

STON EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council
Fiona Lyons

Chairman
Tom Osborne

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AGENDA

For PARISH COUNCIL MEETING to be held at Clapton Village Hall
Tuesday 10 September 2013 commencing at 7.30pm

1 Apologies and declarations of interest

2 Public participation

3 Minutes of last meeting

To agree the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9 July 2013

4 Matters arising

- a Defibrillator update
- b Letter of thanks from Mrs Hope Salvidge
- c Enforcement issues at Home Farm, Ston Easton

5 Co-option to Parish Council following the resignation of Mrs Hope Salvidge

The Chairman has received two expressions of interest for the vacant seat on the Parish Council following the resignation of Mrs Hope Salvidge from **Mr Martin Carver of Manor Farm, Clapton** and **Mr Paul Lane of Emborough Farmhouse, Wells Road, Emborough**. As an election was not requested within the statutory timescale, the vacancy will be filled through co-option. The process is as follows:

- a The Chairman will report the expressions of interest and ask if there are any others to be taken into account.
- b A proposer and seconder will be sought that the Parish Council select between the people whose names have been submitted.
- c The Council will vote, by show of hands, on each candidate. The Chairman will have a second, casting vote in the event of a tie.
- d The candidate having the highest number of votes will be elected and the successful candidate can take the seat immediately subject to completing the relevant paperwork.

6 Report from District / County Councillor

7 Planning

a Applications

2013/1485 – Orchard View, Clapton Road, Clapton BA3 4EB

Single storey rear extension. Removal of internal walls, replacement double glazed windows.

Application withdrawn

2013/1408 – Orchard View, Clapton Road, Clapton BA3 4EB

Listed Building consent for single storey rear extension. Removal of internal walls, replacement double glazed windows. **Application withdrawn**

b Approvals/Rejections

2013/1477 – Mendip Edge, Rush Hill, Farrington Gurney

Single storey rear extension. **Planning permission granted**

8 Financial matters

- a Invoice for installation of defibrillator
- b Clerk's expenses

9 Correspondence

- a Connecting Devon and Somerset newsletter
- b Introduction of New Charging Structure for Highway Licences
- c Installation of Speed Indicator Device November 2013
- d Mendip Society Newsletter
- e Cam Valley Wildlife Group Newsletter

10 Matters for report and items for next meeting

11 Date of next meeting Tuesday 12th November 2013 at Ston Easton Village Hall

Item 3

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 and 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**

- a. Invoice for installation of defibrillator – The defibrillator has not yet been installed.
- b. 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.
- c. 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)

• RE: Enforcement issues at Home Farm, Ston Easton

From: **Woodridge, David** (Dave.Woodridge@mendip.gov.uk)
Sent: 16 July 2013 11:52:08
To: fionajlyons@hotmail.co.uk
Cc: Taylor, Nigel - Cllr (Cllr.Taylor@mendip.gov.uk); West, Sheila (Sheila.West@mendip.gov.uk)

Hi Fiona

The only case I am aware of at the property is ENF/2011/0516.

This relates to the erection of the large agricultural building on site. The only complaint we have had in respect of the building is that it has been built without planning permission.

The landowner has been advised on many occasions that the building requires planning permission. He has not applied for this and at this time the building remains unauthorised.

Following my visits to the site I have discussed my findings on a number of occasions with the Council's Senior Planning Officers. In order for enforcement action to be taken the harm (in planning terms) caused by the development must be identified and enforcement action tailored to remedy that harm. The building is an agricultural building on an agricultural site and the discussions have failed to identify any such harm. If harm had been identified then we would press for the application as, if approved, the Council could impose conditions to control that harm.

It is unfortunate that action cannot be taken simply because no planning application has been submitted but that is not possible. Available guidance on the subject is that if on the balance of probabilities unconditional planning permission would be granted for the building enforcement action should not be taken.

I hope that helps to explain the situation.

Best regards,

David B Woodridge

Senior Enforcement Officer

Mendip District Council

Cannards Grave Road

Shepton Mallet

Somerset, BA4 5BT

Telephone: 0300 303 8588

E-mail: dave.woodridge@mendip.gov.uk

Members Briefing

Progress update: Connecting Devon and Somerset

First Announcement: Connecting Devon and Somerset has announced the first communities set to benefit from high speed fibre broadband.

