Claverton Parish Council
Minutes of Ord Meeting Held on 23rd April 2013 at St Mary's Church

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

Open Forum - Members of public attended. Cllr Wright invited members of the public to ask any questions they had relating to the Broadband Project. No specific questions raised, though, exceptionally, members of public encouraged to raise any comments they had after update by Cllr Sykes.

Apologies for Absence - None

Declaration of Member Interests - None

	Actions
Short presentation on Broadband project (led by Cllr Sykes) and opportunity for members of public to ask any questions about project Cllr Sykes updated the cllrs and the public on the history of Claverton Broadband and the work of the Broadband Working Party (hereafter BWP). The issue of the quality of Broadband has been ongoing for many years. Cllr Sykes took the initiative to investigate possibilities for the Parish. BT were not going to do anything to improve the Broadband service to Claverton, leaving open the option of a co-funded solution. At a PC meeting it was decided that a co-funded option should be explored. A number of villagers agreed to be part of a working party to progress discussions with BT. BT are doing a small number of intervention projects like the one the BWP have proposed. Claverton Village has poor to very poor broadband coverage despite it only being just outside the City of Bath. Currently download speeds are between 0.5 and 2Mbps with upload speeds being significantly lower. With the increasing reliance and need to access the internet whether for educational, business, or everyday living activities fast broadband is now as essential as water or electricity for the community. As result of investigation BT confirmed that the low speed was due to the significant length of copper wire linking the village to the central exchange at Kingsmead in Bath. Given Claverton's size BT indicated that it was highly unlikely to benefit from any of the current initiatives to increase the speed of rural broadband due to the usual return on investment considerations. However BT introduced the concept of an Intervention Scheme by which fibre could be delivered to the village under a cost sharing initiative with BT. BT has developed a detailed scheme which will provide a stable and reliable service enabling each household to access at least 10 Mbps download speed with some properties getting significantly higher speeds. In order to provide the superfast broadband service BT has to install a new switching cabinet and run 2 km of new fibre cable from the nearest fibre optic cabinet at Bathwick Hill to the new cabinet. Part of the fibre will be run underground, involving road digging and resurfacing and reconnecting all existing phone lines in the village to the new cabinet. If Claverton proceed project may take nine months to complete. In response to a question by member of public Cllr Sykes confirmed Irrespective of the level of donation made households in the parish will be able to benefit from the improved broadband service once the works are complete simply by signing up to the relevant tariff with their chosen broadband provider. BWP has liaised with Parish Council as well as communicated via village newsletter and contacted every household within Parish who are happy to join if possible. A couple of household on out boundary are connected to Limpley Stoke and therefore will not benefit form this initiative. Additionally a separate account will be set up by BWP to collect donations and receipts will be provided. Likely that any Parish Council donation (if given) will be VAT recoverable, but donations by members of public will not be VAT recoverable.	

	Actions
Exchange of Information	
None	

The meeting closed at 7.40pm

Dates of Next Council Meeting:Tuesday 7th May 2013
Future Council Meetings:Tuesday 14th May 2013

Signed ....   Date ....
Cllr Richard Wright Chairman, Claverton Parish Council