

**Claverton Parish Council**  
**Minutes of Annual Meeting of the Council held on 13th March 2024 at St Mary's, Claverton**

**Present:**

Councillors: Anna Beria, Glennis Naylor, Julian Stirling, Sarah Shore, Mark Mackintosh and Martin Mitchell

Clerk: Lesley Watkinson

Other: Ward Councillor, Fiona Gourley and another member of public

1. **Open forum** - Ward Councillor Fiona Gourley advised Councillors that from beginning of April there will be a new regular D1X bus service. Although the service does not stop at Claverton, it is hoped that it will free up capacity on the D2 service

2. **Apologies for Absence** - None

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

4. **Approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 14th February 2024.**

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 14th February 2024 were agreed as accurate and signed by the chair of Parish Council, Councillor Beria.

	<b>Actions</b>
<b>5. Matters arising from the minutes</b>	
Potential supply of a solar powered bus information display board for bus shelter at Claverton to be reviewed.	All
Councillor Beria will finalise an emergency response plan for our Parish (Community Resilience) to be submitted to B&NES.	AB
Councillor Mackintosh to follow up with American Museum on what actions have been undertaken to manage drains issue. Councillors Mitchell and Shore attended an annual update meeting at the Museum.	MMac
Clerk will prepare a Warleigh Weir update for the Claverton Parish Council website.	LW
Clerk confirmed that village defibrillator has been serviced as appropriate and there are no outstanding actions in 2024.	
Clerk asked Police to send a representative to our Annual Parish meeting. No response to date.	
Clerk contacted B&NES to request that Ferry Lane's margins be swept (before swimming season starts), however B&NES had already recently undertaken the work.	
The Clerk had contacted the Canal & River Trust (CRT) to report the condition of the life belt and requested that safety signage at Warleigh Weir be reinstated. No satisfactory response to date. Clerk to follow up.	LW
Clerk sent email to residents updating them about the Sydney Gardens LTN and followed up with our Ward Councillors on concerns. Councillor Beria has contacted neighbouring Parishes impacted by the Sydney Road LTN and will continue to liaise with Bathampton PC.	

	<b>Actions</b>
<p><b>6. Review Correspondence File</b></p> <p>All correspondence relating to Claverton has been circulated to the councillors in advance by the Clerk.</p> <p>In response to a request from resident and in line with the aspiration laid down in our village Neighbourhood Plan to reduce visual clutter, Councillor Beria advised Sean Walsh (National Highways) that Claverton Parish Council would like to see less signage along the A36, wherever possible.</p> <p>All other matters covered in agenda.</p>	
<p><b>7. Receive Financial Officer's Report and review 24/25 Capital Expenditure</b></p> <p>No invoices presented for payment.</p> <p>Councillors reviewed 2024/2025 Parish Council Reserves. Reserves of £10,000 (£5,000 bus information board, Replacement of defibrillator £3000, Link road representation £1000 and £1000 to meet Neighbourhood Plan aspirations).</p>	
<p><b>8. Planning Matters</b></p> <p>None</p>	