- Moretonhampstead, Holsworthy, Sticklepath (near Okehampton), Bradford on Tone, Bishops Lydeard, Creech St Michael and Monkton Heathfield (near Taunton) will see high speed fibre start to become available by the end of the year.
- Construction work for Sticklepath and Bradford on Tone has started three months early.
- Detailed survey work on Phase 2 has already begun.

The detailed survey work is required to finalise the deployment plan for any exchange area. It has to take into account the technology, infrastructure and work required to connect any given cabinet to the existing national fibre infrastructure.

Interactive map: Connecting Devon and Somerset has launched its interactive map (please visit www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/where-and-when). The map, which went live on the CDS website on 26th July, provides current information on when people can expect high speed fibre broadband in their area. As more information becomes available, the map will be regularly updated.

National Audit Office report: As you are no doubt aware, there has been a great deal of coverage on the NAO report, which stated that the BDUK programme was two years behind schedule. We would like to reassure you that this is not the case for Connecting Devon and Somerset. As part of the procurement process, we made an agreement with BDUK that our target was to be 90% of premises to have access to high speed fibre broadband by 2016 because of the sheer scale of our roll out.

- It is the largest publicly funded programme of its kind in England.
- It is a massively challenging and complex engineering project due to the topography of the area, which includes two coastlines and two National Parks.

Connecting Devon and Somerset purpose: We are aware of a lot of misinformation that has been circulating about the aims and parameters of the Connecting Devon and Somerset programme. Connecting Devon and Somerset was set up specifically to access BDUK funding. This funding was made available by the government to target areas already deemed 'commercially unviable' by the private sector, known as 'the final third':

- Connecting Devon and Somerset operates under strict guidelines for the use of public money.
- The use of public funding is governed by European regulations on State Aid.
- State Aid is granted to programmes where the private sector has no plans to go to market.
- These are predominantly rural areas and make up the CDS programme 'intervention area'.
- CDS funding cannot be used in areas where there is already commercial provision or plans for commercial provision.

Community broadband: Connecting Devon and Somerset is working in partnership with Defra, DCMS and BT to support community broadband initiatives and the remaining communities that fall into the final 10%. As well as welcoming the announcement that the government intends to bring this figure down to 5% through a further £250 million investment, we are actively seeking additional funding and looking at alternative technologies we can deploy to these areas.

Looking ahead: We are looking forward to our first cabinets being ready for service and will provide more information when we are able to make this announcement. There is a short delay from 'ready for service' to 'ready for market' that enables alternative Internet Service Providers to make ready their own tariffs and packages, ensuring competition.

For further information please contact the CDS team on: broadband@devon.gov.uk or visit www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/

Introduction of New Charging Structure for Highway Licences

I am writing to inform you that due to the need to make financial savings the County Council has unfortunately had to introduce full cost charging to all parties that apply for licences to erect structures on the highway (e.g. planters, notice boards, shelters, name boards, monuments etc). Until now, we have not charged for the time it takes us to administer such highway licences, but going forward the charges will apply to all such requests.

The decision was agreed in response to the Medium Term Financial Plan 2013/14 – 2015/16 and was included in the report to Cabinet on 6th February 2013. This was also agreed at the full council meeting on the 20th February 2013.

Therefore, with effect from 1st September 2013, every party applying for such a highway licence will be required to pay a £165 administration fee. In addition, Somerset County Council will no longer bear the costs of the legal fees. Applicants will be required to provide an undertaking to Somerset County Council's legal team to reimburse the legal costs associated with issuing the licence (currently these undertakings are in the region of £350). Therefore the total cost of requesting such highways licences will be in the region of £515.

I hope you will understand that in the current financial climate, difficult decisions such as the need to introduce such charges are sometimes necessary.

Yours faithfully

Nichola Bown
Principal Engineering Resource Officer
Traffic and Transport Development Group

Item 9c

Subject: Speed Indicator Device Installation - Ston Easton (week commencing 08/07/13)
Date: Thu, 11 Jul 2013 14:36:45 +0100
From: DJGrabham@somerset.gov.uk
To: fionajlyons@hotmail.co.uk

Dear Fiona

Please note that the Speed Indicator Device, (SID), scheduled for installation in the High Street, Ston Easton for week commencing 08 July 2013 will not now be installed. This is due to the installer being away on annual leave. Please accept my apologies for any inconvenience caused.

The next scheduled installation for this location is week commencing 04 November 2013.

Regards

Dave

Dave Grabham
Traffic Engineer
County Hall
TAUNTON

Telephone: 01823 358265