

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting

## **STON EASTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT CLAPTON VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2023 COMMENCING AT 7.30pm**

*Present:* Cllrs Tim Killen (Chair), Peter King, Anne Huckle, Ainslie Davies, and Rick Fitzsimmons; also in attendance Alan Butcher (Clerk)

23/01/1 - *Apologies for absence.* Cllr Julian Carver.

*23/01/2 – Co-option of councillors onto the Parish Council following the uncontested election.*

There had been no further expressions of interest since the last meeting.

23/01/3 - *Declarations of Interest:*

Cllr Davies declared a personal interest in the planning application 23/01/6i) and also any discussion about a grant to the church.

23/01/4 - *Public Participation:*

The Chairman will adjourn the meeting and allow a maximum of 15 minutes for public participation on matters included on the agenda only. Eight members of the public were present.

- i) The state of parish roads was discussed with numerous potholes causing problems for drivers especially the potholes near the piggery.
- ii) Planning at Orchard View ( the Chairman adjourned the meeting for a second time before the council discussed the matter for allow public comments) The applicant and supporters outlined the proposals and addressed an objection that had been raised about the overlooking of the adjoining property from the proposed roof windows. The Chairman noted that an objection had been received by the council and allowed Cllr Davies to speak about the objection. The applicant contended that the proposals would not result in the adjoining property being overlooked.

23/01/5 - *Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:*

- i) Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022 - were agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

23/01/6 - *Parish Council Response to Planning Applications*

- i) 2022/2174/HSE and 2022/2184/LBC | Conversion of Attic to bedroom, replace rotten stair treads and floorboards, installation of a juliet balcony, french doors and 2no. rooflights to rear, replace roof tiles, remove pebble dash render to expose white lias stone walls and re-point with natural lime. | Orchard View Clapton Road Clapton Wells Somerset BA3 4EB. Councillors expressed support for the proposals and the work that had been carried out to date but were concerned about the possibility of the adjoining property being overlooked. It was prop Cllr King and sec Cllr Killen that the application be supported but that the councils concerns about overlooking of the adjoining property be brought to the planning officers attention. This was agreed by all with Cllr Davies not taking part in the proceedings or voting.

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting

- ii) Somer Valley Enterprise Zone. A consultation was to be launched by B&NES shortly.
- iii) Underhill Farm development. Cllr Killen gave information about this site which, following a legal challenge to five designated sites in the Local Plan including Underhill Farm had meant that Mendip had had to remove them from the Local Plan and they were no longer designed for development. The fate of the current planning application was therefore uncertain.
- iv) Cllr Killen advised that the planning application for The Crown had been turned down by the planning board in December.

23/01/7 - Financial:

- i) New Banking arrangements, transfer of funds and payment procedures. Difficulties with the logging on system to the account had not been finally resolved and, as a result, authorised payments had yet to be confirmed by councillors. Clerk to advise creditors and to discuss the process with councillors after the meeting.
- ii) Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 – these were circulated and the bank reconciliation signed.
- iii) Authorisation of payments for:
  - a) Alan Butcher – Clerks salary and expenses – November and December 2022 - £515.72 – this was agreed..
  - b) HMRC Tax payment – amount to be confirmed
- iv) Review of budget for 2023/24 and two following years. The draft budget had been circulated. Councillors discussed and agreed additional expenditure in the coming year to include an additional £2000 into Open Spaces for grass and hedge cutting, etc and to cover the cost of litter picking in the parish. An additional £400 was added into Section 137 payments to cover for a church grant. No information had been received from Get Active who had been granted money in the previous year but it was agreed that £1000 could be used from the sec 137 amount to cover any grant if required.

The clerk advised that these additions could be taken from current reserves but that the precept would require an increase in following years to maintain a continuing and adequate reserve. The updated budget was agreed by all.
- v) Setting of precept for 2023/2024. Proposed Cllr Killen that the precept remain as 2022/23 at £7000. This was agreed unanimously.

23/01/8 - Parish Council Matters.

- i) Matters arising from previous minutes:
  - a) 21/10/03ii) Village Signs – Clapton signs and gateway, wording and budget. A budget for the sign was agreed at £300 with wording to be “CLAPTON” with “Please drive with care” below.
  - b) Strap Lane illegal occupation. Cllr Killen outlined measures proposed by Mendip DC and had circulated an email detailing these.
  - c) Greenditch Lane status and repairs. Cllr Killen advised that he had contacted roads records and confirmed that the designation of Greenditch Lane was incorrect and that works to rectify the road damage and drainage could take place.

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting

- ii) Other Highways matters – a number of road defects were reported:
  - a) Damage to the road in Strap Lane due to badger activity.
  - b) Large pothole by the Piggery
  - c) Clapton Road, various potholes and subsidence
  - d) A37, recent patching has been broken out by traffic
  - e) Fly tipping in laybys on A37 apparently by HGV's parking up.
  - f) Damage to road and verges at entrance to Forticrete works; operating hours and number of lorries using the site was queried by Cllr Huckle.
  - g) Large pothole at White Bridge.
- iii) Parish Traffic and Highways Advisory Group. Awaiting Somerset County representative.
- iv) Footpaths Report. It was noted that the footpath stile near Pennys in Green Street Ston Easton required replacing.
- v) Defibrillator purchase. Awaiting resolution of banking issues.
- vi) Councillors reference books. Awaiting resolution of banking issues.
- vii) Ston Easton Bus shelter – awaiting quotation.
- viii) Asset Register information – the updated version had been circulated and was agreed and adopted.
- ix) New Somerset Council matters. Awaiting details of proposals.

*23/01/9 - Matters of Report*

- i) The matter of the Newsletter was discussed and an update to be made if required.
- ii) Cllr Fitzsimmons to send out details of the new councillor's email addresses.
- iii) Cllr Davies noted noise pollution from the gas back up plant.
- iv) Cllr Davies noted a forthcoming charity event.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm

*23/01/10 - Date of Next Meeting.*

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 at Ston Easton Village Hall

**Alan Butcher,**  
**Parish Clerk,**  
**28<sup>th</sup> January 2023**  
**01749 870358;**  
[ston.easton.clerk@gmail.com](mailto:ston.easton.clerk@gmail.com)