

CLERK'S REPORT – 9th November 2020

Parish Council Matters – Agenda Item 6

Notice of Vacancy of Parish Councillor – Following the resignation of Councillor Sue Dustin the Notice of Vacancy was advertised as of 23rd October 2020. If no requests for an Election are received by 12th November 2020 (and none are anticipated), the parish Council should co-opt a new Councillor as soon as possible.

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Allotments – All allotments are let, and there has been one enquiry so potentially a waiting list of one. Other items remain outstanding, such as the hedge line, but all are further delayed from any progress due to Lockdown 2.

General Parish Matters – Agenda Item 7

Southstoke Lane and Village Road Safety Measures – The South Stoke village Speed Restriction project, associated TRO, and pedestrian warning signs have been assigned to Sadie Cox-Alcuaz - Assistant Engineer- Traffic Management & Network Team, and her assistant to progress as a single project. The chair and clerk met with them on 26th October in the village, and walked them through the wishes of the Parish. The project is expected to be completed in its entirety before the end of March 2021. The details of the scheme will be circulated for Parish Council approval shortly. The whole scheme is put out for consultation, and so it will be important to inform the village and ensure there are no objections.

The clerk has also received approval of a grant of £1,125 for the cost of the Pedestrian Warning signs from Avon and Somerset Police Community Trust. The cheque for this sum has been received and only the slightly challenging task of banking it remains.

Implementation of Broadband provision in Southstoke and Midford by Truespeed – This appears to be complete within South Stoke village itself and progress continue towards Midford down the Midford Road.

Village Hall - The Village Hall management committee plan to change the boiler at a cost of around £500. The Parish Council has procured the heater from GRAHAM Plumbers merchants with some difficulty, and instructed the plumber to carry out the work.

Police liaison and Neighbourhood Watch – The clerk has ordered sixteen Neighbourhood Watch signs at a cost of £104 from the Avon & Somerset Police Neighbourhood Watch Administrator. It was necessary to pay this sum on a personal cheque, and that cheque has not yet been banked. It therefore appears that there is no progress with this order, and may be waiting for the return to work of Trevor Wilmot, so some considerable time yet. The location of the signs have been agreed and most permissions obtained.

South Stoke Phone Box - Emergency Phone Cellular Annual Rental – During the first lockdown the annual rental payment of £60 became due and was invoiced to the clerks previous address. We not therefore aware of it until it was overdue, and so it has been paid for this current year. However, the phone has never been used and coverage in the village has improved and the carrying of a mobile phone by everyone is now the norm. The clerk recommends that the phone rental is discontinued next year, and requests instruction to terminate the service when it comes up for renewal.

Footpaths and Open Spaces

Village Green – A Norway Spruce Christmas Tree 14/15 foot for £160 (no VAT) has been ordered and will be erected on the Village Green when delivered.

Churchyard - Highway Drainage issues at Lychgate It is reported that B&NES Council have carried out significant works to remedy these problems and that overall this has resolved all of the problems. There is a very minor issue remaining at the gulley on the village green which Robert Hellard will resolve once the weather is warm enough to work with pre-packed tarmac.

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Parish Liaison meeting – Agenda Item 10

A somewhat reduced agenda meeting was held on 22nd October by ZOOM. The clerk missed this meeting and Minutes have yet to be published. It is not thought that there is anything significant to report.

CAM Valley Forum - – Agenda Item 10

Again no one attended this Zoom meeting. The clerk was approached following it as the meeting discussed the possible establishment of a Village Agent scheme, and Local Care in the Community.

Dates for Future Meetings – Agenda Item 13

To confirm the following dates for future meetings:-

Monday 18th January 2021 Monday 15th March 2021

Annual Parish Meeting: Monday April 19th 2021

Annual Parish Council Meeting: May 17th 2021

With all meetings to be held as normal in the Village Hall at 7:00 p.m. if Covid-19 guidance and restrictions permit – Otherwise Online via ZOOM