

STON EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT CLAPTON VILLAGE HALL ON
TUESDAY 6th SEPTEMBER 2022 COMMENCING AT 7.30pm**

Present: Cllrs Tom Killen (Chair), Julian Carver, Ainslie Davies, Ann Huckle, Rick Fitzsimmons; also in attendance Alan Butcher (Clerk).

22/09/1 - Apologies for absence. Cllr P King

22/09/2 – Co-option of councillors onto the Parish Council following the uncontested election.

No candidates had come forward.

22/09/3 - Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Davies declared a personal interest in planning application
2022/1337/FUL – neighbour.

22/09/4 - 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. 6 members of the public were present.

- i) Agenda matters.
Members of the public raised concerns about planning application 2022/1337/FUL citing the impact of the new dwelling on the adjoining listed building, the lack of details about the external finish, the lack of sustainability and the buildings prominence over surrounding dwellings.

22/09/5 - Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:

- i) Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21st July 2022 – prop Cllr Davies, sec Cllr Huckle that they be agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.
- ii) Minutes of the extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on 9th August 2022 – prop Cllr Carver, sec Cllr Fitzsimmons that they be agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

Signed2nd November 2022

22/09/6 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications

- i) Application Number: 2022/1337/FUL - Erection of 1no. dwellinghouse. at Old Farm Clapton Road Clapton Radstock Somerset.
Cllr Killen gave a resume of the planning process in response to a question from the public. A number of concerns were raised including the impact on the adjoining listed building, the poor quality of information provided, comments in the application referring to the proposals complying with planning policy which is not the case as Clapton is considered to be a hamlet in open countryside.
It was prop Cllr Killen that the Parish Council object to the application, this was agreed 4 votes in favour, Cllr Davies did not vote.
It was agreed to include the following comments on the application:
That the comment in the application stating that it was in accordance with planning policy was incorrect given that Clapton is classed as a hamlet in open countryside where no development is included within current planning policy.
That the size and positioning of the dwelling will have an impact on its surroundings and the area as a whole and on the adjoining listed building.
That the information given about the external finishes is very poor and that the design does not fit into the local vernacular.
That the proposed dwelling cannot be considered as sustainable given the lack of footpaths near to the property and the complete lack of any public transport nearby.
- ii) Application Number: 2022/1703/HSE - Erection of single-storey side extension. Location: Rock House Langleys Lane Clapton Wells Somerset. It was prop Cllr Huckle, sec Cllr Carver that the application be supported. This was agreed unanimously.
- iii) Update on previous applications. No further information had been published on the Somer Valley EZ or Underhill Farm.

22/09/7 - Financial:

- i) Changes to Banking arrangements and signatories. This was still in hand.
- ii) Update on current financial position. There had been no expenditure.
- iii) Authorisation of payments for:
 - a) Alan Butcher – Clerks salary and expenses – July and August £515.72
 - b) SALC Training and subscription invoices - £169.39Both payments were authorised.

22/09/8 - Parish Council Matters.

- i) Matters arising from previous minutes:
 - a) 21/10/03ii) Village Signs. The site for the second sign had been agreed and the sign would be erected in due course.
 - b) A37 Ston Easton vehicle damage and signs. The damaged signs had been replaced.
 - c) Strapstone Lane illegal occupation. Awaiting response from Mendip DC
 - d) Greenditch Lane status and repairs. Clerk to check progress with Rights of Way.
- ii) Other Highways matters
The speed limit signs at Emborough were reported as knocked over.
- iii) Parish Traffic and Highways Advisory Group – frustration was expressed about the lack of progress following an initial meeting. Cllr Killen to speak the chairman of the group and arrange a meeting.
- iv) Footpaths Report – nothing to report.
- v) Clapton War memorial maintenance. The broken post had been replaced by Forticrete.
- vi) Defibrillator purchase. Awaiting completion of banking arrangements
- vii) Councillors reference books. Awaiting completion of banking arrangements.
- viii) Ston Easton Bus shelter. Repairs were required and a budget of £500 was agreed. Cllr Killen to seek quotes for the works. The proposal to use the shelter as a book exchange was discussed but it was noted that the village hall were offering a similar service inside the hall although access would be restricted when the hall was being used by the playgroup.
- ix) Updated Parish Council Standing Orders – these had been circulated and were adopted unanimously.
- x) Updated Councillors Code of Conduct - – this had been circulated and was adopted unanimously.
- xi) Asset Register information. The clerk advised that he could not locate a written access register only an amount included in the accounting papers. Councillors advised that the assets included the bus shelter and notice board at Ston Easton, the Clapton war memorial, Ston Easton village signs, two phone boxes, two benches and a notice board near The Old Down Inn. Clerk to update list and values.
- xii) New Somerset Council matters. Details of the proposed Local Community Networks had been published and it was noted that Ston Easton parish had been included in the Shepton Mallet LCN. Councillors expressed concern about this as it was generally considered that the parish aligned with Wells for schooling and church.
Councillors to read through the proposals and respond to the clerk by email about the start of October to allow a response to be given before the deadline of 17th October.

Signed2nd November 2022

- xiii) Council Tax Reduction scheme. This had been circulated.

22/09/9 - Matters of Report

- i) Cllr Killen reported that the newsletter had been updated and would be issued shortly.
- ii) Concern had been expressed by members of the public about the circulation of information about planning applications, etc. Clerk to send agenda for meeting to a village contact for further circulation.
- iii) There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm

22/09/10 - Date and Time of Next Meeting.

2nd November 2022 at Ston Easton Village Hall.

**Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
18th October 2022
01749 870358;
ston.easton.clerk@gmail.com**