

- On 10.11.20 IG attended but unfortunately went to the wrong location. He zip tied the metal gates in order to detect any movement. On 23 .11.20 he returned to the site and because there was no movement of the zip ties he removed them. ..On 15.12.20 IG contacted TK with observations that there was no unlawful occupation. Subsequently TO sent a plan showing the proper location which was 400m up the lane in an area which had not been checked.
- On 29.01 21 IG attended the area with a colleague. A pack of dogs came to the gates which prompted the gentleman to come out – he was told that they were representatives from MDC.
- It was explained to him that this was a Planning Enforcement case. He stated that he had lived on the land for 8-10 years and was the owner of the area and the Old Ammo Store
- The area where he has a compound is in front of a solar energy farm. There is a mobile home, a caravan, several vehicles, a couple of sea containers and a generator. There is no electricity or mains water. The whole visit was recorded on Body Worn Video.(BWV)
- On 27.01.21 IG had conversations with Planning Enforcement regarding the location with a view to downloading the BWV footage to them but unfortunately because of IT issues this has not been possible.so therefore the case has not been passed back to them
- The land registry on the property ST161902 shows that the land was bought on 16.10.17 by Mr G Drew. He owns the compound and the concrete building. The roadway does not belong to him.
- The land in question has no residential status but Mr Drew would be eligible to apply for a change of use retrospectively if he so wished and to go through the planning process. The main issue would be whether his presence harms the amenity which is a very subjective point.
- The case has now been passed to Planning Enforcement to continue

5.2 **Clapton – The Wood Yard** – there was no report available for this location

5.3 **Fingerpost** – There is a broken finger post at the T junction where Zion Hill meets Langley's Lane on the edge of Clapton. The finger post with the broken base is the one at the junction of Greenditch Lane and Zion hill/Clapton Road, by the village

hall. There is also a broken sign, which was caught when the hedges were cut and the roundel has been ripped off the stand, which is on Greenditch Lane, just past End House, on the right, and slightly further up from the turning into New Manor Farm on the left. Clerk to obtain quotes from Somerset Forge

Clerk

5.4 **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 **Telephone Box (Clapton)** – SH stated that he will see if a volunteer is available in Clapton to deal with the Clapton box which needs some extra work where the wood has rotted. **(Ston Easton)** this is slightly more difficult because of the location and the requirement to carry out some power washing. A parishioner will be asked if he is willing to allow a washer to be plugged in on his property. When SH has a date for Clapton it is hoped to be able to carry out the work to both. **SH**

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

6 VACANCY FOR COUNCILLOR

6.1 It was agreed to record the Council's thanks to David Watts for his long period of service and commitment to the Council. It was also agreed that the Clerk would draft a letter for David which she will distribute to Councillors for comment before sending to him. **Clerk**

6.2 It was noted that the deadline for the vacancy is 23 March whereby if 10 electors have not come forward to request an election then the Council can move to co-option.

6.3 SH and TK reported that the vacancy had been put on the respective village facebook pages.

7 HIGHWAYS

7.1 **Pavement clearance/general village tidying** – there is a requirement for the pavements alongside the A37 in Ston Easton to be cleared – it was noted that this would be the responsibility of the MDC contractor and it was hoped that this will take place very soon. However there is still other work to be carried out locally such as gutter clearance, cutting back verges and litter picking. SH agreed to compile an advertisement to be placed on the Facebook pages. It was agreed that the pay would be £100 per month or £10 per hour. Victoria King from Ston Easton had emailed the Clerk offering to carry out a litter pick and SH agreed to liaise with her to see how this could be co-ordinated. Tim Candy has cut some of the verges but needs to come back to finish these off. TO will speak to him. **SH**
TO

7.2 **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. Mike Pullin is now dealing with this and the Clerk will contact him to see what progress has been made **Clerk MP**

7.3 **VILLAGE SIGNS**

7.3.1 These have been ordered by RW but a contractor is required to install them . TK agreed to speak to Peter King to see if he has the necessary equipment. It was noted that the installation beyond Clothiers would probably have to be subject to temporary traffic lights or a lane closure for health and safety reasons. The Clerk will contact Charlie Higgins at SCC Highways for advice. **TK Clerk**

8 DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

8.1 **Coronavirus** – the site at the Bath and West Showground is now up and running as a vaccination hub and is being supported by MDC.

