

STON EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT CLAPTON VILLAGE HALL ON
WEDNESDAY 14th JUNE 2023 COMMENCING AT 7.30pm**

Present: Cllrs Tom Killen (Chair), Ainslie Davies, Anne Huckle, Julian Carver, Rick Fitzsimmons; also in attendance Alan Butcher (Clerk)

23/06/1 - Apologies for absence. Cllrs Peter King and Edric Hobbs.

23/06/2 - Election of Vice Chairman:

It was proposed Cllr Fitzsimmons, seconded Cllr Davies that Cllr King be elected as Vice Chairman. This was agreed unanimously. Cllr King will be required to sign a Declaration of Acceptance of Office at the next meeting.

23/06/3 - Co-option of one councillor onto the Parish Council following the election.

Cllr Fitzsimmons advised that a candidate had expressed interest and he would follow that up.

23/06/4 - Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Davies declared an interest in agenda item 23/06/8ii.

23/06/5 - 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. One member of the public was present.

- i) Report from Cllr Robbins. This had been circulated and was briefly discussed. The clerk advised that he had spoken to Cllr Hobbs who hoped to attend the next meeting.

23/06/6 - Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:

- i) Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd May 2023 – to include comments by Cllr Huckle. It was agreed that Clapton Road flooding and that the defibrillator was located in Ston Easton be added to the minutes which were then to be agreed as a record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

23/06/7 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications

- i) 2023/0938/FUL | Extension to existing circular slurry tank. | Manor Farm Hay Street Ston Easton Radstock Somerset BA3 4DN. Councillors noted that both the existing and new tank required screening with a bund and tree planting and that existing graffiti should be removed otherwise the application was supported.

- ii) 2023/0939/FUL | Erection of apex building to create covered cattle yard. | Manor Farm Hay Street Ston Easton Radstock Somerset BA3 4DN. There was some discussion about lighting and the need to reduce light pollution and light spill to adjoining properties otherwise the application was supported.
- iii) 2022/1427/FUL | Demolition of no. 26 and 28 Orchard Vale and development of 60no. dwellinghouses with open space, landscaping and associated infrastructure. (Revised information received 07/06/2023). | Land At Underhill Lane Ston Easton Wells Somerset. Councillors reiterated their previous detailed comments and concerns and it was agreed to indicate to planners that their previous submission was still relevant.
- iv) The Crown, Clapton appeal. Awaiting appeal decision.
- v) Somer Valley Enterprise Zone – invitation to event 26th July 2023. Cllr Davies to attend and report back.

23/06/8 - Financial:

- i) Authorisation of payments for:
 - a) Alan Butcher – Clerks salary and expenses – May 2023. £257.77; proposed by Cllr Carver, seconded by Cllr Fitzsimmons that this be authorised.
 - b) HMRC Tax payment. To be authorised at the next meeting.
 - c) Invoice from Primrose Garden maintenance - £52.00; proposed Cllr Huckle, seconded Cllr Davies that this be authorised.
 - d) SALC Training Invoices- £65.00; proposed Cllr Fitzsimmons, seconded Cllr Killen that this be authorised.
 - e) BHIB Insurance renewal - £375.45; proposed Cllr Carver, seconded Cllr Killen that this be authorised.
 - f) Internal Audit fee - £85.00. The clerk had checked back and found that the fee of £80 for the previous year had not been paid. It was proposed Cllr Davies, seconded Cllr Fitzsimmons that the sum of £165.00 be authorised. This was agreed.
- ii) Grant for churchyard maintenance. It was proposed Cllr Fitzsimmons, seconded Cllr Huckle that the grant of £300 be made. This was agreed. Cllr Davies to advise the clerk of the payee details.
- iii) Acceptance of Audited Accounts for 2022/23. These had been circulated. It was proposed Cllr Davies, seconded Cllr Killen that these be accepted. This was agreed.
- iv) Internal Auditors Report – there were no negative comments and the report was noted.
- v) Completion of AGAR submission:
 - a) Governance Certificate to be completed and signed. The certificate was completed and signed by the clerk and chairman.

- b) Accounting Statement to be signed. The statement was agreed and signed by the RFO and chairman.

23/06/9 - Parish Council Matters.

- i) Matters arising from previous minutes:
 - a) Village Signs – Clapton gateway sign. Permissions in hand with Cllr Huckle.
 - b) Strap Lane illegal occupation. No further action but it was reported that there were further vehicles on site. Cllr Killen to speak to Cllr Hobbs..
 - c) Greenditch Lane status and repairs. Awaiting Right of Way formalities; Cllr Killen to speak to Rights of Way.
 - d) Other Highway matters. Further Clapton Road flooding and road subsidence was reported.
- ii) Ston Easton A37 Highway and Traffic matters:

A meeting had been held with Sarah Davis and other from Somerset Highways to discuss the recent roadworks at Ston Easton. The meeting was attended by Cllrs Killen and Fitzsimmons and others and the following was discussed:

 - a) That the proposed extension to the 30mph speed limit was in hand.
 - b) The possible siting of a SID and auto speed watch equipment was discussed and a location suggested.
 - c) It was noted that the police had suspended the use of speed cameras in the area as their use was deemed to be ineffective.
 - d) The new white lining was discussed and areas of improvement agreed.
 - e) Somerset representatives were surprised that the new surfacing had not extended to the areas where trenching had caused road defects.
 - f) Drainage issues were also discussed and the continuing problem of loose drain covers noted.
- iii) Parish Traffic and Highways Advisory Group. It was agreed to hold a group meeting starting at 7pm before the next Parish Council meeting on 5th September 2023.
- iv) Footpaths Report. Cllr Huckle reported the replacement of all stiles with kissing gates on footpath CL5/8 running between Clapton and Chilcompton thus allowing easier access to the footpath. Footpath maps are going to be displayed in the entrance to Clapton Village Hall and Cllr Huckle undertook to provide Cllr Fitzsimmons with copies of maps for Ston Easton Hall. Cllr Fitzsimmons noted the broken stile in Green Street near Penny's premises.
- v) Defibrillator purchase. The electrical supply had been confirmed as an unmetered supply via BT. It was suggested that a machine could be obtained via BT, Cllr Fitzsimmons to investigate.

Draft amended minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting

- vi) Ston Easton Bus shelter and commemorative plaque. A quote for a new multi-purpose notice board to be sought together with ideas for a new plaque and replacement of existing directional signs.
- vii) Somerset Council matters:
 - a) Appointment of Parish Council LCN representative. Cllr Killen agreed to attend the LCN meeting on 31st July 2023.
 - b) Comments on LCN Launch documents. Clerk to circulate copy of LCN Handbook.

23/06/10 - Matters of Report

- i) Cllr Huckle asked about refilling of grit bins. The clerk advised that the location of the bins needed to be confirmed and existing material loosened. Cllr Killen to advise locations. A member of the public had volunteered to dig out and loosen the existing material.
- ii) The finger post sign in Ston Easton requires repainting.
- iii) The clerk to provide the following documents for the website and for circulation to councillors:
Code and Conduct, Risk Assessment, Asset Register, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.
- iv) Cllr Huckle was concerned about the circulation of correspondence received by the clerk and correspondence sent out by the clerk and subsequent replies. The clerk advised that he would normally receive correspondence by email which he would circulate to councillors. Responses to correspondence sent would also be circulated with the original enquiry. After discussion it was agreed that a correspondence list should be provided before every meeting and that an action list provided with the minutes.

The being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm

23/06/11 - Date of Next Meeting.

Tuesday 5th September at Clapton Village Hall

Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
31st August 2023
01749 870358;
ston.easton.clerk@gmail.com