

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 TUESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023 COMMENCING AT 7.30pm**

Present: Cllrs Peter King (Chair), Anne Huckle, Ainslie Davies, Julian Carver, Rick Fitzsimmons; also in attendance Sally Taylorson, Cllr Edric Hobbs (SC) and Alan Butcher (Clerk)

23/09/1 - Apologies for absence. Cllr Tom Killen.

23/09/2 - Vice Chairman:

Cllr Peter King signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took the chair.

23/09/3 – Co-option of one councillor onto the Parish Council following the election.

Sally Taylorson had been put forward to fill the election vacancy and was unanimously invited to join the Parish Council. She signed the Declaration and took her seat on the council. The council now had a full complement of councillors.

23/09/4 - Declarations of Interest: No declarations were made.

23/09/5 - 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. One member of the public was present.

- i) Agenda matters.  
It was suggested that Defibrillator signs should be fitted to the phone box.  
The damaged wall on the A37 at Ston Easton was raised. Cllr Hobbs understood that the wall belonged to the county estates dept. He would raise the matter with them.  
The grit bins had been cleaned out, only the three Clapton bins needed refilling.
- ii) Report from Cllr Robbins – circulated. Cllr Hobbs referred the council to these monthly reports. He had no further comments to make.

23/09/6 - Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:

- i) Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023 (amended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023) to be agreed as a record of the meeting. Cllr Huckle noted that the action on grit bins was with Cllr Killen rather than herself. The minutes were then agreed and signed by the Chairman.

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- ii) Minutes of the extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023 were agreed as a record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

23/09/7 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications

- i) No applications were received before the publication of this agenda.
- ii) The Crown, Clapton appeal. Appeal allowed; details circulated. There were no further comments.
- iii) Somer Valley Enterprise Zone – Report on event 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023. Cllr Davies had attended and gave a brief resume of the event which, she noted, was more concerned with the new B%NES Local Plan than the SVEZ.

23/09/8 - Financial:

- i) Authorisation of payments for:
  - a) Alan Butcher – Clerks salary and expenses £747.51 for June, July and August 2023. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
  - b) HMRC Tax payment £171.60. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
  - c) Invoices from Primrose Garden maintenance - £104.00. Further invoices had been received and the total to pay was £182.00. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
  - d) Paul Shipman – works to Ston Easton bus shelter - £755.00. This was agreed and a cheque raised.
  - e) Payment to AED Donate for defibrillator - £1599.00. This was agreed and a cheque raised.

23/09/9 - Parish Council Matters.

- i) Matters arising from previous minutes:
  - a) Village Signs – Clapton gateway sign. The clerk had submitted the details forwarded by Cllr Huckle to Somerset Highways but had received no response; Cllr Hobbs to speak to Highways.
  - b) Strap Lane illegal occupation. Cllr King outlined the history of this item and spoke about stones and heras fencing obstructing the highway. The matter of the dogs which were living on site was discussed. Cllr Hobbs to review actions by Mendip and Somerset councils.matter.
  - c) Greenditch Lane status and repairs. Cllr Killen had reported that there seemed to be a lack of action to resolve this matter noting that only some minor repairs had been carried out.
  - d) Other Highway matters:
    - It was noted that the litter bins located in the laybys on the A37 seemed to have disappeared.
    - The badger sett in Strap Lane had caused the road to collapse – to be reported.
    - The continuing flooding on Clapton Road to be reported.
    - Cllr Hobbs to raise these matters with the Highways lead councillor.

- ii) Ston Easton A37 Highway and Traffic matters. It was noted that the recent roadworks had caused localised flooding problems and that there was still a problem with drain covers being flipped out by passing lorries. It was also noted the Sara Davies of Somerset Council was on the extension of the existing speed limit through Ston Easton.
- iii) Parish Traffic and Highways Advisory Group. The suggested meeting did not take place.
- iv) Footpaths Report – Cllr Huckle reported as follows:
  - 1. Two stiles replaced by kissing gates on path 19/16 and CL 5/11.
  - 2. Stile 38161 at the access point to path CL19/22 has I suspect been hit by a vehicle and consequently is in a dangerous state of disrepair especially when wet. It consists of two steps, it is the higher one that has become dislodged so the the two verticals need re-setting in the ground and the horizontal step requires nailing back down. Cllr Carver was asked if he you was aware of the issue as the stile is at entrance to his field off Greenditch Lane and was he able to make it secure. Otherwise, she would notify Somerset Rights of Way Team and ask them to get it sorted. Cllr Carver agreed to look at the stile.
- v) Defibrillator purchase: Councillors confirmed the following – that the machine should be the automatic type, that the machine would be delivered to Cllr Fitzsimmons address, that the existing backboard in the phone box was satisfactory for use and that no sponsor board was required. It was also agreed to replace the phone box signs with those indicating “Defibrillator”. These to be purchased at a cost of £70 and the cost reimbursed.
- vi) Ston Easton Bus shelter commemorative plaque, notice board and signs. The clerk advised that a metal framed notice board similar to the existing type would costs around £450. It was agreed to purchase two boards and to seek a discount. The clerk to seek a quote for a directional sign for the village hall.
- vii) Clapton Notice Board renewal. See above. It was suggested that the existing Clapton Board could be used to replace the board at Emborough.
- viii) Parish Grit Bins. Cllr Huckle advised the location of the grit bins in Clapton which had been emptied/loosened and required filling, the bins at Ston Easton did not require filling. It was agreed to purchase some stickers indicating that the bins were not to be used for dog waste.
- ix) Somerset Council matters:
  - a) Report on LCN and meeting minutes from 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023. Cllr Killen had submitted a brief report.
  - b) Actions arising from the meeting. No current actions.
  - c) Other Somerset Council matters
    - a) Gambling Policy – this was noted.
    - b) Public Spaces Protection Order – this was noted, there were no comments.
    - c) Local Plan. This had been circulated with a timetable for the re-assessment of sites following the planning inspectors’ comments.

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23/09/10 - Matters of Report:

- i) It was noted that the finger post at the junction of Zion Hill and Langleys Lane, Clapton had been damaged and required welding. Cllr Carver to ask a local tradesman if this can be done.
- ii) It was noted that an abandoned car in Strap Lane was connected with a recent medical incident.
- iii) The clerk circulated an interim set of accounts and a bank reconciliation which was signed by Cllr Taylorson.

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

23/09/11 - Date of Next Meeting.

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 at Ston Easton Village Hall.

**Alan Butcher,**  
**Parish Clerk,**  
**18<sup>th</sup> September 2023**  
**01749 870358;**  
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