

These minutes were amended at the Parish Council meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024, amendments shown in red.

## STON EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT STON EASTON VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER 2023 COMMENCING AT 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Tom Killen (Chair), Peter King, Ainslie Davies, Anne Huckle, Sally Taylorson; also in attendance Ward Cllr Anthony Robbins and Alan Butcher (Clerk)

23/11/1 - Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Fitzsimmons and Carver.

23/11/2 - Declarations of Interest: No declarations were made.

23/11/3 - 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. Two members of the public were present.

- i) Agenda matters. The matter of the unsafe wall on the A37 at Ston Easton and the letter received from Somerset about the matter indicating that they would be taking no action was raised. All agreed that this was a very poor response and a failure to consider public safety should the wall collapse.
- ii) Report from Ward Councillor. Cllr Robbins noted the letter and comments about the A37 wall and would follow it up following the comments made at the meeting. It was suggested by members of the Parish Council that incidents where vehicles had hit the wall could be followed up and claims made to insurance companies.

The matter of the problems in Strap Lane were raised and a brief resume of the ongoing situation given. Cllr Robbins agreed to meet with councillors on site to discuss the situation.

Cllr Robbins noted that Somerset Council have significant financial problems and the Council Leader would be writing to parishes shortly with information about proposals to resolve the situation.

Cllr Robbins noted that the restructuring of the council was taking longer than anticipated and, in response to a question about the savings which had been mooted before the council came into being, he noted that, as yet these had not materialised although rationalisation of the council's estate was being considered.

Cllr Killen noted his disappointment with the LCN process where parishes had no meaningful input.

23/11/4 - Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:

- i) Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.
- ii) The brief record of the extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023 which was inquorate was noted.

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23/11/5 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications

- i) 2023/1789/APP | Application for approval of details reserved by condition 5 (Hard and Soft Landscaping - Pre-occupation) on planning approval 2021/0419/FUL. | Land South Of Electricity Sub Station Langleys Lane Clapton Wells Somerset. Councillors were concerned about the site, the intention of the operators not to fulfil their obligations regarding landscaping and the continuing noise problem. It was proposed Cllr Huckle, seconded Cllr King and agreed unanimously with the council object to the application.
- ii) 2023/2019/CLE | Application for a existing lawful development certificate for works begun on planning consent 2022/1184/FUL. | The Crown Inn Clapton Road Clapton Radstock Somerset BA3 4EB. Councillors noted this application. There was a discussion about managing the impact of the development within Clapton including parking provision, working hours, noise and dust. It was suggested that a management plan should be agreed with the developer to mitigate any problems before they occurred.
- iii) Crown Inn, Clapton – Licence. The status of the licence was queried.
- iv) Applications 2023/1715/HSE and 1716/LBC for Croft House, Clapton Road, Clapton received after the September meeting were approved on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023. This was noted.
- v) Underhill Farm development. Notification of the Planning Committee meeting to consider the application had been received after the preparation of the agenda. Councillors agreed that they had made sufficient comments when considering the planning application and it was agreed not the attend the planning committee. **Cllr Davies noted her concern about the effect of this large development on the hamlet of Clapton.**
- vi) Somer Valley Enterprise Zone and LDO – Further Parish Council actions. It was agreed that the Parish Council should involve Somerset Highways as it will be they who will be required to deal with the consequences of the increased traffic from the development should it proceed. Continuing contact should be made with B&NES before the project is discussed on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024. It was noted that B&NES should be liaising with Somerset as the development was adjoining the boundary between the councils.
- vii) **Cllr Davies asked about the progress of the application for changes to the landscaping at the sub station in Langley's Lane.**

23/11/6 - Financial:

- i) Authorisation of payments for:
  - a) Alan Butcher – Clerks salary and expenses – September and October 2023 to include National Pay Award from April 2022 (details circulated). It was proposed Cllr Davies, seconded Cllr King that this authorised including the backpay from April 2022 in the total sum of £803.72

