

STON EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of STON EASTON PARISH COUNCIL held at
STON EASTON VILLAGE HALL on **TUESDAY 14 MARCH 2017** commencing at **7.30pm**

Present: Tom Osborne (Chair), Julian Carver, Ainsley Laird, Tom Killen, Dave Watts,
SCC/r Harvey Siggs, Fiona Lyons (Clerk)

1. Apologies and declarations of interest

Apologies had been received from Steve Huckle, Jacky Smith and Nicola Housley

2. Public participation

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12 January 2017 were agreed with no amendments

4. Matters arising

- a. **Ston Easton signage** – TK reported that he is waiting to hear back from SCC that they are happy for SEPC to put the signs up.
- b. **Broadband** – TK reported that the service will be going live imminently. It is worth reiterating that residents will need to ask BT for an upgrade to take advantage of the service.
- c. **War Memorial Listing** - It was generally agreed that, as there would be no funds available from the church to help cover the costs involved in relocating the memorial, it should remain in its current position
- d. **Adopt-a-Kiosk** – the Clerk reported that she had received an email from BT asking the Parish Council to confirm whether or not the telephone box in Clapton is situated on private land. **Action:** TK to check ownership of the land. Some concern was again expressed about the costs involved in repairing and maintaining the boxes.
- e. **Spring Parish Newsletter** – the Clerk said that the Newsletter would be ready for printing following this meeting and ready for distribution during the last week of March.

5. Highways matters

The responses from Highways to the reported speeding issues in Ston Easton were noted. The possibility of extending the 30mph and 40mph limits was discussed and HS said that he can argue for such a buffer zone but there would be concern as to whether it would be enforced by the Police. The possibility of double white lines was also raised and HS confirmed that this had made a difference on the road between Chilcompton and White Post.

JC reported that a cyclist had been injured recently due to the bad condition of the road surface in Greenditch Lane. **Action:** Clerk to report this to Highways

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

HS informed the meeting that he will be standing down as a County Councillor at the election in May after 12 years during which time he has been responsible for the HR, Highways, Resources and Finance Portfolios. He was proud that he had introduced small improvement schemes including those in Draycott, Chilcompton and Gurney Slade. A major improvement scheme for a roundabout or staggered junction at Burnt Wood Crossroads is being considered and HS said that he would hope to tie everything up before the election.

HS reported that Mike Pullin is the Conservative candidate for the Mendip Hills Division. All members of the Parish Council expressed their thanks to HS for all help and support he had provided during his term of office.

- TK reported that MDC had agreed a budget on 20 February including a small increase of 1.99% in Council Tax. MDC is in a reasonable financial position as borrowing is at a very low level.
- The *Shape Mendip Lottery* has been launched – residents can play the lottery to benefit local good causes. TK reiterated that this is additional money and will not replace any funding currently given to good causes.
- A series of Digital Workshops are being carried out across the District to help businesses improve digital skills.
- Entries for the *Mendip Business Awards* are open up to the end of March.
- The Council's Economic Development Strategy is being reviewed and a survey of local businesses will be carried out.
- Fly tipping – TK apologised for the delay in collection the rubbish dumped in Langleys Lane which had been a result of confusion over whether the site was in Mendip or BANES. This has been resolved and any reported fly tipping should now be collected quickly. TO mentioned that there had been no follow up to information given to MDC which could have helped to trace the culprit he gave TK the paperwork which had been discovered at the site. Some concern was expressed about the recent increase in fly tipping which it was felt had been exacerbated by the restrictions being imposed at the household waste recycling facilities in both BANES and Mendip and could potentially worsen again when refuse collections are moved to three weekly intervals.

Village Agent

Jacky had sent in the following report:

The Winter months have been quite busy on the patch. Many requests for help with finding care at home. Provision from larger Care Companies seems to be getting harder and harder so more local independent carers are stepping up via Somerset County "Micro Enterprise scheme", which provides help and guidance to those who wish to set up care at home businesses in local villages.

Nuisance phone calls are plaguing the area once again. These cause distress and an irritant to older people some of whom may not have the more up to date telephones that have caller display etc. Call barring and telephone preference services do not stop the majority of these calls. Some people have been getting 10-15 calls a day.

The Get Active Ston Easton project continues to progress, with work hopefully starting this year. More grants are being applied for but also local fundraising events continue to held. THE NEXT ONE IS A CURRY AND QUIZ NIGHT ON 22ND APRIL. WE ARE HOPING THAT PARISH COUNCILLORS WILL JOIN US FOR THIS? A PARISH COUNCIL TEAM WOULD BE AMAZING!!! CALL Sue Carter to book a table (or two)!

PCSO

Nicola Housley reported the following incidents in the past month

05/03/2017 Road flooded just past Emborough crossroads

06/03/2017 Complaint re the Hunt near Emborough pond

There is a new Rural Beat Manager, PC 2571 Heather Anderton covering the villages. Contact details for Heather are: Heather.Anderton@avonandsomerset.police.co.uk.

7. Planning matters

Approval of 2016/2906/VRC – 82 Green Street, Ston Easton - Variation of condition 2 of planning consent 2015/0019/HSE to account for amendments to approved drawings was noted.

DW asked whether there was any news relating to the application at Old Gore Wood. TK confirmed that an application to discharge the conditions relating to landscaping, sewerage and

other matters had been received. He reported that there are a few potential issues with what has been proposed.

8. Financial matters

- a. Payment of the Clerk's expenses of £52.74 was proposed by DW and seconded by AL

9. Correspondence

- a. SALC – SAAA Audit Arrangements 2017-2022
- b. Rural Services Network - Growing a Rural Network for Mendip
- c. Royal British Legion Admiral Nurses

10. Matters for report and items for next meeting

SH had emailed his concerns about the revised arrangements for trailers/vans at recycling centres and the potential impact on fly-tipping in rural areas.

AL said that a painting party had recently been held to carry out some decoration in Ston Easton Village Hall. It was felt that there was a need for some sound proofing to be carried out as the acoustics in the hall are poor. AL confirmed that curtains and rails are being installed over the back windows which may help with the acoustics.

- 11. Date of next meeting (Annual Meeting)** It was agreed to change the date of the Annual Meeting at Clapton Village Hall from Thursday 11th to **Thursday 18th May**, commencing at 7.30pm