

Clawton Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting Wednesday 18th September 2024, 7:30pm

Present: Chair: Paul Grafton, Vice Chair: Alison Sharp, Parish Councillors: Graham Hames, Maralyn Bailey

Clerk: Alison Vassilaki

District Councillor: Steven Gibson

Apologies: Nigel Stacey, Roger Mitchell

Actions from the last meeting: Minutes from the meeting held on 20th May were agreed and signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising:

- **Co-Opt of Councillor:** In order to meet the Local Government Act 1972 S87 a vacancy for a new councillor will need to be posted on the notice board and on the website. It was agreed to post the advert for seven days. District Councillor Gibson agreed to forward a template by email to Clerk.
- **Emergency Contacts and Plan:** Noted that the plan itself is sufficient but the contacts require updating. Chair to action.
- **Airband in Clawton:** It was commented on that whilst the company has made public the financial difficulties and restructuring, it may not be an appropriate time to send the letters discussed at the last meeting. It would therefore be worth following the company over the next few months to see if a takeover or revised date is put in place.

Planning:

- Ref 1/0588/2024/FUL Confirmation email with map produced, informing that permission for the erection of an agricultural building had been granted. No action required.
- No further updates on Clawford Lakes available.

Highways:

- **Speed Awareness Sign and Pole:** Councillor Hames provided a further update on the communication between himself and T Allen at Devon County Council and the frustrations in that the neighbouring village and town have two signs (St Giles has permanent signs and Holsworthy has temporary ones) yet Clawton must agree to one temporary sign which must be moved every few weeks in order to be granted permission. Cllr Hames explained that these solar powered signs are heavy and we would be expected to install and move it regularly rather than have two in situ. He has permission from the land owner to erect the pole on his land and the job has been priced. T Allen's email informed Cllr Hames that the signage we wished to purchase and is currently used in a neighbouring town does not meet the criteria. However, the company who we plan to purchase from only supply equipment which meets the regulations. In the meantime, the price has increased while we await permission. Cllr Gibson reminded us that Cllr Morrish has money reserved from County that we may be able to put towards this project. He also agreed to explore the case at Devon County Council.

Cllr Hames informed us that he has completed Speed Watch training and is now awaiting his formal training in this area which is provided by the police.

Cllr Gibson described new blue speed awareness signage which may become available to us and agreed to send further information by email. Clerk to contact St Giles Parish Council for further details in obtaining permission for permanent speed awareness signs.

Finance:

- **Clarion Postage:** no receipts provided. No cheque issued.
- **Clerk wages:** cheques issued
- **Clarion printing:** reimbursement cheque issued
- **HMRC:** reimbursement cheque issued and original cheque made void

All cheques signed by Chair and Vice Chair.

Clerk explained that as HMRC do not accept cheques by post or via post office, the need for online banking is evident. Further details required by the bank in order to add Clerk to signatories and remove those no longer on the Parish Council. Details provided by councillors. Clerk to action.

A.O.B:

- **The Clarion:** Cllr Gibson was interested to learn of the circulation and readership of The Clarion. He informed councillors of other parishes who use a link to place their newsletter/magazine online. He suggests this may help neighbouring parishes join forces in order to avoid local events clashing. He agreed to send further information to Clerk.
- **Local sign:** Chair presented an exemplar of a sign which may be attached at the crossroads to direct people to the parish hall and church. It was agreed to go ahead with the order.
- **Dog waste bins:** Cllr Bailey received a request for a dog waste bin at the parish hall. Cllrs agreed that this would be useful for several dog walkers as currently the village has two at the one end of the village (car park and school) but nothing further uphill. Clerk to contact Torridge to request a bin.
- **Defibrillator maintenance:** Cllr Hames to check that this is in working order and report to Clerk.
- **Solar Lighting for Events Board:** Cllr Bailey requested an update. Chair has purchased a solar light and will site it shortly.
- **Clerk's Essentials Course:** Clerk requested permission to attend three online training sessions (September, October and November). Councillors agreed to the booking.
- Cllr Bailey suggests we consider some way of thanking or rewarding those who regularly provide their time or services free of charge to the village, for example, grass cutting. All agreed that we value these volunteers and give thanks in The Clarion.

Next Meeting: This will be held on Monday 13th January 2025.

Meeting closed by Chair at 8:36pm

