

Clatworthy Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6 August 2024 in Clatworthy Village Hall

Present: Sally Moran (Chair), Stephen Branfield, Kevin Chesterman, Margaret Deer, Linda Sharp, Frances Nicholson (Somerset Councillor), Steven Pugsley (Somerset Councillor), Norma Martin (Clerk)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Jake Forgham, John Ward.

2. Minutes of meeting held on 7 May 2024

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7 May 2024 were confirmed correct and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising not covered on the agenda

It was noted that the Highways 'double cut' had been carried out as promised. Inevitably the weight of foliage had caused some further problems, but it was agreed that these would, be handled as necessary by village volunteers.

The revised meeting dates proposed at the May meeting clash with several other parish councils which, would make attendance very difficult for our Somerset Councillors. As their input is much appreciated, it was agreed to revert to the previous dates (i.e. the first Tuesday of February, May, August and November).

4. Village Welfare Meeting Report

At the request of villagers, Chair Sally convened an open meeting to identify ways in which the village could help to reduce the level of anti-social behaviour that had recently been experienced. The meeting was well attended by most interested parties bar local authorities. It is hoped that the positive steps taken, which have already helped, will enable all parties to move on and benefit from a shared approach should any further anti-social behaviour occur.

The same week, PCSO Haimes held a village surgery as part of her routine duties which was also well attended and proved helpful.

5. Update from Somerset Council

The financial situation remains difficult and is not helped by the policy uncertainties created by the recent General Election. Some monies will be raised by the sale of unwanted assets, but not enough to avoid cuts in many services. Councillor Frances also warned that the increased emphasis on 'green' issues makes it much easier, and very profitable, to convert traditional farm land to forestry by commercial organisations offering carbon offset or for vast solar arrays, thereby reducing land available for food production and changing the landscape.

On a more practical note, Councillor Steven reminded us of the need to specify our 'road salt' requirements for the winter to enable the bins to be topped up. He also suggested that the practice of also providing dumpy bags of salt might not be continued, which could be a problem for Clatworthy as roadside salt bins have frequently fallen foul of hedging contractors flails in the past. The financial impact of losing dumpy bags will be investigated.

Action: Clerk

Chair Sally will arrange for the feedback requested for the Winter Salting Programme will be collected.

Action: Sally

6. Road maintenance

No further matters were raised.

7. Finance

Actions from last meeting

CLlr Kevin has been added to the account signatories.

A second signatory registered for on-line banking would be useful, but the Clerk has so far been unable to find out how to do this and exactly how it works.

Action: Clerk, ONGOING

7.1 Current position

		£	
Balance at Lloyds Williton 30/4/24		5020.35	
Receipts	Ref	£	Details
None			
Total Receipts			
Payments			
SALC	Chq #93	100.00	2 x 2 Councillor training sessions
Community First Trading	Chq #94	127.56	Parish Council Insurance 2024-25
Hugo Fox	D/D	11.99	Website monthly subscription – May24
Hugo Fox	D/D	11.99	Website monthly subscription – Jun24
Judith Bryant	BACS	30.00	Internal Audit 2024-25
Hugo Fox	D/D	11.99	Website monthly subscription – Jul24
Total Payments		293.53	
Balance at Lloyds Williton 31/7/24		4726.82	

Spend against 24-25 budget

	Plan	Actual	Comments
Audit fees	30.00		
Insurance – Parish Council	200.00	127.56	
Clatworthy VH – Insurance	350.00		
SALC membership	30.00		
Clerk/Councillor training	30.00	100.00	
Postage & stationery	30.00		
Defibrillator	200.00	168.00	
Phone box	50.00		
Parish Web site	160.00	47.96	
WAP – Wivey Link	100.00		
Other local charities	200.00		
Contingency/Misc	300.00		
Total	1680.00	443.52	

7.2 Payments for authorisation

Council approved the following:

To Sally (reimbursement)	Batteries for defibrillator	£67.98
	Replacement pads for defibrillator	£168.00

Items covered by this year's budget and unused budget from previous year.

Payments for authorisation (cont)

To Clatworthy Village Hall Grant for Insurance £372.28
6% over budget.

To Judith Bryant Internal audit 2024 £30.00
As per budget, and audit authorised by Council. Paid by BACS, no additional authorisation is sought.

Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC) have informed us that our membership fee for 2022/23 has never been paid. As the PC used SALC training that year (at the member rate) authority is sought to pay the outstanding sum of £22.25.

It is also noted that there is no payment for SALC affiliation recorded in the 2021/22 accounts either. The Clerk would like to clarify this with them and bring our membership up to date if necessary (if it is still outstanding it will be a similar sum to the above).

Future authorisation

Now that cheques are no longer the major method of paying out money from the PC account, it is suggested that the way in which payments are authorised and made could usefully be reviewed. The Clerk will prepare some proposals for review at the November meeting.

Action: Clerk

8. Village Emergency Plan

Chair Sally presented the first draft of the emergency plan to councillors and asked that everyone took the opportunity to read it and pass comments back to her by the end of August.

Action: All

9. Other matters for information.

Risk Register - to be reviewed at November meeting.

Code of Conduct - draft to be ready for comment at November meeting.

Standing Orders (to include financial process) - draft to be ready for comment at November meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday 5 November 2024