

Clatworthy Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2016 at 7.30 in Clatworthy Village Hall

Present

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

Peter opened the meeting with a few words remembering David Cowling who died in September. David had served on the parish council for 40 years; 25 of them as Chairman, and had been actively involved in the purchase and renovation of the old school for use as the present village hall, lending his own money to enable the purchase. David will be sadly missed, not only in his official role, but as someone who contributed so much to village life in Clatworthy. The meeting observed a minute's silence in David's memory.

Vice Chairman Peter Goodwin will chair the remaining meetings until the AGM in May 2017.

1. Apologies

R.Barlow

2. Minutes of last meeting

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

3. 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. No satisfactory response was received.

Details of the correspondence relating to this matter have been copied to councillors and a formal complaint was raised with the Solicitors' Regulation Authority in September. The complaint was acknowledged on 28th October and we await their response. **Action: P.Goodwin ONGOING**

Logging in Cordings Cleeve: It is recorded that councillors were informed prior to this meeting that the related planning decision went to written appeal and planning approval has since been given.

Common land at Raleigh's Cross: Following the recent lighting of the beacon for the Queen's 90th Birthday, councillors 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.

It appears that a register of common land is maintained by the County Council; the register can be examined by appointment in Taunton. Clerk to continue inquiries.

Action: N.E.Martin ONGOING

Planned drainage works in Clatworthy: 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.

The 'planned drainage work' is also focused on the roadway in front of the village hall and is scheduled to commence at the end of this month.

Action: COMPLETE

4. Updates from County and District Councillors

4.1 County Councillor, Frances Nicholson

Frances reported that the signpost project has received a grant of £45,000 from the Heritage Lottery fund. It was not yet known how this would be allocated but she assured councillors that she would do everything she could to ensure that not all the money was retained by Exmoor National Park.

4.2 District Councillor, Keith Turner

District Councils' merger: Keith reported that the full merger between West Somerset and Taunton Deane District Councils had been agreed in principle. That decision has been referred for judicial review but he believes the decision process was correctly carried out and that therefore the merger will progress to the next stage. He will keep us informed.

Williton Hospital: The proposal to close six of the stroke beds in Williton Hospital, is being discussed with Somerset Partnership, NHS Foundation Trust, on 24th November. Councillors felt that the Hospital was valued by parishioners and the closures should be challenged.

West Somerset Local Plan: Keith reported that the local plan is due for final approval and issue imminently and urged councillors to familiarise themselves with the contents.

5. Financial report

5.1 Current position

There has been no change in the bank balance since the previous meeting.

Balance at Lloyds Williton 21.7.16 £2,253.57

Balance at Lloyds Williton 21.11.16 £2,253.57

Outstanding invoice: Due to the death of David Cowling there are currently only two authorised signatories on the Parish Council account. The clerk therefore asked for permission to sign a cheque above the limit agreed at the previous meeting to enable the village hall trustees to be reimbursed for their buildings insurance. Councillors authorised payment of the sum of £284.52 and agreed to the Clerk signing the cheque.

Investment account: The Clerk reported that the necessary changes were being made to the NS&I account, which is currently held in the names of D.Cowling and R.Barlow, and advice is being sought as to how additional names can be added.

5.2 Precept 2017/18

The Clerk presented a draft budget for 2017/18 which was discussed and accepted by Council. It was agreed to ask for a precept of £1,000.

5.4 Additional signatory

The addition of Sally to the list of signatories was held over so that a single variation request could be submitted to the bank. Sophy offered to become a fourth signatory, so the Clerk will now progress this.

ACTION: N.E.Martin

6. Report from Brendon Hills Meeting

6.1 Defibrillators

At the meeting the Ambulance Service described their 'Defibrillator scheme' whereby they provide and maintain a defibrillator and provide training in its use for £1800 for 4 years. The scheme was discussed by councillors and the Village Hall committee, who decided that a defibrillator in the village was not appropriate for Clatworthy where most of the inhabitants lived in scattered farms outside the range of usefulness of the device. However, the idea of improving the response to a medical emergency suggested the provision of first aid training for parishioners. Sally investigated the options and recommended the St John Ambulance course which costs £30pp or £300 for 12 people. It was agreed that the Parish Council would fund the course(s) which would therefore be free to attendees. It was agreed that a survey should be carried out to determine who would be interested in attending and when.

Action: S.Moran

6.2 Exmoor signposts

Further to County Councillor Frances's report it was noted that Clatworthy had written a letter in support of the grant application to the Heritage Lottery Fund. The parish is also still trying to get a copy of the Maintenance, Repair and Restoration Handbook to guide any work that can be done.

7. Correspondence

Request for information on village activities – passed to VH committee

Meeting re broadband possibilities – meeting postponed to 30/11/16

Meeting re Hinkley funding – at present most grants are going to coastal areas and it appears extremely unlikely that Clatworthy would be able to justify any fund requests.

Request for contribution to Wivey Link – it was agreed that the budgeted amount of £100 should be donated to WAP for Wivey Link.

Top Five Parish priorities – it was pointed out that the priorities list that had been submitted last year did not appear to have reached the right bit of the council, but it would be sensible to review it again before resubmitting it because:

- 'repairing the pump' might cause health issues as the water quality was doubtful and
- 'solar panels on the village hall' may no longer be a cost efficient option.

Road salt – no more bags could be accommodated in the bin behind the village hall, but the dumpy bag that had been left at the bottom of Wry Lane should be moved to Sheared Oak Hill. Stephen and Andrew would arrange the transfer.

Action: S.Branfield, A.Cowling

8. Casual vacancy on Parish Council

Andrew Cowling confirmed that he was prepared to stand as a Parish Councillor and was therefore duly elected unanimously. Peter welcomed him onto the council as a very fitting replacement for his father.

Meeting dates for 2017 were agreed as follows:

Tuesday 21 February 2017, 7.30 in Clatworthy Village Hall

Tuesday 23 May 2017, 7.00 in Clatworthy Village Hall (Annual Parish meeting) – note earlier time.

“ “ “ “ 7.30 in Clatworthy Village Hall (Parish Council meeting and AGM)

Tuesday 22 August 2017, 7.30 in Clatworthy Village Hall

Tuesday 21 November 2017, 7.30 in Clatworthy Village Hall

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.50 pm