

STON EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of **Ston Easton Parish Council** held
at **Ston Easton Village Hall** on **Tuesday 12th July 2016** commencing at **7.30pm**

Present: Tom Osborne (Chair)

Councillors Julian Carver, Steve Huckle, Tom Killen, Ainslie Laird, David Watts, Rob Winkworth
Fiona Lyons (Clerk)

1. Apologies and declarations of interest

Apologies had been received from PCSO Nicola Housley, Jacky Smith, SCCllr Harvey Siggs

TO declared an interest in Item 6 Planning application at Old Down Farm, Emborough as he rents some land from the applicant.

2. Public participation

There were no members of the public present at the meeting

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12 May 2016 were approved

4. Matters arising

a. Highways matters

TO – said that recent resurfacing the lane had been carried out to a very high standard. It had to be re-done again after flash flooding removed the tarmac.

The layby opposite/below Langleys Cottages has a 6-7” drop at the side of road. **Action:** TK to check as this may be private land

Other laybys along Langley’s Lane have similar problems.

RW suggested that we could investigate the cost of having those areas repaired

Another suggestion was to approach Forticrete/R M Penny to see if they would fill the areas as some of the damage is caused by their lorries using the lanes.

RW said that the verges and pavements through Ston Easton are very overgrown and need spraying
TK confirmed that this is a MDC responsibility. **Action:** TK to check the schedule for carrying out this work.

b. Newsletter – The Clerk asked for feedback and suggested that Autumn Newsletter is produced and circulated for the August Bank Holiday weekend to publicise the Ston Easton Village Fun Day on 11 September. SH said that he had received good feedback when delivering the Newsletters in Clapton. It was agreed that future Newsletters should be printed in colour and the cost was relatively low considering the number of households that are receiving the Newsletter.

c. The Chairman confirmed that the new bin for the layby at Rush Hill had been delivered. **Action:** TO to ask Pete King to fix the bin in place.

d. Village signs – TK confirmed that he is awaiting information from Frome Signs

5. Reports from District / County Councillor / Village Agent and PCSO

TK said that June had been extremely busy with the referendum and Glastonbury Festival.

The main issue for MDC is devolution. MDC has agreed in principle to join a combined authority with other all councils in Devon and Somerset (18 districts, 2 county and one unitary). The next step is to put a structure in place and find out what funding would be available from central Government. The bid is being led by Somerset and Devon County Councils.

RW queried whether cost savings across the management levels are being sought as part of the process. TK confirmed that the bid was part of the Government's drive to devolve powers to a local level. One possibility is to have a mayor of the combined area but it was unlikely that this would be acceptable at the present time.

TK reported that there has been an issue with house sales being delayed because of backlog in Land Charges searches. This had caused by a lack of experienced staff within the team due to maternity leave. To resolve this issue, the Land Charges service is to be transferred to Capita as soon as possible.

SH queried whether the cessation of the Council Tax Support Grant would affect the rate relief granted to village halls. TK confirmed that this would not be the case.

TO queried the position with BT and broadband. TK reported that new cabinets have been installed for Chewton Mendip. Ston Easton should be connected to the superfast system later this year.

PCSO Nicola Housley sent in a brief report which included the following incidents in the parish:

09/06 minor accident at Emborough crossroads

09/06 van seen with 3 foreign males asking for scrap at Hay Street Farm

14/06 calf in road Emborough

17/06 2 calls about a flood in Ston Easton

18/06 flood at Clapton

Jacky Smith had submitted the following report:

The last couple of months have seen me beginning to introduce myself and the Village Agent project to my new villages, Holcombe, Stratton on Fosse and Stoke St Michael. My hours are now 13 per week to cover new area. This always takes a little time for people to get to know me and have confidence in our service and confidentiality. Regular and new clients are ongoing with some issues easily sorted and others taking much longer.

I am in the throes of trying to organise local IT courses for those with little or no skills with laptops and handheld devices. The courses have attracted quite a lot of interest but the challenge is to find venues locally that have good WIFI connection. Courses in Chewton/Ston Easton, Chilcompton and Holcombe are being planned and then run by Somerset Skills and Learning CIC.

Further funding applications are being made to charities for our Get Active Ston Easton village project and a Family Fun day and Dog show is planned for 11th September at the Village hall. Parish Council support for this would be appreciated in the form of willing volunteers to help run stalls. Please contact myself or Sue Carter.

6. Planning matters

2016/1092/FUL Old Down Farm, Old Down, Emborough Wells BA3 4SA

Change of use of agricultural land for outdoor storage of caravans and construction of landscape bunds.

TK confirmed that he had considered the information before him at this meeting but had not predetermined the application.

The application had been circulated prior to the meeting. Some concern was raised about the restricted opening times and the proposed surface of the yard not being suitable for caravan parking. It was felt another application could be submitted and this could lead to further commercialisation of agricultural land.

TK confirmed the only planning issue that could be considered was whether the proposed development would be intrusive on the landscape.

Some felt that the application would result in a good use of the land and that screening measures such as the bunding and proposed planting scheme would mitigate the impact on the landscape. A vote was taken on whether to recommend the application for approval, the result was 3 votes in favour and three votes against. There was no casting vote as the Chairman had declared an interest in the application.

TK said that, as there were strong views in support and against the application, he could request that it is considered by the Planning Board. This was agreed as the best way forward.

7. Financial matters

- a. The Clerk reported that balances of the current and savings account were £4815.89 and 2629.15 respectively
AL queried whether a donation could be made towards the multi-use playground scheme. It was agreed that it may be better to reconsider this when the fundraising for the scheme is further advanced. Other suggestions included a donation towards road surfacing and repairs to the seat on Zion Hill/Langleys Lane and the notice board at the Old Down Inn. **Action:** RW agreed to look at the seat and noticeboard.
- b. Payment of the Clerk's expenses of £92.20, which included the cost of printing the Summer Newsletter, was agreed.

8. Correspondence

- a. MDC – Gypsy and Traveller Count
- b. SCC – Sunsmart campaign
- c. SCC – Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- d. Community Council for Somerset Newsletter
- e. SCC – Highways Environmental Maintenance Information Sheet 2016
- f. Somerset Waste Partnership briefing
- g. SCC – Minerals and Waste Consultation
- h. SCC – Nominations for Chairman's awards AL proposed that Pat Harper is nominated for an award, this was seconded by RE and agreed. **Action:** AL to forward details of the nomination to the Clerk.
- i. Sport England - Active Lives survey **Action:** AL and JC to complete and return the survey

9. Matters for report and items for next meeting

- DW queried whether the cricket pitch was still being used. TO reported that it is no longer used and the village hall committee maintain the grass.
- DW was pleased to note that the pile of spoil to the side of the village hall had now been removed.
- AL reported that she attended Queen's birthday tea at Clare Hall and baked a cake which she took along on behalf of the Parish Council. The event had been reasonably well attended although it had to be held inside due to the weather.

10. Date of next meeting Thursday 8th September 2016 at Clapton Village Hall