

Clutton Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on

Monday 19th September 2011 in the Village Hall

Submissions from members of the public

1. A resident objected to a councillor questioning the significance of the income to be generated as a result of a proposed development application.
2. A resident stated that anyone can contact the environment agency or B&NES to complain about the proposed use of Stowey Quarry as a site for the storage of hazardous waste, and deplored the fact that B&NES had failed to reflect the Council's opposition to the proposal in making its decision
3. A visitor requested that the Council should make agendas and minutes available to members of the public who attend meetings.
4. Two residents expressed concern about the possible re-opening of a footpath route from the Recreation Field to Station Road via the rear of the Moorsfield gardens, and urged the Council not to pursue the idea.

Minutes of the meeting of the Council

Item		Action
	Present: Councillors A. Marwood (Chairman), D.Veale, V. Adie, D. Adlington, B. Bailey, A. Hillier, K. Kettel, C. Mead, I. Myatt, A. Parfitt, D. Phillips; Cllr. J. Sparks (Ward Councillor); Mr. S. Barran (Clerk); 11 members of the public.	
102/11	Apologies and Absences: Apologies were received from Cllr. Williams.	
103/11	Declarations of Interest: There were no declarations of interest.	
104/11	Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18th July 2011 were approved , subject to the addition of Cllr. Sparks' name to the list of those present at the meeting.	
105/11	The Report from the Clerk was accepted . Re: Item 1, Leisure Area lease: The Clerk confirmed that several parties in addition to the Council would be responsible for contributing to the cost of upkeep of the access road. Queries were raised about whether the other parties were aware of this obligation, and about whether the Council should be liable for these costs, and if so what provision the Council should be making for these costs The Clerk undertook to check these matters. Re: Item 4, safety near the swings in the Play Area: The Clerk was asked to check with the B&NES safety inspector before undertaking any works. Re: Item 19, 'Grit bin for Maynard Terrace' should read '...Maypole Close'.	Clerk Clerk
106/11	Other matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting: Cllr. Sparks reported that he has been trying to arrange a meeting with B&NES officers about the bus stop opposite the Stowey Road depot. Cllr. Adie reported that the pavement by the existing stop is 2.3 metres wide.	

107/11 **Finance:**

The Clerk introduced the following reports:

- Bank reconciliation
- Finance Report
- Monitoring report

The Council **approved** the reports.

Cllr. Sparks reported that approximately £1000 is available in the Ward Councillor's Initiative Fund for a project in Clutton parish, and invited suggestions. He thought perhaps the Maypole Close grit bin might be a candidate. He asked councillors to think about any other uses for this money.

All

108/11 **Planning Sub-Committee Report:**

1. The Chairman reported that B&NES have reported a notification by the owner of a field to the west of the A37 just north of Low Cost Vans for the construction of a Hay Barn. Concern was expressed that the Council had not been directly notified – in view of correspondence about the previous hay barn notification. There was uncertainty about the identity of the applicant.
2. The Clerk had received a letter from Mr. Tucker, seeking the Council's views about a proposal to build a Farm Shop in place of the hay barn previously notified for the field immediately adjacent to Low Cost Vans off the A37. This would be set at the rear of this field (away from the main road) and provision for parking would be made in front of the building and also to the rear of the building in the adjacent field. It was recognised that there are parking and site constraints on the existing butcher's facility, and that a farm shop, in the right place, might be welcome in the village, the following concerns were raised:
 - a. That a butcher currently accessible on foot and in the middle of the village would be replaced by one a long way from the centre of the village and across a busy main road.
 - b. That the facility would be placed at the far side of a large field – making it a very long walk for customers on foot
 - c. That the facility would be in the Green Belt
 - d. That vehicles turning into the field would cause traffic confusion on a busy stretch of A road.
 - e. That the proposal could fall foul of the long-delayed by-pass route.
3. The Clerk reported that enforcement updates were as set out in his report.
4. Stowey Quarry: Cllr. Kettel undertook to act as the Council's champion in this matter and to attend the protest at the Guildhall. The Clerk reported that he had written to the Environment Agency and received a reply confirming that they had not yet received a request for a permit.
5. The Clerk reported that he was tried to arrange a meeting with First Homes following a further approach from them, and the Council, with one vote against and one abstention, **approved** this course of action.
6. Cllr. Adie proposed that the Council should submit comments to B&NES on proposed changes to the Core Strategy, objecting in particular to the wording which could open the door to endless calls (most probably from developers) for review of the RA1/RA2 designations on the grounds of changes of circumstances. He proposed that only changes of circumstances which had stood the test of time (e.g. five years) should justify such reviews, and that a robust mechanism for deciding whether or not to review should be put in place. The proposal was **agreed** with two abstentions.
7. The Clerk reported that he had received the following notifications from B&NES:
 - a. *Somersby, The Gug, High Littleton*: removal of agricultural tie: Permitted, subject to a bar on any further development at the site.
 - b. *'Batch Farm', Clutton Hill*: erection of a log cabin and removal of mobile

home: Permitted.

