

STON EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council
Fiona Lyons

Chairman
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Minutes of PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held at Ston Easton Village Hall
on Tuesday 9th July 2013 commencing at 7.30pm

Rob Winkworth in the Chair

1. Apologies and declarations of interest

Apologies had been received from Tom Osborne, Mark Long and Harvey Siggs

It was reported that, due to her continuing ill health Mrs Hope Salvidge had decided to stand down from the Parish Council and had tendered a letter of resignation to the Chairman.

There were no declarations of interest

2. Public participation

A member of the public requested to speak about fracking. He said that he had heard that an application would go to Somerset County Council Minerals team and bypass MDC planning. It has been rumoured that an application is expected within the next month.

The local anti-fracking group is working to raise awareness of issues such as the risk of seismic activity, use of chemicals in the fracking process, transport/disposal of contaminated water from old coal seams etc. A meeting has been arranged in Chewton Mendip village hall on Tuesday 16th July. Gareth Thomas will be presenting at the meeting about the technical geological issues etc. The group is also trying to survey everyone locally to see if there is a consensus against fracking.

RW said that he had attended a meeting at MDC and it was clear that they are expecting any application to be made through them as the local planning authority.

[The following points of clarification were received from TK following the meeting: Somerset County Council would be the responsible authority and any application would be determined by the Regulation Committee, which is comprised of Somerset County Councillors. It would not be determined by officers at Somerset as suggested.

Mendip and the Parish Council would be consultees to any application in the normal way and all Councillors need to be careful not to predetermine any application and therefore open themselves to accusations of bias.]

Jacky Smith – Village Agent

The following points were noted:

- Jacky continues to support the 'Bring a Friend to Tea' event which is held once a month at Bread and Beyond in Chewton Mendip.
- Jacky attended the annual fete at Chewton Mendip and will also attend the fete at Ashwick and Oakhill on 13th July to raise awareness of the Village Agent role.

- Recently Jacky has helped to source mediation for a neighbour dispute, dealt with access to home improvement funding from the major energy companies, queries about transport to medical appointments and community transport in general as well as organising fire safety checks and researching sitting services to enable carers to have time for shopping, medical appointments etc.
- The British Red Cross has produced two apps for Smart phones with first aid tips for both children and adults and Jacky will be publicising these in the September Parish Magazine.
- The Somerset Community Oil Scheme can supply oil for 54p per litre during the summer months. The £20 joining fee is general recouped in the first delivery.

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 19th June were agreed as a correct record subject to item 5 being amended to read *TO reported that he had asked someone to look at the bench on Langley's Lane....*

4. Matters arising

- a. Defibrillator open meeting/training session 20 June 2013
RW said that the training had been valuable but it was unfortunate that no representatives from the sports clubs had been present.
Jacky Smith said that she had received a lot of positive feedback and people had found it to be less intimidating than they had imagined. It was a shame that not more people from the village had attended but some people had been worried that they would be taking on a lot of responsibility by being trained.
- b. UK Methane - Fracking
The Clerk had received an email from the Clerk to Compton Martin PC which had been circulated with the agenda.

5. Report from District / County Councillor

Has had submitted a written report which included the following:

Between 1st April 2012 and 31st March 2013 SCC Highways repaired 23,968 potholes.

2012/2013 saw 96 full treatments on the Somerset Precautionary Salting Network using 8200 tonnes of salt.

This year SCC are committed to surface dressing 1.4 million m² of highway together with around 200 resurfacing and drainage improvement schemes.

There will hopefully be a new round of bids for Safety Improvement Schemes in the Autumn. Six Parish Councils have undergone training and are now trialling the direct reporting of potholes though none of them are in my Division.

Villages have been asked if they wanted to stay in the Speed Indicator Device scheme and also if they would be prepared to take on the actual siting and moving of the devices so that they can be on a more permanent basis.

DW said that the surface dressing through Hay Street was not done to high standard. It is easily scuffed and already has dipped in places.

PCSO report

PCSO Nicola Housley is on leave, the following incidents had been reported by her colleague.

- 4/06/13 7pm, A37 Report of a 1 vehicle road traffic collision, non-injury - police in attendance.

- 29/06/13 2am, Outside Ston Easton Park Hotel/South Lawn - 1 vehicle Road traffic collision, one person with minor injuries.
- 01/07/13 5:20pm Several reports of a broken down VW camper van causing an obstruction on the bad bend on the High St.

6. Planning

a. Applications

2013/1298 – The Chase, Green Street, Ston Easton

Application for a new planning permission to replace extant permission 2010/1446 for the erection of a two storey dwelling and garage together with associated access.

There were no objections and the application was recommended for approval.

b. Approvals/Rejections

2013/1230 – Construction of a slurry lagoon at Whitchurch Farm, Ston Easton

This application had been determined as permitted development so approval is not required.

7. Financial matters

- Invoice for installation of defibrillator – The defibrillator has not yet been installed.
- DW proposed that £25 per year be paid to the village hall keyholder for checking the defibrillator and sending a monthly report to South Western Ambulance Service. This was seconded by SH and agreed.
- Payment of the Clerks expenses of £77.10 was proposed by RW, seconded by DW and agreed.

8. Correspondence

The Clerk had received correspondence from the Community Council for Somerset and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

9. Matters for report and items for next meeting

- DW said that he had asked MDC whether they had made a decision about the removal of the holiday let condition on School View. It was noted that no decision had been made yet.
- DW also asked for an update on enforcement issues at Home Farm, Ston Easton at the next meeting.
- SH said that Forticrete has now placed a contract with a local firm to reface the entire wall he requested that this be placed on the agenda for next meeting
- SH has written to dog owners in the village asking that they take a responsible approach to dog fouling.
- The Clerk had contacted the Elections Team at MDC following Mrs HS's resignation. A notice will need to be placed in the parish noticeboards for a period of 14 working days advertising the vacancy on the Parish Council. If only one person expresses an interest he/she can be co-opted onto the Council. If more than one person puts him/herself forward an election must take place if requested by ten or more voters in the parish. SH said that he had mentioned the vacancy to some people in Clapton no-one has expressed an interest.
- SH proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs HS for her service on the Parish Council. The Clerk to write to her.

- The Clerk reported that she will be on holiday from 23 July to 7 August

10. Date of next meeting (Tuesday 10th September 2013 at Clapton Village Hall)