

Annual Parish Meeting 2021

The Chair of the Parish Council welcomed the small number of attendees and gave her report (see below) on the previous year. No matters were raised.

Clatworthy Parish Council Review of Year 2020-21

The year has been dominated by the Coronavirus epidemic and associated lockdowns. These have impacted the Parish Council's ability to meet and the local community from mixing safely. During the lockdown periods the community provided support to those who needed it and the parish council was able to report on this to local authorities.

Attempts were made to hold council meetings via 'Zoom' but unfortunately broadband strength was not good enough to support virtual meetings. Parish council work was managed by email, post and individual conversations, where required, with the outcomes and actions recorded against the meeting dates originally posted in May, November and February. The only attended meeting was held in August.

The Parish Council has been regularly updated on the proposals for reorganising Somerset's council structure. District councillors have responded to direct questions promptly, for which the council is grateful.

It is with great sadness that this year the parish lost several of its current and past community. In our small parish each loss has been deeply felt. None of these were due to Covid-19.

The automatic heart defibrillator installed in the village phone box remains in good working order with weekly checks and monthly reports made to the NHS ambulance defibrillator accreditation scheme. The PC is concerned about the deteriorating state of the phone box which detracts from the view towards the church. Offers to the PC from volunteers to help repair and repaint it will be welcomed.

The PC continues to lead on opportunities to improve rural broadband via a local company laying fibre across private land. There was some delay to progress but it is expected that Clatworthy will be connected once appropriate permissions across Wessex Water land and wayleaves elsewhere have been granted.

The Parish Council responded in detail to the planning application to improve reservoir visitor facilities, raising concerns about the need to maintain and protect the natural feel of the surroundings and the impact of increased visitor numbers on local roads and residents. The PC advised on possible traffic management and signage to the reservoir and to avoid Clatworthy village. Wessex Water is taking relevant action and continues to liaise with the PC.

The issue of speeding through the village continues to be addressed by the PC, although the lockdowns have precluded further action at district and county council level. This issue will remain on the agenda.

Grants were made this year by the PC to support local charities/organisations including St Margaret's Somerset Hospice, Wivey Link and Musgrove Park Hospital.

On moving away from Clatworthy, Lewis Baker relinquished the role of Parish Footpath Officer. The council thanks him for his years of work in ensuring footpaths and bridle paths remained usable and adequately signed. Peter Moran has taken on this role.

The Parish Council extends grateful thanks to everyone in the community during this difficult year. Without local support Clatworthy would not be the friendly and caring community it is – and lockdown might have been so much harder.

Sally Moran
Chair, Clatworthy Parish Council