

# Clutton Parish Council

## Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2011 in the Village Hall

### **Submissions from members of the public**

1. A resident reported that travellers had been noticed moving around the parish looking for scrap metal in a silver van.
2. A resident registered her concern over rumoured plans for development in the village which had been set out at a drop-in event on January 13<sup>th</sup> which she had been unable to attend.
3. A resident brought to the Council's attention the serious pothole in the road at the bottom of Greensbrook.
4. The resident of a dwelling immediately across the road from the Stowey Road depot called on the Council to get the decision about the proposed development at the depot delayed while the environmental impact of the development is assessed, and meanwhile to object on principle to the proposal.
5. Another nearby resident drew attention to the probable smells which are believed likely to result from this development.
6. The developer seeking to develop the field by Maynard Terrace stated that another site in the village has been 'optioned' by a national housebuilder and outlined the implications of this; that many of those who had attended his 'drop-in' event had supported some house-building on the field by Maynard Terrace; that he believed that the results of Cllr. Willcox's survey supported this view; that people were interested in housing to meet a number of different specific household needs; and that another open meeting would be held in a couple of months, following which an application would be submitted to the local planning authority.
7. Cllr. Willcox made a long speech largely comprised of extracts from the minutes of previous meetings of the Council along with his comments on them. He posed one or two questions about the preparation of the minutes, denied that he had implied that the School could close and made some remarks about pupil numbers at the school, and stated that by going door to door he had elicited 230 responses to his 600+ home survey. He stated that a recent complaint about him under the B&NES Code of Conduct was unjustified.

### Minutes of the meeting of the Council

<b>Item</b>		<b>Action</b>
14/11	<b>Present:</b> Councillors A. Marwood (Chairman), D. Phillips (Vice -Chairman), B. Bailey, E. Healey, A. Hillier, S. Marwood, A. Parfitt, E. Pickman, A. Starr, D. Veale; Mr. S. Barran (Clerk); 19 members of the public, among whom Cllr. S. Willcox.	
15/11	<b>Apologies and Absences:</b> Apologies were accepted from Cllrs. Mead, Williams and Withers.	
16/11	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> None.	
17/11	<b>Minutes</b> of the meeting held on <b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011</b> were <b>Approved</b>	
18/11	<b>Leisure Area:</b> The Council received at its invitation representations from: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Keith Rudyard, Wansdyke District Chairman of the Scouts, who stated that there are long waiting lists for membership of the Scouts throughout the District and that membership at Clutton Scouts had risen by 67% in the past year; that there are highly motivated leaders anxious to provide for further expansion; that the existing building is long past its 'sell-by date' but tht the location is good with water, electricity, sewerage, etc,; that a new pre-fab- building could be erected quickly once a long lease is signed; that the group is not wealthy but is well-run</li></ol>	

and solvent, and definitely wants to stay at the leisure area if the Council is willing; and that in his view it is wrong of B&NES to seek a commercial rent for land whose sole use is to provide a range of significant benefits to the community.

- b. Janet Turner, District Commissioner of Scouts, who added that scouting has grown hugely in recent years, and that in addition to the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts presently catered for, they want to add Explorers, in order to offer something for 14-18 year-olds in the area; they have a Development Plan; their present location is perfect for scouting because they can come straight out into the open air for activities; and that their only income is from subscriptions and fundraising.
- c. Gary Sutton, Committee Member of the Youth Club, who set out the aims, priorities and vision for the Youth Club; explained that future fundraising to fulfil this vision would depend on the signing of a new lease, and drew attention to the value to the village of the service provided by the Club. His statement is attached as an appendix.
- d. Paul Williams, Committee Member of the Youth Club, who added that while the Club would continue whatever, surviving on a day-by-day basis, it can only improve and provide a wider range of activities for young people with the security of a new long lease.

It was proposed, seconded and **agreed** unanimously, that the Clerk should pursue the matter of the long lease with B&NES, while arguing vigorously that the level of rent proposed by B&NES is inappropriate to the use to which the land is put.

**Clerk**

19/11 The **Report from the Clerk**, was tabled, and accepted.

Re: Item 2, Bus shelter opposite the Stowey Road depot. It was agreed that B&NES should be asked to explain at the Parish Cluster meeting the criteria applied and process adopted for moving bus stops and for deciding whether waiting passengers should be sheltered; and that the Clerk should write to the officer for clear information about why the bus stop was moved to a location at which no appropriate shelter could be provided.

**Clerk**

Re: Item 3, Road gritting. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the residents of Maypole Close to ask whether they would wish to have a grit bin installed there, and if so where it should be placed.

**Clerk**

21/11 **Other matters arising from the minutes:** Cllr. Bailey reported that the defective lights had been remedied, and that the new curtains were now hung

22/11 **Finance:**

The Clerk introduced the following reports:

- Bank reconciliation
- Finance Report
- Monitoring report

The Council **approved** the reports. Cllr. Veale questioned whether some street lights were lit for longer than is necessary, and the Clerk was asked to investigate what saving would be made by turning street lights off at midnight. The Chair reported that B&NES had decided to pay the Council's subscription to Parish On-Line for another year.

