

# ***Clatworthy Parish Council***

## **Minutes of the meeting held on 19 February 2019 at 7.30 in Clatworthy Village Hall**

**Present:** S.Moran (Chair), S.Branfield, M.Deer, J Ward, K.Turner (West Somerset District Councillor), N.E.Martin (Clerk)

Prior to the meeting Chair Sally was sorry to record that, following his resignation in November last year, Chris Giddings died just after Christmas. He had served Clatworthy as a parish councillor for decades and the village will remember his many contributions, not least his unconventional wake which was attended by very many friends and associates from around the country.

**1. Apologies:** A.Cowling, F.Nicholson (Somerset County Councillor).

### **2. Minutes of meeting held on 20 November 2018**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20 November 2018 were accepted as correct after a minor amendment and were signed by the Chair.

### **3. Matters Arising not covered on the agenda**

**Clearing of new guttering outside village:** A road sweeper came through the village recently clearing the detritus at the road edges, but failed to clear the new gutters. He said he was responsible for sweeping the road, but the gutters were drains, which were not his responsibility. It was confirmed that road sweeping was the responsibility of the district council, whilst drain clearance was down to the county council. Councillors agreed that the new guttering was part of the road and should therefore be covered by the road sweeper. This will be taken up with the District Council. **Action: Keith Ongoing**

**Drainage of B3224 at entrance to Old Holcombe Water Farm:** Councillor John showed a photo of the road with water extending half way across the carriageway and explained that there was no drainage on the south side of the road so that the problem could only be removed by clearing the nearby grip and diverting the water onto the neighbouring farmland. Councillor Frances had asked the roads section what could be done, but in the light of the current financial situation they could only suggest that the land owner take action himself. Councillor John has notify the farmer concerned and will follow up with the County Council when appropriate. **Action: John Ongoing**

**State of Jew's Lane:** Councillor Margaret raised the problem of mud and debris in Jew's lane which was making it very difficult to use, and at times impassable for non-4x4s. It is recognised that the road sweeper cannot be used and the matter will be raised with County Roads. **Action: Norma**

**Bench at Forches X:** Chair Sally reported that it had been agreed that the proposed commemorative bench at Forches X could be sited on Mr Sellick's land at the crossroads. As this is in Brompton Ralph parish, Clatworthy are no longer involved.

### **4. Update from District/County Councils**

**County Councillor Frances** was unable to attend the meeting, but had notified the Council previously that the County Council's income from council tax and business rates is now confirmed as larger than had been estimated and as a result, some of the cuts proposed for next year may not be necessary. It is hoped to reverse the reduction in precautionary salting routes, to reverse a currently proposed reduction in gully emptying and also in jetting of blocked gullies. There is ongoing funding for all these measures. It will also be possible for there to be flood and water management funding, over and above the Somerset Rivers Authority funds, again next year.

The full County Council meets on 20 February when the budget will be set.

**District Councillor Keith** reported that the new Somerset West and Taunton District Council will come into being on 1st April, in time for the elections on 2 May.

Keith restated his intention not to stand for re-election, but admitted that he was being pressurised by his Chairman. He has however arranged a meeting at Ralegh's Cross Inn on 21 March at 7.30 to which all the Parish Councils in the new Wiveliscombe and Brendon Hills ward have been invited.

Chair Sally expressed the Council's heartfelt thanks to Keith for the immense amount of hard work he has put in as our District Councillor, and the guidance and support he has provided, over the past 12 years. Whilst understanding his decision to stand down, Council will be much the poorer for his departure and would be delighted if he were to change his mind.

## 5. Finance

### 5.1 Current position

	<b>£</b>		
<b>Balance at Lloyds Williton 20/11/2018</b>	<b>2393.83</b>		
<b>Receipts</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Ref</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>0.00</b>		
<b>Payments</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Cheque #</b>	<b>Details</b>
WAP	100.00	40	Donation to Wivey Link
West Somerset Advice	100.00	41	Donation
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>200.00</b>		
<b>Balance at Lloyds Williton 19/2/2019</b>	<b>2193.83</b>		

### 5.2 Children's gifts at Christmas

It had been suggested that the Parish Council could pay for the presents given to the village children at the Christmas Party from the savings account designated for such use, but the amount turns out to be less than £5 and is therefore to be covered by a private donation. No subsidy is required.

### 5.3 Audit of accounts for FY 2018-19

Council gave the Clerk permission to arrange the audit with Judith Bryant if she is still available, or to investigate the auditor used by Upton.

**Action: Norma**

## 6. Wiveliscombe Library

Council agreed, in principle, to give a donation to WAP towards the running of the library, but the amount could not currently be determined. When the basis for calculation becomes clear an amount will be finalised.

## 7. Correspondence

**Winter Road Salting:** The winter's dumpy bags have been delivered and the salt bins have been refilled. Council thanked District Councillor Keith for collecting our salt bag rations from Minehead on our behalf.

See report from County Councillor Frances above for an update on precautionary salting in 2019/20.

**Localities Engagement:** When it is clear who Clatworthy's contact is, he or she will be invited to attend a Parish Council meeting (probably in August).

**Somerset Wood:** the invitation from Cheddon Fitzpaine and West Monkton to participate in their Somerset Wood Project was turned down.

**Wivey Cares:** Council agreed that Clatworthy would not participate in the Wivey Cares project unless and until it receives more satisfactory information as to the status of the project and its funding sources. Clerk will keep a watching brief.

**NHS Survey Fit for my Future:** County Councillor Frances had provided a small pamphlet, which she felt was clearer than the full document, and Chair Sally took responsibility for responding as necessary.

**Action: COMPLETE**

## 8. Other items

**Parish footpath survey:** A request was received from the Rights of Way Department at County Hall to assign our footpaths and bridleways to one of four categories according to their usage. The purpose of this

classification being to direct the limited amount of brush-cutting work to the places where it is most needed. The great majority of footpaths in the parish are little, or rarely used and the only one requiring brush cutting is the bridleway starting from Glass's Cross and leading around the southern and western ends of the reservoir to Syndercombe Lane, which route usually needs overhead clearance to keep it feasible for riders. The PC's Rights of Way Liaison (Lewis Baker) carried out the survey and responded to County Hall. His full report has been distributed to Councillors.

**Defibrillators:** Chair Sally suggested that, as defibrillators have become much more commonplace in towns, villages and community centres throughout the country, Clatworthy should reconsider the possibility of installing one. There are now many more events in the Village Hall and it would be a tragedy if someone attending one of them were to die because there was no defibrillator available.

Sally will investigate the options for installation, training, and maintenance, including grants, etc., for discussion at the next meeting. **Action: Sally**

In the meantime a training course is being held at Brompton Ralph Cricket Club, Pitsford Hill at 7pm on Wednesday 27 February 2019.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.30.

### **Meeting dates for 2019**

Tuesday 19 February, Tuesday 14 May, (Elections Thursday 2 May),  
Tuesday 20 August, Tuesday 19 November.