

Claydon with Clattercote Newsletter

January 2013



The first snowfall of the year on January 14th

VILLAGE PRECEPT HELD AT £4000 BUT PLAYING FIELD GRANT REDUCED TO £500

The duration of the Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 8th January proved to be quite lengthy as heated arguments raged on the use of the Playing Field. Although £1275 had been requested by the **Playing Field Management Committee (PFMC)**, in order to fund the annual grass cutting bill, a compromise of **£500** was finally reached between the zero grant that was initially proposed (mainly because the PFMC have a balance in excess of £5000), and matching the £1000 grant that was paid last year.

In addition to the PFMC, two other organisations had submitted grant requests to the Parish Council. The Chairman stressed that all of the request forms had been submitted after the deadline and that the form clearly stated that late applications would not be accepted. Nevertheless all of the applications were considered.

The **Parochial Church Council (PCC)** had requested £550 for the cutting of the churchyard. A grant of **£500** was agreed. The Parish Council also resolved to suggest that the PCC set up a working group, which would include interested parishioners and villagers with the necessary expertise, to evaluate the possibility of turning part of the churchyard into a wild flower area.

The **Church Room Committee** had requested a grant of £500 towards the cost of refurbishment and extension of the toilet which would include a new suite and sufficient access for a wheelchair, but not extend to any heating. There was some confusion regarding the state of the Committee's finances as these are controlled by the PCC. There was also concern that points agreed at the meeting with Revd Freeth, when the Church Room Committee was first proposed, had not been honoured. At that time general agreement had been reached that a person or persons would be nominated to ensure that the building was maintained in a fit state for use. However, nothing had been achieved in this area and it was largely thanks to the Jubilee Group that the building was regularly cleaned.

It was agreed that a grant of **£500** be made available for use on completion of the proposed work, but subject to the following conditions:

1. That the Church Room Committee be set up as a separate charity.
2. The PCC agree to the nomination of the Church Room for registration with Cherwell District Council (CDC) as an Asset of Community Value. This would allow a time buffer for the community to provide the necessary funds in the event that at some time in the future the Diocese may decide to sell the building.

It was proposed and agreed that the Parish Council should meet with the PCC to discuss these matters further.

The following remaining budget items were agreed:

Clerk's Salary and Expenses £1270 plus £200 This figure is in line with the officially recommended payment for parish clerks. It may be liable to an increase during the course of the year.

Election £959 There is a legal obligation to set aside these funds but the expectation is that they will not be required.

Insurance £648 This covers all of the village assets (eg. the noticeboard, the village pump and all of the playing field equipment), plus personal liability insurance for registered playing field events.

Training £100 It may be necessary for the Clerk to attend seminars costing in the region of £60 plus VAT excluding travel.

Other items such as **Repairs and Maintenance (£500), Subscriptions (£200), Audit (£200), Church Room Hire (£80) and Miscellaneous (£50)**, brought the total budget to **£5707 plus £300 VAT**.

As the Parish Council is likely to end the year with a balance plus reserves of around £1500 it was decided to set **the precept (i.e. the portion of our Council Tax that is paid to the village) at £4000**. This risks the Parish Council running out of money but there is a hope that the election spend of £959 will not be necessary. Changes to the Tax Base by CDC means that the sum collected from residents paying exactly the same as last year would fall short of the £4000 required. This year CDC is expected to make up the shortfall with a variance grant, but in future years retaining the precept at £4000 would result in a slight increase of around 85p for the whole year at Band D.

The Chairman warned that if in future years the Parish Council wish to increase the precept, they may be obliged to hold a referendum.

PLANNING ISSUES

Butlin Farm

There was no objection to the application to replace the current metal windows with double glazed wooden ones.

Greenacre

An application for the demolition of the flat-roofed garage and the erection of a pitch roofed double garage plus an extension to the driveway had only recently been received. Concern was expressed regarding any connection to the neighbouring property and the proposed drainage.

HOME FARM VERGE

As no formal proposal had been received regarding the widening of the road in front of Home Farm, the original plan to install bollards in order to

protect the verge is planned to go ahead. Evidence of the damage caused was presented to the Parish Council.

SEWERAGE WORKS

Thames Water are due to return sometime in February to complete the job of clearing out the ditch and strimming the verge adjacent to the sewerage works.

OTHER OCC ISSUES

It was reported that frequent personnel changes at OCC necessitate repeated requests to deal with the paths, trees and potholes.

VOLUNTEER CONNECT

The Parish Council had been informed of the Volunteer Connect Transport Scheme operated by Banbury Citizen's Advice Bureau. Under the scheme, users pay the driver 45p per mile travelled, including the return trip from the driver's home. The operators of the Claydon Car Service will consider whether it is likely to be necessary to supplement the existing service.

RECYCLING BANKS

A suggestion to install recycling banks in the village will be evaluated further. Although the village would receive a payment, there is concern that the possible mess of broken glass would outweigh the advantages.

CRIME WAVE

A number of sheds on the allotments have been broken into once again. Villagers are requested to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to 101 with information or 999 if a crime is taking place.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 7.00 p.m. in the Church Room on Tuesday 12th March, immediately prior to the Parish Council Meeting. It is hoped that all of the organisations involved will submit their reports to be studied well in advance, so that their time at the meeting can be used for a short question and answer session.

