

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAWELL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2022 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7 PM.**

**Present:** - Cllrs. Hugh Gange-Harris, Ian Graham, Phillip Jay, Brian Lishman (Chairman), Linda Osborne and Simon Thomas.

**Also present:** - None.

**In attendance:** - The Clerk (Chris Fry) and four members of the public.

**1531. Apologies:** - Cllrs. Penny Badcock and David Huxtable (SCC).

**1532. Declarations of Interest:** - Cllr. Ian Graham in respect of planning application reference no 44/22/00001.

**1533: - Minutes of the last meeting** of 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022 were taken as read, approved and signed.

**1534. Matters arising from the minutes: -**

**a. New councillor's Declaration: -**

Cllr. Ian Graham duly completed his Declaration and Acceptance of Office, together with his Notification by a Member of Financial and Other Interest Form.

Cllr. Phillip Jay completed his Notification by a Member of Financial and Other Interest Form (he has already completed his Declaration and Acceptance of Office Form).

The Clerk will now the Notification of Financial and Other Interest Forms to the Returning Officer at Sedgemoor District Council.

**b. Parish Council Elections – Nomination packs: -**

The Clerk reminded the meeting that the deadline for lodgement of nomination forms at the SDC offices was Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April at 4 pm.

**c. Defibrillator at the village hall: -**

This matter was raised by Hugh Gange-Harris at the last meeting (by email), as he was concerned at the possibility of insufficient trained individuals being available in the village to use the defibrillator in case of need. The Clerk was asked to check with the village hall committee Chairman (Simon Thomas), that the equipment was fully accessible and in good working order.

Simon advised the meeting that there was ready access as no code is required to open the box housing the defibrillator and that full instructions would be given audibly by the machine, which is designed to be usable by totally untrained novices. Simon has liaised with a parishioner who is fully trained in first aid, and qualified to conduct first aid training sessions. In actual fact a series of training sessions has been planned a couple of years ago which had to be postponed due to Covid-19, but will now be re-arranged (and at no cost).

Simon said the battery of the equipment was “tired” and in need of replacement and, following a discussion, a motion was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Hugh Gange-Harris (with unanimous support), that the parish council should contribute 50% of the cost of a new battery if the village hall committee agrees to do so as well (total cost in

the region of £350).

**At 7.15 pm the Chairman closed the meeting and invited public participation.**

**1537. Planning** (taken out of agenda order to allow full public discussion): -

**Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (As amended).**

**Application no: 46/22/00001.**

**Type: Full Planning Permission.**

**Applicant: Ms J Richardson.**

**Location: Land south of Stawell Road, Stawell, Bridgwater Somerset TA7.**

**Coordinates: E: 336389.85 N: 138135.98.**

**Proposal: Change of use of agricultural land to equestrian including menage arena, stables and store.**

**(Comments from the parish council welcomed by 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022).**

The Chairman began an open discussion, who asked for individual opinions on the proposal. There were two residents from neighbouring properties to the site.

It was stated that issues of loss of privacy, noise pollution and floodlighting ingress (all valid planning grounds to object), would be lodged during the consultation period. It was noted that a similar application in Moorlinch parish (also to a degree retrospective), had received approval, and so it might be advisable therefore to request certain conditions should be attached to any approval which might eventually be given.

The Chairman brought all points covered in the discussion together, and the following Parish Council observations were sent to the SDC planning department in objection to the proposal: -

"The Parish Council of Stawell objects to the planning application reference 46/22/00001 on the grounds that: -

1. The entrance road and site is very close to Hill House and as such will cause overlooking and loss of privacy.
2. The siting of the buildings will be on the ridge and as such will dominate the skyline and be detrimental to the landscape, particularly to the south.
3. The site lies immediately to the south of the curtilage of West House, a listed property, and could be deemed to be an application which affects a listed property adversely.
4. The site has a major effect on the resident and users of Crendge Lane, a private drove.

In the event this application be granted, the Parish Council would ask that the following conditions be made: -

1. The entrance to the site be re-configured.

We would like to suggest that the entrance be moved further away from Hill House, but for topographical reasons that is not practical. We would therefore ask that the road in be re-routed down the inside bordering Crendge Lane, rather than down the boundary of Hill House as it is at the moment, and all the area to the south of Hill House be returned to grass field.

