

Clatworthy Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 21 August 2018 at 7.30 in Clatworthy Village Hall

Present: S.Moran (Chair), C.Giddings, M.Deer, S.McIntosh, J.Ward, F.Nicholson (Somerset County Councillor), K.Turner (West Somerset District Councillor), N.E.Martin (Clerk)

1. Apologies: S.Branfield, A.Cowling

2. Minutes of meeting held on 15 May 2018

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15 May 2018 were accepted as correct and were signed by the Chair.

3. Matters Arising not covered on the agenda

PC insurance: The PC Insurers have confirmed by e-mail that the core policy covers public liability for the phone box at no additional cost.

Action: Complete

4. Update from District/County Councils

County Councillor Frances reported that the financial position of Somerset CC, whilst not yet dire was very serious. No extra funding for rural areas had been forthcoming, despite their unavoidably greater expenditure in areas such as school transport. Cuts in the ring-fenced public health grant were making it impossible to maintain the current level of provision. Like some other counties, spending has to cover the core legal responsibilities of the council, although Frances felt that services to support the vulnerable, and indeed the general population, should take priority. It was however inevitable that problems such as road flooding would not be resolved (v. Section 5.3).

District Councillor Keith reported that the ward boundaries proposed by the boundary commission for the new West Somerset and Taunton Deane council had been challenged by Crowcombe and Stogumber with the result that Clatworthy and Brompton Ralph could end up with Dunster rather than Wivey. The District Council had rejected the idea, but Crowcombe and Stogumber are taking their challenge directly to the Boundary Commission. Keith suggested that Clatworthy residents should make their views known to the commission by Friday 24th August.

5. Roads

5.1 Drain modification in village

Councillor Frances reported that highways had now agreed to remove the kerb round the drain opposite the entrance to Wry Lane. They will notify the Parish Council of what they intend to do and when they will do it (not before the new financial year) and the Council should ensure that the design is acceptable and that the result conforms to the agreed design.

The kerb has been removed without notice to the council and without any consultation. However it appears to have resolved the problem.

Action: Complete

5.2 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.

Action: Keith

5.3 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 will notify the farmer concerned.

Action: John

5.4 Large vehicle movements through Clatworthy

A letter had been received by the Council regarding the movement of an exceptionally large vehicle through the village en route to and from Clatworthy Reservoir that had caused damage to both private and public property in the process. The Council is asked to take the matter up with the Highways Department.

Councillor Frances will look into this, but noted that, with reference to the measures suggested by Messrs Baker and Hays:

- the County Council could set a width limit for the road, which would probably deter strangers, but it could not be enforced to deny access;
- the provision of guard posts at the narrowest point to protect Welshes Cottage and The Old Shop might be possible if Highways owned the verge at that point, but not if it was private property.

The Council responded at length by e-mail, but offered no solution except to suggest writing to Wessex Water. A letter has been drafted by LBaker; comments from councillors are required by 29 May. Councillor Frances had also asked the County Council to write to Wessex Water, which they have agreed to do.

It was agreed that no further action would be taken at this time.

Action: Complete

6. Finance

6.1 Current position

	£		
Balance at Lloyds Williton 15/5/2018	2962.34		
Receipts	£	Ref	Details
Total Receipts	0.00		
Payments	£	Cheque #	Details
N.E.Martin	20.00	32	Postage/stationery allowance to Clerk 2017-18
SALC	24.74	35	Affiliation fee 2018-19
Community First Trading	160.65	36	Parish Council Insurance
Love Musgrove	75.00	37	Donation towards MRI scanner
Total Payments	280.39		
Balance at Lloyds Williton 20/8/2018	2681.95		

6.2 Payments for authorisation

Council authorised payment of £288.12 to reimburse the Village Hall for their annual insurance, as agreed in the budget for the current year.

6.3 Policy on charitable donations

As the Council is receiving an increasing number of requests for financial assistance from charitable organisations it may be time to set some criteria to help make consistent decisions. Councillors are asked to give the matter some thought in time for the next meeting.

It was agreed to continue to review and make a decision on each request as it is received. **Action: Complete**

7. Correspondence

Rural Economy Review: Comments gathered at the public meeting had been collated and sent to Councillors. It was suggested that it might be useful to identify some possible solutions, or at least mitigations, to the problems identified before submission to the review panel. Councillors will consider the matter and let the Clerk have any suggestions by Friday 31 August. **Action All**

8. Other items

None. There being no further business the meeting closed 8.55pm.

Meeting dates for 2018

20 November.