

Minutes of the meeting of Claydon with Clattercote Parish Council held in the Church Room, Claydon on Tuesday 8 September 2015 at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllrs D. Hill, A. Hoggins, R. Jones, J. Jones, R. Millward and 11 members of the parish. County Cllr George Reynolds (left at 8.30pm) and District Cllr Ken Atack arrived at 7.30pm

37. Apologies

Cllr Atack gave notice that he would be late attending.

38. Openness and transparency at meetings

The standard notice was read out.

39. Declaration of interest – members are 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.

40. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 14 July 2015.

Minute 24 – Should read Cllr Rob Jones.

Minute 32 - there are 4 options for the bus subsidies, off peak to be added in.

Aside from the above the minutes were agreed.

41. Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda.

The BT phone box is still not working.

Hedge at rear of 1 Bignolds Close has now been cut back.

42. Confirmation of Updated Standing Orders

The Chairman proposed that the standing orders be agreed by the parish council, now the new members have had the opportunity to read them. The standing orders are the National Association of Local Councils (NALCs) with a few minor amendments.

Comments were raised from Cllr Jenny Jones on the following:

3.3 Is it 5mins per speaker or 5mins in total for public speaking? Chairman responded and clarified that it is 5mins per speaker.

10.11 Debating section seems a little over-kill, however the Chairman confirmed it is just confirming in writing what the parish council is doing at every meeting.

13.2 Items to be on agenda (Bus Shelter issue) as the parish council publishes its agenda 5 days prior to the meeting all items to be included in the meeting MUST be with the clerk prior to the agenda being published. This is standard procedure at parish councils across the country, and considered good practice by NALC.

The Chairman proposed the Standing Orders for Claydon with Clattercote parish council are adopted by the council. Cllr Rob Jones seconded this proposal.

43. Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)

The Chairman reported the following:

- The bus subsidy consultation ended on Monday.
- The deadline of the consultation on the closure of the Refuse & Recycling tips in Oxfordshire is 5 October; you can send your comments either directly to OCC or use their website.
- The parish council had received an invite to attend the OCC Leaders talk on 21 September, however it is fully booked but another venue may be scheduled.

Bus Subsidised Transport Review

The Chairman reported that Mollington parish council had written a letter on behalf of various villages (Claydon with Clattercote included). Cllr Rob Jones has drafted a response to this letter and highlighted the fact they have omitted to mention the dial-a ride facility that is used within our parish and others. Cllr Rob Jones is the official transport representative for our area and meets with representatives from OCC.

The Chairman congratulated Cllr Rob Jones on his letter and asked his permission for the parish council to submit this to OCC and add to how the parish feels about the proposed options and how even more isolated it will make Claydon as a village.

The Chairman proposed that the parish council submits Cllr Rob Jones letter and adds to it the parish councils view. This was AGREED by all members.

44. Cherwell District Council (CDC)

The Chairman reported that there have been no planning consultations since the last meeting.

The next parish liaison meeting is 11 November 2015 please can Cllrs let the Clerk know if you would like to attend.

45. Claydon Bus Shelter

The Chairman highlighted that the parish council needed to decide at this meeting what they are doing regarding a shelter.

The Lower Village Green is legally a registered green therefore has protection and a structure such as a shelter cannot be sited on it. The Open Spaces Society, OALC and the Local Councils Advisory Service have stated that a bus shelter would not be acceptable. If a shelter is sited on the Lower Village Green the parish council could face prosecution and be fined.

Dr Todd from CDC Conservation Team has been and inspected the area, whilst she sympathised with the village, she came up with a bench with some form of protected structure.

ORCC stated that the village should wait for the outcome of the bus review as could have a bearing on the location.

Therefore the parish council had the following options:

1. Ignore the opinion of the experts and erect a shelter and assume no-one will challenge now or in the future. The parish council could be prosecuted and also discredited.
2. Place a covered seat on village green and accept what Dr Todd is suggesting.
3. Accept ORCCs advice and await the outcome of the bus review.
4. Is there another one? Another location?

Cllr Jenny Jones agreed we should not take option 1 or option 2. However a community bus might come out of the review BUT the school buses for the children will still come each day and they can't go round the church. However, a shelter could be put on the top green as this is not registered

Dan Whitehead suggested that the seat around the lime tree be used and a roof put over that.

Cllr Millward suggested looking at options for a lynch-gate, there are various designs and they can be made to look in-keeping with the Church Room and its surroundings. Not only would this give shelter to the bus users, it would also enhance the Church Room.

Cllr Rob Jones proposed that it be looked into citing on top green and also a lynch-gate option. This was seconded by the Chairman with 3 Cllrs voting in favour.

Cllr Rob Jones and Cllr Millward to look into this more with more detail prior to the next meeting.

46. Allotments

The Chairman reported that the letters agreed at the last meeting had not yet been sent, and that a firm line needs to be taken with the tenants. In fairness to tenants which are cultivating their plots the uncultivated plots need to be cut back with a set timescale or terminate their tenancy agreement.

47. Correspondence

The parish council had received a letter from Victoria Prentice MP, introducing herself and how to contact her. Claydon may like to invite her along to speak at a future meeting and address issues the village is facing directly to her.

48. Finance

The Chairman reported that as at 8 September 2015:

Current balance £5,381.29

Income £4,512.80

Expenditure £5,137.80

Payments

£180 – Mr Prickett grass cutting of village

£230 – Clerks PAYE

£57.50 – Clerks HMRC

£156 – BDO External Audit

Retrospective Payments

Mr Prickett - £180 grass cutting in village

RoSPA - £92.40 annual safety inspection of play equipment

PCC Grant - £130 part of their grant towards the upkeep of the churchyard

The new play equipment was approved £5,484.66 inc VAT

The PFMC asked if the parish council would consider purchasing dog poop bags for the playing field dispenser, Cllrs commented that it was not the council's responsibility to provide poop bags to dog owners, and did not feel it was something they should be providing.

Therefore the Cllrs declined to purchase poop bags, but did agree if the PFMC wanted could purchase through parish council to enable VAT reclamation.

Parish council grants for 2016/17 applications will be available shortly either via the Clerk or from the village website, the deadline for return of these is **Friday 30 October 2015** any applications received after this date will not be considered for the next financial year.

49. Vacancy for a Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

The Chairman reported that the Clerk had given her notice and will finish on 30 November 2015. However the Clerk has ensured there was time to allow advertisement and possible recruitment before her departure.

The Chairman would draft an advert, this will be included in the village newsletter, website and sent to OALC for inclusion in their monthly newsletter to all parishes.

50. AOB

Cllr Hoggins requested that “doggie lane” be tidied up as branches were overhanging and the walkway was difficult to tread in parts.

An allotment holder asked if they could have 1 or 2 cockerels on their plot, the Chairman said they should have formally asked the parish council BUT if they ensured their plot was tidied up then it was agreed it was not an issue.

Cllr Millward asked if a do not block sign could be put in the gate to the playing field/allotments as cars keep blocking the gate which makes access/exiting the allotments impossible.

51. Next Meeting

Tuesday 10 November 2015 at 7.30pm followed by the Playing Field Trustee meeting.