

STON EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council
Fiona Lyons

Chairman
Tom Osborne

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MINUTES of a PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held at Clapton Village Hall
on Tuesday 12th May 2015 commencing at 8.00pm

Present: Julian Carver, Ainslie Laird, Tom Osborne, Dave Watts
Fiona Lyons (Clerk), Village Agent Jacky Smith

1. Election of Chairman and Vice-chairman

JC proposed that Tom Osborne and Rob Winkworth continue as Chair and Vice Chair respectively. This was seconded by DW and carried unanimously.

2. Apologies and declarations of interest

Apologies had been received from SH, TK RW
There were no declarations of interest

3. Public participation

There were no requests for public participation.

4. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8 March 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

5. Matters arising

- a. Highways matters
Following a request to SCC Highways, signage on Greenditch Lane is going ahead
Refilling of potholes between Whitebridge Cottage and Tesco junction has been unsuccessful and it was suggested that the lane should be resurfaced.
- b. Clerk to circulate a draft of the Summer Newsletter which will hopefully be circulated at the end of May
- c. The Clerk reported that a replacement litter/recycling bin has been ordered for Rush Hill layby

6. Report from District / County Councillor/Village Agent and PCSO

Jacky Smith presented the following report

The Village Agent project has funding in place for the next 3 years and, unusually, the Big Lottery has chosen to fund us for a second time. We currently cover around 50% of Somerset with 15 village agents covering 20 clusters of villages and this is set to increase as agents are now being recruited to cover 2 additional Mendip clusters. I took on Chilcompton earlier this year and am due to take on 3 more villages in June increasing my weekly hours to 13. The year has already been busy with (predominantly older) residents contacting me with a range of issues. Finding care in the home, applications for Blue Badge parking permits, checking benefit/welfare payments, village issues and transport problems, setting up home safety checks with the fire service and organising waste collection from the door rather than the curb for those with mobility problems are just a few of the regular issues. Some problems require me to visit residents, others can be signposted to other agencies or supported on the telephone. During January to March I have attended community events, dealt with unwanted cold callers and investigated care company capacity on the Mendips. The main issue, I am sad to say, is that Mendip residents have been affected by the telephone scam where callers pretend to be from the London Metropolitan Police Fraud Squad. They "groom" their victims (usually older and more vulnerable residents) to feel no one can be trusted and to help them with their investigations into unusual activity on the person's account, they persuade the person to part with vast

amounts of cash.

I have taken part in events in the area such as the MDC *End Loneliness* event and been a judge at a local village show. I have also helped set up another monthly community event and hope to develop more in the coming year.

PCSO Nicola Housley reported that there had been two recent minor traffic incidents in Ston Easton.

Harvey Siggs submitted the following report relating to children and young people in Somerset

- 91.4% schools (LA Maintained and academies) are rated good or better by Ofsted - an increase from 84% in 2015
- Somerset schools are now ranked 20th out of 152 local authority areas on Ofsted standards
- Somerset is the top performing shire county on Ofsted standards
- 58.6% of pupils in Somerset in 2015 achieved the headline 5 GCSE's A to C including English & Maths above the national average and outperforming neighbouring Devon and Dorset.
- 503 children are currently in care, a lower rate than the national average. More than half are with Somerset foster carers, the remainder placed with independent foster carers or independent residential homes
- There is a need for more foster carers especially those who will take sibling groups and children over 10
- There is also a need for more adopters who are prepared to foster a child while his/her future is decided, ie they may have to face giving the child up if the decision is against adoption.

7. Planning Matters

A Decision Notice had been received in respect of the following application:

2016/0350/CLE – Easton Cottage, Easton Court, Ston Easton - Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for the existing use as a separate dwelling was approved.

8. Clare Hall Garden Party

The Clerk had received correspondence from Clare Hall relating to their Garden Party which is being held on Sunday 12 June. Several members of the Parish Council will attend to support the event. The event is also being publicised on the Summer Newsletter. **Action:** Clerk to clarify whether a donation, raffle prize or sponsorship is required.

9. Financial matters

DW proposed that the following financial matters be agreed. This was seconded by AL and carried

- a. The £243.04 renewal premium for the annual insurance with AON
- b. SALC Affiliation Fee of £136.76
- c. Donation of £20 to Chewton Mendip Parish Magazine
- d. Donation of £100 to Mendip CAB
- e. Donation of £100 to Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance
- f. Payment of £25 to Ston Easton Village Hall Caretaker for checking defibrillator
- g. Contribution of £10 towards cleaning bus shelter by a local resident
- h. Retention of internal auditor £50
- i. Donations of £325.00 to both Clapton and Ston Easton Village Halls
- j. Payment of the Clerk's expenses of £79.00 which included the production of the Newsletter

10. Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were noted:

- a. Mendip Society Newsletter
- b. Somerset Choices

11. Matters for report and items for next meeting

12. Date of next meeting (Tuesday 12th July 2016)