

Clutton Parish Council

Monday 17th January 2011 in the Village Hall

Submissions from members of the public

1. A resident objected to the Clerk's failure to put an agenda for the meeting on the noticeboard.
2. A resident commented on the lack of reports of the Council's meetings in recent editions of the parish magazine.
3. A resident brought to the Council's attention the fact that the owner of 7 Moorsfield has not yet built the garage at this location for which consent was granted.
4. A resident, speaking on behalf of others in Greensbrook and Maynard Terrace, applauded the Council's support for RA2 status in the current draft Core Strategy. He drew attention to the large number of applications for new housing in surrounding villages which have already been granted consent; and the almost as many which are currently pending. Referring to the current Government policy which emphasises local solutions to local needs, he urged the Council to organise an independent assessment of local housing need, and then either invite applications to meet the assessed need, or take the initiative directly to ensure the need is met.
5. The development consultant to the owner of the field at Maynard Terrace thanked those who attended his 'drop-in session' and promised feedback to them; stated that he might publish a report of this event in the Chew Valley Gazette; and asked when he might receive a response to his letter to the Council
6. A resident stated that parking on Cook's Hill has been getting worse – both on the road and on the pavements.

Minutes of the meeting of the Council

Item	Action
1/11	Present: Councillors A. Marwood (Chairman), D. Phillips (Vice -Chairman), B. Bailey, E. Healey, A. Hillier, S. Marwood, C. Mead, A. Parfitt, E. Pickman, A. Starr, D. Veale, M. Williams, D. Withers. Cllr. S. Willcox; Mr. S. Barran (Clerk); 6 members of the public.
2/11	Apologies and Absences: None.
3/11	Declarations of Interest Cllr. Withers declared a personal interest in Item 7, Church Farm planning application.
4/11	Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20th December 2010 were Approved , subject to the following amendments: Item 137/10: Cllrs. Hillier and Starr had made their intended absence known via Cllr. Bailey and the Council agreed that it had accepted their apologies; Item 147/10, 4. should have referred to Rogers Close, not Warwick Gardens.
5/11	The Report from the Clerk , was tabled, and accepted. RE. Item 2, Bus shelter opposite the Stowey Road depot, Cllr. Willcox asked why the Clerk had not responded to the offer by Jon King, B&NES officer, regarding some bus shelters which had become available. The Clerk said that he believed that he had done so, but had written again recently to Mr. King.
6/11	Other matters arising from the minutes: None

7/11 **Finance:**

The Clerk introduced the following reports:

- Bank reconciliation
- Finance Report
- Monitoring report
- Finance Sub-Committee report

The Council **approved** the reports.

8/11 **Planning Sub-Committee Report:**

The Clerk reported that he had received following notifications of decisions made by B&NES:

26 The Mead: Decision: Permit.

The Mow Barton, Lower Bristol Road: Decision: Permit.

The Chairman reported that applications had been submitted in respect of retention of works to a barn at Church Farm; and Listed Building consent in relation to the same works. The Planning Sub-Committee recommendation was that neither application should be opposed, on the grounds that these were internal alterations which had already been carried out, and were acceptable, and this recommendation was **approved**.

The Clerk undertook to put application numbers and website addresses against applications which are being brought before the Council in future.

9/11 **Motion regarding the B&NES draft Core Strategy:**

The Council received a report from Councillor Mead, regarding the response of the School's Governing Body to the suggestion by Councillor Willcox that Clutton Primary School might be in some difficulty if a large volume of new housing is not built. Cllr. Mead's report is attached to these minutes as Appendix 1.

Cllr. Veale added to this report by saying that increasing planned admission numbers above the current level would pose budget problems for the school. Cllr. Williams explained the process of elections and the provisions for co-optation governing how the Council is constituted, and urged that allegations recently published stating that the Council is undemocratic and unrepresentative be vigorously countered.

The following motion was proposed and seconded:

"This council, having considered the settlement designations in the Core Strategy proposed by B&NES Council and the data on which they are based, supports the designation of Clutton as an RA2 Settlement."

The motion was carried by 12 votes in favour with one abstention.

10/11 **Correspondence**

The Clerk reported that the Council had received correspondence from:

1. Shelley Sharman-White enclosing a poster advertising the next PACT meeting on February 3rd. It was agreed this should be put on the website and e-mailed to councillors.
2. First Step Homes, and not-for-profit organisation which develops low-cost and affordable homes restricted to people with local connections, seeking a meeting.
3. Royal British Legion regarding the 90th anniversary of its foundation.

