

Clatworthy Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2014 at 7.30 in Clatworthy Village Hall

Present

D.J.Cowling (Chairman), C.Giddings, P.Goodwin, S.McIntosh, District Councillor K.Turner, N.E.Martin (Clerk)

Apologies

R.Barrow, M.Branfield, County Councillor F.Nicholson,

1 Minutes of last meetings

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10 September 2014 and the Planning Review meeting held on 24 September 2014 were accepted as correct and were signed by the Chairman.

2 Matters Arising

2.1 Matters arising from the Parish Council meeting

- The trees in the Rectory garden have now been dealt with.
- The drainage problems on the road between Clatworthy and Forches Cross, and in Jews Lane, have been resolved, but a new problem outside the village hall is being investigated.
- The large hole in the road outside PeterG's house has now been dealt with. The Parish Council is grateful to Frances for her help in identifying the responsible body and getting the hole filled in.
- Keith pointed out that the suggestion for a county wide levy at 2% of Council Tax was not a formal proposal and would not be part of the Council Tax per se.

2.2 Matters arising from the Planning Review meeting

Keith reported that the application for outline planning permission for two bungalows in the village had been turned down. As the Clerk had not been notified of the decision, Keith was asked to copy the relevant e-mail to her, to find out why we had not received the information and to ensure she was included on the appropriate mailing lists in future.

Action: K.Turner

With regard to planning in general, Keith advised that the regulations were being substantially amended and were expected to be available for public comment in the new year.

4 Financial Report

4.1 Transfer of records etc. from retiring Clerk

The Clerk reported that, thanks to a great deal of help from PeterG, most of the recent key records had been collected. However, no invoices for previous years from the external auditors had been found among the records. Without these invoices the Parish Council will not be able to reclaim the VAT paid in the last three years, but given the effort that would be required to trace them (without any guarantee of success) the Parish Council agreed that no further action would be taken. It was also noted that the fees paid to the external auditors in the past few years had been due to the late submission of the accounts by the Clerk.

The Parish Council recognised that there had been insufficient oversight of Council affairs in recent years and will ensure that its governance role is carried out more diligently in future.

Chris asked if the definitive parish maps are with the records we had taken over. They are not; it is thought that they may be in the cellars of the Risdon Hosegood office in Wiveliscombe. Chris will pursue the matter.

Action: C.Giddings

4.2 Current position

The clerk was having some difficulty with the bank account and it was agreed that, to resolve the problem, a new account should be set up and the balance transferred from the existing account.

Action: N.E.Martin

4.3 Draft Budget and Precept

The Clerk had prepared a draft budget for 2015/16. After much discussion, it was agreed to ask for a precept of £2,000. Whilst this is a substantial increase over previous years it includes an allowance for the coming elections, increased support for the Village Hall and a sum to build up the reserves.

In calculating the precept, allowance was made for:

- a donation, in the current year, of £500 to the Village Hall to help with the refurbishment;
- a sum of £120 for an on-line training course for the new Clerk.

Both these items were agreed by the Council.

5 Planning

The only planning application that had been received was for the addition of an extension to an existing sheep shed for the storage of fodder and equipment at Beech Tree Farm Bungalow. Details had been distributed by e-mail. No objections were raised.

6 Feedback from Brendon Hills meeting

Norma, Sophy and Chris attended the meeting of the Brendon Hills Group on 6 October 2014 and notes from the meeting had been distributed. Although it was a long meeting it was agreed that it had been very worthwhile. The next meeting is on 2 February 2015.

PeterG had collected our allocation of salt bags from Minehead and it was agreed that some would be distributed around the village and the remainder would be left in their current location for use as required.

7 Feedback from CCS meeting

None. Unfortunately no-one attended the CCS meeting,

8 Clatworthy's 5 Top Parish Priorities

As the Village Hall is Clatworthy's main community asset, the Village Hall committee will be asked to identify their top priorities for the Hall in time for the next Parish Council Meeting.

Action: N.E.Martin

9 Update from District Councillor, Keith Turner

Keith informed us that, if no further cutbacks became necessary at District level, the small business rate relief, which applied to the Village Hall, would still be in place next year.

Having already updated us on the planning situation and provided much valuable input to the precept setting, he had no further points to raise.

10 Update from County Councillor, F.Nicholson

None. Frances was unable to attend.

11 AOB

PeterG passed round the SCC guide showing the pre-salting network and asked why pre-salting stopped in the centre of Clatworthy although the gritters went on through the village. As Frances was not at the meeting no definitive answer was available, but it was suggested that the criteria for pre-salting only took the route to the village and not beyond.

Keith passed over a framed photograph of Clatworthy Parish Council in 1985 with the then County Councillor Major Trollope-Bellew.

Date of next meetings

Meeting dates for 2015 were set as follows:

Tuesday 24 February 7.30 in Clatworthy Village Hall

Tuesday 26 May 7.00 in Clatworthy Village Hall (Annual meeting and AGM) – note earlier time.

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 9.15