

Clatworthy Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2016 at 7.30 in Clatworthy Village Hall

Present

D.J.Cowling (Chairman), S.Branfield, C.Giddings, P.Goodwin, S.Moran, F.Nicholson (Somerset County Councillor), K.Turner (West Somerset District Councillor), N.E.Martin (Clerk)

1. Apologies

R.Barlow, S.McIntosh

2. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

D.J.Cowling, proposed by C.Giddings, seconded by S.Moran, was re-elected nem con as Chairman.

P.Goodwin, proposed by S.Moran and seconded by S.Branfield, was re-elected nem con as Vice Chairman.

N.E.Martin was re-appointed as Clerk.

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 23 February 2016 were accepted as correct and were signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising

Missing records: Peter Goodwin wrote to Risdon Hosegood requesting that the Clatworthy parish records (including original minutes and the parish maps) be returned to us, but without success. Peter made direct contact again with Eric Kidner with no further progress and subsequently wrote to the Senior Partner.

Following the suggestion from County Councillor Frances, a formal letter was sent to the Senior Partners restating the problem and detailing the lack of progress. As no satisfactory response has been received, the matter will now be taken up with the Solicitors' Regulation Authority. **Action: P.Goodwin**

Logging in Cordings Cleeve: Although the planning application is currently in abeyance, it was noted that timber lorries have been moving around Forches Cross and the road is already suffering. County Councillor Frances will therefore pursue the Highways Department for advice as to the best way to record any damage. **Action: F.Nicholson**

Auditor procurement: Having notified SALC and NALC that Clatworthy is opted out of the procurement scheme, it now transpires that a later amendment to the Transparency Code requires all smaller authorities to have an appointed external auditor – **even though they are not subject to external audit.**

In the circumstances Clatworthy will reluctantly reverse the opt out. **Action: N.E.Martin**

Transparency Web Site: The Parish Council has a presence on the Wivey website which is being used to meet the requirements of the Transparency Code.

To facilitate a search for Clatworthy, the domain name **clatworthy-parish.uk** has been registered with 123-reg and set to point to the Clatworthy PC page on the Wivey web site. **Action: COMPLETE**

The Queen's 90th Birthday beacon: This was a great success and well supported by the Raleigh's Cross Inn. However, Council 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. Clerk to make some initial investigations. **Action: N.E.Martin**

Clean for the Queen day: Another successful event, although the organisation and effort was supplied entirely by the members of the Village Hall committee and their families rather than anyone from the wider community.

Village sign: A new sign is now in place at the north eastern entrance to the village, but it has been attached with easily removable nuts and the supporting posts lack caps. Highways will be contacted to see if they will do anything about it. **Action: N.E.Martin**

Damage to road edge in front of church: Discussion was postponed to the next meeting as R.Barlow was not present to provide an update.

5. Financial report

5.1 External Audit

5.1.1 Review of Governance

Councillors reviewed the system of internal controls applied to the Council's financial transactions, the preparation of the accounts and the workings of the Council within the legal framework.

Members confirmed the governance statement in the Annual Return for 2015/16, which was then signed by the Chairman.

5.1.2 Review accounts for FY ending 31/3/2016

The Receipts and Payments account and Bank Reconciliation, which are to be submitted to the external auditors with the Annual Return, were reviewed and accepted by the Councillors and then signed by the Chairman.

5.1.3 Review Annual Return

Councillors approved the Annual Return, which was then duly signed by the Chairman.

5.2 Other

5.2.1 Current position

Balance at Lloyds Williton 17.2.16 £1,635.51

Receipts £

Precept 1000.00

Total receipts 1000.00

Payments £

N.E.Martin (postage/stationery allowance) 20.00

P.Goodwin (newsletter postage and ink) 30.96

Somerset CC (replace village sign) 81.39

Judith Bryant (internal audit) 34.00

Total payments 166.35

Balance at Lloyds Williton 17.5.16 £2,469.16

5.2.2 Authorisation of payments

Council agreed the following payments:

£8.39	N.E.Martin	Re-imburement of domain name registration fee for 1 year
£23.22	SALC	Annual affiliation fee
£33.20	P.Goodwin	Village newsletter postage and ink
£150.78	Community First Trading	PC Insurance 1/6/16-31/5/17

It was noted that the cost of PC insurance through Community First is substantially lower than the quote received from the current broker.

6. Updates from District and County Councillors

6.1 District Councillor, Keith Turner

Keith reported that although the rural areas had been successful in getting an increased government grant per head of population, it appeared to be being offset by additional financial commitments being placed on councils and the likelihood that many NHS properties would be eligible for rate rebates.

He reminded the meeting that the date of the next Brendon Hills meeting had been moved to Monday 13 June, 7.30 at Raleigh's Cross and asked that someone attending from Clatworthy would be prepared to talk about how and where we acquired our new road sign and what it cost.

Action: N.E.Martin

6.2 County Councillor, Frances Nicholson

Frances warned once again that future funding was very uncertain as central Government policies relating to local councils were very unclear.

She also reported that a recent survey of demographic changes in Somerset had shown up West Somerset as anomalous in having very little movement of young adults out of the area, but at the same time no increase in the numbers of babies and children. Such findings are not only of academic interest since future plans for the county (and the country) are dependent on the reasons for them being interpreted correctly and in this case it is not obvious what the underlying causes may be.

7. AOB

The condition of the roads in the village was raised again. Although some work had been done to fill in potholes and ruts, the road in front of the village hall needs attention, but apparently that cannot be tackled until the 'planned drainage work' is done. County Councillor Frances was asked if she could find out more about these planned works.

Action: F.Nicholson

Dates of next meetings

Tuesday 23 August 2016, 7.30 in Clatworthy Village Hall

Tuesday 22 November 2016, 7.30 in Clatworthy Village Hall

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.28 pm