

Clatworthy Parish Council

Minutes of the AGM held on 12 May 2015 at 7.30 in Clatworthy Village Hall

Present

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

1 Apologies

S.McIntosh, F.Nicholson (Somerset County Councillor)

2. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

David Cowling, proposed by C.Giddings and seconded by Sally Moran, was elected unopposed as Chairman for 2015/16.

Peter Goodwin, proposed by David Cowling and seconded by Sally Moran, was elected unopposed as Vice Chairman for 2015/16.

Chairman David welcomed new members Sally Moran and Stephen Branfield to the Parish Council.

3 Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 24 February 2015 were accepted as correct and were signed by the Chairman. It was noted however that the date of the May meeting was changed to 12 May 2015 after the February meeting, to conform with the legal requirements for an election year.

4 Update from District Council

This item was moved up the agenda as District Councillor Keith had to go on to another Parish Meeting.

Keith, who has been re-elected unopposed, announced that this would be his last four years on West Somerset Council and we might want to think about his successor.

He confirmed the date of the next Brendon Hills Group meeting (1 June, 7.30 at Raleigh's Cross) when it is hoped there will be a presentation on the Transparency Requirements.

He outlined the distribution of responsibilities within the District Council and confirmed that his brief remains unchanged.

Keith left the meeting at this point.

5 Matters Arising

Peter Goodwin has written formally to Risdon Hosegood requesting that the Clatworthy parish records (including original minutes and the parish maps) be returned to us, but so far with no success. Peter will continue to pursue the matter.

Action: P.Goodwin ONGOING

Francis Nicholson has replied by e-mail to the question as to why the roads in the village had been salted when it was unnecessary and left unsalted when it froze overnight. She said: *"I can't explain why that happened, but whether to salt or not is based on whether road surface temperatures are predicted to fall below zero, and of course predictions are not always exact."* She sent a brochure showing the salting map for 2014/15, which we had previously received at a Brendon Hills Group meeting, and reiterated that she is very happy to take anything that the parish council wishes to Highways for their response.

Peter Goodwin and Chris Giddings had attended the meeting about a Lengthsman on 19 March and Peter had produced a comprehensive report which had been circulated to members. It was agreed from his report that using a Lengthsman was not a practical option for Clatworthy.

The Transparency meeting that Keith had arranged for 9 April was cancelled by SALC at the last minute. Keith is doing his best to get someone to address the next Brendon Hills Group meeting on 1 June.

All other actions have been completed.

6 Finance

6.1 Review of Governance

Members 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 2014/15, which was signed by the Chairman.

6.2 Agree accounts for FY ending 31/3/15

The attached Receipts and Payments account and Bank Reconciliation were reviewed and accepted by members and signed by the Chairman.

The Clerk reported that the Internal Auditor had also inspected and approved the accounts.

6.3 Approve Annual Return

Council approved the Annual Return, which was duly signed off by the Chairman.

6.4 Precept

The Clerk reported that the annual precept had unfortunately been paid into the wrong account by the District Council. It was agreed by members that the easiest way of resolving the problem was to write three cheques (2*£700 and 1*£600) to move the full £2000 from the account at Wellington to the new account in Williton.

The three cheques were written and signed at the meeting. The Clerk will present them to the bank.

Action: N.E.Martin

6.5 Invoices

Council agreed the following payments:

£22.49 SALC annual affiliation fee

£32.00 Internal auditor's fee

7 Update from County Council

None, apart from previous reply to salting question (see 4 above), Councillor Nicholson was unable to attend

8 AOB

8.1 Insurance

The Parish insurance is due for renewal next month. Keith had suggested that we might be able to include the Village Hall on the same insurance as the Parish Council. The Clerk will investigate quotes but bearing in mind that the VH may be committed to its current insurer for a longer period.

Action: N.E.Martin

The Clerk handed out a Notice of Registrable Interests to each Parish Councillor and asked for them to be completed and returned to her by the end of May for submission to the authorities; the deadline for which is 9 June.

Action: All

Dates of next meetings

Tuesday 25 August 7.30 in Clatworthy Village Hall

Tuesday 24 November 7.30 in Clatworthy Village Hall

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.25