

Claverton Parish Council
Minutes of Annual Meeting of the Council held on 16th October 2024
St Mary's, Claverton

Present:

Councillors: Martin Mitchell, Julian Stirling, Sarah Shore, Anna Beria, Mark Mackintosh and Graham Lewis
 Clerk: Lesley Watkinson
 Other: Ward Councillor Fiona Gourley and other members of the public.

1. Open forum -

Ward Councillor Fiona Gourley advised Councillors that Parish Councils are being encouraged to continue to work closely with B&NES on its reset of the Local Plan following the announcement of new government housing targets. New mandatory housing targets will see a significant uplift in the housing numbers that B&NES needs to plan for.

A member of the public asked if anything could be done to improve the canal tow path which is currently in very poor condition, making walking and cycling difficult and unpleasant. Another member of the public reported that the Dundas lay-by on A36 often has vehicles parked at the tapered ends, encroaching on footpath, which makes it impossible for pedestrians to walk on it. Also, vehicles routinely park in front of the substation, in the space reserved for maintenance vehicles. As the lay-by lies outside the Claverton Parish Boundary, PC suggested that Monkton Combe PC should be made aware, but agreed to raise the issue with National Highways at the next opportunity.

2. Apologies for Absence - None

3. Declaration of Member Interests - Councillor Lewis will not vote on co-option of new Parish Councillor as one of the candidates is a close neighbour.

4. Approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 11th September 2024 and the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Friday 20th September 2024.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 11th September 2024 and the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on Friday 20th September were agreed as accurate and signed by the Vice Chair of Parish Council, Councillor Mitchell and Chair of Parish Council, Councillor Beria.

	Actions
5. Matters arising from the minutes	
Feasibility of a solar powered bus information display board for bus shelter at Claverton to be reviewed.	All
Clerk will update Warleigh Weir segment on Claverton Parish Council website at end of season, after interagency meeting.	LW
Councillors Lewis and Stirling to inspect the finger post sign at the South end of the village to ascertain condition prior to proposed repair and refurbishment.	GL/JS
Councillor Lewis is liaising with B&NES Public Protection Officer and the Emergency Planning Officer to coordinate an interagency meeting to discuss issues, responsibilities and management options for Warleigh weir going forward. Councillor Lewis will hold an initial meeting to identify all relevant stakeholders.	GL
Councillors expressed concern about pontoon debris at Warleigh Weir. Councillor Lewis confirmed that debris has been removed.	
Councillor Mitchell reported, via Fix My Street, excess gravel at the bottom of Claverton Hill following recent torrential rains.	
6. Co-opt New Parish Councillor after review of applications	
Two local residents expressed interest in being co-opted to the Parish Council. The Clerk circulated their letters of interest to Councillors in advance of meeting. Councillors voted to co-opt Mr Matthew King to Claverton Parish Council.	
The Parish Council are grateful to the other willing candidate and to other residents who had expressed an earlier interest but decided not to stand at the present time.	

	Actions
<p>7. Receive and Discuss Correspondence</p> <p>All correspondence relating to Claverton has been circulated to the councillors in advance by the clerk.</p> <p>All matters covered by agenda.</p>	
<p>8. Receive Financial Officer's Report</p> <p>The following invoices were presented for payment:</p> <p>297 St Mary's (for use of church for meetings) £350 298 Zurich Municipal (Insurance Premium) £196</p> <p>Parish Council cheque book was available for Parish Councillors to review.</p>	
<p>9. Planning Report</p> <p>Two Planning Applications involving tree management: 24/03431/TCA (The Byre) and 24/03319/TCA (Orchard House). The Parish Council will not specifically comment and will leave to the judgment of B&NES arboriculture officer.</p> <p>The Planning Committee met to discuss planning application: 24/03219/FUL - October House - Erection of a single storey side extension. Felling of 1 x Malus domestica.</p>	
<p>10. Reports and feedback from external meetings</p> <p>None</p>	
<p>11. Village maintenance and Warleigh Weir issues</p> <p>Breach in retaining wall by bus stop is the responsibility of National Highways and has been reported via Fix-My-Street.</p>	
<p>12. Transportation update and review proposal to install soft bollards on A36 verges</p> <p>Councillors expressed disappointment with poor communication regarding temporary reopening of the A36 and the intermittent closure of the B3108 to allow for repairs to the railway bridge.</p> <p>Councillors reviewed a proposal from National Highways to install a row of soft bollards at one (or both) of the village junctions with the A36 to prevent inconsiderate parking and maintain sight lines. Residents were informed and asked to express their views ahead of meeting. While some respondents welcomed the proposal, there was concern that for the measure to be effective in terms of improved visibility, the number of bollards required would be significant and be detrimental to the semi-rural look of the approaches to the village. In addition, on very busy days a large number of vehicles would be displaced further along the A36 or, more likely, into the village. Councillors will conduct a site visit on Saturday morning (19th October) and make recommendations.</p> <p>Councillor Stirling will ask CRT if there are any current plans to upgrade the towpath</p>	<p>All</p> <p>JS</p>
<p>13. Exchange of Information</p> <p>Councillor Lewis reiterated serious concerns about the state of Limpley Stoke Weir, whose collapse would result in very significant consequences downstream. Claverton Parish Council will write to Limpley Spoke Parish Council to highlight the risk and ask what action, if any, is being considered to avert it. Councillor Lewis to draft letter. Ward Councillors Gourley asked to be copied into correspondence.</p>	<p>GL</p>

The meeting closed at 8.10pm

Future Council Meeting: Wednesday 13th November 2024, Wednesday 8th January 2025

Signed Date
Cllr Anna Beria, Chairman, Claverton Parish Council