

# ***Clatworthy Parish Council***

## **Minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2020 at 7.30 p.m. in Clatworthy Village Hall**

**Present:** S.Moran (Chair), M. Blackburn, A.Cowling, M.Deer, J.Ward, M.Blaker (Somerset West & Taunton District Councillor), F.Nicholson (Somerset County Councillor), N.E.Martin (Clerk) and three members of the public.

**1. Apologies:**D.Mansell (Somerset West & Taunton District Councillor), S.Branfield, S.McIntosh.

### **2. Minutes of meeting held on 19 November 2019**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 19 November 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 the light of correspondence received from the landowner, this item was taken under Section 9, Correspondence.

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.

#### **3.2 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.

Cllr Marcus met Wessex Water management who confirmed that the change was made to bring Wessex Water into line with other water companies and that it had been in place for a while already.

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

**District Council:** Cllr Mark advised that the councils had unfortunately underestimated the cost of the redundancy plan offered to staff, with the result that the merged council is now running on a 'holding' budget while finances are reviewed, as well as being short staffed in some critical areas.

The issue of lighting at the Raleigh's Cross Inn being too much and too bright was raised and Cllr Mark agreed to raise it with District.

Chair Sally thanked the District Councillors for organising the recent parishes meeting for Wiveliscombe and the 10Parishes.

**County Council:** Cllr Frances explained that Somerset CC are developing a Climate Change Strategy with the aim of making Somerset Carbon neutral by 2030. Details are being worked on.

A meeting has been called to hear the arguments for and against the proposal to replace the county and district councils with a Unitary authority. The meeting, which has been arranged for Exmoor and the Brendon Hill parishes, is on 12 March at 7.30 in Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross.

Cllr Frances supported and expanded on Chair Sally's report on roads, see Section 6.

### **5. Defibrillator**

#### **5.1 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.

Having consulted the local First Responders, Somerset Ambulance Service and a local GP, it appears that a defibrillator is only likely to be needed if a child or young person has suffered a heart stopping arrhythmia. This is a very rare situation, more usually respiratory arrest due to other conditions (eg asthma, drowning) precedes cardiac arrest. As Community defibrillators do not usually include child-size pads it was agreed not to purchase child pads for Clatworthy. **Action: Complete**

## 5.1 Funding

Clatworthy Defibrillator Costs			
	Item	£	Purchased
	AED + training kit	1170.00	yes
	Cabinet	645.60	yes
	Child pads	N/A	
	DEFIBRILLATOR signage	18.00	yes
<b>Total Cost</b>		<b>£1,833.60</b>	

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
	Clatworthy Village Hall	300.00	yes
<b>Total Donations</b>		<b>£1,834.50</b>	

The Village Hall have donated a very generous £300 to cover the remaining cost, with a 90p margin!  
*(At the Village Hall meeting the next day the Village Hall committee members confirmed that they were pleased to allow the additional 90p to be added to the Parish Council's general funds.)*

## 6. Roads

Chair Sally reported from the recent Exmoor panel meeting. It was admitted that services and communication had suffered for a variety of reasons which Highways would attempt to address.

To improve response times and problem resolution, parishes were asked to report problems via the website if at all possible: rather than via e-mail

**[www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-pothole-or-road-defect](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-pothole-or-road-defect)**

and in particular to report any vandalism of road signs.

Regarding speeding through the village and the frequency of diversions through Clatworthy, Cllr Frances was asked if speeds could be restricted, but that could not be done. She did however suggest that some actions, such as installing a village 'gateway', might be possible under Highways 'Small Improvements Scheme', but would need a parish survey to be carried out, as a first step, to show community support.

Alternatively, or in addition, the wording 'Please Drive Slowly' could be added to the village name sign.

Cllr Frances also warned that nothing could be done that would prevent Wessex Water accessing the reservoir.

## 7. Broadband

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: Complete**

A well attended meeting took place in Clatworthy on 27 January as a result of which Technological received enough registrations of interest to submit the funding application for the area. Updates on progress are being e-mailed to all those registered by Technological.

## 8. Finance

### 8.1 Current position and spend against budget

	£		
<b>Balance at Lloyds Williton 18/11/2019</b>	<b>3142.73</b>		
<b>Receipts</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Ref</b>	<b>Details</b>
Defibrillator fund – donation	300.00	500008	Clatworthy Village Hall
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>300.00</b>		
<b>Payments</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Cheque #</b>	<b>Details</b>
WAP (Wivey Link)	100.00	55	Donation
Love Musgrove	100.00	54	Donation
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>200.00</b>		
<b>Balance at Lloyds Williton 23/2/2010</b>	<b>3242.73</b>		
<b>Unpresented cheques</b>			
S.Moran	18.00	53	Reimbursement for defib signage

### Spend against budget

	Plan	Actual	Comments
Audit fees	40.00		Audit planned after year end
Insurance – Parish Council	175.00	175.77	
Clatworthy VH – Insurance	350.00	294.38	
Election expenses	100.00		None requested
SALC membership	30.00	24.85	
Clerk/Councillor training	50.00		None taken or planned
Newsletter	50.00		Not produced
Postage & stationery	30.00		<i>Pay before year end?</i>
Wivey Link - donation	100.00	100.00	
Highways	500.00		Unused contingency
Contingency/Misc	500.00	225.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1925.00</b>	<b>820.00</b>	

### 8.2 Payments authorised

£30 to the Clerk to cover postage and stationery expenses for the year 2019/20, as per budget

### 8.3 Audit of accounts

Last year's auditor has been contacted and has expressed herself willing to look at our accounts and financial controls again. She will not be available before April, so the budgeted sum for audit will roll over into 2020/21.

## **9. Correspondence and other matters**

### **9.1 Distributed for review**

Fit for my Future  
Climate Change  
SWAT Local Plan and Design Guide  
LDO (for small industrial developments)

Councillors are asked to respond directly to any or all of the above as appropriate.

#### **Brendon Towers Way**

This initiative from the Wiveliscombe and 10 parishes benefice to create a waymarked route around the churches did not appear to offer any direct benefit to Clatworthy. No donation is proposed, but they will be advised of the existence of the Hinckley C 'small grants scheme'.

*At this point the three members of the public, Mr Robinson's daughter Fay, her partner Mark, and Mr J.Humphries, a Clatworthy resident, joined the meeting at the invitation of the Chair.*

#### **Letter from Mr Robinson**

A letter had been received from Mr W. Robinson, the owner of Furden's, Clatworthy concerning the Parish Council's objection to his original planning application and the subsequent enforcement request.

Mr Robinson's daughter explained her father's concern that both matters were personal attacks on his family. In response the council explained its responsibilities in respect of planning applications and for looking into concerns raised by parishioners. It was agreed by the council and Mr Robinson's daughter that there have unfortunately been misunderstandings and a lack of communication on both sides. To address this, Chair Sally stressed that Mr Robinson was very welcome to attend Parish Council meetings at any time, and that he and his family would be equally welcome to join in any of the village events and activities. This was fully supported by members of the council and accepted by Mr Robinson's daughter and her partner.

*Following the meeting the Clerk replied to Mr Robinson's letter confirming the above and saying that the Chair would be happy to meet him in person to discuss his concerns, if he so wished.*

#### **Meeting dates for 2020/21**

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

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 21.15