

Clatworthy Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 22 August 2017 at 7.30 in Clatworthy Village Hall

Present

S.Moran (Chair), M.Deer, J.Ward, F.Nicholson (Somerset County Councillor), K.Turner (West Somerset District Councillor), N.E.Martin (Clerk)

1. Apologies

Apologies received from: S.Branfield, A.Cowling, S.McIntosh.

2. Casual Vacancies

Chair Sally welcomed the two co-opted members, Margaret Deer and John Ward, to the Parish Council to fill the vacancies left by the resignations of P.Goodwin and R.Barlow. (As advised at the previous meeting, Ron tendered his resignation on his departure from the village.)

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 23 May 2017 were accepted as correct and were signed by the Chair.

4. Matters Arising not covered on the agenda

Common land at Raleigh's Cross: Following the lighting of the beacon for the Queen's 90th Birthday, Councillors had expressed some concern about the ownership of the land used for the beacon and agreed that an attempt be made to clarify the legal position.

The Clerk had acquired a copy of the registration of the land as 'Clatworthy Village Green' from the County Commons Register, but the register had no further information regarding the sale of part of the land to Raleigh's Cross. This will be pursued with Land Registry if no further information can be discovered by Cllr Chris. The Council may also investigate the possibility of registering the land as common land owned by the parish.

Action: N.E.Martin ONGOING

Casual vacancy: The resignation of Peter Goodwin following his statement at the previous meeting left a vacancy on the Council which will be advertised in the next village newsletter. The clerk will produce a draft for approval prior to publication.

Action: COMPLETE

5. Update from District/County Councils

5.1 District Council

Cllr Keith reported that the proposed move to a single District Council to cover Taunton Deane and West Somerset was progressing. A final decision by Sajid Javid, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, is expected on 6 September, which would allow work to go ahead over the autumn and winter.

5.2 County Council

Cllr Frances assured the meeting that she is still actively working on the drainage issue (see below) and will report back as soon as any progress is made.

Cllr Frances also announced that West Somerset will be one of six social mobility 'cold spots' to receive funding to increase young people's opportunities. The funding is intended to address the biggest challenges disadvantaged children face, by working with early years providers, schools, colleges, businesses, universities, charities and local authorities to ensure all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential. She was hopeful that the initiative could bring major advantages to businesses and communities within the area, making it more possible for youngsters to find work and stay in the county rather than moving away.

6. Parish records

It was agreed that there was little likelihood of making progress in finding the missing records and Council reluctantly agreed to close this action.

There was some speculation that another ex-member of Risdon Hosegood's staff might be able to help and Council agreed she should be contacted.

Action: C.Giddings WITHDRAWN

7. Drainage Works

The drainage work was completed before Christmas 2016, but has left the verge opposite Wry Lane with a soft soil bank rather than the original hard standing. This makes it difficult for the farmer to use the Wry Lane entrance and has reduced the available parking area for the Village Hall. The Highways Department are not able to reinstate the hard standing, nor to sanction such remedial action by the Parish Council. County Councillor Frances has investigated the situation and has gained agreement from the County Council that the work, whilst a sound engineering solution, did not meet the village's requirements. No further progress has yet been made, but she will follow it up as soon as she can.

Action: F.Nicholson ONGOING

8. Village sign and signposts

8.1 Clatworthy village sign

Lewis Baker has confirmed that tamper-proof bolts have now been fitted to the new sign at the northern entrance to the village.

8.2 Historic signposts project

A report on progress has been distributed to Parish Councillors and cleaning and painting of the signs that do not require any engineering work will be carried out as soon as materials are available.

Parishes were also asked to provide any historical information they had on the crosses and Lewis Baker is researching information for Clatworthy. A draft of his report was circulated at the meeting and further contributions or corrections would be welcome.

9. Report from Brendon Hills meeting on broadband options

Sally reported that none of the options discussed at the Brendon Hills meeting was available to Clatworthy (nor Brompton Ralph). There was therefore no likelihood of affordable broadband being available to these villages in the near future.

10. Finance

10.1 Current position

	£			
Balance at Lloyds Williton 15/5/2017	2814.86			
Receipts	£	Ref		Details
None				
Total Receipts	0.00			
Payments	£	Cheque #		Details
Community First Trading	157.78	23		PC Insurance
Judith Bryant	40.00	24		Internal audit
N.E.Martin (Clerk – reimbursement)	28.76	25		clatworthy-parish.uk domain name for 3-years
Clatworthy Village Hall	300.00	26		1st Aid course
Total Payments	526.54			
Balance at Lloyds Williton 22/8/2017	2288.32			

10.2 Payments for authorisation

The village hall insurance is due soon and Council authorised the Clerk to make the payment, providing the amount did not exceed that set in the budget.

The resignation of P.Goodwin required his name to be removed from the list of signatories and reduced their number again. It was agreed that Cllr Andrew's name would be added.

(See section 5.2 4 in previous minutes.)

Action: COMPLETE

10.3 Investment account

NS&I no longer offer this type of account to Parish Councils and advice is being sought from SALC as to other options. In the interim, Cllr Ron closed the account and held the balance for transfer to the Council as soon as a suitable account has been identified.

Action: COMPLETE

Following Ron's resignation, Cllr Sally now holds a cheque for the balance of the NS&I account. Given the comparatively small amount involved and the current low interest rates available, it may not be worth holding this money separately. Councillors are to consider the options and decide at the next meeting what action should be taken.

Action: ALL

11. Correspondence

Council had agreed to nominate Ron & Joan Barlow (jointly) for Somerset's Chairman's Award for Service to the Community for their years of service to Clatworthy. The nomination form and citation prepared by Cllr Sophy was circulated for information.

12 Other items

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Meeting dates for 2017

Tuesday 21 November 2017, 7.30 in Clatworthy Village Hall

Dates for 2018 will be set at the November meeting.