

4.4 TO reported that at the informal meeting on 29 October it was agreed to make a grant of £500 to Ston Easton Village Hall and £500 towards Get Active from the current Financial Year. Formally this was proposed by SH and seconded by AD at this meeting. It was agreed that the subject would be discussed further for possible further grant provision in the 2021/22 financial year.

5 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 30 JUNE AND FROM THE INFORMAL MEETING HELD ON 29 OCTOBER 2020

5.1 **Strap Lane** – TK stated that Ian Glover the Enforcement Officer was now dealing with this and an update is urgently awaited which TK agreed to circulate when it is available. MP suggested that the Council should write formally to the Enforcement Officer.
Post Meeting Note: TO has been in contact with Ian Glover and supplied a plan showing the location of the sites and suggested that any visit is made with an independent witness. The results of this visit are awaited and for the moment the formal letter is on hold.

5.2 **Fingerpost** – corner of Greenditch Lane and Zion Hill – a quote is to be obtained for a new base post from Somerset Forge. **Clerk**

5.3 **Defibrillator** – a decision needs to be made on the replacement of the defibrillator at Ston Easton and whether it will be possible to obtain funding. The Clerk will obtain an up to date quote from AED Locator. **Clerk**

5.4 **Noticeboard – Emborough** – Clerk to send an order through for a new noticeboard. **Clerk**

5.5 **Telephone Box (Ston Easton)** – volunteer required to keep it clean and it needs to be painted. It was agreed that something would be put on the village website page to see if there were any volunteers to do the work. **Clapton Box** – SH will mention this at the Village Hall Committee meeting.

6 HIGHWAYS

6.1 **30mph limit in Ston Easton** – suggested that the limit needs to be moved so that 40mph goes back 100/200 yards along the A37 and the 30mph limit starts where the existing 40mph limit starts now. MP suggested contacting Sara Davis Somerset CC stating that a solution is required to slow traffic down as it enters the village and asking if Highways could come and assess the situation. The speed of vehicles through Clapton was also mentioned with a suggestion that the speed limit should be reduced to 20 mph. Further consideration to road markings and signage should be done by SCC. **Clerk**

6.2 **Verges** – it was noted the T Candy had cut the verges at a cost of £306.00. It was noted that the Parish Council would have to fund further verge and hedge cutting and there is a requirement for the pavements alongside the A37 in Ston Easton to be cleared. It was noted that there is someone in Chewton Mendip who carries out similar work and it was agreed that it would be worth approaching him to see if he would be interested in undertaking work in Ston Easton and Clapton. TK has a number and will contact him. AD stated that Ston Easton PCC will be making a request for help towards the churchyard grass cutting. It was noted that any organisation which has a request for funding from the PC should come forward with a properly constituted request and quotes. **TK**

6.3 **Drains/Potholes** - AD wrote to MP some time ago about the continued lack of action by Somerset CC on drainage along Clapton Road and the broken/blocked drain on the corner of Zion Hill, Clapton. MP has observed the problem and will be in contact with AD. SH stated that he had reported a collapsed drain outside Forticrete in October but nothing has been done so far there is also road surface damage and a pothole which has also been reported previously. Potholes have been reported on the SCC pothole page.

6.4 MP will speak to Sarah Davis regarding the proposed alterations to the speed limit. **MP**

7 **VILLAGE SIGNS**

7.1 These have been ordered by RW but a contractor is needed to install them. It was noted that SCC may need to be involved with permission for the installation and this query can also be raised with Sarah Davis RW will send an email round with a picture of the proposed signs. The bottom of the sign will have a roundel to accommodate the speed limit. It was agreed that these signs need to be installed as soon as possible. **RW**

8 **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT**

- 2020/1063/FUL - The use of land as a 9 pitch traveller's caravan site at Old Gore Wood, Old Gore Lane, Emborough for Mr S Essex has been refused
- Issue of phosphate ingress on the levels which currently means that many planning applications both commercial and residential are on hold to the west of the Mendips. The Government is likely to be involved in resolving this issue.
- Free parking from 17 to 24 December in Mendip car parks

9 **PLANNING ISSUES**

9.1 Some work is being done at the top of Rush Hill but as this is private land the Parish Council are unable to get involved. TK agreed to have a look and find out what is happening. **TK**

10 TELEPHONE BOXES

10.1 It was agreed to include the upkeep of the telephone boxes in the budget. Telephone boxes to be added to the asset register.

11 APPLICATION OF SLURRY IN CLAPTON

11.1 There have been complaints made by local residents in Clapton about slurry spreading which has taken place in a field opposite the residence of Jenny and Maynard Carver. It has caused concern, disruption and distress to at least three sets of residents including the Carvers. The cause of the complaints being excessive spreading of slurry, slurry not being ploughed in, slurry not being pre-treated so causing a nuisance due to the unpleasant and pervasive odour to the residents, furthermore it was taking place at a variety of times including Sundays.

11.2 The Parish Council has been approached by Carole Stanaway on behalf of herself and her neighbours. She has spoken to the farmer concerned but the slurry spreading continued after this discussion. Ms Stanaway has also approached MDC and TK. TK has spoken to the farmer. It was noted that the action to date appears to be in contravention of the advice and guidance by DEFRA which states, if possible to reduce odour and ammonia loss by:

- Using a band spreader or injector to apply slurry
- Otherwise use broadcast equipment with a low trajectory and large droplets. Broadcast slurry (by splash plate) should be incorporated immediately and at the latest within six hours
- If solid manure it should be incorporated as soon as possible and at the latest within 24 hours
- The Code also advises that the best conditions for spreading is where air is mixed to a great height above the ground which are typically sunny, windy days followed by cloudy, windy nights. These conditions cause odours to be diluted quickly
- Farmers are also advised to avoid spreading at weekends, bank holidays, in the evening or in fields close to and upwind of houses unless it is solid manure that has been well composted or slurry that is to be band spread, injected or has been treated to reduce odour.

11.3 CONCLUSION

It was agreed that no further action takes place at the moment which will allow the farmer the opportunity to make improvements to the treatment of the field in the future and to act in a more neighbourly manner should the field or fields be further fertilized.

11.4 The report on this issue is to record the complaint that has been made to the Parish Council and MDC and also to record the activity that has taken place to date and allow for appropriate

action to be taken by the Parish Council should the action or similar by the farmer result in further complaint from the local residents in the future.

12 FINANCIAL MATTERS

12.1 **Precept for 2021/22** – the Clerk reported that the precept request has to be with MDC on or before 15 January 2021. It was agreed that before a precept amount could be considered a budget needs to be compiled and TO/RW will do this as soon as possible. The Clerk agreed to send information through to TO/RW to assist with the budget. Once the budget is put together and distributed an email exchange will take place on the setting of the precept amount for next year with a view to finalising this before the MDC deadline (see separate minute)

12.2 **Financial Statement** – the Clerk presented the finance statement as at 15 December 2020 and this was approved as a correct record

12.3 **Audit** – The Certificate of Exemption needs to be signed by TO and sent to the Clerk for onward transmission to the Auditors.

12.4 **Clerk’s Expenses** – July to November 2020 £771.68. Proposed for payment by AD, seconded TK.

13 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

SH – footpaths

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 9 February 2021(to be confirmed)