

Minutes of the meeting of Claydon with Clattercote Parish Council held in the Church Room, Claydon on Tuesday 12th January 2016 at 7.30 pm

Present:

Cllrs D. Hill, A.Hoggins, R. Jones, J. Jones, R. Millward and 3 members of the public. County Cllr George Reynolds (left at 8.25 pm), District Cllr Ken Attack (arrived at 8.25 pm)

66 Apologies

There were none

67 Openness and transparency at meetings

The standard notice was read out

68 Declaration of interest – members were asked to declare any personal interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any item under consideration at this meeting.

No declarations were made

69 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 10th November 2015

Minute 59 – “wise” should read as “wish”

70 Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda

The BT phone box is still not working. Dialling the number results in a ringing tone, but not in the box. The matter is to be referred back to BT pay phones by the Chairman.

A notice was received of work being done on the trees on the corner of Bignolds Close and Main Street.

The tree which blew down on the verge opposite Bignolds Close was cleared from the road by an unknown member of the public. Work is under way to clear the remaining branches from the verge and tidy the trunk.

The railings at the railway bridge on the Fenny Compton Road have now been repaired and one of the fly tipped loads has been removed. It was thought that there may be a policy on what could be removed.

Cllr Millward has the sign for the Playing Field gate and will install it.

71 Parish Council Administration for 2016/2017

Although the election of the Chair normally takes place in May of each year, the Chairman, Cllr Hill requested that this year it should be brought forward to March to allow for as long a transition as possible in the event that he leaves the village. There is a great deal of legislation and administration involving a considerable workload, particularly in the absence of a Parish Clerk. If no-one comes forward to undertake the role, Cllr Hill will continue for a short period only.

There have been no applications for the position of Parish Clerk. The role involves attendance at 6 to 7 meetings per year, minute taking, account keeping, submitting the VAT return and the annual audit plus liaising with the County and District councils on legal matters in order to give advice to the Chair. The local parishes have been contacted and enquiries have been made at Cherwell District Council regarding the vacancy. The new clerk on Bourton Parish Council is learning and is unlikely to undertake the role at this stage. Cllr Reynolds indicated that increased bureaucracy was a deterrent to interested candidates. Cllr R Jones suggested that it may be necessary to increase the salary in order to make the role more attractive.

72 Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)

There had been no response from OCC on the implications of officially signing up to take over the grass cutting. Cllr Reynolds indicated that there are insurance issues plus a 48 page booklet of instructions with which to comply. He added that several parishes had agreed to mow the verges within their village, but mowing outside and cleaning the road signs was unlikely to be taken up.

Cllr Reynolds stated that the likely increase of the county portion of Council Tax will be 3.99%, 2% of which must be spent on social care. Following the Government Spending Review OCC also has to find £20m more than expected over the next 4 years.

A meeting is to be held between the parishes and the commercial bus operators on Wednesday 20th January. Cllrs R & J Jones will be attending together with Jon Summers, Chair of Mollington Parish Council in support of the 277 service. (No meeting has been offered to discuss County Connect). Ken Porter, Clerk to Cropredy Parish Council had commented that the likely extension of the marina to include a further 200 boats would increase the number of bus users. Cllrs Jones will circulate their paperwork to the other parishes prior to the meeting in order to obtain any further comments. OCC is expecting parishes to club together to fund a subsidy if they wish to retain their local service. The maximum that Claydon could provide under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 is around £1900 (£7.36 for each elector), but there are conditions.

73 Cherwell District Council (CDC)

Cllr J Jones summarised the content of the Parish Liaison Meeting held on 11th November 2015. Cllr Barry Wood, Leader of CDC stated that a financial strategy was being built on the expectation that reductions in the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) from central government would reduce it to zero by 2020. The current programme of working in joint teams was now saving £3m per year. Additional lines of joint working were being explored with Stratford District Council. In response to a question on subsidising bus services Cllr Wood stated that CDC would be ready to facilitate discussion but it would not increase council tax to fund the County Council's failings. Cllr Reynolds commented that CDC was likely to spend between £30,000 and £40,000 on Dial-a-Ride. The meeting also included presentations on the registration of local assets (such as Assets of Community Value and Local Heritage Assets), and TOE2, the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment which can provide grants to support local environmental projects.

