

**STON EASTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT STON EASTON VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 21<sup>st</sup> JULY 2022 COMMENCING AT 7.30pm.**

Before the meeting there was a presentation attended by 20 members of the public giving information about proposals to redevelop the existing Pennys Group headquarters in Ston Easton. The Parish Council meeting commenced at 7.40pm.

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

22/07/1 - *Apologies for absence.* Cllr Julian Carver.

22/07/2 – *Co-option of councillors onto the Parish Council following the uncontested election.*

An application to be co-opted onto the council was received from Rick Fitzsimmons. It was proposed Cllr King, seconded Cllr Davies that Rick Fitzsimmons be co-opted. Councillors voted unanimously that Rick Fitzsimmons be co-opted onto, he completed the Declaration form and took his seat.

22/07/3 - *Declarations of Interest:*

No declarations were made.

22/07/4 - *Public Participation:*

The Chairman will adjourn the meeting and allow a maximum of 15 minutes for public participation. Three members of the public were present. No comments referring to the agenda were made.

22/07/5 - *Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:*

- i) Minutes of the Annual parish Council Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022 - were agreed as a record of the meeting with an amendment to 22/06/14i to note that Cllr Davies had requested the purchase of the book by Charles Arnold Baker for reference. The minutes were then signed by the Chairman.
- ii) Minutes of the extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 – these were agreed as a record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

22/07/6 - *Parish Council Response to Planning Applications*

- i) Somer Valley Enterprise Zone. There was no further information on this matter.
- ii) No other applications were notified before the publication date for this agenda.
- iii) Subsequent to the issue of the agenda, a planning application for a property in Clapton had been received. Councillors signalled no objections to this application.

22/07/7 - Financial:

- i) Changes to Banking arrangements and signatories. The clerk advised that the application had been made but that proof of identity of signatories was required. Cllr King passed on his documents to the clerk, Cllr Killen to forward documents as soon as possible.
- ii) Update on current financial position. The clerk advised that he had received bank statements but that there had been no expenditure by the incoming council, he would further update the accounts when the new account was opened. He also gave a resume of the budget for the year and confirmed that the amount set aside in 2021/22 for the Ston Easton Village Hall car park had been carried over into 2022/23.
- iii) Authorisation of payments for:
  - a) Alan Butcher – Clerks salary and expenses. £773.58 – this was authorised.
  - b) R M Penny – Car park works. £2400.00 – this was authorised.
  - c) Mendip District Council election expenses – no invoice had been received.
- iv) Adoption of new Financial Regulations. These had been circulated. It was proposed Cllr Davies seconded Cllr Huckle that they be adopted. This was agreed unanimously, and they were signed by the Chairman.
- v) Adoption of new Risk Assessment - These had been circulated. It was proposed Cllr King seconded Cllr Fitzsimmons that they be adopted. This was agreed unanimously, and they were signed by the Chairman.
- vi) and were duly adopted and signed by the Chairman.
- vii) Appointment of L Caple as Internal Auditor for 2022/23 including interim review of accounts and procedures during the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. L Caple was duly appointed.
- viii) The clerk advised that the Parish Council would need to register with the Information Commissioner at a cost of £40.00

22/07/8 - Parish Council Matters.

- i) Matters arising from previous minutes:
  - a) 21/10/03ii) Village Signs – a site for the second sign had been located, Cllr Killen to speak to the landowner. The gate part of the sign could not be positioned although it was suggested that this could be altered to suit the location.
  - b) A37 Ston Easton vehicle damage and signs. Clerk to write again to Highways.
  - c) Strapstone Lane illegal occupation. Cllr Killen had spoken to the Mendip DC chief executive on the matter expressing concern at the lack of action.
  - d) Greenditch Lane status and repairs. The clerk had checked to rights of way map which indicated that the lane was adopted as a byway open to all traffic.
- ii) Other Highways matters – none raised.

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting

- iii) Parish Traffic and Highways Advisory Group – meeting to be arranged.
- iv) Footpaths Report – nothing to report to the meeting.
- v) Verge Cutting. The verges had been cut by highways and no further action was necessary.
- vi) Clapton War memorial maintenance. The repairs to the broken post to be undertaken by Forticrete. Grass cutting to be arranged via Clapton Village Hall. It was proposed Cllr Huckle, seconded Cllr Killen that a budget of £200 be agreed by the council to fund the grass cutting, this was agreed unanimously.
- vii) Defibrillator purchase. The clerk had information on a number of machines. After discussion it was agreed all in favour to purchase a HeartSine Samaritan 360 complete with cabinet at a cost of £1239.00 plus VAT.
- viii) Councillors reference books. The clerk had circulated Good Councillors Guide and would purchase an up to date edition of Charles Arnold Baker.
- ix) Ston Easton Bus shelter. A number of uses were suggested including a book exchange. Cllr Fitzsimmons to speak to Ston Easton Village Hall who were also providing a similar facility. It was also suggested that a notice board could be sited in the shelter. It was noted that the shelter required various items of maintenance.
- x) Meetings calendar for 2022/23. This had been circulated.

**22/07/9 - Matters of Report:**

- i) Clerk to write to the architects who had presented the Pennys proposals earlier to thank them for their attendance.
- ii) Cllr Killen to pursue the publication of a newsletter. Cllr Fitzsimons to liaise with Cllr Killen to provide information for the website.
- iii) The clerk spoke of a recent meeting of parishes who had set up an informal liaison group to deal with matters relating to the transition to the new Somerset Council and suggested that Ston Easton should attend the next meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> August. Cllr Killen to attend if possible.

There being n further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm

**22/07/10 - Date and Time of Next Meeting.**

6<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at Clapton Village Hall.

**Alan Butcher,  
Parish Clerk,  
5<sup>th</sup> August 2022  
01749 870358;  
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