

STON EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council
Fiona Lyons

Chairman
Tom Osborne

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MINUTES of a meeting of STON EASTON PARISH COUNCIL held at
Clapton Village Hall on THURSDAY 12 January 2017 commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Tom Osborne (Chair) Julian Carver, Steve Huckle, Tom Killen, Ainslie Laird, David Watts and Rob Winkworth. Fiona Lyons (Clerk)

1. Apologies and declarations of interest

Apologies had been received from Jacky Smith
There were no declarations of interest.

2. Public participation

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8 November 2016 were agreed with no amendments

4. Matters arising

a. Ston Easton signage

TK noted comments in the last minutes relating to having metal instead of wooden posts. The quote obtained was for signs similar to the ones in Farrington which are wood. He is currently talking to Highways re design of the signs. The inclusion of an emblem was discussed but it was agreed that they will be plain with just the village name. Expenditure had been agreed at the previous meeting.

Action: TK to order the signs and report back to next meeting.

b. Broadband

RW reported that the road closure is now scheduled for 19th January. It will then be approximately 14 days after the connection that the cabinet will go live and will then be open to taking orders. RW clarified that residents will only benefit from the faster speeds if they order or upgrade to a fibre service. This was confirmed by TK who has recently been appointed on to the Board of Connecting Devon and Somerset. TK also reported that a new contract has just been awarded to Gigaclear to carry out Phase II. Gigaclear will be offering a fibre to premises roll out which could provide speeds of up to 1000mg. This will be available to residents in areas not included in the 95% coverage including Emborough and Binegar.

c. Parish Newsletter

Although there has been very little feedback it was generally agreed that the Newsletter should continue although it was felt that it should be produced 3, rather than 4, times per year. The Clerk reported that she had found an online printing company which will print and courier the Newsletters for £30, a saving of £18 against having them printed locally. **Action:** Clerk to produce the next Newsletter prior to Easter.

5. Highways matters

a. Potholes

RW stated that most of the work previously identified has been carried out but some of the tarmac has already been washed out. Some sites were identified but it was agreed to wait until the risk of cold weather has passed before reporting.

b. Flooding by Clapton War Memorial

SH and JC stated that this flooding was a natural consequence of the lie of the land and only happens occasionally when there is extreme rainfall water runs off fields comes down Greenditch Lane. SH suggested that the Parish Council should consider having a plan in to deal with flooding of houses in the village.

c. Speed issues in Ston Easton

It was agreed that damage caused to residents' vehicles recently was regrettable. TK said that he is lobbying to extend the 30mph limit to include all the properties on the approach to the village and extend the 40mph limit further towards Emborough. It was felt that this could help to slow down traffic approaching the village from the south. **Action:** Clerk to write to Highways to support TK's proposal.

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

TK – reported that December had been a reasonably busy month for MDC.

Broadband – see above

Glastonbury Festival

The 'post mortem' meeting for Glastonbury Festival had concluded that it had all run smoothly apart from the traffic issues. GFL has agreed to review their traffic management plan this year.

Somerset Waste Partnership

SWP has finalised its proposals on waste collection and recycling. From end of this year waste collections will be three weekly but all plastics will be recycled on a weekly basis. This has been partly savings driven but an extensive pilot of the scheme in Wivelscombe had resulted in an 80% satisfaction result. The three recycling bins will continue to be collected on a weekly basis and there are no changes to the garden waste service.

Finance

By 2020 all central Government grant funding will have ceased and MDC will be entirely self-financing. A decision has been made to borrow £40m and invest this to create income streams post 2020.

Markets

The 4 day Wells Christmas Market was a great success and Shepton Mallet now has a monthly Sunday market as does Frome. It is hoped that there will be further additional markets in Glastonbury and Street.

Local Plan

Work on Part II of the Local Plan, which will allocate areas for housing, has been started. There is a need to provide 450 – 500 houses across the district each year. There is no direct impact on this parish.

DW expressed concerns that any savings achieved in reducing household waste collections will be countered by an increase in the costs of flytipping which will surely increase, especially as it is now more difficult to take items to the Household Waste Recycling Centres. TK said that this had not been the experience during the pilot scheme and the majority of flytipping is actually commercial rather than residential. TK also informed the meeting that a case of flytipping by a commercial operator in Priddy had resulted in a fine of £800 to the householder.

The PCSO was not present at the meeting but it was reported that the Co-op in Chilcompton had been broken into for the second time in the past month. The culprits were apprehended in Wiltshire.

7. Planning Matters

8. Historic England – Listing of War Memorials Consultation

It was generally agreed that listing the War Memorials in Clapton and Ston Easton was a good idea. However, there was a discussion about moving the Ston Easton memorial to a more suitable position such as the un-consecrated ground attached to the churchyard. This had been explored in the past and AL agreed to check that the PCC had no objections. It was agreed that the Clerk will include an item on the next Newsletter asking residents for their opinion on the memorial being moved. There are no issues relating to the listing of the War Memorial in Clapton.

RW proposed that the Clerk write to Historic England supporting the listing of the War memorial in Clapton but asking for the decision relating to Ston Easton to be deferred for a year whilst the issue of moving the Memorial is fully considered. This was seconded by TK and agreed.

Action: Clerk to contact Historic England as above.

9. Proposed removal of telephone boxes in Ston Easton and Clapton

BT are considering removal of both the telephone boxes in Clapton and Ston Easton. Under the proposal the boxes can be adopted for £1. SH reported that he had informed residents of Zion Hill about the proposed removal of the telephone box but had not received any feedback to date.

It was generally felt that it would be regrettable if the telephone boxes were to disappear as they are part of the village landscape. However, there was some concern about ongoing costs of maintenance, liability etc. The box in Clapton is in a reasonable state of repair but the one in Ston Easton will need filling, painting and the glass replacing. If the parish council do adopt them they will be covered under the third-party insurance. TK confirmed that both Priddy and Chewton Mendip have adopted their telephone boxes.

RW proposed that the parish council adopt both the telephone boxes and seek quotations for the required refurbishment/maintenance. This was seconded by JC and carried by 5 votes to 0 with 2 abstentions.

Action: Clerk to progress the adoption of the telephone boxes in Ston Easton and Clapton.

10. Financial matters

a. Dispensations – the Clerk confirmed all members of the Parish Council have Dispensations which are valid until May 2019.

b. Council Tax Base and setting the Parish Council precept for 2017-2018

It was noted that the Council Tax Support Grant is longer available and, although it was felt that a rise could be acceptable as the precept had remained at the same rate for many years, it was difficult to justify if there were no plans for expenditure. It was suggested that repairs could be carried out on benches etc in the villages. TK proposed that the residents are asked for their ideas in the next Newsletter.

RW proposed that the precept stay at £4600 for 2017/8. This was seconded by SH and carried by 6 votes to 1. **Action:** that the Parish Precept be set at £4600 for 2017/18.

c. Clerk's expenses - payment of the clerk's expenses of £62.90 was proposed by DW, seconded by RW and agreed.

11. Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were noted:

- a. Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner - Newsletter /Police and Crime Plan
- b. MDC - Gypsy and Traveller Count 16 January 2017
- c. MDC - Street Trading Policy
- d. MDC - Calendar of meetings 2017-2018
- e. MDC – Reporting suspected planning breaches
- f. Royal British Legion
- g. SCC – Reporting Potholes
- h. Somerset Civil Contingencies Unit - 'Somerset Prepared' Newsletter
- i. Somerset Waste Partnership – December Briefing

12. Matters for report and items for next meeting

Date of next meeting – Ston Easton Village Hall. Tuesday 14 March 2017