In future years the intention is to hold the meeting on a separate evening from the Parish Council Meeting.

COFFIN BIER FEEDBACK

Following the article on the coffin bier in the November Newsletter, it appears that the village is very fortunate that it is still in existence. Martin Broughton recalls that as a teenager in the 1970s he saw it stored in the barn at Butlin Farm, apparently lying idle and of no use. He then considered how to convert it to a Soap Box Cart, but his plans didn't reach fruition.

Eric Bates recalled that it was used for his grandfather Frank Pettipher who died in 1958 at the age of 84. This may be last time it was used.



A drawing by Eric Bates of his grandfather settling down on the sofa in the kitchen cum living room of the small cottage next to Orchard House to talk to Eric's mother and anyone else present. Frank had retired from Great Western Railway after 43 years working as one of the regular signalmen in Claydon Crossing Signal Box

UPDATE ON CAPTAIN ARRON BROUGHTON RM



Things were busy for Arron and his troops prior to and over the Christmas period. Special operations that started a few weeks before ensured that Arron's checkpoint were on full duty 24 hours a day. The rota meant that very little Christmas celebration took place until the 29th December. Arron had not received the Christmas greetings video when he spoke to me on Christmas Day. It along with all the other Christmas packages arrived on Boxing Day. Arron phoned me twice between patrols on Christmas Day and sent several messages on Boxing Day once he received all of his parcels. His latest call was New Years Day when the video he had then seen several times had been a massive pick up and morale boost. He went on to convey his appreciation and many thanks to everyone who participated.

Although Christmas dinner was not until the 29th the lads managed to put together pretty much the full works. Many people had managed to send alcohol in many disguises such as fanta and soft drink bottles. I had sent two bottles of port along with half a stilton and biscuits which all arrived safely. However much to the amusement of the troops only one of the welly boots that Arron asked for had arrived.

The barracks were decorated with the many gifts and cards sent by St Mary's school, Aston le Walls and Arron has taken a video which he will bring home with him if he cannot send it earlier. He will also visit the school to thank them in person when he returns.

Martin Broughton

TRANSPORT NEEDS SURVEY

Thanks to all of the villagers who completed the Transport Needs Survey. There was a 65% response rate representing 170 individuals. Although there are not many bus users there was acceptance from many respondents that the bus service is a valuable asset.

A full report is expected from Oxford Rural Community Council in due course.

COUNTY CONNECT FEEDBACK

Some villagers have reported difficulty in registering with County Connect. If your registration is refused, please contact Rob Jones, the Parish Transport Representative on 690510.

PLAYING FIELD NEWS

The Playing Field Management Committee is disappointed that it will have to dip even further into its reserves or do twice as much fund raising if the current standard of the Playing Field is to be maintained so that it can be enjoyed by children/villagers/dog walkers. It is a shame that one of the main assets of the village, that is available to all, is subjected to what appears to be a disproportionate 50% cut in its grant for Financial Year 2013/14.

Playing Field Management Committee.

Editor's comment: The amount of support for the Playing Field is always the source of much disagreement. The extra £500 grant equates to roughly £4 per household on our Council Tax, a grant of £1000 would have meant £8 per household. Villagers can unequivocally show their support for the Playing Field by donating money directly to the Management Committee. Instead of paying another £4 via the Council it could be paid directly to the PFMC (and the benefit could even be increased to £5 if Gift Aid can be applied). If you want to contribute please contact Paul Gallagher on 690119.

Banbury WEA fundraising event

A talk 'Place Names, Landscape & Settlement in the Banbury Region' (Course No: C3732978) by Deborah Hayter will take place on Thursday 18th April at 7.30 pm - 8:50 pm at Hanwell Fields Community Centre. The cost will be £12, to include refreshments. A set number of students are needed for the course to run so please book at least 2 weeks in advance. Contact Jenny Gough on 690326.

Welcome

to the village to Mike and Emma Ives at Threeways End. We hope you enjoy living in the village.

COFFEE MORNINGS

Coffee mornings continue from 10.30a.m. in the Church Room on the third Wednesday of each month. All welcome.

OVER SIXTIES FILMS

The first film showing of the year will take place in the Church Room at 2.00 p.m. on

Friday 8th February

starring Jean Dujardin, Berenice Bejo, John Goodman
and Uggie the Jack Russell terrier in

The Artist

A romantic comedy drama taking place in Hollywood between 1927 and 1932 as silent cinema falls out of fashion.

Normally at this time of year a flyer is distributed detailing the programme of films for the year ahead. However, with funding in doubt, no bookings have been accepted for the new financial year. It does give attendees the opportunity to make suggestions in the hope that the service will continue. Suggestions so far include 'Salmon Fishing in the Yemen', 'Quartet', 'War Horse' and 'Nativity 2'. If you have any suggestions please call Thelma Tibbetts on 690574

HISTORY SOCIETY UPDATE

The next meeting of the Claydon History Society will be on Monday 18th February at 7.30 pm in the Church Room, when membership subscriptions (£10) for the year will be due.

CLAYDON UNDER 5's

Parents plus their children under 5 years old continue to meet on the second Friday of each month. For information regarding the February venue please contact Tara on 690965.

*Written and produced by Jenny Jones
with thanks to Eric Bates, Martin Broughton and the PFMC
Contact: tel. 690510, e-mail clayclatnews@btinternet.com*