

# CLIFTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Clerk: Ms Becx Carter, 40 Windebrowe Avenue, Keswick, CA12 4JA – [cliftonpc@outlook.com](mailto:cliftonpc@outlook.com); 077866 78283

## Minutes of the Clifton Community Council Meeting held in the Abbott Lodge on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2024 at 18:30

**Community Councillors Present:** Jonathan Davies, Sarah Davies & Claire Bland, Phil Clarke, Sharon Blaylock

**Others:** Becx Carter,

All resolutions taken during this meeting were done by a show of a hands of councillors present.

With 5 councillors present the meeting was quorate.

<b>15/24</b>	<b>Apologies</b>  None
<b>16/24</b>	<b>Minutes of last Clifton Community Council meeting</b>  The Chair was authorised to sign, as a correct record the minutes of the Community Council Meeting held on 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2024 ( <i>previously circulated</i> )
<b>17/24</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest/requests for dispensation</b>  None
<b>18/24</b>	<b>Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)</b>  None
<b>19/24</b>	<b>Public Participation</b>  It was noted that there are issues around the closure of banks in Penrith. The local MP is working with other MP's to review the rules on when banking hubs can be set up.  <b>Action: Clifton Community Council write a letter of support for the setting up of a Banking Hub in Penrith as the local service centre for Clifton.</b>
<b>20/24</b>	<b>Footway/Street Lighting</b>  It was noted that invitation had been sent to Mr Garry Atkinson Assets Manager Westmorland and Furness Council to ask him to attend this meeting to answer questions about the recharge fees and wider footway lighting issues. However, no response not even an acknowledgment was received from him.  i. <i>To receive an update on the damaged light and its reconnection</i>  It was noted that the light that was damaged is illuminated again as of the 22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb 2024 after cica 20 months.  ii. <i>To consider the future of footway lighting delivery in Clifton</i>

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It was noted that there had been a recharge notice given for £116.89 per light (plus VAT) to be charged for the period to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 which was an increase from £57.14 plus VAT per light up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, however after extensive lobbying notice has now been received that Parish Councils won't be recharged for the 23/24 year or the 24/25 year.

Going forward Clifton Community Council need to consider the future of lighting in the Parish given the potential costs.

**Resolved** by all present that a survey be circulated to the local community regarding footway lighting.

**Action: Survey to be distributed to all with results for future consideration at a Clifton Community Council meeting.**

It was noted that the circa £5k cost quoted by ENW has now been paid to ENW by WaF doesn't appear to have been required as ENW have confirmed that the electrical supply was already in the unit.

Cllr J Davies noted that he was seeking a contractor to install one of the solar powered lights on to the now disused pole 16 (outside 1 Gallows Hill) as this pole was transferred to Clifton Community Council as part of the devolution of footway lighting contract meaning that the asset is now Clifton Community Councils, and as there is no longer a light on it, the community may as well use it for a solar light.

Linked in with the potential huge increases in Footway Lighting Recharges, concerns were noted about the decision taken by WaF in Feb 2024 to not pass on the CTRS to Parish Councils.

**Resolved** by all present that a letter be sent to the Secretary of the State regarding this recent decision by WaF.

**21/24**

## **Applications for Co-option.**

No applications for the 2 co-option vacancies have been received.

**22/24**

## **Chair's Report**

- Info Pod; funding has been applied for under the Storm Arwen fund managed by Cumbria Community Foundation, a decision is awaited in early March.
- Clifton School; Cllr J Davies is attending the school to speak to pupils about the desires they have for their local community.
- Clifton School; Cllr J Davies made representation at the WaF Cabinet Meeting about the lack of funding received by Clifton School over the past decade, an initial meeting has now been organised between the school and WaF to discuss this.
- It was noted with serious concern that WaF are delaying a lot of actions that Clifton Community Council would like to take forward in the local community, and that WaF need to be held accountable.

**Resolved** by all present that an invitation be extended to the leader, Chief Exec and the communities portfolio holder of WaF to attend a meeting in Clifton

