

Clatworthy Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5 November 2024 in Clatworthy Village Hall

Present: Sally Moran (Chair), Kevin Chesterman, John Ward, Frances Nicholson (Somerset Councillor), Steven Pugsley (Somerset Councillor), Norma Martin (Clerk)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Margaret Deer, Linda Sharp.

Chair Sally reported that Cllr Stephen Branfield had tendered his resignation, which she reluctantly accepted.

A Notice of Casual Vacancy would be issued.

Action: Clerk

2. Minutes of meeting held on 6 August 2024

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6 August 2024 were confirmed correct and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising not covered on the agenda

The financial impact of losing dumpy bags will be investigated.

Action: ONGOING: Clerk

Feedback requested for the Winter Salting Programme will be collected.

Action: COMPLETE

4. Update from Somerset Council

Cllr Frances reported that the new Somerset Council needs to make substantial cuts in its budget and is undertaking a comprehensive review of staffing levels in all areas. Early results suggest drastic cuts are proposed to the highways budget which would substantially reduce staff numbers and have a serious effect on the recently much improved maintenance services.

On a brighter note, the food bank in Dulverton has identified new premises, which may prove a long term solution.

Both Cllr Frances and Cllr Steven stressed the importance of responding to the Boundary Commission's request for input, which could adversely affect the Exmoor Local Community Network area. Points to consider are: shared community interests, focus of services, organisations, amenities and activities; all with supporting evidence. It was also noted that the current area does not have sufficient electors to warrant two councillors, but that the distribution of those electors makes it impossible for one individual to maintain adequate contact with all the small parishes.

A special Parish Council meeting will be arranged to respond to the Boundary Commission.

Action: Sally

5. Planning applications

ABD/06/24/001 Higher Beverton Farm: Request for prior approval to replace barn with 4 dwellings. Granted

ABD/06/24/002 Higher Beverton Farm: Request for prior approval to demolish barn. Not required.

Both applications have been decided no input from the Parish Council is appropriate.

3/06/24/004 Replacement of wind turbine at Beech Tree Farm.

No objections were raised and Planning will be notified.

Action: Sally

6. Village Emergency Plan

Unfortunately Chair Sally received only limited feedback on the draft plan, however that has been incorporated and the first version of the plan will be made available on the website.

Action: COMPLETE

Cllr Kevin suggested that it might be useful to involve the wider community in the future development of the plan and council agreed to consider how this could usefully be achieved.

7. Finance

A second signatory is now registered for on-line banking.

Action: COMPLETE

7.1 Current position

		£	
Balance at Lloyds Williton 31/7/24		4726.82	
Receipts	Ref	£	Details
None		168.00	Return of duplicate reimbursement (Chqs #92, #96)
Total Receipts		168.00	
Payments			
S.Moran	Chq #95	67.98	Replacement defibrillator battery – reimbursement
S.Moran	Chq #96	168.00	Replacement defibrillator pads – reimbursement
Clatworthy Village Hall	Chq #97	372.28	Village Hall Insurance
Hugo Fox	D/D	11.99	Website monthly subscription – Aug24
SALC	BACS 6/8	22.25	Affiliation fee 2022-23 Outstanding
Hugo Fox	D/D	11.99	Website monthly subscription – Sep24
SALC	BACS 17/9	24.19	Affiliation fee 2021-22 Outstanding
SALC	BACS 17/9	24.69	Affiliation fee 2024-25
Hugo Fox	D/D	11.99	Website monthly subscription – Oct24
Total Payments		715.36	
Balance at Lloyds Williton 31/10/24		4179.46	

Spend against 24-25 budget

	Plan	Actual	Comments
Audit fees	30.00	30.00	
Insurance – Parish Council	200.00	127.56	
Clatworthy VH – Insurance	350.00	372.28	
SALC membership	30.00	24.69	
Clerk/Councillor training	30.00	100.00	
Postage & stationery	30.00		
Defibrillator	200.00	235.98	
Phone box	50.00		
Parish Web site	160.00	83.93	
WAP – Wivey Link	100.00		
Other local charities	200.00		
Contingency/Misc	300.00	46.44	
Total	1680.00	1020.88	

7.2 Payments for authorisation

To SALC: outstanding payment for training booked in 2021, £25.00. It is believed that this is the last outstanding invoice from SALC.

7.3 Budget for 2025/26

The 2025/26 budget, including provision for building up reserves to cover future maintenance of assets, was approved by council and a precept of £1,050 was agreed for the coming year.

7.4 Payment authorisation process.

A proposal had been sent to councillors before the meeting, but because this meeting was only just quorate it was felt to be inappropriate to agree any substantial changes in this important area without positive agreement from most councillors.

They will be asked to review the proposal and raise any questions and comments before the next meeting so that the process can be finalised and agreed as soon as possible. **Action: All**

8. Risk Register

The risk categories were confirmed as still accurate. The Management and Control section will be updated to reflect completed actions. **Action: Clerk**

No additional risks were identified, but the Village Emergency Plan will be revisited to see if there are any associated risks that should be added to the Parish Risk Register. **Action: Sally**

9. Other matters for information.

Boundary Commission Review: a special Parish Council Meeting will be held to prepare the Parish Council's response. **Action: Sally**

Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue - Precept consultation: Chair Sally will respond on behalf of the Parish Council. **Action: Sally**

Somerset Rivers Authority Annual Report: no action, information only

Wivey Library Letter: More information to be sought before any decision is made. **Action: Clerk**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday 4 February 2025