

Claverton Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting Held on 15th January 2013 at St Mary's Church

Present

Councillors: Richard Wright (Chair), Rodger Sykes, Anna Beria, Clive Abbott Glennis Naylor and Mark Mackintosh
 Clerk: Lesley Watkinson

Open Forum - None. No members of public attended.

Apologies for Absence - Chris Jensen

Declaration of Member Interests - None

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 13th November 2012 and Planning Committee Meeting of 9th November 2012 and 7th December 2012.

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 13th November 2012 and Planning Committee Meeting of 9th November 2012 and 7th December 2012 were agreed as accurate and signed by the Chairmen.

	Actions
<p>Matters arising from the minutes</p> <p>Broadband - It was noted that there was an extensive discussion at the last meeting on the Claverton Broadband project. Cllr Sykes had provided a comprehensive overview of the status of the project. At the meeting a number of issues were identified including technical issues and issues surrounding financial confidentiality of donations. The working party will work to resolve remaining open issues and, as the elected body, the Parish Council will take an active interest in the project.</p> <p>Transportation update - Cllr Wright advised that correspondence received from Highways and will update Cllrs during this meeting</p> <p>Crumbling wall at top of Claverton Hill - Cllr Wright confirmed that matter in hand with the appropriate agencies. Council is in discussion with adjacent landowner. Cllr Mackintosh has raised awareness of University</p> <p>Highways - Cllr Wright has been representing the VPA and has been involved in discussions with the CTR and will update Cllrs during this meeting</p>	
<p>Welcome new Parish Councillor, Glennis Naylor</p> <p>Cllr Naylor was co-opted to Claverton Parish Council and all the Cllrs extended Cllr Naylor a very warm welcome.</p>	
<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Cllrs happy with revised arrangements to manage distribution of correspondence. Correspondence for information only will continue be collated by the clerk and forwarded to the Cllrs in summary format on a monthly basis. The clerk will continue to forward correspondence deemed to need wider circulation to Marion Mackintosh for her to consider inclusion in the Newsletter.</p>	
<p>Financial Officers Report</p> <p>No invoices presented.</p> <p>Clerk will shared bank reconciliation. For future meeting the the clerk will circulate the Claverton PC cash book before the meeting, to give Cllrs additional time to review. Therefore the PC agreed to hold a subsequent meeting to set the Precept bearing.</p>	

	Actions
<p>Receive Planning Committee Report</p> <p>Clerk distributed Planning Correspondence file for review. Cllr Mackintosh reported on recent applications the considered by the Planning Committee and recent decisions made by B&NES since the last Parish Council meeting.</p> <p><u>12/04616/AGRA - Field Parcel 6823 - Erection of portal framed agricultural storage building</u> Planning committee provided comments only. Application subsequently refused</p> <p><u>12/05163/TCA - St Mary's Church - Remove Cherry Tree</u> Planning committee supported with comments. B&NES subsequently consented to application.</p> <p><u>12/04632/FUL - The Vinery - Erection of single storey extension</u> Planning Committee supported application. B&NES subsequently consented to application</p> <p><u>12/05107/FUL - Orchard Cottage - Erection of single storey double garage</u> Planning Committee supported application. B&NES subsequently consented to application</p> <p>Cllr Mackintosh advised that Planning Committee expecting a number of applications in the near future including an application from Thyme Barn, an application from The Tithe Barn and a potential retrospective approval for tree house at The Old Rectory.</p> <p>Cllr Wright thanked the Planning Committee for their hard work and dedication maintaining the fabric of the village.</p>	

