

STON EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT CLAPTON VILLAGE HALL, CLAPTON ON TUESDAY 1st FEBRUARY 2022 COMMENCING AT 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs Tom Osborne (Chair), Peter King, Julian Carver, Steve Huckle, Tom Killen and Alan Butcher (acting Clerk)

The Chairman called for those assembled to stand for a minute's silence in remembrance of the late clerk Anthea Brooks.

22/02/1 - *Apologies for absence.* Cllrs Ainslie Davies and Rob Winkworth.

22/02/2 - *Declarations of Interest:* Cllr Carver made a declaration in respect of item /07ic.

22/02/3 - *Public Participation:*

The Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow for public participation on matters included on the agenda only. Four members of the public were present.

- i) Agenda matters.
The matter of speeding through Ston Easton was raised with three accidents noted in recent months. Some form of committee was suggested to address the matters of speeding both in Ston Easton and Clapton. Terms of Reference to be prepared and scope of matters to be addressed agreed.
It was noted that the proposed grant to Ston Easton for the car park was for general use rather than just for the village hall.
The matter of the replacement defibrillator to be included on the next meeting agenda.
- ii) Report from Ward Councillor.
Cllr Killen noted the forthcoming elections in May covering both the Unitary Authority and Parish Council. He advised that Mendip District Council would cease to exist in May 2023 having carried on administering district functions in the intervening period. The budget was in process of agreement with an expected rise in council tax for Mendip of £5. He noted that Mendip's commercial investments had performed well raising about £3m for the district. He advised that recent difficulties with recycling collections would be resolved shortly.

22/02/4 - *Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:*

- i) Notes of the Meeting held on 12th October 2021 were agreed as a true record of the meeting with a small amendment to /03i and signed by the Chairman.

22/02/5 - *Parish Council Response to Planning Applications*

No applications were received at the time of publication of the agenda.

22/02/6 - *Financial:*

- i) Payment to Get Active £335.34. This was agreed for online payment.
- ii) Payment to New Leaf Tree and Garden Services £450.00 (Clapton) This was agreed for online payment.

- iii) Payment to Paul Clayton for works to phone box £120.36. This was agreed for online payment. Councillors thanked Mr Clayton for his works in improving and repairing the telephone box.
- iv) Grant application for works to car park adjoining the village hall. Councillors agreed unanimously to a provisional grant of £2000. Cllr King to seek further quotations for carrying out the works.
- v) Bank Account administration – letter of authorisation. Cllr Osborne to liaise with Cllr Winkworth to get the letter signed and sent to the bank.
- vi) Accounts and budget review to 31st December 2021. The clerk had not had access to papers to prepare accounts or budget review. Cllr Osborne had further papers to pass onto the clerk although the content of those papers was currently unknown.
- vii) Agreement of budget for 2022/23. The clerk would endeavour to prepare a budget based on recent accounts information passed on by Cllr Osborne.
- viii) Setting of Parish Council precept for 2022/23. The clerk advised that Mendip had agreed to the precept being advised on 2nd February 2022. There was some discussion about suggested financial commitments contained within the 2021 budget although some of these commitments had not been carried through. Cllrs Huckle and Carver expressed some concern about an apparent disparity between the level of funds committed to Clapton as opposed to Ston Easton. Cllr King proposed, Cllr Killen seconded that the precept for 2022/23 be set at £7000, an increase of £500 on 2021/22. Cllrs Huckle and Carver wished the precept to remain at £6500. A vote was taken with two in favour of the increase to £7000 and two against. The matter was carried on the chairman's vote in favour. Clerk to advise Mendip of the precept and to use the financial information available to produce a budget for 2022/23.

22/02/7 - Parish Council Matters.

- i) Matters arising from previous minutes:
 - a) 21/10/03i) Strapstone Lane Enforcement – Councillors expressed continuing dissatisfaction at the lack of progress by both Mendip DC and Somerset CC in resolving the matter. It was noted that the matter had been ongoing for about four years without action. Clerk to write again to the councils, Cllr Osborne to forward details of previous correspondence to the clerk
 - b) 21/10/03ii) Village Signs (Ston Easton) – Cllr King would endeavour to erect these during the forthcoming road closure.
 - c) 21/10/07iv) The Crown Inn, Clapton – Cllr Huckle noted that the application had been submitted for appeal to the Planning Inspectorate.
- ii) Highways including speeding.
 - a) It was noted that a number of signs on the A37 through Ston Easton needed refixing.
 - b) Cllr Carver expressed concern about the road surface in Greenditch Lane, Clapton which was breaking up due to excessive water run off from adjoining fields and no drainage provision in the lane itself.
 - c) Holes in the road were also noted in Thick Thorn Lane near the Piggery which was an ongoing problem.

- d) Excessive amounts of litter around the parish were noted and it was agreed to conduct a litter pick on 13th February, Cllrs Huckle and Killen to contact Mendip about the loan of equipment. Cllr Killen to speak to Idverde about litter picking on the A37. Cllr Killen also offered to fund the purchase of litter pickers if required.
- e) Speeding Group, Scope and Terms of Reference to be agreed at the next meeting; Cllr Killen to act as Parish Council representative.
- iii) Footpaths. Anne Huckle (in attendance) gave a brief verbal report noting that some stiles had been replaced with gates and that a number of paths were still blocked. She would provide a written report on footpaths to the next meeting. Cllr Carver expressed concern about gates being left open, especially by groups of runners and that this would cause problems when cattle were back in the fields.
- iv) Calendar of meetings – the following meetings were agreed: 3rd March (SE), 17th May (C) Annual Parish Council meeting and Annual Parish Meeting, 7th July (SE), 6th September (C), 3rd November (SE), 10th January 2023 (C), 2nd March (SE).
Newsletter – Cllr Killen to deal with the newsletter
Website – Clerk to discuss with website administrator.
- v) Confirmation of order for “Dog” bin for Ston Easton playing field – it was agreed to purchase a dog bin plus a mounting post and fixing, clerk to action.

22/02/8 - Matters of Report

- i) Clerk to circulate details of defibrillator costs for discussion at the next meeting.
- ii) Cllr Osborne had received a letter of thanks from the Poppy Appeal noting that £3000 had been raised locally.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm.

22/02/9 - Date and Time of Next Meeting.

The next meeting to be on Thursday 3rd March 7.30pm at Ston Easton.

Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
6th February 2022
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