

# **Minutes of the meeting of Claydon with Clattercote Parish Council held in the Church Room, Claydon on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 7.45 pm, immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting**

## **Present:**

Cllrs D. Hill, A.Hoggins, R. Jones, J. Jones, R. Millward, County and District Cllr George Reynolds, District Cllr Ken Attack, and 7 members of the public.

## **1 Apologies**

There were none

## **2 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

## **3 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 8th March 2016**

These were agreed as a true and accurate record.

## **4 Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda**

The BT payphone is still not working. The Chairman agreed to follow this up with BT.

The requested 'Road Narrows' sign as a warning when leaving the village along the Mollington Road has still not appeared. The Chairman agreed to follow this up with OCC. It was also suggested that after the recent incident of a low loader becoming stuck on the railway bridge on the Fenny Compton Road either a road narrows or a restricted length sign would be more effective than the existing weight limit sign.

The village grant from Cherwell District Council towards the cost of hiring equipment or providing entertainment for an event to mark the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday has been increased to £250.

Following a suggestion from a member of the public, it was explained that it was outside the remit of the grant for it to be used to automate the church clock.

## **5 Matters arising from the Annual Parish Meeting**

There were none

## **6 Parish Council Administration for 2016/2017**

Cllr Hill agreed to continue as Chair at present, but requested that a Chair elect should be chosen by the July meeting.

Kirsty Buttle has been appointed as Parish Clerk. She is very experienced, already performing the function for several villages and primary schools in the area. These contacts may prove very useful with the legislation as the HS2 project progresses. Unfortunately Kirsty is unable to attend a Parish Council meeting until September.

## **7 Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)**

The county council is planning a series of meetings with parishes and town councils during June to look at options for local devolution of decision-making and services to communities.

Restructuring local government offers the opportunity to consider how to bring real power and influence to local areas, including through parish and town councils. Last year the county council launched its 'Oxfordshire Together' programme, which is designed to give greater control of local services to communities. Cllr Reynolds indicated that so far there had been little enthusiasm from parishes to take on any further responsibilities other than mowing. There were complaints from the public that road signs are becoming obscured due to overgrown hedges.

Cllr R Jones confirmed that due to OCC withdrawing bus service subsidies the 277 Stagecoach bus service will cease on 4<sup>th</sup> June. A Catteralls 503 weekly service will commence on 9<sup>th</sup> June.

The OCC Dial-a-Ride service has been replaced by a local service. The position with County Connect is uncertain but is very likely to stop.

## **8 Cherwell District Council (CDC)**

The application for a Certificate of Lawfulness of Proposed Development for no. 1 Bignolds Close has been granted. It specifies the erection of a rear garage extension, the demolition of a conservatory and erection of a single story extension to serve as a garden room.

Thanks to Cllr Atack, a meeting has been set up with the Chairman and an officer to view the empty properties in Claydon (the Old School House, 12 Manor Park and the Barnhouse), in order to ascertain the Council Tax implications.

The Chairman thanked Cllrs Reynolds and Atack for their help during the last year. Following the recent reorganisation of the wards in the district, the Cropredy, Sibfords and Wroxton Ward now has 3 District Councillors. In practice Cllr Atack will still operate as District Councillor for the village, with Cllr Reynolds as substitute if necessary.

## **9 Claydon Allotments**

Only 4 rents have been paid for the current year. It was agreed that letters would be sent to the tenants in arrears indicating that the agreement would be terminated if rent was not received within 2 weeks. A suggestion that tenants should be required to sign a direct debit was worth considering, but it could still leave the problem of tenants paying but failing to cultivate their plot. There was an issue regarding any property left after an allotment has been vacated. Cllr Millward suggested that as there was a lack of demand, the number of allotments could be reduced.

## **10 Village Maintenance**

Parish Councillors had met on the Village Green and decided that all of the trees on the Top and Bottom Green would be pruned. Cllr Millward is obtaining a quotation following confirmation that there are no Tree Preservation Orders and the Village Green is not in a Conservation Area. Dan Whitehead has volunteered to provide and spread compost under the horse chestnut tree. Robert Adams has suggested that the area should be planted with aconites.

It was recognised that the leaves being placed against the wall of the Top Green were a problem and need to be moved.

A quotation of £102.96 plus VAT had been obtained for a grit bin to be placed near the entrance to Bignolds Close but it was agreed not to go ahead.

Cllr R Jones reported that the blue brick path has become very overgrown near the phone box, but OCC were unwilling to maintain it. Suggestions were made that the work could be included in a volunteering village maintenance day, or a local community service scheme could be employed. The Chairman will investigate possibilities with the Parish Clerk.

## **11 Openreach Fibre Broadband Cabinet**

As part of the rollout of Superfast Broadband, BT Openreach has requested permission to install a cabinet at the junction of Manor Park and Mollington Road. The cabinet must be within 50 metres of the existing cabinet. The recommended position is 0.5 metres behind the existing cabinet. Cllr J Jones objected to the suggestion that it should be sited behind the wall as this would obstruct the only feasible site on which a bus shelter could be erected. Installation is expected by October.

## **12 Correspondence**

A letter from MP Victoria Prentis: stating that funds are available for the upkeep and maintenance of war memorials.

Notification of the Parish Liaison Meeting on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 7.00 pm, when the main topics will be planning enforcement, community co-operation and funding. Councillors wishing to attend are asked to inform the Chairman by 20 May.

Details of OALC (Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils) training courses: including a course for new chairmen and vice-chairman on 13<sup>th</sup> July and the Roles and Responsibilities of Parish Councillors on 5<sup>th</sup> October. The OALC Newsletter has been circulated online. A hard copy will be distributed to Cllr Hoggins.

A leaflet about the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP) undertaking a refresh of the 'Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) for Oxfordshire' was distributed . Until 27 May you can visit [www.oxfordshirelep.com/content/sep-refresh-consultation](http://www.oxfordshirelep.com/content/sep-refresh-consultation) to submit your comments. The SEP reflects the district local plans.

A new organisation 'Need Not Greed for Oxfordshire' co-ordinated by the CPRE has concluded that Oxfordshire does not need to build the number of houses that the Government has demanded.

## 13 Finance

The Chairman reported that at the end of the financial year the balance was £7398 plus £457.48 reserve.

As at 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016:

Current bank balance £10944

Authority was given to pay:	£	
Local Council Review magazine subscription	17	
Community First Oxfordshire subscription	55	
OALC subscription	133.07	
Parish Clerk's Salary for May	115	(£92 plus £23 PAYE)
Cluster Care Grant	100	
PFMC Grant	1455	
Claydon Website Grant	40.05	
Parish Council Insurance	711.06	(fixed for 3 years)
Grass cutting	276	(Verges £150 plus VAT Churchyard £80 plus VAT)
Internal Audit	40	
New Dog Bags for the PFMC	148.80	( to be repaid)
Parish Clerk's Salary for June	115	(£92 plus £23 PAYE)

Audit:

The deadline for submission of the audit is 27<sup>th</sup> June. The Parish Clerk has requested a special Parish Council Meeting to approve the audit form following the internal audit. The Chairman will discuss this further with the Clerk.

Parish Member's Allowances:

Claydon has always elected not to take allowances other than for extensive travel

## 14 AOB

There is significant dog fouling on the Playing Field. It was suggested that this may be due to the absence of bags in the dispenser.

A tree in Dog Lane is leaning against a residential fence.

Pot holes continue to be a problem in the surrounding roads. Cllr Reynolds urged the public to keep reporting them.

## 95 Next Meeting

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July at 7.00 pm.