

Claverton Parish Council
Minutes of Annual Meeting of the Council held on 10th January 2024 at St Mary's, Claverton

Present:

Councillors: Anna Beria, Glennis Naylor, Mark Mackintosh and Martin Mitchell

Clerk: Lesley Watkinson

Other: Ward Councillor, Fiona Gourley

1. **Open forum** - Ward Councillor Fiona Gourley expressed concern about recent flooding in our area, and hoped Claverton Residents were not badly impacted.

2. **Apologies for Absence** - Councillor Sarah Shore and Councillor Julian Stirling

3. **Declaration of Member Interests** - None

4. **Approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 8th November 2023.**

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 8th November 2023 were agreed as accurate and signed by the chair of Parish Council, Councillor Beria.

	Actions
5. Matters arising from the minutes	
Potential supply of a solar powered bus information board for bus shelter at Claverton will be reviewed in 2024.	Review in 2024
Councillors Beria will finalise an emergency response plan for our Parish (Community Resilience).	AB
Councillor Mackintosh spoke to Matt Amos and Darren Mitchell (American Museum) to discuss overflowing drain which is causing erosion on Claverton Hill and make the road very dangerous, especially in icy conditions. Councillor Mackintosh will follow up on what actions have been undertaken. Clerk will request a wider-ranging meeting between the American Museum and the PC for an annual update.	MMac/ LW
Councillor Mitchell will review draft Warleigh Weir report with Clerk and will share with all councillors before February Ordinary Meeting.	MMit/LW
Councillor Mitchell reviewed information regarding working towards Dark Sky Community status for the Parish. Parish Council generally supportive of Dark Skies initiatives, as evidenced by their inclusion in the Claverton Neighbourhood Plan. Any further initiatives will be assessed on a case-by-case basis by the Parish Council.	LW
Councillor Beria raised issue of damaged A36 verges (caused by cars/vans parking opposite entrance to Ferry Lane) with Sean Walsh, National Highways (NH). NH will explore the possibility of replanting the damaged section with some specified of hard-wearing grasses and/or wild-flowers and will report back. However it was noted that, without a clearway order, any planting is vulnerable to the ongoing parking issues. Councillor Beria to continue liaising with NH.	AB
Councillor Mitchell wrote to owner of the abandoned food truck at Warleigh (copied to landowner) and asked what his plans are to remove truck from field for winter storage. Councillor Mitchell advised that the Island is susceptible to flooding. No response to date.	
Parish Councillors have spoken to residents to raise interest to fill the vacancy on the Parish Council. Clerk will continue to actively flag up in newsletters and messages to community whenever appropriate.	
Clerk confirmed that a CRT information board containing important safety information had been removed from Warleigh Island by unknown actors and for reasons unknown.	

	Actions
<p>6. Review Correspondence File</p> <p>All correspondence relating to Claverton has been circulated to the councillors in advance by the Clerk.</p> <p>Clerk received correspondence from Warleigh resident regarding recently created works area used by National Highways. Councillor Mackintosh will request additional information from landowner as to purpose and likely duration of the works</p> <p>Parish resident contacted PC to draw attention to information about the next phase of Bath's liveable neighbourhoods. Whilst not directly impacting Claverton, one of the schemes would restrict through traffic along Sydney Road and Sydney Place thereby limiting eastern access options to and from Bath. It is understood that the scheme is to be trialed and reviewed after a year; PC will monitor its effects and contribute to any future consultations/developments.</p> <p>All other matters covered in agenda.</p>	MMac
<p>7. Receive Financial Officer's Report and set 2024/25 Parish Precept</p> <p>No invoices presented for payment.</p> <p>Clerk shared the 2022/23 audited accounts and after a review it was decided to keep the Precept at £2,500. Clerk to send Precept form to BNES Finance.</p>	LW
<p>8. Planning Matters</p> <p>No current planning matters.</p>	
<p>9. Reports and Feedback from External Meetings</p> <p>Councillors Beria will attend upcoming Climate and Nature Emergency Network Meeting (2 Feb). Meeting seeking to draw together representatives of local parish councils connected by the River Avon from Batheaston to Bradford on Avon.</p>	AB
<p>10. Village Maintenance</p> <p>Clerk will ensure that village defibrillator is serviced as appropriate.</p> <p>It was noted that the lock on one of the grit bin covers needs nattention. To be reviewed in Spring.</p>	LW Review in March
<p>11. Transportation update, including actions arising re Warleigh Weir</p> <p>Councillors Beria wrote to National Highways to confirm that the PC agree with their view that any viable crossing option (as proposed by NH engineers) would end up displacing a large number of cars, either into the village or further along the A36, and that its benefits, in terms of reducing severance, would be unlikely to justify its costs. Councillor Beria confirmed that the PC would be in favour of a well designed pedestrian signing scheme, alerting motorists to the possible presence of people attempting to cross the road in the vicinity of the two bus stops. Councillor Beria to continue liaising with NH.</p> <p>Councillor Mitchell drew councillor's attention to the fact that the Safer Seas SSRS app is not showing any storm discharges for Warleigh Weir in 2024. The number of discharges in the last couple of months of 2023 were much lower than earlier in the year. Councillor Mitchell will write to Wessex Water for clarification.</p> <p>It has been brought to attention of councillors that the lifebelt at the Weir is in a poor condition and the CRT safety and information sign at the Weir has been removed. The Parish Councillors remain concerned for the safety of swimmers, especially the inexperienced. The Clerk will write to the CRT asking them to assess the condition of the life belt and to reinstate the safety signage.</p>	AB MMit LW

	Actions
<p>12. Exchange of Information</p> <p>None</p>	

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Future Council Meetings: Wednesday 14th February 2024, Wednesday 13th March 2024

Signed Date

Cllr Anna Beria, Chairman, Claverton Parish Council