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	<p>Community Council area to discuss the issues that WaF are frustrating.</p> <p><b>Action: Clerk/Chair to extend this invitation and update all.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>It was noted that National Rail are looking at replacing the bridge that goes over the M6 and have held initial consultation with Cllr J Davies about community impacts that might occur as a result of motorway closures etc. Cllr J Davies has asked for additional lighting, a crossing and siting of speed camera as part of the community of the benefits package. Clarity is awaited from Network Rail on how long these works are going to take as the initial correspondence received to Clifton Community Council wasn't clear.</li></ul>
23/24	<p><b>Clifton Community Council Business Plan 2024-2028</b></p> <p>A draft of this had been circulated to all prior to the meeting.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b> by all present that this be adopted with immediate effect, and progress on the items listed within it to be updated upon in a report circulated with each set of meeting papers.</p> <p><b>Action: Cllr J Davies to upload this business plan to the website.</b></p> <p><b>Resolved</b> by all present that a newsletter be prepared and distributed along with the footway lighting survey to update residents on the progress with the business plan and other salient matters.</p> <p>It was noted there is a need to collaborate with other local communities on relevant local issues. Cllr J Davies proposed an initial informal meeting for local parish councillors to discuss common issues and responses to these collectively.</p> <p><b>Action: Cllr J Davies &amp; the Clerk to take forward an initial meeting in late March/early April to establish the appetite for collaborative working.</b></p>
24/24	<p><b>Neighbourhood Plan</b></p> <p>There is still no clarity from central government on when/if funding will be available to support the development of Neighbourhood plans in 24/25. The tender process can't be commenced until there is some certainty around the funding as tender responses have to be dated within 30 days.</p> <p>Clifton Community Council do not have the reserves to be able to fund the development of a neighbourhood plan (circa 20-25k).</p> <p><b>Resolved</b> by all present that this matter be placed on hold until a funding decision by central government is reached.</p> <p><b>Action: Whilst a decision is awaited on central government funding Clifton Community Council will start exploring the options for the initial research e.g. data/surveys etc, and to start engaging the local community with the idea of neighbourhood planning.</b></p>
25/25	<p><b>Highways &amp; Parish Maintenance</b></p> <p><i>i. To receive updates on any Highways related matters within the Parish</i></p>

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- There have been another circa 13 issues reported across the Parish including a collapsing manhole and a collapsing culvert.
- Concerns were also noted about the standard of the repairs that have been undertaken.
- It was noted that the lack of white lines mean that people are driving into the laybys as they are not clear where laybys are demarcated.

**Action: Clerk/Chair to continue to lobby WaF for the reinstallation of at least the white lines to show the edge of the road/laybys/bus stops etc.**

**Action: Clerk/Chair to submit a request to WaF for white lines through the village as the experiment of not having them clearly hasn't worked.**

It was noted that appropriate signage e.g. priority signage is required near the pinch point by the school

*ii. Autospeed watch update.*

No update received.

It was noted that sadly Cumbria Police are still not acting on the data, but it is hoped that the forthcoming Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner elections may see a shift in community engagement around issues such as Autospeed Watch.

There is also a national push happening with other police forces who are actively promoting the use of Autospeed Watch elsewhere in the Country.

*iii. 20mph Speed Limit Applications. One for Clifton & one for Clifton Dykes.*

This has now been submitted to WaF and a decision is awaited.

Circa 40 responses were received to the survey, it wasn't overwhelming support but the data collated was beneficial and has been used as supporting evidence for the application.

**Action: Clerk to share the data with councillors for information.**

**26/24**

## **Planning**

*i. Planning applications received for consultation.*

None

*ii. Planning decisions*

None

**27/24**

## **Financial Matters**

*i. To authorise the below payments.*

**Resolved** by all present that the below payments were authorised/ratified for payment:

Date	PAYEE	Budget line	Value	Action
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	29.2.24	Becx Carter	Feb Salary (Via So)	£349.64	Ratify
	29.2.24	HMRC	Feb PAYE (Via SO)	£87.40	Ratify
	<p><i>ii. To receive and approve the bank reconciliation and spend against budget report.</i></p> <p><b>Resolved</b> by all present that these be recorded as a true and accurate record.</p>				
<b>28/24</b>	<p><b>Correspondence for Response</b></p> <p><i>i. Royal Garden Party Nomination</i></p> <p><b>Resolved</b> by all present that Cllr S Blaylock be nominated to attend this on behalf of Clifton Community Council</p> <p><b>Action: Clerk to file this nomination</b></p>				
<b>29/24</b>	<p><b>Policies for approval</b></p> <p><b>Resolved</b> by all present that the below policies be adopted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Publication Scheme</li><li>- Clifton Community Council Website Accessibility Statement</li><li>- Training Policy</li></ul> <p><b>Action: Cllr J Davies to update the website</b></p>				
<b>30/24</b>	<p><b>Date of next meeting</b></p> <p><b>Resolved</b> by all present that the meeting dates for 2024 be set as (all at 18:30):</p> <p>11<sup>th</sup> April 2024- Noted S Blaylock Apologies for this meeting. 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025</p>				

The meeting was closed at 19:33