The CDC Spring Clean will take place between 19th February and 7th March. The details will be forwarded to the Playing Field Management Committee (PFMC).

A Planning application has been submitted for Mr & Mrs Stothard of Leys Farm for a 2 storey rear extension and internal alterations to the house plus alterations to an ancillary barn. Details to be circulated for comment.

74 Claydon Allotments – Update

There are currently 2 vacant plots. It was agreed that the Chairman would write to 7 tenants whose plots require attention, informing them that if the plots have not been tidied by 31st March, the tenancy will not be renewed for 2016/17. Cllr Hoggins reported that the hens on plots 3 and 4 were in a disgusting state with no food, water or bedding. It was agreed that the tenant would be given until the end of the week to improve the situation. It was suggested that at the March meeting a councillor should be nominated as responsible for the allotments. A suggestion that tenants should be required to pay a deposit, only returnable if the plot was vacated in an acceptable state, required further thought.

As vehicles have been driving across the Playing Field, a sign has been installed on the gate requesting that vehicle owners have respect for the field.

75 Correspondence

A letter has been received from the Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire suggesting that the parish may wish to consider a celebration to mark the Queen's 90th birthday on the weekend of 11th/12th June. It was agreed that details would be passed to the PFMC, the Jubilee Group and the Church Room Committee.

76 Finance

There were no payments.

Audit:

The audit procedure for 2015/16 will be as normal after which an external audit will not be required from 2016/17 if the parish expenditure is less than £25,000. The Parish Council will be obliged to publish its figures within the village. A new body has been set up to assist parishes if the figures are challenged, but no costs have been supplied to assist in making the decision on whether Claydon should opt out of membership.

The Chairman reported that as at 12th January 2016:

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|----------------------|------------|
| Current bank balance | £6,282.51 |
| Income | £12,516.85 |
| Expenditure | £12,282.63 |

The committed expenditure to 31st March 2016 is £1514, including £850 to cover an election.

Additional income of £1176 New Homes Bonus will be paid.

The budget for the financial year 2016/17 was agreed as follows:

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| Elections | £850 |
| Parish Clerk Salary | £920 |
| HMRC Clerk's PAYE | £230 |
| Parish Clerk Expenses | £200 |
| Annual Audit | £140 |
| Parish Council Insurance | £790 |
| Subscriptions | £250 |
| Publications | £100 |

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| Seminars | £150 |
| Church Room Hire | £80 |
| PFMC Grant | £1,455 |
| PCC Grant | £700 |
| Church Room Committee Grant | £200 |
| Claydon Website Grant | £40 |
| Cluster Care Grant | £100 |
| Village Maintenance | |
| Grass cutting | £1,050 |
| Grit bins | £250 |
| Village green | £600 |
| Notice-board | £100 |
| Bus Service | £1,900 |
| VAT | £400 |
| TOTAL | £10,505 |

The amount budgeted for grit bins will allow for either one supplied, installed and filled by the county council, or two to be installed and filled by the parish.

The possibility of installing dog waste bins was discussed, but discounted on the grounds that villagers may dispose of poo bags in their own wheelie bin or in the Playing Field wheelie bin. New litter bins were discussed but no agreement was reached following a suggestion that they are unnecessary.

Cllr Millward agreed to ascertain the cost of pollarding the lower branches of the horse chestnut tree on the village green and removing the waste.

It was agreed that Cllr Millward would refurbish the notice-board and add a polycarbonate sheet to provide additional cover.

The Parish Precept for the financial year 2016/17 was agreed at £7,000.

77 AOB

It was requested that the Church Room heating should be working by the time of the next meeting.

The Chairman will check on whether the pot holes before the dip on the Fenny Compton Road have been reported.

The meeting closed at 9:25 pm

78 Next Meeting

Tuesday 8th March at 7.00 pm.