

Claydon with Clattercote Newsletter

January/February 2015



Early Snowdrops

LACK OF SUPPORT SHOWN FOR BUS SHELTER FUNDING

At the Parish Council Meeting on 13th January, the Chairman, David Hill reported that he had received only 19 responses to the letter that he circulated in December, regarding an increase in the Village Precept in order to fund a bus shelter. Rather than just complete or ignore the reply slips, some villagers had chosen to write letters. One in expressing support for the proposal suggested that the Parish Council should show vision and invest more in the village infrastructure. Another insisted that the people who needed the shelter should pay for it, while a third declared that the situation of children not allowed overcoats should be challenged

by the relevant school governors. As an ex governor of Kineton School, the Chairman debunked the last claim, stating that the problem was likely to remain, as the governors had been attempting to persuade the school to provide lockers for the last 10 years.

With only one option available on the reply slip it was not possible to determine the true number of villagers opposed to the proposal, as letters could have been lost in the chaos of Christmas correspondence, never read, set to one side and forgotten, or not received at all. One villager insisted that no letter had been received.

The majority of Parish Councillors were in favour of the proposal, with Councillor Hoggins insisting that the shelter would be an asset to the village, and villagers not currently using the bus service may find that they need it in future. Councillor Putt reported that amongst the mothers with young families the consensus was that the project should proceed as soon as possible. Councillor Jones reminded the meeting that Oxfordshire County Council was aware enough of the village's needs to provide a shuttle service to Cropredy when the Mollington Road was closed. This is an indication of its consideration of the village during the next review of the bus services. In contrast, Councillor Mutch insisted that Parish Councils in Claydon had rejected the idea of a bus shelter for the last 30 years, and they couldn't have been wrong. The Chairman voiced the argument that there was less need now with fewer buses and fewer bus users than there had been in the past.

There was much criticism of the latest shelter design. The one submitted at the meeting in September (for a 4 sided mainly Hornton stone shelter with an integral bench and a path to the roadside) had been rejected on the grounds that, at a cost of £7,200 plus VAT, it was far too expensive. The specification was therefore amended to a 3 sided shelter to reduce the cost as much as possible to £5,900 plus VAT. The changes were reported to the November meeting but received no adverse comments.

This time there was much quibbling about the loss of a path to the roadside, although this had been removed from the original specification as it could either be added at a later date or built by volunteers at a fraction of the cost. Councillor Mutch was not satisfied with a sloping felt-covered roof, or that the drainage would be adequate. After viewing a simple drawing, one villager declared the design to be crude and ugly. On this basis, the design was rejected.

Subsequently the Parish Council agreed to set aside £3,000 in the budget for a bus shelter. This will effectively be covered by New Homes Bonus grants from Cherwell District Council (£1176 in each of the financial years 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16), so villager contributions to the shelter via the Claydon Precept will be zero. The shortfall will be met by fundraising.

(See Editor's Comment later in this issue).

FUNDRAISING STARTED

at the Coffee Morning on Wednesday 21st January when the Jubilee Group pledged **£200** and announced plans to hold a **GRAND TOMBOLA** on Saturday March 14th from 10.30 am in the Church Room.

Donations for the Tombola or monetary donations made out to "Claydon Jubilee" can be left with Dorothy Beckett at 19 Manor Park, Thelma Tibbetts at 7 Bignolds Close or Sylvia Ingram at The Furze, Fenny Compton Road.

PARISH PRECEPT

The Budget for the 2015/16 financial year was set at £6809 (excluding the bus shelter).

The main items of expenditure are as follows:

Elections	£850,	Parish Clerk's salary,	PAYE and expenses	£1350,	
Insurance	£677	(to be increased by £27	on installation of a bus shelter),		
Annual Audit	£100,	Subscriptions	£212,	Publications	£150,
Seminars	£100,	Church Room Hire	£80,	Grant to Church Room	
Committee	£200,	Grant to PFMC	£1500,	Grant to PCC	£500,
Grant to Village Website	£40,	Grant to Cluster Care	£50,		
Village Maintenance	£500,	Miscellaneous	£50,	VAT	£450.

The income expected is £1462, comprised of Allotment Rents £82, VAT Refund £1287 and £93 CDC Grant.

The Parish Precept was therefore set at **£6000**.

OTHER PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council Meeting on 13th January was attended by County Councillor George Reynolds and District Councillor Ken Attack. The following further items were discussed:

PLANNING

Manor Farm Buildings now known as ‘The Barnhouse’

Consideration of the application to extend the Lawful Development Certificate within the barn to incorporate a 3 to 4 bedroom house with windows to the outside has been delayed until February, pending further investigation of the Lawful Development Certificate.

A further application has now been submitted to retain the building in a small section of the barn, as now, but to include further windows.

The Parish Council requested that both applications be heard by a full planning committee at the same meeting.

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Ambulance call outs

Councillor Reynolds informed the meeting that fire officers have been used as first responders in order to relieve pressure on the ambulance service.

An informed member of the public confirmed that fire cover was not compromised and if a call was received the fire team would react immediately, leaving the responder with the patient.

The Fire Service is paid £100 for each attendance.

Alkerton tip

The Alkerton Tip which had been scheduled for closure in 2015 will now be open for a further 5 years.

