

## STON EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of STON EASTON PARISH COUNCIL held at  
**Ston Easton Village Hall on Tuesday 10 November 2015 commencing at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Tom Osborne (Chair), Julian Carver, Steve Huckle, Tom Killen, Ainslie Laird, Dave Watts and Rob Winkworth, Fiona Lyons (Clerk), Nikki Housley (PCSO), Jacky Smith (Village Agent)

### 1. Apologies and declarations of interest

Jacky Smith had sent her apologies and emailed a brief update report

### 2. Public participation

There were no requests for public participation

### 3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8 September 2015 were agreed with no amendments

### 4. Matters arising

- a. Meeting dates – the Clerk reported that Ston Easton village hall is only available for meetings on Tuesday evenings. It was agreed that meetings at Clapton village hall will be changed to Thursdays and those at Ston Easton will remain on Tuesdays. **Action:** Clerk to reissue Schedule of meetings with amended dates for meetings at Clapton Village Hall
- b. Clapton defibrillator cabinet – TK proposed that the Parish Council purchase a heated cabinet for the defibrillator at Clapton Village Hall at a cost of £360.00 plus VAT. This was seconded by RW. **Action:** Clerk to order heated cabinet and try to sell existing cabinet.
- c. Speed Indicator Device at Emborough – TK reported that Dave Grabham from SCC Highways is coordinating the installation of a SID at Emborough. The matter is due to be discussed at Emborough Parish Meeting
- d. Improved signage for Ston Easton – TK reported that he has been in contact with BANES and is awaiting costings for signs similar to those at Farrington Gurney at both ends of the village. The issue of signage for Clapton was also discussed. It was agreed that TK will also seek quotations from other suppliers.

### 5. Highways matters

DW reported that the sides of the road in Hay Street have been filled with planings

RW was surprised that the promised repairs to the junction with the A39, or the central part of the A37, north of the village, had not been carried out when the road was closed outside Home Farm recently.

TO enquired whether the recent road closure in Clapton had caused any problems. AL said that no particular issues had been reported.

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

TO read the following update from Jacky Smith:

The *Get Active Ston Easton Project* has started to apply for grant funding for the sports court and playground. They are having a meeting with the hall trustees and hall committee next week to outline the project and secure their approval.

I have received a call from a couple in the village who were worried by door stepping charity workers trying to sign them up for regular donations. The village was targeted during the day when mostly older residents only would have been at home or parents with young children. There is no reason to think they were not genuine but I am checking and feeding back to the charity concerned about the ethics of targeting potentially vulnerable people in this way.

TO confirmed that the Hall Trustees will also consider whether the land formerly occupied by the Red Rooms should be used for parking or fenced off.

PCSO Nikki Housley apologised for not being able to attend a meeting for some time due to annual leave shift patterns etc. She reported the following incidents:

13/9 road traffic accident near Clare Hall which had resulted in an injury and the road had been closed for a short time.

13/9 two males seen in a black Ford Focus at back of Clapton village hall. There was some suggestion of drug related activity so the area will be patrolled occasionally.

13/10 report of sheep on the road in Emborough

7/11 call re activity of the hunt in the Clapton area

Nikki confirmed that anything of a suspicious nature can be reported by calling 101

TK gave the following update from Mendip DC

Consultation on Local Plan Part II relating to allocating land for development in villages is ongoing. There are no allocations within Clapton or Ston Easton.

There is also consultation on Open Areas of Local Significance, the only site in this parish is Ston Easton Playing fields

The debate about high speed broadband continues. Ston Easton is due to be surveyed before the end of December, Emborough and Chewton Mendip will be on line in March/April 2016 and should then be able to get speeds of up to 24mb. MDC is talking to various companies about how to provide for the 5% of the District not covered by Connecting Devon and Somerset project and a possible wi-fi solution is being considered. Trudoxhill and Wanstrow will trial the system.

Finances – a further 30% cut for local government has been announced and this will mean that another £1.5m savings needs to be found at MDC. Procuring back room operations with other councils across the country will generate significant savings.

MDC is teaming up with Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC) to improve Parish Council engagement. The Rural Forums and Parish Bulletin will now be run

TK reported that there a decision is expected soon on the gypsy and traveller site application at Old Gore Wood, Emborough. RW felt it was unfortunate that the afternoon session of the appeal hearing in September had concentrated on MDC's lack of provision of sites in general within the Mendip DC area rather than the actual application before the Inspector.

## **7. Planning**

No planning applications had been received

## **8. Financial matters**

- a. Payment of the invoice for £137.52 from MDC relating to election expenses was proposed by SH and seconded by AL.
- b. The Clerk reported that the balances in the current and savings accounts were £3,385.97 and £2628.29 respectively.
- c. Payment of the Clerk's expenses of £26.00 was proposed by TK and seconded by DW

## **9. Correspondence**

- a. Mendip Society Newsletter
- b. Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner Newsletter
- c. SCC Provision of de-icing material
- d. SCC appeal for volunteer drivers
- e. SCC Winter Services
- f. SCC Community Resilience in Somerset Project (CRISP)
- g. SCC Egress Switch secure e-mail system
- h. SCC Subsidised bus services and concessionary fares consultation

## **10. Matters for report and items for next meeting**

DW queried whether Ston Easton Park had yet submitted any plans for the development of the stable block etc.

## **11. Date of next meeting** Clapton Village Hall **Thursday 14 January 2016**

