

Clatworthy Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2019 at 7.30 p.m. in Clatworthy Village Hall

Present: S.Moran (Chair), M. Blackburn, S.Branfield, A.Cowling, M.Deer, S.McIntosh, M.Blaker (Somerset West & Taunton District Councillor), N.E.Martin (Clerk)

1. Apologies:D.Mansell (Somerset West & Taunton District Councillor)

2. Minutes of meeting held on 20 August 2019

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20 August 2019 were accepted as correct and were signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising not covered on the agenda

3.1 Conformance to planning conditions: 3/06/17/002

In response to questions raised by a parishioner the Parish Council wrote to the District Planning team to ask if the conditions set when planning permission for the above development was granted had been contravened. No confirmation of receipt had been received from the District Council and Cllr Dave Mansell had been asked if he could check on our behalf. In Cllr Dave's absence Cllr Mark confirmed that the department had received the PC's letter and the PC should expect to hear from them when they officially opened the enforcement file.

4. Update from District/County Councils

District Council: Cllr Mark reminded us that during the pre-election period both County and District councils were 'in purdah' and subject to restrictions on their activities; there was therefore little to report. In addition, the merger of the two District Councils was taking a while to settle down as staffing levels were stabilised and systems combined. It was hoped that things would improve soon.

County Council: No report; Cllr Frances was not present.

5. Defibrillator

5.1 Donation to First Responders

At the previous meeting the PC had agreed to make a donation to Wivey First Responders, if they are self funding.

Investigations found that First Responders are not a charity per se, but are all volunteers associated with and trained, but not funded, by the Ambulance Service. Wivey First Responders are funded entirely through the generosity of individuals from the Wiveliscombe community and surrounding area who provide all needs including medical equipment and uniforms.

In the circumstances the agreed donation was made.

Action: Complete

5.2 Funding

Clatworthy Defibrillator Costs			
	Item	£	Purchased
	AED + training kit	1170.00	yes
	Cabinet	645.60	yes
	Child pads	116.00	
	DEFIBRILLATOR signage	18.00	yes
Total Cost		£1,949.60	

Clatworthy Defibrillator Donations			
	Donor	Amount	Received
	BHF (rec'd as discount on AED above)	570.00	yes
	Orchid walk and cream teas	234.50	yes
	Clay Shoot	130.00	yes
	PCC	50.00	yes
	Jim Laker Fund	250.00	yes
	Taunton Motor Cycle Club	100.00	yes
	Wessex Water	200.00	Yes
Total Donations		1534.50	

Total outstanding: 1949.60 – 1534.50 = 415.10

Now all the grants applied for have been received, the Village Hall committee has indicated that it will decide how much it wishes to contribute.

5.3 Children's pads

Chair Sally wondered if the ongoing cost (around £60 p.a.) of child pads was warranted given the very small chance of a young person experiencing heart failure. She was asked to research the figures and report back to enable Councillors to make a considered decision. **Action: Sally**

6. Roads

Speeding through Clatworthy: Local concerns were raised at the last meeting about traffic speeding through the village when approaching down the hill from the direction of Forches Cross. There was a discussion of possible actions and Cllr Frances recommended that the first step should be to ask Highways to determine the speeds involved. She would investigate the options of making the village a 30mph area, of using a speed sensor display and of erecting additional signage (and confirm suitable wording), but she suggested that the most effective approach might be to arrange for a vehicle to be parked on the road to act as a chicane.

Before the meeting, Cllr Frances had reported by e-mail that the County Highways Department no longer maintain speed indicating devices (SIDs) for hire by parishes. To determine the speeds involved a parish would have to buy its own SID and enter into a contract with the County covering where and when the device could be used. The Highways Department also advised that experience has shown that SIDs only reduce speeds for a short period after they are installed, and in some cases (if they show the recorded speed) actually increase speeding, as drivers attempt to set higher records!