	Actions
<p><b>9. Reports and Feedback from External Meetings</b></p> <p>Councillor Beria attended a meeting about the Local Plan, “Preparing for the Future”, and updated councillors. Main points from meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The plan covers the next 18 years, two years having already elapsed;</li> <li>- WECA have relinquished strategic planning role and local Councils must decide on suitable sites for required residential expansion;</li> <li>- The figure for B&amp;NES is 14,500 dwelling “units”, most of which have already been built or have received planning consent. Land remains to be found for remaining 6,180 units). These figures include student accommodation;</li> <li>- B&amp;NES Council is consulting on options. The consultation is open until 14th April and can be found here: <a href="https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/local-plan-options-consultation">https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/local-plan-options-consultation</a>;</li> <li>- Dwellings in rural areas are expected to grow by 5% over the Plan period. Rural economy (locally significant and smaller employment sites) is protected and existing policies enable farm diversification and use of existing agricultural buildings for economic uses.</li> <li>- Current “housing boundaries” will carry less weight, with “infills” likely to be considered favourably.</li> </ul> <p>Councillors Mitchell and Shore attended annual update meeting at the American Museum. There will be no Festival of Lights this winter and this year’s events schedule is similar to last year. Work is in progress to restore a retaining wall and to drill a water borehole to ensure water self-sufficiency. There are plans this year to open woodland trail.</p> <p>Councillors Beria and Naylor attend a meeting with Sean Walsh, Route Manager West of England, to discuss constraints and possibilities following a Parish Council request for remedial action for A36 verge that has been damaged over the years by the parking of vehicles all year round. The discussion focused on the extent and causes of the damage. It was agreed that any solution should ideally avoid shifting parking further along the A36 or on the village road</p> <p>The introduction of plastic parking grids to protect the soil before replanting was considered too expensive and would encourage parking, especially in wet weather. It was agreed that two other options would be considered , viz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Placing ‘soft’ bollards at regular intervals to discourage, <u>but not prevent</u>, parking, mirroring those already in place opposite</li> <li>- Levelling out the ground, leaving to us the decision whether or not to re-sow with resilient wild grasses.</li> </ul> <p>If cost low, NH funding <u>might</u> be available under the current 5-year road improvement budget, failing which, nothing will happen until next year.</p> <p>The proposed introduction of new “pedestrian crossing” signs at both ends of the village stretch was also discussed. Councillors Naylor and Beria reiterated the PC view that a reduction in the speed limit remained the PC’s ambition. Councillors were told, as ever, that speed monitoring showed the vast majority of drivers did not break the (current) limit and that the absence of serious accidents meant that the limit was intuitive and adequate.</p> <p>Councillors asked that the new signage be installed on existing posts, if possible, to avoid further visual clutter on the road. NH would not commit to a date for the installation, but Councillors were led to believe that it might happen soon.</p>	
<p><b>10. Village Maintenance</b></p> <p>Councillor Stirling assessed repairs needed on the kissing gate by the village bus shelter. Councillor Stirling advised that only a minor adjustment was needed and he would undertake the work himself.</p> <p>Fingerpost sign at South end of the village in poor state of repair. Councillor Stirling will obtain quotes for repair and has sought advice from Shoscombe PC who have recently refurbished the fingerpost signs in their Parish. A Ward Councillors grant may be available.</p> <p>Graffiti had appeared on bus shelter. Clerk had reported bush shelter graffiti to police and Fix My Street.</p>	JS

	<b>Actions</b>
<p><b>11. Transportation update, including actions arising re Warleigh Weir</b></p> <p>Councillor Mitchell will contact J Palmer and Chai Wallah proprietor to advise that mobile truck on Warleigh Island is in a very poor state. Councillors are concerned it will become a target for vandalism.</p> <p>Clerk to contact B&amp;NES about the dangerous condition of the Ferry Steps at the end of the Public Footpath.</p> <p>Claverton Hill road surface in poor state of repair after winter and Clerk will notify B&amp;NES</p> <p>Clerk to summarise issues with Claverton bus service and will send to Ward Councillor Gourley</p>	<p>MMit</p> <p>LW</p> <p>LW</p> <p>LW</p>
<p><b>12. Annual review of Parish Council Policies, Standing Orders and Code of Conduct</b></p> <p>Parish Councillors reviewed Parish Council Policies, Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Code of Conduct. No changes made.</p>	
<p><b>13. Exchange of Information</b></p> <p>Clerk will ask Matt Amos (American Museum) if he is free and willing to speak at our Annual Parish Meeting</p>	<p>LW</p>

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Future Council Meetings: Wednesday 10th April 2024, Wednesday 8th May 2024

Signed ..... Date .....

Cllr Anna Beria, Chairman, Claverton Parish Council