23/11 **Planning Sub-Committee Report:**

The Clerk reported that he had received following notification of a decision made by B&NES: *Old Coal Yard, Marsh Lane*: Decision: Permit.

The Chairman reported that applications had been submitted in respect of:

1. **32 Rogers' Close**: erection of an extension to provide 2 self-contained

flats. The Sub-Committee recommended that there be no objection to the proposal. Cllr. Bailey reported that two nearby residents had told him that they had concerns about the proposed development and he advised them to contact the Clerk, but they had not so far done so. The recommendation of the Sub-Committee was **approved**, with one abstention.

2. **Burchill House, Lower Bristol Road**: Creation of a dwelling in place of an outhouse. The Sub-Committee recommended that there be no objection to the proposal, on the basis that it is effectively the same application that was previously approved, with the substitution of new-build for conversion of the existing outhouse.
3. **Stowey Road depot**: creation bays for the drying and storage of material extracted from roadside drains and gulleys. The Sub-Committee recommended that this was not a satisfactory proposal, on the grounds that this would constitute a change of use, since the proposed activity is effectively waste treatment, and there is no consent to waste treatment at this site. It was pointed out that the environmental impact of the proposals has not been assessed; that some of the material extracted from gulleys in the area would be run-off from fields, including silage, fertiliser and other materials; and that if smells arise from this activity the prevailing wind would carry them throughout the village. It was **agreed** that the application should be opposed.
4. **Stowey Quarry**: Use as a site for landfill, consisting of up to 750,000 cubic metres of material of which 50% would be hazardous waste. The Chairman pointed out that although this application site falls within Bishop Sutton and Stowey Parish, the transport burden would fall largely on Clutton, since the principal route to the site would be via the A37 and Stowey Road. The Council had received a letter from a farmer whose ancillary business is training young horses and riders, pointing out that heavy lorry traffic along Stowey Road would be very detrimental to this activity and urging the Council to object to the proposal. It was reported that B&NES had already given consent to this proposal in 2008, although views of the Council had not been sought at that time. It was **agreed** that the Council should object to the proposal on the grounds of the impact of spillages and other adverse effects on the roadway; of the serious congestion that large amounts of traffic would cause at the junction of the A37 and Stowey Road; and of the inevitable consequence of lorries trying to avoid this junction by using the other narrow lanes leading to and from the quarry.

24/11 **Parishes Liaison Meeting**: The Chairman reported that

- a. Cllr. Hanney had explained what good shape the B&NES budget is in;
- b. there is still considerable uncertainty about the implications of the Localism Bill, not least because no-one seems to be clear how local 'local' is deemed to be;
- c. there is no clear progress towards the establishment of gypsy and travellers' sites in the District;
- d. transport plans for the District show that Bath will be well served but there is little prospect of improvement for the rural areas;
- e. good reports had been received of B&NES response to the winter snow and ice;
- f. B&NES is looking for farmers willing to join its panel of those willing to use tractors in severe weather to help with the distribution of salt;
- g. B&NES is seeking parishes willing to become Low Energy Champions by organising the creation of power-generating PV arrays.

Cllr. Veale reported that Marksbury PC plans to establish PV arrays at both Marksbury and Priston.

25/11 **Sycamore at the village green:** In Cllr. Withers' absence it was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

26/11 **Correspondence**

The Clerk reported that the Council had received correspondence from:

1. Mr. and Mrs Tucker, objecting to the Stowey Quarry development, reported above.
2. Chelwood Rotary Club seeking nomination for their Community Awards. It was agreed to consider this at the next meeting.
3. B&NES, enclosing copies of its Community Resilience Manual. It was agreed that the Clerk should find out if there is a website version of this.
4. B&NES Play Area inspectors, who report that bushes on the Cradle swings need replacing. It was agreed that the Clerk should examine these.

**Clerk**

**Clerk**

27/11 **Highways matters**

1. The Chairman reported that at the PACT meeting he had asked for the support of the Police and B&NES in seeking to get minor roads taken off the SATNAV systems to reduce the lorry traffic on inappropriate roads.
2. The Chairman reported his recent actions in bringing to the attention of Cllr Gerrish and Kevin Packer the failure to attend to serious potholes in the parish. Cllr. Parfitt added that the potholes the Chairman was referring to had been reported via Council Connect weeks ago with no result.
3. The Chairman reported that results of the traffic speed survey in Station Road were now available. From these it appears that average speeds of about 24mph were recorded at school hours and it was **agreed** that this was too fast, and that the Council should seek the views of PC Peard on these figures, and also pursue the argument, in association with the school, for a 20mph limit.
- 4.

28/11 **Reports from Sub-Committees**

1. **Village Hall:** As reported above, the curtains are now installed, and the defective lights have been repaired.
2. **Footpaths:** The Clerk reported that he had received the contract for the Footpaths Agency Scheme, which would commence on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2011.

**Close: The meeting ended at 9.55p.m**