

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting.

STON EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT CLAPTON VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY
9th MAY 2024 COMMENCING AT 7.30pm.**

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

24/05/1 - Apologies for absence. Cllrs Peter King and Julian Carver; Cllr Tony Robbins.

24/05/2 - Election of Chairman:

Cllr Killen – proposed Cllr Davies, seconded Cllr Fitzsimmons; there were no other nominations and Cllr Killen was duly elected.

24/05/3 - Election of Vice Chairman:

No nominations were made and the office left vacant.

The Chairman signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

24/05/4 – 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. Cllrs to make enquiries as to suitable candidates and Cllr Huckle to post the vacancy on Clapton social media and Cllr Killen to post on Ston Easton social media.

24/05/5 – Confirmation of Proper Officer: Alan Butcher was duly confirmed.

24/05/6 - Confirmation of Responsible Financial Officer: Alan Butcher was duly confirmed.

24/05/7 - Declarations of Interest:

No declarations were made.

24/05/8 - 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. No report had been received.
- ii) Meeting with Ward Councillors. Cllr Killen reported on a meeting in Wells with Cllrs Robbins and Hobbs attended by himself and Alan Butcher. The councillors reported that delivery of services were constrained by budget issues and that, at present, a number of issues raised by Ston Easton Parish Council could not move forward. They also noted that, currently, the council was biased in favour of actions by officers. Cllr Killen noted that several of the outstanding items required officer input rather than any financial commitment.

Following discussion it was agreed to write again to the ward councillors outlining those outstanding actions and highlighting those which required officer input. These included the completion of the promised additional white lining on the A37 at Ston Easton, the Strap Lane occupation, the redesignation of Greenditch Lane and Clapton Lane Flooding

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24/05/9 - Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings

- i) That the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th March 2024 be agreed as a true record of the meeting. It was proposed Cllr Fitzsimmons, seconded Cllr Davies that the minutes be so agreed; all in favour.
- ii) That the Minutes of the extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 20th March 2024 be agreed as a true record of the meeting. It was proposed with a typo correction to para 24/03E/5i Cllr Huckle, seconded Cllr Fitzsimmons that the minutes be so agreed; all in favour.

24/05/10 - Parish Council Response to Planning Applications

- i) No planning applications were notified before the publication of this agenda. Two planning applications had been received on 7th May 2024, too late to be added to the agenda. One application concerned Farrington Park and it was agreed that the Chairman call an extra meeting for 5th June (subject to extension to the consultation being granted) and that representatives from the applicant be invited.
- ii) Underhill Farm decision from Planning Board. It was reported that this application had been granted by the Planning Board.
- iii) Somer Valley Enterprise Zone and LDO including proposals for enabling works in Langleys Lane. Clerk to contact the ward councillors to ascertain the officer contact at Somerset regarding the proposals enabling works.
- iv) Parish Council Planning Application Protocol. A revised draft was circulated, it was agreed to add wording when the application was supported.

.24/05/11 - Financial:

- i) Authorisation of payments for:
 - a) Alan Butcher – Clerks expenses. £27.90 – this was agreed and a cheque raised.
 - b) HMRC Tax payment. The tax problems in submitting returns to the HMRC had been resolved. Previous cheques which had not gone to HMRC because of the problem had been destroyed and a aggregate cheque for £734.58 raised. The was agreed.
 - c) Westcotec Invoice for SID's - £7386.00 - this was agreed and a cheque raised.
 - d) Kit Primrose – grounds maintenance - £84.00 - this was agreed and a cheque raised.
 - e) Clear Councils Insurance Renewal - £439.83 - this was agreed and a cheque raised.
- ii) Get Active proposals. A report and accounts had been received. Cllr Fitzsimmons reported that the “committee” had lost members and were seeking to join with the Ston Easton village hall committee although was proving difficult. Concern was expressed about the continued running of the facilities. It was agreed to defer the consideration of the grant until the next meeting when the situation could be clearer.
- iii) Draft Accounts prior to audit. These were circulated for information.
- iv) AGAR 2023/24 actions including Certificate of Exemption. The certificate was duly completed and signed by the chairman and RFO.

24/05/12 - Parish Council Matters.

- i) Matters arising from previous minutes:
 - a) Strap Lane illegal occupation.
 - b) Greenditch Lane status and repairs
 - c) Wall on A37 at Ston Easton
 - d) Clapton Lane flooding

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The above items to be raised again with the ward councillors.

- e) The road past the Piggery continues to deteriorate.
 - f) Cllr Huckle noted that Clapton Lane before it descends toward MSN is sinking to one side.
 - g) The footway on the A37 running between the village and the church continues to deteriorate. It was noted that there is extensive grass growth which needs removal. Clerk to seek suitable specialist contractor and obtain a quote for the footways both sides of the A37.
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- ii) Ston Easton A37 Highway and Traffic matters and provision of speed indicator and other devices. Devices now received. Additional batteries and brackets were required beyond that ordered to ensure continuous operation. It was proposed Cllr Killen, seconded Cllr Fitzsimmons that the quote from Westcotec in the sum of £470 plus delivery and VAT be accepted. Clerk to order.
 - iii) Clapton Gateways including second gateway purchase. The clerk had circulated a quotation from Glasdon of £750 for the supply and delivery of the additional gateway. The clerk advised that the overall cost with installation could be up to £1200 and that this amount was not included in the budget. After discussion it was agreed to defer the replacement notice board for Clapton and the put that amount toward the new gateway. It was proposed Cllr Killen, seconded Cllr Huckle that the new gateway be purchased from Glasdon Ltd. Clerk to secure loose back board on existing notice board as a temporary measure.
 - iv) Footpaths Report. Cllr Huckle had provided a report which is appended to these minutes.
 - v) Defibrillator – online training. This was on-going.
 - vi) Proposed litter pick. Clerk to advise where the loan equipment can be obtained from.
 - vii) Farrington Golf Club. The planning application had been received, see minute above.
 - viii) Concerns about crime in Clapton. Clerk to contact area police and invite them to a future meeting.
 - ix) Local Plan Part 2 limited update consultation. Council comments had been submitted.
 - x) Somerset Council Highway Services update and devolution. No further information.
 - xi) Somerset Council matters:
 - a) LCN meeting 29th April 2024.
No one had been able to attend this meeting.

24/05/13 - Matters of Report

It was reported that only Cllrs Killen, Fitzsimmons and the clerk had attended the Annual Parish Meeting, no members of the public were present. It was agreed to take the 2023 Annual Parish Meeting minutes as read and these were signed by the Chairman. No Minutes for the 2024 meeting were recorded.

24/05/14 - Date of Next Meetings.

Thursday 27th June 2024 at Ston Easton.
Extra meeting 5th June 2024 at Ston Easton

Alan Butcher,

Parish Clerk,

13th May 2024

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