appreciation of the parish council to these ladies for their good work during the Coronavirus pandemic.

d. CAB donation request.

The Clerk read a letter from Sedgemoor CAB requesting grant aid assistance to help cover its costs. 8653 requests for assistance were dealt with in 2019/2020. This is an increase of 1961 compared to the previous year 2018/2019 when the figure was 6692.

Following a discussion the Chairman proposed granting them £100, and this was seconded by Linda Osborne. The cheque to be issued at the next meeting.

1382 Matters arising and Items for the next meeting.

- a. Clerk’s salary review.
- b. Precept setting exercise 2021/2022.

1383 Any other business and date of next meeting.

- a. **Any other business:** - None.
- b. **Date of next meeting** – Monday 2nd November 2020 at 7 pm (via conference telepgone call).

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.30 pm