As discussed previously, the most effective way of reducing speeds is likely to be the presence of some obvious obstruction – such as a parked vehicle. **Action: Complete**

Winter salting: County Roads have confirmed that:

- the precautionary salting route has been reinstated to include Clatworthy;
- grit bins will be refilled as necessary;
- dumpy bags will be provided 'at certain locations, such as steep slopes'.

Although the last is not specific, dumpy bags have appeared in Clatworthy in the same locations as last year. It is unclear whether there will be a charge for these bags or whether they are covered by the additional funds provided by the county for the 'highway winter service'.

7. Broadband

At the September meeting of the Brendon Hills Group it was announced that a small local firm (Technological Services Ltd) is currently in the process of providing fibre broadband connections to Skilgate and will be looking at the possibility of extending their network when the Skilgate project is complete.

DRAFT

Preliminary information was sent to Clatworthy residents to assess potential interest. Of the 40 (approx) premises in the parish 13 owners expressed an interest. Clearly everyone will want many more details before making any commitment and councillors agreed it should be followed up quickly to find out exactly what is on offer and how it could be achieved.

The clerk will contact the company's representative (Jim Weir) to arrange a date for an information meeting to clarify what the company can offer, how it could be achieved, and answer all the questions people may have.

Action: Norma

8. Finance

8.1 Current position and spend against budget

	£		
Balance at Lloyds Williton 19/8/2019	2986.96		
Receipts	£	Ref	Details
Defibrillator fund – donation	50.00	500005	Parochial Church Council
Defibrillator fund – donation	250.00	Bank transfer	Jim Laker Fund
Defibrillator fund – donation	100.00	500006	Taunton Motorcycle Club
Defibrillator fund – donation	200.00	500007	Wessex Water
Total Receipts	600.00		
Payments	£	Cheque #	Details
WAP (Library Fund)	75.00	48	Donation
SALC membership	24.85	49	Annual subscription
Clatworthy VH – Insurance	294.38	51	Donation
Wivey First Responders	50.00	52	Donation
Total Payments	444.23		
Balance at Lloyds Williton 18/11/2019	3142.73		

Spend against budget

	Plan	Actual
Audit fees	40.00	
Insurance – Parish Council	175.00	175.77
Clatworthy VH – Insurance	350.00	294.38
Election expenses	100.00	
SALC membership	30.00	24.85
Clerk/Councillor training	50.00	
Newsletter	50.00	
Postage & stationery	30.00	
Wivey Link - donation	100.00	
Highways	500.00	
Contingency/Misc	500.00	125.00
Total	1925.00	620.00

It was noted that the budgeted sums for audit and postage are not yet due, and those for elections, training and highways are not confirmed. No newsletter is required.

8.2 Payments authorised

£100 to WAP for Wivey Link, as per budget

£100 to Love Musgrove (see section 9 below)

£18 to S.Moran to reimburse her for defibrillator signage.

8.3 Proposed Budget and Precept

The Clerk presented a draft budget for 2020/21 which was discussed and accepted by Council.

Although it is recognised that there is still some doubt regarding expected expenditure this year, Councillors were pleased to be able to agree a reduced precept for next year of £1500.

9. Correspondence and other matters

Love Musgrove: A request had been received from Love Musgrove for support for two projects: the first to refurbish and update the maternity wing and the second to create a dementia friendly environment in an existing ward.

Council agreed to a donation of £100.

Wessex Water: Cllr Marcus reported that he had recently had a water leak identified by Wessex Water and that conversation with the engineer attending suggested that, in the future, Wessex Water customers would be held responsible, and charged, for the repair of all water leaks occurring throughout the full length of all pipes connecting the mains to their property. This would be a major change of policy and, in his case, particularly drastic as his house is served from a main on the edge of Clatworthy which is a good half mile distant. He is meeting Wessex Water management and will update the PC on the situation.

Meeting dates for 2020/21

The following dates are confirmed for Parish Council meetings in 2020/21:

Tuesday 18 February 2020, Tuesday 19 May 2020, Tuesday 18 August 2020, Tuesday 17 November 2020, Tuesday 16 February 2021, Tuesday 18 May 2021.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.47.