

STON EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of STON EASTON PARISH COUNCIL held at
STON EASTON VILLAGE HALL on TUESDAY 11 July 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), Jude Irvine (New Clerk), Jacky Smith (Village Agent)

The Chairman introduced Jude Irvine who will take over as Clerk from August 1st.

1. Apologies and declarations of interest

Apologies had been received from PCSO Nicola Housley and Somerset County Councillor Mike Pullin

2. Public participation

JS said that Village Agents now cover 75% of the county. Some funding has been renewed for the next 3 years and other sources are being identified.

Recent issues have included some residents in Priddy have reporting people calling door to door selling household goods claiming to be ex-offenders on a rehabilitation programme. JS confirmed that there is no such programme. There are also still many calls from residents worried about telephone scams.

JS reported that R M Penny have carried out some work on the Sports Court free of charge which can be used as match funding for the project

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 18 May 2017 were agreed with no amendments.

4. Matters arising

- a. Ston Easton signage – TK reported that he is liaising with Somerset County Councillor Mike Pullin about putting in a 'small improvements work' bid to extend the speed limit along the A37 towards Emborough. This will potentially include new signage saving the Parish Council money.
- b. Adopt-a-Kiosk - RW reported that there is currently no progress on this matter. DW felt that the Parish Council should not proceed with the planned refurbishment of the telephone kiosks. It was noted that the kiosks will be removed if not adopted by the Parish Council.
- c. Summer Parish Newsletter – The Clerk had circulated a draft of the Summer newsletter. DW queried whether there was any need to continue with the newsletter as it duplicated information already available in the Parish Magazine. It was agreed that a communication channel with residents was needed and SH suggested that the minutes were circulated to all households following each meeting. TK agreed to circulate the Summer Newsletter.
- d. Grass cutting in Ston Easton churchyard – some has been done
- e. The formal appointment of Jude Irvine as Parish Clerk from August 1st was proposed by SH, seconded by RW and agreed unanimously.

5. Highways matters

RW has queried with Neil Corp at Somerset Highways why the pavement close to the church has been resurfaced when the pavement at the other end of the village between Ston Easton Park and Easton Court is in a far worse state. Neil had responded that there had been a 'marked increase of actionable safety defects in last three years'

RW said that he was minded to make a Freedom of Information request on this matter. TK confirmed that Mike Pullin is trying to ensure that the footpath and road around the bends are resurfaced as a matter of priority.

TO noted that the three defects previously reported south of the piggeries in Thickthorn Lane, the drain North of Hay Street on Thickthorn Lane and the T Junction of Thickthorn Lane and Hay Street had not been repaired

RW added the Rush Hill junction and the turning into Hay Street from the A37 were still outstanding

Action: Clerk to report these issues to Highways

JC said that the hedge close to his entrance is very overgrown with large branches protruding into Greenditch Lane. This is causing issues for vehicles using the lane. **Action:** SH to discuss with the landowners

AL queried whether the Parish Council would carry put pollarding of trees in the village as in previous years. **Action:** SH to ask New Leaf to quote for this work

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

TK reported that June had been a busy month as both Glastonbury Festival and the elections had put pressure on the authority – potential terrorist threats etc

Crime levels at Glastonbury were really low but there have since been a large number of fake £20 notes in circulation in the district. Over 200 officers are involved in ensuring the smooth running and safety of the festival.

A Peer Review had recently been carried out the findings of which were very favourable

Recent events at Grenfell Tower and Camber Sands have put local authorities under scrutiny. MDC undertook an immediate review of all public buildings in the district and no issues had been discovered.

A New Economic Development Strategy has been carried out which identified a shortage of employment sites in the district. There is also a skills shortage and the council is working with local colleges to address this situation. Also, more commitment is being put into a mentoring and business support service in conjunction with the Chambers of Commerce.

PCSO Nicola Housley was unable to attend the meeting but had submitted the following report:

14/06 2 males looking around the church, appeared to be acting suspiciously, when challenged they said they were looking for elderflowers, they then hastily jumped back in their vehicles and left.

03/07 An attempt theft of a vehicle from Hay Street

7. Planning matters

None

8. Financial matters

Agreement of the following financial matters was proposed by DW, seconded by RW and carried unanimously.

- a. Renewal of annual insurance - £243.04
- b. SALC Affiliation Fee - £137.02
- c. Donation to Chewton Mendip Parish Magazine £20
- d. Request for funding from Mendip CAB £100
- e. Donation to Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance £100
- f. Payment to Ston Easton Village Hall Caretaker for checking defibrillator £25
- g. Contribution towards cleaning bus shelter £10
- h. Retention of internal auditor £50
- i. Clapton and SEVH £325.00 each
- j. Payment of £140 to New Leaf for trimming laurels around Clapton War Memorial
- k. Clerk's expenses

9. Correspondence

- a. MDC – Public Space Protection Order consultation – noted.
- b. MDC – Gypsy and Traveller count 2017 – **Action:** Clerk to submit a Nil return
- c. Contact form re footpath near golf course being blocked and overgrown – **Action:** Clerk to advise that the path referred to is on private land and is not the public footpath which runs along the side of the golf course

10. Matters for report and items for next meeting

AL – queried whether political information was allowed outside of Polling stations. The information referred to was the poster advertising James Heappey’s surgeries in the noticeboard and it was agreed that this did not amount to political campaign information.

DW queried whether the Parish Council could suggest that the annual donation is used towards the acoustics in the hall or carrying out some repairs to the drive. **Action:** Clerk to mention this in the letter with the cheque to Ston Easton Village Hall Committee.

The issue of the broken-down car on land adjacent to Ston Easton village hall was raised. It was noted that this is land is the responsibility of the Trustees of the hall Trustees. Various options for blocking this land were discussed. RW suggested that a notice should be fixed to the vehicle informing the owners that if it is not removed within 15 days it will be towed and scrapped.

The Chairman thanked the outgoing Clerk for her work over the past five years and presented her with a spa voucher on behalf of the Parish Council.

11. Date of next meeting Clapton Village Hall Thursday 14 September 2017