

Clyst Honiton Parish Council

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Background

Having spent more than 10 years pursuing the Neighbourhood Plan and Development Order the time has come for Clyst Honiton Parish Council to concentrate on looking forward to the future and to concentrate on working more closely with the residents of the parish.

The Neighbourhood Plan is now in place, but the Neighbourhood Development Order (NDO) is currently stalled due to the lack of engagement from the other stakeholders involved, such as the Church Commissioners and EDDC. The parish council is now having to concentrate its efforts on matters with more immediate impact than the NDO would have. It will have neither the time nor resources to be involved in more complicated negotiations and work resulting in the provision of a community facility on the Church Commissioner Land being unlikely to come to fruition.

The effect of Neighbourhood Plan policies on major projects is limited but provides the parish council with a checklist of matters that can affect moderate development, and the parish council needs to continue to use the policies in its planning responses.

The new proposal from EDDC to fulfil its housing targets by building one new settlement called Marlcombe which will encroach onto more than 50% of current Clyst Honiton Parish area means new challenges in the coming years. It will also mean that a New Town Council boundary will inevitably be drawn reducing the area for CHPC down to just the current inhabited village. It is possible that the Town Council could absorb the whole area of the Clyst Honiton Parish making the parish council redundant. This would also mean the assets of the parish council could be taken over leaving local people without a voice on their future.

This along with any effects resulting from whatever form Local Government Reorganisation takes for the area means that the current parish council wants to ensure that it has some say on how the current facilities are preserved for the Clyst Honiton Community.

This paper looks at defining a set of aims and objectives for the parish council for the coming 5-10 years to get the best outcome it can for residents.

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Aims

1. To have better community engagement/communication
2. To establish safe, routine volunteer working with sufficient capacity
3. To have a Parish Council which is recognised and respected by stakeholders and has good communication with statutory bodies
4. To make the Playing Field a safe, finished and affordable space for the community and its benefits to belong to the village in perpetuity
5. Provide Community Facility
6. To find a way of working so that the Parish Council makes fast, informed decisions and sticks to them
7. To have a Parish Council that has planned its own future as far as it can

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Objectives

1. To have better community engagement/communication

Objectives

- News page on new .gov website updated weekly (if there is any news)
- Meaningful community input about Playing Field and its facilities such as local surveys
- An improved Clyst Honiton Chatter magazine available online

2. To establish safe, routine volunteer working with sufficient capacity

Objectives

- Volunteer recruitment for General Volunteers and Expert Volunteers
- Volunteer checklist and Risk Assessment – training/equipment check/hazards/experience
- Job list for volunteers
- More formal thanks in Chatter/on website

3. To have a Parish Council which is recognised and respected by stakeholders and has good communication with statutory bodies

Objectives

- To attempt to take the initiative with getting notification of principal authority activities in the parish, such as highway works etc.
- Work with 'Proper' email addresses .gov.uk – now operating.
- Improved escalation of issues such as St Michaels Hill.
- We need not to choose to meet when no one can join us!
- To maintain a good list of relevant contacts
- Agenda points should refer to external bodies and require communication with them.

4. To make the Playing Field a safe, finished and affordable space for the community and its benefits to belong to the village in perpetuity

Objectives

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It is possible that Clyst Honiton will either become the New Town or it will come within Exeter. The Field could then be controlled by people who don't even know Clyst Honiton and it will just be a nuisance cost.

- Put the Field into a charitable trust which remains controlled by the Community, in perpetuity.
- Maintain a five year plan with budgets for repair and maintenance.
- Tick list of weekly equipment checks signed and dated
- Produce a form of document that the PC issues to all potential users of the Field, making clear roles and responsibilities and all risks (including reputational)
- Obtain professional legal advice in setting up Trust in a way that prevents any default being a local authority controlling the assets

5. To Provide a Community Facility

Objective

- On the assumption that the provision of a Community Facility will not happen as part of the NDO, to investigate other possible options to provide a community space within the parish.

6. To find a way of working so that the Parish Council makes fast, informed decisions and sticks to them

Objectives

- Agendas to be sent around in time for the statutory requirements to be met at least one week before the meetings.
- Reports should be submitted with enough time before meetings that they can be read and queries raised and responded to.
- Reports cannot create points for discussion and proposed actions that are not on the agenda. If something needs to be on the agenda, suggest it in time for it to be included on the agenda.
- Two lists are to be created – ongoing job/progress list and a list of planning issues discussed, our response and what then happened/where we are now with it. These will be shared by those that can organise access.
- The agendas should be in the form of
 - Topic
 - Relevant info (including risks and full life costs)
 - Decision to be taken

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Again, the agenda will be round in time for any queries to be dealt with before the meeting. At the meeting, discussion should minimal.

- Emails forwarded need to have edited subject lines such as '**For Info**', '**Read**' or '**For Action**' to enable the receiver to know what is required.

7. To have a Parish Council that has planned its own future as far as it can

We have to be aware that Clyst Honiton as a Parish Council may vanish within a few years or it could carry on for the foreseeable future.

Objectives

- To ensure that the future of Clyst Honiton is secured whatever development takes place.
- To be forceful in engaging with EDDC on planning and other matters.
- This to be part of the considerations and risk matrix for agenda points.
- To secure Clyst Honiton assets for its residents whatever local government structure is in place.