

# ***Clatworthy Parish Council***

Minutes of the Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022 in Clatworthy Village Hall

**Present:** Sally Moran (Chair), John Ward (Vice Chair), Marcus Blackburn (Clerk), Margaret Deer, Linda Sharp, Jacob Forgham, Steven Pugsley (Somerset County Councillor)

## **1. Apologies**

Stephen Branfield, Frances Nicholson (Somerset County Councillor), Dave Mansell (District Councillor)

2. Minutes of previous meeting. The minutes of the Parish Council AGM held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022 were approved as complete and accurate. Sally signed a paper copy.

## **3. Update from County Councillor Stephen**

Steven explained that discussion about the changeover to the new unitary council is focused on organising how the transfer of powers will work in relation to Local Community Networks (LCNs) and town and parish councils. Of particular concern to Clatworthy is how much say parish councils will have regarding planning. Planning will transfer at the highest level to the unitary authority but details of LCN and parish involvement is unclear so far.

Steven said that the Highways Steward, Richard Gay, is leaving on promotion and that a replacement for his post is being sought. The value of the steward post has proved its worth as there is now a long list of work for the incumbent to cover. The PC commended Richard's work clearing drains and cutting back vegetation around signposts in Clatworthy.

The Somerset Local Authorities' Civil Contingencies Unit held a meeting recently for local town and parish councils called 'Somerset Prepared'. Its purpose is to ensure people know who to contact within government when an emergency is happening locally (eg when there are floods, power outages, hazardous road conditions restricting transport, etc). Named contacts from each locality are requested for a county-wide database who are able and authorised to report on local conditions. Steven advised that he plans to request a similar presentation for the Exmoor panel members.

## **4. Proposed 2023/24 budget**

The PC approved the proposed budget for next year which will remain the same as the 2022/23 budget.

<b>Payments</b>	<b>£</b>
Parish Council Insurance	180
Clatworthy Village Hall – Insurance Grant	300
Defibrillator Maintenance	100

Internal Audit	30
SALC Affiliation Fee	30
Clerk /Councillor training	30
Wivey Link Donation	100
Wivey Library Donation	75
St Margaret's Hospice Donation	100
Musgrove Hospital	100
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>1,045</b>
Reserves (i.e. Current Bank Balance)	<b>5,621.47</b>

5. Fingerpost Maintenance Update from Sally

Sally informed the meeting that, despite repeated attempts to get a firm quote for repair of the signposts from Exmoor Welding, this had not proved possible. Steven advised that we may yet hear from the company. It was agreed that Councillor Margaret would pursue other local channels of enquiry among metalworkers and the council will await the outcome of these. Councillor Jake offered to follow up the Wiveliscombe metalwork option. The PC will approach the National Park for a grant once more definitive costs are known. In the meantime, paint and equipment is ready for blacking the lettering of the sign at Forches Cross by Sally and her husband who have attended the required training and are authorised to do this work.

6. Local Community Network consultation

Steven advised that a consultation from the County Council was taking views about groupings of parishes and towns into LCNs across all of Somerset. He reported on a recent meeting held by him and Frances which was attended by representatives of 23 parishes in the Exmoor area. Sally and Marcus attended for Clatworthy PC.

Three groupings were suggested in the document. Option A is based linking geographical areas of roughly equal size. Option B is based linking areas of equal population. It was thought that neither of these options adequately considered the similarities or interests of the constituent communities. Option C is for one LCN, linking all the West Somerset communities (like the old West Somerset District Council area). A fourth option was suggested at the meeting (known as Option D) that added Dunster to Option C with the coastal area from Minehead to Stogursey becoming its own LCN with a remit to work closely with the Option C area on matters relevant to both. Steven reported that, according to a straw poll at the end of this meeting, the majority (18/23) of parish representatives indicated support for Option D or D within C.

Clatworthy PC had agreed that Option C was in its best interests and advised Steven that the consultation survey had been completed and submitted to this effect. Steven explained

that 600 representations had been received and decisions are yet to be made as to the configuration of LCNs.

7. Finance

7.1 Marcus informed the meeting that no income had been received or payments made since the last meeting. The opening and closing financial positions are £5,621.47.

No changes were reported to the savings account which remains at £794.28.

7.2 Payments for Approval

Marcus informed the meeting that a request for a donation had been received from St Margaret's Somerset Hospice. A donation of £100.00 was agreed.

8. Highways

8.1 Sally reported on an opportunity to apply for a grant from the Highways LCN to address the ongoing concerns about vehicles speeding through the village. She explained she had looked at a variety of traffic calming options and assessed them within the constraints requested in previous discussions with the council and informally, including a parish survey taken in 2020. The constraints include not impeding farm traffic and other large vehicles, keeping the number and size of street signs to a minimum and to minimise the visual and noise impact of calming measures on the village and lane. An application has been submitted for consideration to the Highways panel which meets in November.

Sally has also reported via the online Highways Authority concerns portal that the current road markings (yellow lines and SLOW) at either end of the village have faded and need repainting.

8.2 The role of Highways Warden for Clatworthy (to report issues in need of particular assistance from the Highways Steward) was passed from Sally to Councillor Jake.

9. Correspondence - None

10. Items for next meeting's agenda

Items for discussion should be sent to the parish clerk or chairman at least two weeks before the next meeting.

**The next full meeting of the Parish Council is planned for Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:30.

**Future meetings:** 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 1<sup>st</sup> August, 7 November 2023