	Actions
<p>Broadband Service</p> <p>Cllr Wright addressed the meeting and advised the Cllrs that the Broadband Working Party(BWP) had gone to great lengths to look at options, and work closely with BT to establish what level of Broadband Service can be technically achieved. There are several issues still being worked on to get a full picture of what can be achieved and how, including one property which currently has better service than any other. However BT records are incomplete and they report often seeing unique legacy and non reproducible anomalies in old villages, The BWP will continue to work with BT to resolve as much as practical.</p> <p>Based on extensive direct discussion with village residents by the BWP and Cllr Wright it is clear there is a very strong desire in the village to have a significantly improved broadband service moving into the 21st century.</p> <p>Cllr Wright proposed a special general meeting for the members of the Parish to learn about the project and have their questions answered. Cllrs agreed unanimously to hold a the special general meeting. Cllr Wright will chair meeting. Although this meeting needs to be held very soon, the date cannot yet be confirmed as some outstanding details are not yet resolved.</p> <p>Cllr Sykes subsequently updated the cllrs on the history of Claverton Broadband and the work of the BWP. The issue of the quality of Broadband has been ongoing for many years. Cllr Sykes has been working on ways to improve on behalf of the Parish since 2004. More recently the previous Chairman of the Parish Council discussed the matter with B&NES and opened the door to broader discussion. From dialog with BT it was clear they were not able to do anything to improve the Broadband service to Claverton, due to costs involved and the small community size. However after many discussions and much pressure, BT offered a co-funded solution. At a PC meeting in 2012 it was agreed that the co-funded option should be explored. To progress this a special working group was set up comprising a number of villagers with specific relevant skills and experience. BT are only supporting a small number of similar intervention projects across the UK, as they have limited resources.</p> <p>Cllr Sykes confirmed that based on current input from BT, BANES and Connecting Devon and Somerset it is very unlikely that Claverton would benefit from any BDUK funding</p> <p>Cllr Abbott raised a number of items for consideration and or clarification. Cllr Abbott wanted to ensure that all members of the Parish have been contacted by the BWP. Cllr Sykes confirmed that everyone in the village and immediate area had been contacted. However it was agreed that the three houses on the A36 at the extreme southern end of the parish which BT claim are connected to Limpley Stoke should also be contacted directly to confirm. Additionally Cllr Abbott wanted to ensure that no members of Parish felt pressured to contribute to fund the Broadband project. All cllrs understand this concern, however Cllr Sykes and Cllr Wright assured the cllrs that the BWP debated the approach to take extensively and sought the advice and lessons learned from two other communities who have been through a similar process. The BWP were careful to ensure residents understood the benefits and the reasoning for the need to co-fund alongside BT. They were also very careful to ensure everyone understood any contribution was entirely voluntary and the level should be according to what was comfortable. The BWP have not detected any anxiety and feedback to date and reported overwhelmingly positive response.</p> <p>The cllrs unanimously agreed that the Parish Council is strongly supportive of the project and open to financial contribution should it benefit the community once any procedural issues have been resolved.</p>	
<p>Receive Transport update</p> <p>Cllr Wright continues to work with VPA on issue relating to A46/A36. Imminently Cllr Wright will have a form on which members of the Parish can formally report accidents and near misses. When this becomes available, the Parish will be informed via the newsletter.</p> <p>Cllr Wright confirmed that although making the A36 safe remaining a significant priority and will continue to pressure for improvements, it will not be possible to contribute financially to A36 safety improvements. In good faith the Parish Council have kept a reserve fund for this purpose. As it will not be possible to fulfill this objective, the Parish Council will need to identify another important community project to benefit.</p> <p>Additionally Cllr Wright and Cllr Sykes to discuss with Nick progress of gardening services to date.</p>	RW/RS

	Actions
<p>Valley Parishes Alliance/CRT update</p> <p>Cllr Wright will continue to work with the VPA and will provide advice and comments to the CRT. The situation with CRT is becoming fraught and may result in court action/</p>	
<p>Exchange of Information</p> <p>Cllrs discussed business agreed in advance with clerk</p> <p>Cllr Naylor requested Parish Council discuss state of footpath. Clerk will add to next agenda</p> <p>Cllr Beria advised that website up-to-date. All cllrs agreed that planning minutes should be added to website going forward</p> <p>Minutes of planning committee meeting held on the 11th January 2013 were agreed as accurate and signed by the Chairman.</p>	AB/LW

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Dates of Next Council Meeting: Tuesday 29th January 2013

Future Council Meetings: Tuesday 12th March 2013, Tuesday 14th May 2013

Signed Date

Cllr Richard Wright Chairman, Claverton Parish Council