8.2 **Unitary** – an announcement will be made in the next week or so.

8.3 **Elections** – are due on 6 May but may be delayed – clarification is awaited.

8.4 **Cycle Paths** – it is hoped to roll out more cycle pathways – Cheddar to Wells and Shepton Mallet, Masbury to Binegar, Emborough and through to Midsomer Norton. This is a very ambitious long term project and securing funding will be difficult.

8.5 **Planning** – The 6 week Consultation was launched on 9 February on the Amended Main Modifications to the Local Plan Part 2.. . A statement was released by Mendip about the reduced planning services now in place. This results from the pressures of Covid 19 and the setting of new priorities – saving lives, delivering statutory services and economic recovery.

8.6 **Finance** – Mendip’s year end budget deficit was forecast at £2.4M at the end of Q2, this came down to £1.4M at the end of Q3 and the end of Q4 is now forecast to be in balance with some careful management.. Similarly the Finance Officer has produced a balanced budget next year which would result in a £5 or 3.16% rise for the Band D property.

8.7 **Climate Emergency** – Mendip’s target of carbon neutral by 2030 was reported to Cabinet as being unachievable with a 40 to 47% reduction being more possible.

9 PLANNING

9.1 **2021/0104/HSE** – Erection of Garden Room at The Old Vicarage, Hay Street, Ston Easton – this application was discussed and it was agreed unanimously to recommend approval.

10 FOOTPATHS

10.1 SH reported that Anne Huckle has volunteered to become the Parish Footpath Liaison Officer. She has been in touch with Martin Cooper the Rights of Way Officer at SCC and has compiled a report on the condition of the local paths in which she has highlighted the main areas of concern. TO will distribute the report to Councillors. One of the main issues is the bridge where it crosses the golf course and this has been reported to Clare Haskins the footpaths officer at MDC. It was agreed to invite Anne to a future meeting to give the Council an update. The Council extended thanks to Anne for taking on this role.

TO

11 DOG FOULING

11.1 The Clerk will obtain a quote for a new dog bin to be installed near the new play area. MDC will then be asked to include collection from this bin on their plan.

Clerk

12 COMMUNICATIONS

12.1 The Clerk will contact Rick Fitzsimmons about access to the website for Parish Council information. The minutes also need to go in the village magazine and TO has sent the contact details to the Clerk. Both village Facebook pages (SH/TK) can be utilised for information.

Clerk

13 FINANCIAL MATTERS

13.1 **Finance Statement** – the statement as at 16.02.21 was approved

13.2 **Precept** – it was proposed by RW and seconded by TK to set the precept at £6,500. Four Councillors voted for the amount and one voted against.

13.3 **Request for grant towards grass cutting at Ston Easton church from the PCC.** The request is for £300 which is included in the budget. It was proposed by RW and seconded by TK to support the request. AD will provide the Clerk with the BACS details.

**AD
Clerk**

13.4 **Charity Giving** – it was agreed that requests from the Citizens Advice Bureau and the Air Ambulance would be supported. The Council also gives an annual sum of £60 for the poppy wreaths for Remembrance Sunday at both villages.

13.5 **Clerk's Expenses** - £253.12, proposed for acceptance by JC, seconded AD. Agreed unanimously.

14 CORRESPONDENCE

14.1 Briefings regarding COVID have been distributed

15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

15.1 It was agreed to have a short meeting on the 3 March at 7.30 p.m. via Zoom to agree a Co-option policy which the Clerk will distribute. A further meeting will be held at the end of March to carry out the Co-option of a new councillor – date to be agreed.

Clerk