

Clatworthy Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2017 at 7.30 in Clatworthy Village Hall

Present

S.Moran (Chair), S.Branfield, A.Cowling, M.Deer, C.Giddings, S.McIntosh, J.Ward, K.Turner (West Somerset District Councillor), N.E.Martin (Clerk)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from: F.Nicholson (Somerset County Councillor)

2. Minutes of last meetings

The minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 22 August 2017 and 19 October 2017 were accepted as correct and were signed by the Chair.

3. Matters Arising not covered on the agenda

3.1 From Planning Meeting on 19 October

[At the planning meeting] it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should write to the District Council Planning department objecting to the granting of this application. **Action: COMPLETE**

The applicant has sent a long response to the Council's objections, which can be read on the District Council's web site. The response does not address our primary concerns, but no further action is needed before the decision of the planning officer is known.

3.2 From Meeting on 22 August

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.

Chris had made no progress with this specific topic. Margaret thought it was possible that Andrew Deer might have some relevant information; she will speak to him. **Action: M.Deer**

Drainage works: Councillors were pleased this work had started, but were concerned about the lengthy overrun on the schedule. The closure of the road towards Forches Cross necessitates a long detour for parishioners from the outlying farms who need access to the village. The closure had now been in place for nearly five weeks rather than the planned 11 days. It was agreed that a complaint should be made to the County Council. **Action: N.E.Martin**

Broadband: It was noted that there had been no further communication from Connecting Devon & Somerset regarding the £500 broadband vouchers, which the Brendon Hills group were told were to be reissued this autumn. However, following the update regarding the Hinkley Point C Community Funds, it was suggested that we should contact Gareth Hughes, Chairman of Skilgate Parish Meeting with a view to submitting a combined application. **Action: N.E.Martin**

4. Update from District/County Councils

4.1 District Council

Cllr Keith reported that work on Hinkley Point C was forecast to involve up to 8000 additional workers who will need accommodation for themselves, and in some cases their families, in this area. In addition Butlins at

Minehead were planning on converting their staff rooms to holiday lets, which would make the situation worse. The District Council therefore urgently needed information on all empty properties in the area. Cllr Margaret asked why this initiative was focused on incoming workers, when there were already many local young people who could not find accommodation in their home area. Cllr Keith did not provide a satisfactory answer.

Cllr Keith provided a brief update on progress with the merger of Taunton Deane and West Somerset Councils which is still awaiting a decision by the Secretary of State.

4.2 County Council

In her absence it was noted that Cllr Frances had been unable to progress the issue of the drain and soft standing opposite the entrance to Wry Lane but had asked that she be informed if the current roadworks had addressed the problem.

5. Finance

5.1 Current position

Balance at Lloyds Williton 22/8/2017	2288.32			
Receipts	£	Ref		Details
None				
Total Receipts	0.00			
Payments	£	Cheque #		Details
Clatworthy Village Hall donation	295.43	28		VH Insurance
Total Payments	295.43			
Balance at Lloyds Williton 21/11/2017	1992.89			
Cheques written but not presented				
P. Goodwin	35.43			27 Newsletter
SALC	25.55			29 Affiliation fee 2017/18

5.2 Payments for authorisation

The following payments were authorised;

£25.55 SALC affiliation fee for 2017/18 (invoiced late – retrospective authorisation)

£100 Wivey Link, donation

£100 St Margaret's Hospice, donation (see section 6)

5.3 Budget and Precept 2018/19

The Clerk presented a draft budget for 2018/19 which was discussed and accepted by Council with minor modifications. It was agreed to set a precept of £1,250.

5.4 Investment monies

Council agreed that the money previously held in the NS&I account should continue to be separate from the main account and, if possible, in an interest paying account. **Action: N.E.Martin**

5.5 Web site funding

As the end date for applying for funding to establish a Parish web site is approaching, Council agreed to look into the practicalities of setting one up for use in the future. **Action: N.E.Martin**

6. Correspondence for consideration (previously distributed by e-mail)

Request for contribution to St Margaret's Hospice: £100 donation agreed.

Request for contribution to Wivey Link: £100 donation (in budget) agreed.

Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service Draft Integrated Risk Management Plan

(2018 - 2022) Consultation: Chair Sally had reviewed the consultation questionnaire and advised that no further action was necessary.

7. Other items of information

Signposts: The finger posts at Forches cross and at the western end of the village have been repaired and repainted. They are looking very well and we are grateful to Exmoor National Park and County Cllr Frances for ensuring that Clatworthy was included in this project; also to Peter Moran and Lewis Baker for their active participation in the surveying and refurbishment of the posts.

Newsletter: Clatworthy News, No 12 was approved for distribution and will be sent out in the next few days.

Action: N.E.Martin

Parish Map: A large (A0) map of Clatworthy parish has been sent from County Roads at the request of County Cllr Frances. It is held by the Clerk should anyone wish to examine it.

Somerset County Council Chairman's Award for service to the community: Ron & Joan Barlow were delighted to be joint recipients of this award. They were presented with a framed certificate and other mementos. Thanks to Cllr Sophy and Cllr Sally for putting their names forward.

Stray cattle: Cllr John reported that several parishioners had complained to him that cattle had been loose once again in the village and on surrounding roads. This was particularly dangerous to road users after dark, as well as damaging to hedges, banks and private land. Council acknowledged that this was not a new problem and several Councillors supported the reports. It was agreed that a direct approach to the farmer concerned was unlikely to be very productive, but the matter needed to be reported to the police. A letter would be drafted.

Action: S.Moran, N.E.Martin

8. Meeting dates for 2018

20 February, 15 May, 21 August, 20 November.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.26pm.