

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting.

STON EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT STON VILLAGE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 27TH JUNE 2024 COMMENCING AT 7.30pm

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

24/06/1 - Apologies for absence. Cllrs Julian Carver, Peter King and Cllr Tony Robbins.

24/06/2 - Casual Vacancy on the Parish Council

Co-option of one councillor onto the Parish Council to fill a casual vacancy following the resignation of Cllr Taylorson. Cllr Huckle reported that the vacancy had been advertised. No response had yet been received.

24/06/3 - Declarations of Interest:

No declarations were made.

24/06/4 - 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. Nine members of the public were present.

- i) Agenda matters. The chairman advised he would allow public comments for specific items included later on the agenda. No other matters were raised.
- ii) Report from Ward Councillor. Cllr Robbins advised that a new style of report was in preparation.

24/06/5 - Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:

- i) That the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9th May 2024 be agreed as a true record of the meeting. Proposed Cllr Huckle, seconded Cllr Davies that the minutes be accepted. This was agreed all in favour. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.
- ii) That the Minutes of the extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 5th June 2024 be agreed as a true record of the meeting. Para 24/06E/8ii was amended to read the Main Road rather than Green Street. With this amendment it was proposed Cllr Huckle, seconded Cllr Fitzsimmons that the minutes be accepted. This was agreed all in favour. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

24/06/6 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications

- i) 2024/0636/HSE | Conversion of detached outbuildings with link extension to form annexe. | Outbuilding At Wood View Rush Hill Ston Easton Wells Somerset. Councillors noted that there were no documents on the planning website concerning this application and that, as a result, they had been unable to consider this application. Clerk to refer these comments to the Planners.
- ii) 2024/0865/LBC | Addition of 2 radon sumps and associated external pipework to the rear of the building. | The Dower House Green Street Ston Easton Wells Somerset BA3 4DD. There were no comments and it was agreed to support the application, all in favour.

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- iii) Proposed Self-Build Dwelling at Chewton Fields, Ston Easton. The Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow the planning consultant and applicant to give a brief presentation on the proposal. Drawings were circulated and details of the planning regulations which applied to the proposal given. The applicant noted his family were living with parents and the proposal was to build a three bedroom dwelling in the garden of the family dwelling. Section 106 conditions would apply. It was noted that the site is in Chewton Mendip Parish. Cllr Killen thanked the consultant and applicant for the presentation advising that Ston Easton advising that the application would be considered when the planning application is received although, as the site is in Chewton Mendip, Ston Easton may not be consulted.
- iv) Farrington Park – Recent planning application and works taking place on site. Cllr Huckle had walked footpaths through the site and had noted large and extensive earthworks taking place. It was agreed to write to the planners/enforcement to raise the matter of these works which appeared to be taking place in advance of the determination of the planning application recently submitted.
- v) Somer Valley Enterprise Zone and LDO including proposals for enabling works in Langleys Lane. The clerk had written again to Ward Councillors about a contact at Somerset Council who might be dealing with the enabling works for the development which involved Langleys Lane.
- vi) Parish Council Planning Application Protocol. Clerk to circulate the updated protocol.

24/06/7 - Financial:

- i) Authorisation of payments for:
 - a) Alan Butcher – Clerks expenses including reimbursement of payment to Project Skills Solutions paid by BACS in lieu of cheque previously raised. £818.90. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
 - b) HMRC Tax payment. £195.03. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
 - c) Kit Primrose – grounds maintenance - £56.00. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
 - d) The clerk put forward the Internal Auditors fee of £90.00 for payment. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
 - e) Get Active proposals and Parish Council grant. Details of accounts and proposals had been circulated before the meeting. Cllr Fitzsimmons and representatives of Get Active outlined proposals for changes to the organisation. A suggestion was made that Clapton Village Hall and local children could use the facilities and there was a discussion about support for village halls. A sum of £242.21 being a share of the insurance cost for Get Active had been requested from the Parish Council by way of a grant. Proposed Cllr Davies, seconded Cllr Fitzsimmons that this be paid by the Parish Council. This was agreed unanimously and a cheque for £242.21 raised.
 - f) Agreement of Audited Accounts for 2023/24. These had been circulated. Proposed Cllr Davies, seconded Cllr Huckle that these be accepted. This was agreed unanimously and the accounts signed by the Chairman.

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g) AGAR 2023/24 actions:

Internal Audit Report. This had been circulated and contained no adverse comments.
Completion of Annual Governance Statement – The clerk read through each paragraph of the statement which were agreed in the positive by councillors. The statement was signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

Completion of Annual Accounting Statement. The RFO summarised the figures included referring back to the agreed accounts. The Statement was agreed by councillors and signed by the Chairman and RFO.

24/06/8 - Parish Council Matters.

i) Matters arising from previous minutes:

a) Strap Lane illegal occupation

b) Greenditch Lane status and repairs

The clerk had raised these matters again with Cllr Robbins who had advised that Cllr Hobbs and himself continued to raise them with the officers at Somerset Council but without result. Cllr Huckle was concerned about the lack of any service on all the matters raised and felt that the Parish Council was being ignored. It was agreed to raise all the outstanding matters with Somerset's Chief Executive. Cllr Huckle proposed a FOI request about the progress or otherwise of the items raised by the council over many months.

c) Wall on A37 at Ston Easton. Cllr Killen advised that other options were being considered to facilitate repairs.

d) Clapton Lane flooding. Currently there were no problems with flooding.

e) A37 footpath clearance. Work had started on the clearance and many bags of rubbish removed. Works was ongoing. It was noted that the area at the Ston Easton Park entrance and near the phone box also needed clearing. Cllr Killen to seek permission from the agents to clear the entrance area.

f) The road surface on the A37 where there was an adverse camber was deteriorating and the promised additions to the white lining had not been done.

g) The large pothole in Green Street was expanding.

ii) Ston Easton A37 Highway and Traffic matters and provision of speed indicator and other devices. Devices now received. The training to allow the devices to be positioned and moved would be taking place on 19th July 2024.

iii) Clapton Gateways including second gateway purchase.

The clerk was concerned about additional expenditure affecting the budget set back in January. He circulated an updated set of accounts up to 27th June and an updated budget showing current and projected outcome. The current forecast for the year-end balance required upwards adjustment. There was some discussion about the expenditure on the Clapton Gateways and also the provision for grants to both village halls. It was agreed to defer any decisions on changes to proposed expenditure until the next meeting.

iv) Footpaths Report. Cllr Huckle reported that the footpath from Lower Hay Street to the golf course had been electric fenced to prevent users being bothered by cattle. She noted the Somerset Council virtual meeting on 28th June regarding rights of way which she was unable to attend although it was recorded and she hoped to listen to the meeting at a later date. Cllr Killen hoped to attend the meeting.

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- v) Proposed litter pick. Information was being sought about the availability of the equipment. It was suggested that this would now take place later in the year.
- vi) Concerns about crime in Clapton. The clerk would invite the police to the next meeting.
- vii) Local Plan Part 2 limited update consultation. This had been submitted.
- viii) Somerset Council Highway Services update and devolution. There was no further information about these proposals.
- ix) Somerset Council matters:
 - a) LCN meetings and Annual Report. No one was able to attend the recent meeting.

24/06/9 - Matters of Report

- i) The metal soldier had been removed from Ston Easton war memorial, its location was unknown and it was suggested that it could have been stolen. Further enquiries to be made locally.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm

24/06/10 - Date of Next Meetings.

Thursday 3rd October 2024 at Clapton Village Hall.

Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
15th July 2024
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