

STON EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of STON EASTON PARISH COUNCIL held at
Clapton Village Hall on Tuesday 8 September 2015 commencing at 6.45pm

Present:

Rob Winkworth (in the chair)
Julian Carver, Steve Huckle, Tom Killen and David Watts
Fiona Lyons - Clerk

1. Apologies and declarations of interest

Apologies had been received from Ainslie Laird and Tom Osborne
There were no declarations of interest

2. Public participation

None

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14 July 2015 were approved with no amendments.

4. Matters arising

- a. Installation of Clapton defibrillator – completed. **Action:** Clerk to purchase signs
- b. Speed Indicator Device at Emborough – TK is meeting with relevant SCC officer shortly and will report back.
- c. Improved signage for Ston Easton – TK is currently liaising with the relevant officer at BANES re the Farrington Gurney signs and will report back.
- d. Tree pruning in Clapton – work now completed and invoice paid.
- e. Outcome of matters raised by members of the public at July meeting – RW reported that a quote has been requested for fencing the area or it was suggested that stones could be used to block area and prevent tipping. Residents have been approached about clearing site and renting land under licence for parking.

5. Highways matters

The following Highways issues were noted:

- Closure of Langleys Lane later in September – diversion is down through village and Clapton Lane which has a weight restriction. AL and SH reported that Clapton residents are concerned about lorries using this route because of the narrow lanes. A one-way system via Strapestone Lane and Hay Street - same as put in place when solar park was being constructed - is seen as a safer option. SH has contacted Neil Corp but no reply as yet.
- RW felt that the road closure would be the ideal opportunity to properly resurface road north of Whitebridge Cottage, Langley's Lane
- DW commented that some of the passing places along Hay Street and Langley's Lane are becoming dangerous where the road has been tarmacked but there is a large drop from the road surface to the verge.

Action: Clerk to email Highways and Harvey Siggs

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

PCSO Nicola Housley had submitted a brief report which included the following incidents:

- 20/08 Report of a suspicious vehicle parked in the layby on the A37. There were two suspicious looking males in the vehicle.
- 24/08 Two reports of a car in the hedge off Dogs Leg lane, Emborough. Police attended and no injuries

Village Agent Jacky Smith had sent the following report:

- There are now 18 Village Agents across the county due to our secured 3 year funding. Generally my villages are keeping me busy with individual clients as well as community issues. I now cover Chilcompton as well.
- The pavement between the trade entrance to Ston Easton Park and the main hotel entrance has now been either replaced or patched. Thanks to the P.C. for driving this forward. The width of the pavement on the bend continues to be a hazard. The necessity to keep the pavement

swept at this time of year to prevent the build-up of debris from the overhanging trees is important as walking on the build-up of leaves and beech nut shells etc makes it very hazardous on the narrow section of the pavement throughout the autumn and winter. **Action:** Clerk to e mail Highways

- A resident had queried whether it would be possible to apply for a 20MPH speed limit from Home Farm on the A37 through the village, down to the end of the bends where the road straightens. **Action:** Clerk to email Highways.
- The *Get Active Ston Easton* sports court project held another fundraising event on Sunday. Exact profits to be confirmed. Those residents and visitors that attended seemed to have a good time but, as always, it would have been great to see more people. Sponsors and helpers were very generous and the sun shone for us. The next move is to have a meeting with the Hall Trustees and then to start applying to the big funders to get the project underway.

TK reported on the following matters from MDC:

Local Plan – Part II, which deals with site allocations is currently under consultation and development in villages could be raised. There is a drop in session on 9 October between 2pm and 8pm at Chilcompton village hall.

Devolution – the Government has offered the opportunity for devolved powers to groups of councils working together. Devon and Somerset Councils have put in a bid. MDC is also looking at working closely with SSDC to achieve savings in service delivery.

The Planning Appeal meeting re Old Gore Lane is being held at the Council offices on Wednesday 16th September, TK felt that it would be advisable for a representative of the Parish Council to attend.

Action: Clerk to ask TO if he is able to attend.

Two additional planning enforcement officers have been appointed at MDC and they will concentrate on breaches where planning permission would be unlikely to be granted.

A consultation has taken place on the funding of the Somerset Rivers Authority which will focus on the Somerset Levels. The preferred option is that the SRA will become a separate precepting authority across the whole of Somerset with an approximate charge of £10-12 per household per year

7. Planning

a. Applications

No planning consultations had been received

b. Approvals/Rejections

- 2015/1447/FUL – Land adj to Old Gore House, Bristol Road, Emborough – Construction of a two bedroom eco house on the site of a redundant garage forecourt, together with a double garage and home office. **Refused**
- 2015/1028/FUL – Land at Marsh Lane, Farrington Gurney – Conversion of existing building and former boat/builders yard to use as a single residential dwelling. **Approved with conditions**

8. Financial matters

- Online banking – the Clerk reported that the online banking is now set up for the Parish Council accounts
- Clerk's expenses – payment of the Clerk's expenses of £29.25 was proposed by DW and seconded by JC.
- Wreaths – **Action:** Clerk to order wreaths. SH to lay the wreath in Clapton and RW in Ston Easton

9. Correspondence

- Letter from James Heappey MP
- Somerset NHS Choices

10. Matters for report and items for next meeting

The Clerk reported that the Audit had been completed and there was an audit fee of £25.00 payable.

TO has had an anonymous complaint from resident that the large agricultural building recently constructed on Thickthorn Lane is now being used for waste sorting and recycling. The complainant queried whether this use required permission/rating. TK advised that this issue could be investigated by MDC enforcement. **Action:** Clerk to contact MDC Enforcement team

SH reported that there was now a regular booking in Clapton village hall every Tuesday evening which meant it was difficult to accommodate the PC meetings. It was agreed that it would be confusing to have alternate meetings on different days of the week as well as different venues and it was suggested that an alternative would be for all future meetings to be moved to the first Thursday of the month. **Action:** Clerk to check availability of Ston Easton Village Hall on a Thursday evening and amend calendar of meetings accordingly.

11. Date of next meeting Ston Easton Village Hall (date to be confirmed)