2. The site be moved further south so that it did not immediately adjoin neighbouring properties and the siting of the buildings be well south of the ridge, down the southern

slope.

3. That the soakaway to the arena be sited to the south of the arena, well away from the hedge with Crendge Lane, to avoid any drainage seeping in to Crendge Lane.

In addition we would wish that the applicant be required to supply and have approved a drainage plan to minimise surface water run-off of the site on to Crendge Lane, and to maintain it for all time.

4. That any lighting be down facing and that the arena not be lit with any lighting.
5. That any dung heap be sited so as to cause no offensive smells to any residents and for any burning of dung or bedding to be forbidden.
6. To specify for private use only and any commercial use to be forbidden.
7. We would like to stipulate that any trees/screening should not be too high as to block light from residents' properties.

This site has caused the Parish Council huge problems for the past 6-7 months and a prior application much earlier could have avoided most of these. This site has been planned for over a year because this part of the former arable field was sown to grass and was separated from the arable area about a year ago. The applicant kept her horses in the village would have known from other equestrian villagers what was required.

We would ask that the planning officer take particular note of objections submitted by the residents of Hill House.”

#### **The Chairman resumed the meeting at 7.24 pm.**

Following a discussion by the councillors it was agreed that the Chairman draws up the comments of the parish council, strongly objecting to the proposals, and the Clerk circulates them to the members ahead of sending them in to the planners.

**1535. County/District Councillors' reports:** - None.

#### **1536. Financial Matters**

Three cheques to sign: -

No 514 £173.27 payee CN Fry (April net salary).  
No 515 £86.44 “ “ (expenses).  
No 516 £257.60 “ Zurich Municipal (insurance).

#### **1536 (a): - The Annual Governance Statement 2021/2022**

This was discussed and its acceptance proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Simon Thomas with unanimous support.

#### **1536 (b): - Accounting Statements 2021/2022: -**

The Clerk presented paper copies of the Receipts and Payments Account and carried out a line by line examination. He advised that the £500 received in respect of the filming work in Sutton Mallet would shortly pass out of the current account and after allowing for this, reserves as at the year-end rose by approximately £500 to £2261.

Questions were invited, following which adoption of the accounts was proposed by Simon Thomas and seconded by Ian Graham, and received unanimous support.

**Both the Governance Statement and Accounting Statement 2021/2022 were duly signed by the Chairman and Clerk (Responsible Financial Officer). The Clerk signed the Accounting Statement two days before the Chairman.**

The internal audit will now be arranged.

**1538. Correspondence: -**

**a. Fibre Cable Laying in Sutton Mallet: -**

The Clerk confirmed receipt of an email from SCC Highways (Streetwise department), advising that Open Reach had carried out the fibre cable laying exercise in Sutton Mallet between 8<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021. The Clerk will now endeavour to obtain a suitable contact address to enable him to present a detailed letter of complaint to Open Reach about the very poor and inconsiderate way in which the work was handled by the contractors.

**b. Recycle More – update.**

The “Recycle More Messenger” – edition 5 has been received.

**c. Mobile Library Service.**

The Clerk has completed a poster giving dates when the mobile library service will be visiting the Stawell village hall car park and this was handed to Simon Thomas for display purposes.

**1539. Matters of Report and Items for next Meeting: - None.**

**1540. Any Other Business and Date of next meeting (9<sup>th</sup> May 2022 – the Annual Meeting).**

**Any Other Business: -**

**a. Local Neighbourhood Policing Team: -**

The Clerk outlined an email received from PCSO Georgia Coles which showed encouraging local crime figures. Georgia and her colleague, Ben Simpkins are offering to attend local meetings (eg Hub Café) and Simon Thomas was handed a poster and he kindly offered to make the necessary arrangements.

**b. Damage to footpath entrance in Wood Lane: -**

Phillip Jay reported on recent damage to the fence and footpath entrance near his property in Wood Lane. He said this had now been fixed by a local farmer.

**Date of next meeting Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022 (which will be the Annual Meeting).**

**There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.16 pm.**