- c. *Old Bakehouse, Upper Bristol Road*: erection of a two-storey cottage: Refused.
- d. *Old Coal Yard, Marsh Lane*: change of use and erection of 4 dwellings: Application withdrawn.

109/11 **Leisure Areas Lease:**

This matter was referred to the Services Sub-Committee for discussion.

Clerk

110/11 **Proposals for promoting the work of the Council:**

The Council considered the following proposals which had been previously put forward:

- a. That Agendas should be circulated and published on the Notice Board a week in advance of the meetings. The Council **rejected** this proposal, with one vote against and one abstention.
- b. That a copy of the Minutes, clearly marked 'Draft' should be displayed on the Notice Board at the same time that it is circulated to members of the Council. The Council **approved** this proposal unanimously. **Clerk**
- c. That the Council should hold two open public 'Parish Meetings' each year, that they should be well publicised, and that the first of these should be held before the Council sets its budget for next year. The Council **approved** this proposal, subject to the understanding that it is on a trial basis. **Clerk**
- d. That occasional 'surgeries' be arranged and advertised so that residents could speak informally to councillors about matters they felt the Council should be addressing. The Council **rejected** this proposal, at least until it is seen how successful the public meeting proposal proves to be.
- e. That copies of the Agenda for each meeting should be placed on the chairs set out for members for the public. The Council **approved** this proposal. **Clerk**

111/11 **Options for a roadside footpath along Greensbrook:**

The Clerk reported that B&NES had submitted three options for the Council to comment on. The matter was deferred to the next meeting.

Clerk

112/11 **Village Hall signage and fire hydrant maintenance:**

Cllr. Adie proposed that the Council should get signs erected directing people to the Village Hall. The matter was referred to the Village Hall Management Committee. Cllr. Adie reported that it appears that some fire hydrants in the village are not in working order. The Clerk was asked to contact the Fire Brigade to seek confirmation about when they were last checked. **Clerk**

Clerk

113/11 **The 'Brownie memorial tree and plaque:**

The Clerk reported that Mr. Sage is happy to replace the tree with another in a different location. The brownies have reported to Cllr. Adlington that they don't want to get involved in village politics. It was agreed that the Chairman and the Clerk would agree a suitable location at the Leisure Area. **Clerk**

Clerk

114/11 **Activities to recognised the Queen's Diamond Jubilee:**

It was agreed that this matter should be deferred to the next meeting.

Clerk

115/11 **Correspondence**

The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from a resident at Burchill Close complaining about inconsiderate parking in the village, especially in Burchill Close by commercial vehicles. The Clerk was asked to contact the PCSO. **Clerk**

Clerk

Cllr. Kettel reminded members of the Council to be aware when responding to

or forwarding e-mail of the danger of the 'reply to all' option, which may send messages to more than those intended.

116/11 **Oral reports on Highways matters:**

The quality of the recent resurfacing of Station Road was questioned. It was recognised that this was a 'top-dressing' rather than a resurfacing, but it was agreed that the quality will need to be monitored during the coming winter.

117/11 **Reports from Sub-Committees**

Flower Show: The Chairman thanked those who had staffed the Council's tent at the Summer Flower Show.

Allotments: The Clerk reported that he is liaising with Cllr. Bailey about the installation of extra water taps to the allotments.

Village Hall: Cllr. Bailey noted that a fluorescent light is malfunctioning, and undertook to raise the matter of signage.

Play Area: The temporary fencing by the badger sett is still in place. It is unclear who put it there.

Footpaths: Cllr. Phillips offered the loan of a strimmer.

Police Liaison: there will be a meeting next month.

Parishes Cluster Meeting: There will be a meeting next month.

ALCA: The Chairman undertook to raise the ineffectiveness of B&NES planning enforcement and the lack of progress towards authorised traveller sites within the B&NES area.

Primary School: The new Head Teacher is settling in well. The Governing Body showed little interest in solving the problems caused by parking near the top of Church Lane. The offer of parking at the Railway at school drop-off and pick-up times was reported and will be repeated in the School newsletter to parents. There are three vacancies on the Governing Body.

Close: The meeting ended at 9.50p.m