

Clatworthy Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2015 at 7.30 in Clatworthy Village Hall

Present

D.J.Cowling (Chairman), R.Barlow, M.Branfield, C.Giddings, P.Goodwin, S.McIntosh, District Councillor K.Turner, County Councillor F.Nicholson, N.E.Martin (Clerk)

1 Apologies

None.

2 Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9 December 2014 were accepted as correct and were signed by the Chairman.

3 Matters Arising

- As requested, the Village Hall Committee had set the five top priorities for Clatworthy. Details were presented briefly to the meeting and the Clerk will send the full document to the Parish Council following this meeting.

Action: N.E.Martin

- Chris reported that his contact had been unable to locate the parish maps. Peter Goodwin offered to write formally to Risdon Hosegood requesting that they be returned to us.

Action: P.Goodwin

- Francis Nicholson was asked to explain why the roads in the village had been salted when it was unnecessary and left unsalted when it froze overnight. She replied that there were clear rules governing salting and she would check them.

Action: F.Nicholson

4 Financial Report

4.1 New account and signatories

The Clerk reported that the new account had now been set up at Lloyds Williton and the balance of funds transferred from Lloyds Wellington to the new account. Signatories on the new account are D.J.Cowling, P.Goodwin and N.E.Martin – any two to sign. In addition N.E.Martin and P.Goodwin will have internet access to the new account. It is not expected that payments will generally be made on-line, but any that are would need to be authorised by both Norma and Peter.

4.2 Current position on 24/2/15

Balance at Lloyds Wellington 31/10/14 1560.10

Total Receipts 0.00

Payments

SALC	23.06	203	Annual affiliation fee
Judith Bryant	32.00	205	Internal audit of 2013/14 accounts
Grant Thornton	60.00	206	External audit – additional fee for late submission
P D Goodwin	105.49	207	Parish newsletter
Clatworthy Village Hall	278.00	208	Village Hall Buildings Insurance
Clatworthy Village Hall	500.00	209	Grant towards replacement curtains

Total Payments 998.55

Balance at Lloyds Wellington 31/1/15 561.55

Since transferred to new Parish Council account at Lloyds Williton

5 Planning

Two major planning documents had been received:

- Taunton Deane: Site Allocations and Development Management Plan
- Draft West Somerset Local Plan to 2032

Sophy volunteered to act as 'planning representative' for the Parish Council to review planning documents and raise any matters that needed to be discussed by the Council. The clerk passed her the two plans, which are currently out for final comments before publication.

6 Feedback from Brendon Hills meeting

Norma had attended the Brendon Hills meeting on 2 February, but there are no minutes available as yet. Mention was made of a scheme to address rural isolation in West Somerset; more details are expected to be in the minutes. Keith, Frances and Chris will meet to progress the Lengthsman issue in Clatworthy and neighbouring parishes.

Following this meeting a 'Lengthsman meeting' has been arranged at Raleigh's Cross, 7.30, 19 March.

7 Update from District Councillor, Keith Turner

Some of the new 'transparency' rules, which affect the Parish accounts are to be implemented in 2015. As it is still unclear how Districts and Parishes are expected to meet their commitments, Keith is trying to arrange for SALC to meet with Parish representatives to clarify the requirements.

Following this meeting a 'Transparency meeting' has been arranged at Raleigh's Cross, 7.30, 9 April.

Keith reassured the meeting that the District's portion of Council tax would increase by no more 1.99% in the coming year.

8 Update from County Councillor, F.Nicholson

Frances said that the County's portion of our Council Tax would be unchanged in 2015/16, but was almost certain to rise the following year.

9 AOB

Reimbursement of Chairman. David asked the meeting to reimburse him for the £70 he had spent on a retirement gift for the outgoing Clerk. Agreed.

Action: D.J.Cowling, N.E.Martin

May elections. The Clerk had the key dates for the forthcoming elections, but had not as yet received the nomination papers. A meeting will be arranged towards the end of March to complete the nomination forms and arrange for their submission.

Action: N.E.Martin

Rate relief on Village Hall. A letter had been received indicating that we may have to apply annually after 2015/16 for rate relief for the Village Hall. Keith said the District Council was strongly opposed to the idea as the scheme would be inefficient and costly and we should not worry about it at present.

Street cleansing. The Parish had been asked to suggest ways in which the cost of toilet and street cleaning in our parish could be reduced. No response required.

Sandbags. The Parish was asked if it could hold a supply of sandbags and arrange their distribution in times of threatened flood. Council felt that this facility was not needed in Clatworthy.

Forwarding of e-mails. The Clerk currently forwards all the e-mails she receives that relate to road works and housing to all members of the Council who are on e-mail. Members confirmed that they wanted to continue to receive them.

Grants related to Hinckley Point. Once again we had received information on the availability of grants for parishes affected by the development of the new Hinckley Point power station.

Keith confirmed that it was unlikely that we would be able to identify anything at this stage that would enable the District Council to award a grant. However he believed that would change in due course and we should 'watch this space'.

The Clerk suggested that it would be useful to have a 'grant representative' on the council to monitor and review any opportunities that might arise. Peter Goodwin offered to take on the role.

Badly repaired pothole. Chris brought photos of the 'repair' that had been carried out on a pothole near his entrance. It is clearly completely inadequate and he wanted the matter to be raised with the contractors by the County Council. Frances suggested we submit the complaint, with the photos, to County Roads West Somerset with a copy to her.

Action: C.Giddings, N.E.Martin

Roadsigns altered. As a result of redirecting a lady motorist over the Christmas period, Peter had reported the badly aligned signs to County Roads, but nothing has been done. The offending signpost is by Lowtrow Cross, at the top of Brendon Hill coming from the direction of Huish Champflower.

Date of next meetings

Regular meetings in 2015 will be on:

Tuesday 26 May 7.00 in Clatworthy Village Hall (Annual meeting and AGM) – note earlier time.

Tuesday 25 August 7.30 in Clatworthy Village Hall

Tuesday 24 November 7.30 in Clatworthy Village Hall

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.55