

STON EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

For PARISH COUNCIL MEETING to be held at **Clapton Village Hall** on **Tuesday 9th September 2014**

Present:

Councillors Martin Carver, Steve Huckle, Tom Killen, David Watts, Rob Winkworth
Fiona Lyons – Clerk
Jacky Smith – Village Agent

RW in the chair

1. Apologies and declarations of interest

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

2. Public participation

None

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8th July 2014 were agreed with no amendments

4. Matters arising

- It was noted that refuse and recycling collection issues in Clapton had been resolved
- Tree cutting in Clapton – SH had contacted two companies for quotes but had not received them to date. It was agreed that pollarding the trees by Manor Farm should be included in the quote. **Action:** SH to chase the quotes.
- RW reported that the potholes in Langleys Lane have not been repaired. **Action:** Clerk to contact Highways
- TK confirmed that the motorcycle speed camera has been present in Ston Easton

Jacky Smith asked for advice about an abandoned car on village hall property. It was agreed that this is a grey area as the car is not on the highway and that this was a matter for the hall Trustees. TK confirmed that the hall Trustees could contact him for some advice if required.

5. Highways matters

The response from Highways to the issues raised at the last meeting was noted.

The following issues were identified:

- Potholes along the length of Langleys Lane
- Damage to road outside Clapton Village hall.

Action: Clerk to contact Highways

MC asked about the possibility of having a grit bin opposite Manor Farm. RW to check with TO if there is a spare one. The need for a grit bin on Zion Hill was also discussed and TK proposed that we order 2 x grit bins (subject to a maximum expenditure of £500 including installation). This was seconded by MC and carried.

Action: Clerk to contact Highways and also ascertain whether existing grit bins will be filled.

SH reported that large lorries are using Clapton Lane to access Forticrete and have caused damage to cars. He queried whether there was a weight restriction on Clapton Lane. MC added that it had been agreed with Forticrete that all access was to be via Strapstone Lane but the difficulty in enforcing this was acknowledged.

6. Reports from District / County Councillors, Village Agent and PCSO

Mendip District Council

TK reported that the MDC Hub at Cannards Grave is nearing completion. The Council Chamber has been completed a month ahead of schedule and 40 organisations are now working from the site. The Police and Register Office will be moving onto site later this year

The Council's Leisure contract is up for renewal next Spring. The Council currently subsidises the service by £1m per year and in an attempt to make savings the portfolio of premises has been offered out to contractors. 5 companies have applied and the Council will be entering discussions which will be finalised by the end of the year.

The Local Plan has gone through the inquiry stage and a few modifications now have to be consulted on. MDC consider that they have now met the 5 year housing supply with existing applications which should stop speculative applications.

Currently one third of income comes from central Government but local Councils will ultimately have to become self financing. Mendip has to find savings of £1m year on year and this will put pressure on all services but particularly

those that are discretionary. It is hoped that additional rates from business parks such as the one proposed for the Bath and West Showground will eventually replace some of the lost income.

DW said that some residents have expressed some concern over the recent erection of a large agricultural building under permitted development rights. He has suggested that they contact TK for clarification on this matter.

Village Agent

Jacky Smith said that there is still concern about the safety of pavements and the debris from overhanging trees makes the situation worse.

Two taster sessions of the youth club have been held with 13 turning up to the first and 7 to the second. Another evening is planned in October. Some of the parents are willing to help on a rota basis but a volunteer youth leader is being sought with the help of Rural Youth.

Two residents contacted Jacky about the tennis court and redundant play area. A group has been meeting through the Summer and, to ascertain what support there would be for multi-use games area (MUGA), a house to house survey will be carried out during the week commencing 15 September. This will also include suggestions for the village hall. A presentation and brunch will be held on 11 October. Jacky explained that there was currently no funding for the event and people would be asked for donations to cover the cost of the brunch. DW proposed that the Parish Council give a donation of £50 towards the event. This was seconded by RW and carried.

Jacky confirmed that she has been in contact with other villages which already have MUGAs to see how funding was obtained. DW suggested that local companies could also be approached for donations and the SCC Health and Wellbeing fund was also identified as a potential source of funds. The ongoing management and liability issues were also discussed.

7. Cessation of the Mobile Library service in Ston Easton

TK confirmed that this service has ceased but he had asked for it to be on the agenda to give people an opportunity to have their say.

It had been hard to argue against the decision due to the lack of use. It was noted that SCC has arranged that the WRVS will deliver books, DVDs etc. if people are not able to visit their local libraries.

8. Planning

a. Applications

The Clerk reported that an application had been received relating to Old Gore House, Emborough. It was agreed that an additional meeting be held on Tuesday 23 September to consider this application.

Action: Clerk to arrange meeting

b. Approvals/Rejections

The following were noted:

- i. 2013/2559/HSE and 2013/2560/LBC – Orchard View, Clapton Road, Clapton - Single storey rear extension to infill open area between existing annexe extension (+ Listed Building Consent). **Approved with conditions.**
- ii. 2014/0889/HSE and 2014/0714/LBC – Boyd's Cottage, Bristol Road, Ston Easton – To build lean-to conservatory and associated baseworks (+ Listed Building Consent). **Approved with conditions.**
- iii. 2014/1141/HSE – 70 Green Street, Ston Easton – Vehicular access, demolition of outhouse, formation of drive and parking, build two storey and single storey rear extension as annexe for elderly relative. **Approved with conditions.**
- iv. 2014/1250/FUL – Manor Farm, Hay Street, Ston Easton – Construction of new agricultural building, roof cover over existing silage bunker. **Approved with conditions**
- v. 2013/2499/FUL – Old Gore Wood, Emborough – Use of land for stationing of caravans for residential purposes for 2 gypsy pitches together with the formation of additional hard standing and utility/dayrooms. **Refused.**

9. Financial matters

- a. SCC Health and Wellbeing Fund 2014-15
- b. Funding for Clapton defibrillator. SH to report at next meeting. TK confirmed that he has £300 that could be put towards a defibrillator.
- c. Remembrance Day – Royal British Legion poppy wreaths. The Clerk reported that the local organiser has contacted her. DW proposed and SH seconded a donation of £60 to the Royal British Legion. This was carried. **Action:** Clerk to order two wreaths to be delivered to RW and SH.
- d. Grant Thornton – completion of Audit. The Clerk confirmed that the Audit had been completed and the necessary notices displayed. It was noted that Grant Thornton had made two recommendations for the following year. **Action:** Clerk to ensure that recommendations are implemented.

- e. Payment of the Clerk's expenses of £41.00 was proposed by DW seconded by MC and carried.

10. Correspondence

- a. Connecting Devon and Somerset – Update

RW queried whether Ston Easton was included in the roll out for superfast broadband. TK confirmed that Ston Easton is included but there may be some outlying areas that will not be covered. He also confirmed that 100% of Somerset will achieve 2mg that MDC has contributed £400,000 to ensure that 95% of the area will have 24mg. The Council is also putting pressure on BT Open Reach to ensure that their infrastructure is capable of providing the service. RW asked that this be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

The following items were noted:

- b. South West Resilience Campaign
- c. Mendip Local Plan and Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA)
- d. Somerset Community Foundation newsletter
- e. Somerset and Avon Police and Crime Commissioner newsletter

11. Matters for report and items for next meeting

Connecting Devon and Somerset

12. Date of next meeting Tuesday 11th November 2014 To be held at Ston Easton Park

The Clerk confirmed that Ian Stafford has invited the Parish Council to meet at Ston Easton Park on 11 November. This was agreed subject to the meeting being held prior to any planning application being submitted.

Action: Clerk to contact Ian Stafford