

**Minutes of the meeting of Stawell Parish Council held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 at 7.00 pm.**

**(Conducted via telephone conference call)**

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

**Also present:** - Cllr. David Huxtable (SCC).

**In attendance:** - The Clerk (Chris Fry).

**1404 Apologies:** - Cllr. Rod Conaway.

**1405 Declarations of Interest:** - None.

**1406 Minutes of the last regular** meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and the special planning meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 were taken as read, agreed and signed.

**1407 Matters arising from the minutes:-**

**a. Fading road markings and road safety in general.**

The Clerk reported that he had recently followed up on an email sent to SCC Highways in February 2020, concerning several road safety issues. Katherine Tyson (Traffic Engineer at SCC) apologised for the oversight and assured him that the following would be attended to as soon as possible: -

**1. Stawell Road/Wood Lane junction.**

The residents living in the house directly at this junction are understandably concerned at the possibility of their boundary wall being impacted by passing traffic, and in particular the dustbin lorry. They have requested that a safety bollard be installed as a warning to drivers. Katherine will arrange a safety inspection, when possible, to establish the best position for such a bollard, similar to the one in Chedzoy near the church.

She is unable to order any new works until the start of April, but the process can be started as soon as they are allowed, following which instructions will be issued to the contractor.

Katherine says she recently received a request from a concerned resident, and she is prepared to sanction the installation of similar verge bollards on the Tower Hill road bend opposite the junction with Innsmead Lane, where the verge is being over-run by heavy trailers carrying harvested crop fuel to the Cannington Bio-Digester works.

**2. Faded "Give Way" road markings.**

A safety inspection on all the reported fading "Give Way" junctions and road markings that require refurbishment will be added to a new programme of lining works for the area from 1<sup>st</sup> April. Having said that, any location on an A road will be treated as immediate and can be carried out quicker, usually in a matter of weeks.

**3. "SLOW" road markings on the A39 approach to Ford Lane (in both directions).**

Katherine advises that the two junction warning signs for Ford Lane in each direction,

would be acceptable locations for the added warning of a “SLOW” marking on the carriageway, and will issue instructions to the contractor in the new financial year

#### **1408 County Councillors Report.**

##### **a. Covid-19 vaccinations.**

The County Council is concentrating on the vaccine roll-out, with many staff being redeployed to assist. He confirmed the programme was on track.

##### **b. Central Government Covid-19 funding.**

In answer to a question, David confirmed that Central Government is living up to its promise to cover all additional costs incurred by the County Council during the pandemic.

**District Councillors report: - None.**

#### **1409 Financial Matters.**

Two cheques to issue: -

No 480 £120.00 payee CN Fry (February net salary).  
481 £121.21 “ “ (expenses).

#### **1410 Planning – No new applications.**

The Chairman reported on the progress of recent applications: -

**Reference number 46/20/00003/LR** – 5 Ford Lane Stawell – Approved.

“ “ **46/20/00004//EC** – Fritchets Farm Stawell – Outstanding following a query raised by one of the consultees.

**Reference number 46/20/00005/EC** – Dairy House Farm Sutton Mallet – Under consideration.

#### **1411 Correspondence: -**

##### **a. Muddy conditions and damage to the verge in Innsmead Lane.**

Simon Thomas reported on damage to the grass verge in Innsmead Lane caused by a heavy trailer leaving the road and into the ditch while transporting crop fuel to the Bio-digester in Cannington. This has caused considerable hedge damage and a very long and deep entrenchment to the verge and it has deepened the ditch considerably. Simon has received assurances from the landowner that repairs to the verge is a “work in progress”, and the mud has now been washed away.

Simon suggests it might be advisable for the Clerk to write a letter to Cannington Bio-energy a Cannington, pointing out the dangers of mud on the highway, and the obligations of farmers and landowners (by law) to clean up any mess they cause, promptly. He feels this might improve the situation in the future.

The Clerk was asked to write that letter.

##### **b. New field gate access in Innsmead Lane.**

Brian Lishman reported that the gate in question has been in place for about two years, and he considers it to be an infringement of planning regulations (with no permission having been either sought or obtained).

- Following a discussion the Clerk was asked to report the matter to the SDC planners.
- c. **New grit box near the A29/Ford Lane junction.**

Following the recent cold snap, and after a discussion, it was decided in the interest of road safety to install two new grit boxes in Ford Lane, one at the top near the A39 junction and one near the Ford Farm entrance at the bottom. To this end the Clerk was asked to liaise with both Bawdrip PC and the landowner at Ford Farm, to seek their support for such a move.

Provided agreement is reached, it was resolved to empower the Clerk and Chairman together to take matters forward and order the boxes. This motion was proposed by Brian Lishman and seconded by Simon Thomas.

Brian Lishman explained to the meeting that the "Grit Consortium" was disbanded some years ago.

- d. **Emergency use bollards.**

Following the recent grass verge damage in Innsmead Lane, Simon placed some cones he found at the village hall at the scene as a road safety measure. He suggested that the Parish Council obtain several more cones for occasional use throughout Stawell and Sutton Mallet in the future.

Following a discussion the Clerk was asked to into the matter , its associated costs and report back to the next meeting.

- e. **Road closure procedures.**

Simon Thomas said he had been asked to bring up the possibility of the road signage procedure being more efficient.

Following a discussion it was considered difficult in practical terms to do this, but it was thought that local social media might have a part to play here.

**1412 Matters for report and items for the next meeting:** - None.

**1413 Any other business and Date of the next meeting:** -

**Any other business:** -

- a. **Installation of dog litter bins.**

Simon Thomas has received an email from a villager who has been advised that the District Councillor for Moorlynch had arranged to install and service some dog litter bins at no cost to the Parish Council. The cost of servicing these bins (approximately £400 + vat per year each), has always been hard to justify when considered by our Parish Council in the past.

The Clerk was asked to liaise with our District Councillor and report back to the next meeting.

- b. **Mud on the highway at Billicombe Lane Moorlynch.**

The Clerk has received an email from a villager pointing out the large amount of mud

which has been deposited on the highway, thereby creating a serious road safety hazard, particularly at night.

Brian Lishman said the Parish Council takes this very seriously and said he would speak to the offending landowner and report back to the next meeting.

**c. Planning breach in Sutton Mallet.**

Brian Lishman reported on several suspected planning breaches at a property in Sutton Mallet, including the resurfacing of a yard which now causes an increased risk of flooding on the highway, roof water draining into the roadside drainage ditch (having the same effect) and a gate which opens on to the road, in contravention of planning regulations.

Following a discussion the Clerk was asked to establish the facts of the matter and report it to the SDC planners appropriately.

**Date of the next meeting Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 at 7 pm.**

**There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.08 pm.**