

**Minutes of the meeting of Stawell Parish Council held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021 in the village hall at 7.00 pm.**

**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 and two members of the public.

**1481 Apologies:** - Cllr. Rod Conaway.

**1482 Declarations of Interest** – none.

**1483 Minutes** of the previous meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021 were taken as read, agreed and signed.

**1484 Matters arising from the minutes:** –

**a. Rose Cottage/highway boundary issue.**

Following a telephone conversation between the Chairman and Lawrence Hackling (SCC Highways), the Clerk has emailed details of the issue to Lawrence, who is looking into the matter.

A letter from the resident of Rose Cottage was read out, which took issue with certain aspects of the comments submitted to SDC planners regarding application 46/21/00009. The Chairman responded to each point raised in detail, and concluded that he stood by every word of the comments.

**b. Ownership of the road at Spring Hill in Sutton Mallet.**

The Chairman reported that SCC Highways agreed that the road was adopted up to the entrance to Spring Hill Farm. They (SCC) have also confirmed that they are generally happy with the actions taken by the landowner, but said that they should have been consulted beforehand. Any tarmac laid must be carried out by an approved contractor as that is considered to be specialist work.

The concern expressed by neighbours is understandable and has been noted, and the Chairman said he would speak to both neighbouring landowners (Spring Hill and Godfrey's Farms), and David Huxtable said he would liaise with SCC Highways about the way forward.

At 7.30pm the Chairman suspended the meeting and opened proceedings up for public discussion.

**a. Ford Lane culvert.**

A member of the public reported that the poor drainage and inefficiency of the culvert was resulting in a detrimental effect on drainage on certain areas of his property, and needed sorting out. The Chairman said that last time major maintenance work was carried out to the culvert, tree roots proved to be the main problem. David Huxtable wondered if a return to a ford crossing the road (in place of the culvert) might give a long term solution, but it was thought this would involve major works. The road level has been raised considerably during the time the culvert has been installed.

The concern was noted.

**b. Ford Lane – damaged footpath signs.**

Photographs were produced which showed damage to footpath signs in Ford Lane, possibly having been caused by hedge trimming equipment. This has been reported by a resident, but so far no remedial work has taken place.

**c. Chemical weed killing by SDC.**

Some residents are concerned at the use of chemical weed killer by SDC on weeds at the sides of the highway. The possible danger to pets was noted, and it was suggested a more eco-friendly approach could be found.

David Huxtable said there were still many parishioners who liked their neighbourhoods to look tidy.

**d. Cutting verges.**

Some residents feel there is little value in cutting verges, and they thought that pollinator allies to encourage habitats was a better approach.

David Huxtable suggested signage could be used to advise contractors to leave verges where any local scheme was in place to promote vegetation.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting at 7.40pm.

**1485 County/District councillors' reports.**

**a. Monthly news sheet.**

David Huxtable said he had no report to give, but that the usual monthly newsletter would be due out shortly.

He reminded the parish council of the need to send a representative/s to the Local Government Reorganisation Conference @ Junction 24 this Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021. The Clerk reported that he and the Chairman had registered to attend.

There was no District councillor's report.

**1486 Financial matters: -**

There were three cheques to issue: -

No 501 £173.27 payee CN Fry (October net salary).  
No 502 £130.00 " HMRC (paye Jul/Aug/Sep).  
No 503 £ 84.77 " CN Fry (expenses).

**1487 Planning: - no new applications.**

The Chairman reported application 46/21/00009 has been withdrawn following registration.

**1488. Correspondence: - none.**

**1489. Matters for report and items for next meeting: - none.**

**1490. Any other business and Date of next meeting (Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021).**

**Any other business: -**

**a Fly tipping at the Ford Lane car park.**

Cllr. High Gange-Harris reported on the problem of a local resident depositing an increasing amount of rubbish at this site. The resident has received visits in the past from SDC enforcers and he has been told to clear his garden of refuse, but the problem appeared to be moving on.

**Date of the next meeting Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 at 7.00pm.**

**There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.04pm.**