11/11 **Highways matters**

1. Cllrs. Parfitt and Pickman reported further difficulties caused by large vehicles in King Lane. It was **agreed** that the Council should write to each of the companies operating at the Clutton Hill Industrial Estate to

Clerk

ask them to tell their drivers and those of delivery companies clearly what route to take to the Estate, to ask them to put a map on their website if they have one, showing access from the A39. It was **agreed** **TM/Clerk** that this should also be raised at the PACT meeting in February.

2. It was reported that cars being parked on the roadway where the pavement is cut in at the top of Cook's Hill are making it hard for vehicles turning onto the A37 to see on-coming traffic. It was **agreed** **Clerk** that the PCSO should be informed.

3. Cllr. Parfitt reported that he had persuaded B&NES to repair potholes at Clutton Hill, by the Village Hall and by Church Farm; and that the gulleys are blocked again up Clutton Hill between Southways and Sunnyside.

12/11 **Reports from Sub-Committees**

1. Village Hall: The curtains are being made at the moment. It was agreed that the solution to the wall at the back of the stage needed to be safe, whatever material it is covered by. Cllr. Bailey was asked to raise the matter of the two lights which constantly flicker. **BB**

2. Play area/Leisure Area: Cllr. Phillips reported that the litter bins have been installed.

Cllr. Withers asked that the future of the sycamore on the village green be put on the agenda for the next meeting. **Clerk**

3. School: the Pantomime would be performed in February

4. Police: The Parish Forum would be held in Radstock this Wednesday. There had been a recent theft from a secure shed in Moorsfield.

13/11 **A motion to exclude the press and public from the remainder of the meeting** was proposed by Cllr. Veale and seconded by Cllr. S. Marwood and passed unanimously.

Close: This part of the meeting ended at 9.40p.m

Appendix 1 follows.

APPENDIX 1.

'Following on from last month's PC meeting and the suggestion that the village school is dying on its feet, on Thursday at the School Governor's meeting I asked whether or not the school is in such dire straits with its attendance figures as had been suggested? I further asked whether or not a new housing development is essential to maintain the school's existence?

In answer to my questions, Gary WILLIAMS, the school head, and the governing body stated that the school is most definitely not in dire straits and as for a new housing development, this is not essential to the school's future but if one was built, the school would do everything it could to accommodate new children. There is currently some flexibility to do this in key stage 2 but the combination of the school being over-subscribed in key stage 1 and the infant class size cap of 30 make it more difficult with younger children.

There are currently 124 pupils on the registers at the school. The planned admissions levels for the school were set at 24 before 2002 and this was reduced to 21 in 2009. Since that time, however, demand for places has increased and BANES has said that the Stated Planned Admissions for September 2011 be set at 25. This is a result of a number of factors which include the school's high popularity, an increased birth rate and a need to cater for an anticipated overspill from the development in Paulton.

The school is unquestionably very popular and is performing very well. The last two intakes have actually been over subscribed. The school does have some year groups that are undersubscribed and there are spaces but these will filter out in the next 5 years and according to figures published for the local birth rate, child numbers are steadily increasing.

The governing body felt that the comments that had been made were very damaging to the school and Gary Williams felt very strongly that inaccurate messages should not go out to future pupil's families. He was concerned that parents may not appreciate the pressure on places at the school and could consequently miss out on a placement for their child because they failed to ensure placement applications were submitted in a timely fashion. He was also worried that false and misleading information such as that reported at the meeting could potentially persuade parents to look elsewhere to educate their children. In either scenario Clutton children could potentially miss out on being part of this vibrant, popular and successful school.

Subsequent to the meeting, Mr Williams informed me that he has spoken with Helen Hoynes, the B&NES official with responsibility for schools admission levels and strategic planning. She has stated that the council keep a "radar" on schools whose admissions numbers are any sort of cause for concern and that Clutton is not on that radar. She confirmed that the large intakes of the last few years were predicted to continue and that the school was in a healthy position with regard to numbers.

It may be of interest to note that Ms Hoynes also told Mr Williams that she was surprised to learn that Clutton's pupil numbers were being used in a debate surrounding housing development. The council uses technology to predict the impact of development on schools and, according to this, 40 houses of which 10 are 2 bed, 20 are 3 bed and 10 are 4 bed, would generate just 11 children of primary age. This equates to 1.5 children per year group so any proposed development would have to be enormous to make any significant difference to the school.

Cllr. Caroline Mead
January 2011