

Minutes of the meeting of Claydon with Clattercote Parish Council held in the Church Room, Claydon on Tuesday 12th July 2016 at 7.00 pm

Present:

Cllrs D. Hill, A.Hoggins, R. Jones, J. Jones, R. Millward, County and District Cllr George Reynolds, District Cllr Ken Attack, and 4 members of the public.

16 Apologies

Parish Clerk Kirsty Buttle

17 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

18 Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on Tuesday 10th May and Wednesday 29th June 2016

These were agreed as a true and accurate record.

19 Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda

There is no definitive rule on whether AOB should appear in the minutes. It is left to the Parish Clerk to decide.

Vicky Taplin from CDC has spoken to the neighbours of the empty properties in the village. There has been no further response.

OCC has agreed to install a sign at the entrance to Fenny Compton Road, stating that the road is unsuitable for HGVs.

The requested 'Road Narrows' sign as a warning when leaving the village along the Mollington Road remains outstanding.

20 Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)

The Chairman, Cllr Hill attended a meeting at Banbury Town Hall to look at options for local devolution of decision-making and services to communities. There was no information on what a unitary authority would be prepared to do, or what the costs are likely to be.

Cllr Reynolds stated that although there was a great desire to devolve responsibility to Parish Councils it was questionable whether there would be any funding. In addition there are insurance issues, as well as the lack of skills in managing potholes. There is also a great deal of bureaucracy regarding the cutting of wild flowers in the roadside verges.

Cllr Reynolds added that OCC is no longer adopting roads on large housing estates, leaving them to be run by a management company.

OCC has agreed a cut of one metre along the roadside verges.

21 Cherwell District Council (CDC)

An application has been made for a Certificate of Lawfulness of Proposed Development for Meadow House, Crossing Lane. It specifies the replacement of the conservatory with a single storey extension.

Representatives of the Parish Council and Cllr Atack met the owners of the Barnhouse, to discuss the plans for the replacement of the roof and the internal development. Overall there were no objections. In view of the history of the site, a request has been made to have the application discussed by the Planning Committee

The Parish Council has objected to the proposed extension of Cropredy Marina.

Cllr Atack informed the meeting that CDC is in the process of producing a Local Enforcement Plan, and will also be consulting on a Statement of Community Involvement in Planning. CDC has also applied to become the Lead Council for HS2 within Oxfordshire and will deal with the associated planning applications.

22 Claydon Allotments

Following the letters sent to tenants in arrears, £55 has been received in rent. There are now 5 vacant plots. Someone from outside the village has expressed an interest in one. It was agreed that the weeds on the vacant plots would be strimmed. Returning the plots to grass in the autumn will also be considered.

23 Village Maintenance

The quotation of £425 plus VAT to prune the trees on the Village Green and remove the material from the site was accepted, with the work proposed to take place in late September. Cllr Millward agreed to meet the contractor on site to mark the branches which are to be cut. Once pruning is complete the compost can be spread under the horse chestnut tree. Any seed planting will take place in spring.

Following a complaint to OCC that the blue brick path near the telephone box is a hazard, highways have issued a job number.

It was agreed that Cllr Millward would obtain a galvanised steel post to replace the broken gate post in the Playing Field. He would also cut the slots on which to latch the gate following liaison with the contractor employed to install it. The suggestion was that this should be Neil Ronaldson.

The BT payphone is still not working. It was suspected that, when contacted, BT just confirm that the number appears to ring from the exchange and no-one inspects the phone in the box. A recent event demonstrated that the payphone is still needed.

24 Openreach Fibre Broadband Cabinet

Although the website gives December as the date by which the Broadband cabinet in Claydon will be live, Cllr Hill has received an email stating that the earliest possible date will be March 2017.

BT will pay a one-off Wayleave payment of £762 for installing the cabinet on the edge of the Village Green.

25 Correspondence

A letter of thanks from Cluster care for the grant of £100.

26 Finance

The Chairman reported that at the end of the financial year on 1st April the balance was £7398.

Since then there have been receipts of £5451 and expenditure of £3966, leaving a balance of £8882 (£9340 including the reserve).

There is an outstanding query on the discrepancy of the amount £148 paid for the dog bags against the invoice of £148.80.

Authority was given to pay:	£	
Grass cutting	264	(Verges £150 plus VAT Churchyard £70 plus VAT)
J Hicks – Internal Audit	40	
Parish Clerk’s Salary for July & August	230	(£184 plus £46 PAYE)

27 AOB

Cllr Hoggins expressed disappointment that the County Connect bus service will be discontinued on 20th July. It will cause hardship for the people relying on the service in order to travel to work. Cllr Millward suggested that access to work assistance can be obtained for people who are unable to drive. Cllr R Jones agreed to submit a Freedom of Information request on the amount of the subsidy that OCC has withdrawn for County Connect to serve the 4 villages in Oxfordshire.

Cllr J Jones requested that a response to Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group’s Sustainability Transformation Plan (STP) be discussed at the next meeting. The STP is a cost saving exercise and the options currently include the downgrade of the Horton General Hospital.

28 Next Meeting

Tuesday 13th September at 7.30 pm.

The meeting finished at 8.05 pm.