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- b) HMRC Tax payment. Proposed Cllr Huckle, seconded Cllr Taylorson that the amount of £188.52 be authorised.
- c) Invoices from Primrose Garden maintenance - £224.00. It was proposed Cllr King, seconded Cllr Davies that the amended amount to include an invoice received after the agenda was published be authorised.
- d) SALC Affiliation invoice - £158.93. Proposed Cllr Davies, seconded Cllr Huckle that this be authorised.
- e) SALC Training invoices x 2 - £50.00. Proposed Cllr Davies, seconded Cllr Huckle that this be authorised.
- f) Citizens Advice request for a grant from the Parish Council. It was proposed Cllr Taylorson, seconded Cllr Huckle that a grant of £30 be made.
- g) The Parish Council had received two Poppy Wreaths as in previous years. It was proposed Cllr Davies, seconded Cllr King that a donation of £60 be made to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.
- h) An invoice for the replacement signs to the phone box stating "Defibrillator" was received at the meeting. The purchase of these signs had been agreed at the previous meeting. It was proposed Cllr King, seconded Cllr Davies that the sum of £83.28 be authorised.
- i) Interim Accounts and Budget review regarding Parish Council costs for SID on A37 Ston Easton. These were circulated and the clerk explained changes to the budget to include costs for the Speed devices to be sited on the A37 at Ston Easton together with the proposed costs of new notice boards for Ston Easton and Clapton and the clerk's salary increase following the National Award. The clerk noted that the budget for 2024 – 25 would need to be agreed at the next meeting in January and that he would circulate an updated budget in advance of that meeting.
- j) Cllr Taylorson signed the bank reconciliation to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

23/11/7 - Parish Council Matters.

- i) Matters arising from previous minutes:
  - a) Village Signs – Clapton gateway sign. Clerk to contact Cllr Hobbs and Highways on this matter.
  - b) Strap Lane illegal occupation. As discussed above with Cllr Robbins, **councillors would** meet with Cllr Robbins to discuss the situation.
  - c) Greenditch Lane status and repairs. Nothing further to report. Cllr King had driven around Clapton with Cllr Hobbs and indicated where the road problems were including Greenditch Lane and areas of flooding
  - d) Wall on A37 at Ston Easton. As discussed above with Cllr Robbins.
  - e) Other Highway matters including Chilcompton road closure. Cllrs Huckle and King outlined the chaotic situation created along the lanes around Clapton by the road closure noting near misses and a head on

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collision caused by speeding traffic avoiding Chilcompton. The situation was dangerous for walkers and cyclists and the signage placed by highways was ineffective. Clerk to write to highways about the council's disappointment about the lack of effective action.

- ii) Ston Easton A37 Highway and Traffic matters including speed limit change and provision of speed indicator and other devices. The MOU had been circulated. A revised version to include the was being prepared and it was proposed Cllr Killen that this be agreed. The clerk was designated to sign the final document.
- iii) Parish Traffic and Highways Advisory Group. No further meetings had taken place and it was agreed to remove the item from the agenda.
- iv) Footpaths Report. Cllr Huckle reported that several stiles had been replaced by gates on footpaths around the parish.
- v) Defibrillator purchase. The clerk had spoken to the supplier who had advised that the machine would be delivered within the next 10 days.
- vi) Ston Easton Bus shelter commemorative plaque, notice board and signs. Following a discussion it was agreed to replace the notice boards in 2024/25 rather than in the current financial year. The clerk to order two signs indicating "Village Hall".
- vii) Clapton Notice Board renewal. See vi) above.
- viii) Remembrance Day poppy wreaths. These had been received.
- ix) Parish Grit Bins. In hand.
- x) Fire Service consultation. This had been circulated and councillors had responded individually.
- xi) Somerset Council matters:
  - a) Report on LCN meeting 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Cllr Killen reported on the meeting. He noted that the LCN would be concentrating on Highways, Planning Policy and Climate.
  - c) Other Somerset Council matters
    - a) Local Plan. Further information would be circulated as received.

23/11/8 - Matters of Report:

- i) A query was raised about the number of trailers parked on the site of a new dwelling near Langleys Lane which had received planning and was under construction.
- ii) There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm

23/11/9 - Date of Next Meeting.

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at Clapton Village Hall.

**Alan Butcher,**

**Parish Clerk,**

**6<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**01749 870358; [ston.easton.clerk@gmail.com](mailto:ston.easton.clerk@gmail.com)**

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