

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting

STON EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT CLAPTON VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2024 COMMENCING AT 7.30pm

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

24/10/1 - Apologies for absence. Cllrs Tony Robbins and Edric Hobb (Somerset)

24/10/2 – 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. It was agreed to advertise the vacancy again on social media and Parish Magazine and on Notice Boards.

24/10/3 - Declarations of Interest: No declarations were made.

24/10/4 - 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. No members of the public were present.

- i) Report from Ward Councillor. See minute 24/10/8ii below.
- ii) Police Report. Apologies received from police. Clerk to circulate contact details given by Wells Rural police.

24/10/5 - Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:

- i) That the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 27th June 2024 be agreed as a true record of the meeting. Cllr Huckle queried whether the Somerset Chief Executive actual title was Chief Executive Officer. Subsequently confirmed that it was Chief Executive.
Subject to confirmation of the above, the minutes were agreed unanimously and signed by the Chairman.
There was a discussion about publishing the minutes in the Parish Magazine and on the website before they were formally agreed at the following meeting. Concern was expressed about the inclusion of some types of content. It was agreed that the minutes would be circulated to councillors after their review by the chairman for a short period allowing for comments and then subsequently published with content redacted where considered necessary. Cllr Killen to arrange for the reviewed minutes to be published in the Parish Magazine.

24/10/6 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications

- i) No applications were notified before the publication of this agenda.

- ii) Farrington Park – Recent planning application and works taking place on site including lorry damage to Langleys Lane. Lorries had been moving spoil from the Farrington Park site via an access onto Langleys Lane. Photographs had been taken showing mud and stone on the roadway and damage to verges. It was understood that this material was being moved on the basis of planning permission granted in 2018 for a previous project.
Concern was expressed about stones being brought onto the road by lorries which constituted a hazard to traffic using Langleys Lane. Clerk to investigate the 2018 application and any requirements as to traffic management included in the conditions and also to contact the planners and enforcement on the matter.
- iii) Somer Valley Enterprise Zone and LDO including proposals for enabling works in Langleys Lane. The clerk had emailed and spoken to Cllr Robbins about this matter but had not received a response.
Cllr Huckle suggested the Parish Council prepare a strategy for the management and restriction of traffic on Langleys Lane but the SVEZ construction works commence. Clerk to add this to the next agenda.

24/10/7 - Financial:

- i) Authorisation of payments for:
 - a) Alan Butcher – Clerks expenses. £44.90. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
 - b) HMRC Tax payment - £208.05. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
 - c) Kit Primrose – grounds maintenance - £377.00. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
 - d) SALC Affiliation Fee to 31/03/25 - £166.93. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
 - e) Payment of grant held on behalf of Old Gore Wood - £1605.02. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
- ii) Accounts and budget update to 30th September 2024. The clerk circulated accounts to 4th October 2024 together with an updated budget. Councillors agreed to replace the Ston Easton notice board and to hold the proposal for the Clapton Gateway until 2025.

24/10/8 - Parish Council Matters.

- i) Somerset Council:
 - a) Somerset Council Highway Services update and Enhanced Pilot Scheme. There was a lengthy discussion about these proposals and the cost to the Parish Council. Concern was expressed about how the works would be managed and monitored and whether any liability arising from the works would become the Parish Councils.
It was agreed to sign up to the enhanced scheme in the first instance.
Councillors prepare a list of various works required to highways and other areas around the Parish with the intention of obtaining a quotation for the works in due course. It was suggested that the Parish Council contact adjoining parishes to

ascertain if they would like to form a group to co-operate with obtaining and managing highway and other works in the area. Clerk to contact adjoining parishes.

- b) Somerset litter and dog bin collections and costs. The clerk advised that he had confirmed the location of these bins to Somerset and the Parish Council would be required to pay for the bins at Ston Easton. The bin in the layby at Rush Hill was on Somerset land and would be emptied free of charge.
- c) Parish Grit bins status. Cllr Davies confirmed that the three bins at Clapton were virtually full. Cllr Killen to check to two bins in Hay Street and advise.
- d) LCN meeting – 30th September 2024. No one had been able to attend this meeting.

ii) Matters Outstanding from previous meetings:

- a) Strap Lane illegal occupation
- b) Greenditch Lane status and repairs
- c) Wall on A37 at Ston Easton
- d) Clapton Lane flooding
- e) Responses from Somerset Councillors and FOI request. The clerk reported that he had emailed and also spoken to Cllr Robbins about the outstanding matters listed above and that Cllr Robbins had spoken to Enforcement about the Strap Lane situation. Cllr Robbins would be taking photographs of the site and speaking to Enforcement again.
Cllr Huckle expressed her disappointment that the clerk had not write to the Chief Executive on these matters as discussed and minuted at the last meeting. The clerk was uncertain that such a letter would have any effect and had suggested another course of action. Cllr Huckle felt that the council's instruction on this matter should have been followed by the clerk. The clerk offered to stand down at this point.
Cllr Killen asked the clerk to prepare a draft letter to the Chief Executive and circulate for comments. The clerk asked councillor's to confirm to him any information they held on the matter of the Strap Lane occupation and the chronology so that the letter could be as accurate as possible as to the length of the occupation.
- f) A37 footpath clearance – This work had been completed.
- g) A37 surfacing and white lining. This work still remained outstanding; Highways to be contacted again noting that this work had been apparently scheduled to be done many months ago. Cllr Fitzsimmons reported flooding on the A37 at Ston Easton caused by an adverse camber.

iii) Ston Easton A37 Highway and Traffic matters and provision of speed indicator and other devices. Devices to be installed upon completion of revised Somerset MOU.

iv) Clapton Gateways including second gateway purchase. The installation of the gateways to be held over until 2025.

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- v) Footpaths Report. Cllr Huckle reported the following:
Cllr Huckle reported the following:
 - a. CL19/ 7 A new kissing gate had been installed at the bottom of Zion Hill and the broken ladder stile at the other end of the path has also been replaced.
 - b. Stile onto CL19/20 of Greenditch Lane has been repaired.
 - c. Cllr Carver was unable to assist in making crossing a small corner of 19/20 easier but reported cows would soon be under cover for the winter months.
- vi) Proposed litter pick. The clerk had details for the loan of equipment; it was agreed to carry out the litter pick in early 2025.
- vii) Missing "Soldier" from Ston Easton War memorial. This had not been located.
- viii) Unannounced road closures around Clapton. Clerk to check that all notifications of road closures are being sent to him for onward transmission.
- ix) Notice Board replacement.
The Ston Easton board to be replaced; clerk to order within a budget of £500.

24/10/9 - Matters of Report

i) It was noted that there appeared to be an illegal occupation by vans in the A37 layby. It had been reported to the police. Clerk to report to Somerset enforcement.

ii) The usual wreaths to be organised by the clerk and delivered to Cllr Killen. A donation would be raised at the next meeting.

The large pothole on Green Street to be reported.

24/10/10 - Date of Next Meetings.

Thursday 12th December 2024 at Ston Easton Village Hall.

Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
31st October 2024
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