Potholes

Councillor Reynolds noted a decline in pothole reporting, but was informed of a large one on the A423, around 400 yards south of the Mollington Road turn to Claydon.

CLAYDON PHONE BOX

Attempts have been made to organise the removal of the phone box, but BT appear to be confused regarding its location, listing it to be in Bignolds Close.

PARISH LIAISON MEETING

The Parish Liaison Meeting on 12th November was attended by Councillors Hill and Jones. Barry Wood, the Leader of Cherwell District Council (CDC), outlined the difficulties that it will face over the coming years. The support grant from central government has decreased by 27% and further cuts are expected as a mark of “Austerity Britain”.

It is expected that during the construction of HS2, the increased traffic will cause acute disruption, with Banbury completely gridlocked during this period.

There will also be a significant increase in house building up to 2031, with over 10,000 houses in Bicester, over 7,000 in Banbury, 2,300 in Upper Heyford and 3,000 in the rural areas. Claydon will remain restricted to barn conversions, infilling and limited development.

It was confirmed that Claydon will not be included in the superfast broadband rollout, with the report on the options available to the areas excluded not due to be published until May. *(Some villagers who have signed up independently with SugarNet are very pleased with the service.)*

LOCAL HERITAGE ASSETS

Following an informative meeting of three villagers with the Design Officer at CDC, the Claydon History Society will proceed to identify the village's local heritage assets.

ALLOTMENTS

New tenants will not be allowed to start work until a Tenancy Agreement has been signed. There are currently 2 vacant plots.

100 Club Results

The winners of the December 100 Club Draw, held at the Carol Service on 21st December were:

1 st Prize	£100	Mrs Purdey
2 nd Prize	£20	Andy Ridgeway
3 rd Prize	£10	Paul Marsden

Huge thanks to everyone who entered the draw. Over £300 was raised in support of St.James the Great Church.

Claydon Playing Field Update

2014 was a busy year for the committee, between the management committee and the fundraising sub-committee they ran 10 events which included events for the kids at Easter, Halloween and Christmas and village events such as the Summer Dog Show and Bonfire event, the Italian Night and Jumble.

We couldn't have run these events without the help and support of the 20 – 30 volunteers who give their time – so thank you to everyone who has helped in so many ways.

Money was raised for new play equipment and the springers and play boards were installed and have been enjoyed by the younger members of our community. Our focus in 2015 will be on raising money for the basket swing which will be enjoyed by all ages.

Paul Gallagher stepped down as Chairman and Pamela Putt was agreed as the new Chair at the first meeting of the committee on 20th January. The committee would like to thank Paul for all his help, support and the energy that he put into working on the playing field.

2015 is shaping up to be as full of events as last year. We are planning a curry night on 12th March in the Church Room with a new takeaway option being included this time, a games and afternoon tea event on the 9th May and another jumble on the 6th June. The Summer Dog Show will be early July – and those are just the ones that are in the diary so far!

Watch out for more details on menu choices for the curry night which will be coming soon.

As well as raising money for new equipment we need to maintain our playing field and so we are planning a spring clean and will need people to man the brushes and feed the workers some tea and cake. Dates for this will be circulated as soon as they are confirmed.

We are always looking for new volunteers and would love people to come forward with new fundraising ideas that they are willing to run, please speak to anyone on the committee or feel free to come along to our next committee meeting on 8pm on 17th March which will be held at Lindens, Main Street.

Editor's Comment

Few people would disagree that the ideal material with which to build a shelter adjacent to a Hornton stone wall is Hornton stone.

But, are we expected to pay too high a price in order to accomplish this?

The Parish Council clearly thinks so, in rejecting a quotation for £7,200 on the grounds that it is too expensive. The quotation did not include the latest demands of a pitched roof and drainage, which would increase the cost to over £8,000. The objections at the January Parish Council Meeting also demonstrated that a compromise to bring the cost down to £5,900 was considered unacceptable.

What do other villagers think?

Our neighbours, Cropredy and Mollington, both very attractive villages, have not considered it necessary to have stone bus shelters.

The major argument for stone has been that the shelter must be in keeping with the area. However, a precedent has been set. There is another structure in the area (pictured below), situated opposite the Village Green, constructed of pre-cast concrete. Surely any design would be in keeping with this?



The Newsletter would appreciate your views

Responses can be published anonymously but names and addresses must be supplied to the Newsletter in order to ensure that they are genuine.

Please email clayclatnews@btinternet.com or post to 13 Bignolds Close.

Diary Dates

OVER SIXTIES FILM

The next film showing will take place in the Church Room at 2.00 pm on

Friday 6th February

The Love Punch

starring Pierce Brosnan and Emma Thompson

CLAYDON HISTORY SOCIETY MEETING

Monday 16th February at 7.30 pm in the Church Room, when subscriptions will be due.

CLAYDON FILM CLUB

February screenings:

Saving Grace

Tom and Jerry Movie – The Fast and the Furry

strictly members only, details from Paul Gallagher 298699

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 10th March at 7.00 pm in the Church Room

immediately followed by

PLAYING FIELD TRUSTEE MEETING

CURRY NIGHT

Thursday 12th March at 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm meal in the Church Room

GRAND TOMBOLA

Saturday 14th March from 10.30 am in the Church Room

PLAYING FIELD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday 17th March at 8.00 pm at Lindens, Main Street

Written and produced by Jenny Jones

Thanks to all contributors

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