

Minutes of the meeting of Claydon with Clattercote Parish Council held in the Church Room, Claydon on Tuesday 8th March 2016 at 7.00 pm

Present:

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

79 Apologies

There were none

80 Openness and transparency at meetings

If the standard notice is included in the standing orders it is not necessary to read it out at each meeting. Cllr Reynolds confirmed that most parish councils do not read it.

81 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

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

These were agreed as a true and accurate record.

83 Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda

It was agreed at the November meeting that a 'Road Narrows' sign was required as a warning when leaving the village along the Mollington Road. The Chairman agreed to follow this up with OCC.

84 Parish Council Administration for 2016/2017

There were no nominations for the position of Chair. Cllr Millward felt that he could not afford the time and Cllr Hoggins felt that her lack of on-line access would be a great disadvantage.

Interest in the position of Parish Clerk has been expressed by the very experienced clerk of several villages in Warwickshire and Northants, who could take on a further 10 hours work. The salary expected would be in excess of the amount budgeted at £11.50 per hour, but this would be for a very professional candidate who has taken a Certificate in Local Government Administration. It was agreed that Cllr Hill would arrange a meeting with the rest of the Parish Council.

85 Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)

Cllr Reynolds announced that there would be a cabinet meeting to confirm that all bus subsidies would stop on 20th July. It was to be followed by a consultation on usage figures, but it was unclear whether this could result in a positive outcome. There has been no response from the individual bus operators on their plans.

Some cluster villages are organising themselves to take on roles previously undertaken by OCC such as grass cutting. Cllr Reynolds stated that a meeting had been organised in Wroxton for various parish councils to discuss enterprise schemes. Although grass cutting outside the villages may be discontinued, OCC still has a responsibility to clear the sight lines. Cllr Reynolds confirmed that although OCC claims that it does not have a budget to clear pathways such as the blue brick path, it is still responsible should someone fall.

The devolution argument revolves around the Government requirement for a devolved authority to have a mayor. OCC is more in favour of a unitary authority covering the current county boundary.

86 Cherwell District Council (CDC)

The planning application from Mr & Mrs Stothard of Leys Farm for a 2 storey rear extension and internal alterations to the house plus alterations to an ancillary barn has been granted. As it is a listed building there are several conditions specifying the materials to be used.

An application for a Certificate of Lawfulness of Proposed Development has been submitted for no. 1 Bignolds Close. 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. No plans are currently available.

Councillors were each issued with summary leaflets part 1 and 2 on the Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031. The consultation on the key issues outlined in part 2 runs until 11th March. The Chairman reported that a meeting at Bodicote House on 23rd February had provided an opportunity to discuss planning issues with representatives of neighbouring parishes and CDC. The issues for Claydon were the clear demarcation of the village boundaries and follow up and enforcement of planning breaches.

The new housing along the Southam Road has placed considerable pressure on Cropredy, as it has been designated to be in the catchment of the school and the surgery.

A partial review on Oxford's unmet housing need of 15,000 houses is under way. As a result Cherwell is expected to accommodate around 3,000 additional to the Local Plan.

87 Claydon Allotments – Update

There are currently 3 vacant plots. Letters have been sent to the tenants of plots 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 12, 16 and 17 informing them that if the plots have not been tidied by 31st March, the tenancy will not be renewed for 2016/17.

Cllr Millward volunteered to take over the responsibility of collecting rents, and checking on the state of cultivation of the plots.

88 Village Maintenance

Nigel Prickett has been appointed to cut the village verges on a flexible basis (i.e. the grass will not be cut if it is unnecessary).

A quotation is awaited for the lopping of the lower branches of the horse chestnut tree on the Village Green. Two villagers have suggested that the higher branches be lopped and the lower ones left alone. Councillors agreed to concentrate on the tree rather than reseeding the grass.

Work will begin on the noticeboard when the weather improves.

The Chairman agreed to obtain a quotation for the purchase of a grit bin.

89 Maintenance of the Churchyard

Cllr J Jones reported on a very constructive meeting with representatives from the Parochial Church Council and the volunteers. It was agreed that Nigel Prickett would be employed to cut the grass 5 or 6 times during the season on specified dates and the volunteers would do as much or as little as they wished around those times.

90 Cluster Care Group

The Parish Council was informed that there was no longer anyone from the village attending the weekly Cluster Care gatherings in Cropredy.

91 Annual Parish Meeting 2016

It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Tuesday 10th May at 7.00 pm. Cllr J Jones will check with a member of the Art Group whether they wish to take part.

92 Correspondence

The OALC (Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils) Newsletter: this issue containing a guidance note on bias and decision making by councillors.

Council Tax: the CDC portion has not increased, while OCC has increased by 4%, the police 2% and Claydon 15.2% (£6.70 at Band D).

Village Insurance: A risk assessment will be required if an event to mark the Queen's 90th birthday is to be held.

CDC: A village grant up to £100 may be requested towards the cost of hiring equipment or providing entertainment for an event to mark the Queen's 90th birthday.

The Chairman has been invited, along with the Chairs of two other parishes in Oxfordshire, to Buckingham Palace in May in recognition of the service given to parishes. Unfortunately he will be unable to attend.

New Law: From 6th April 2016 all dogs must be micro chipped.

93 Finance

The Chairman reported that as at 8th March 2016:

Current bank balance £6282.51

The expected expenditure to 31st March 2016 is £75.50. (£60.50 for hire of the Church Room and £15 for the Remembrance Wreath).

The expected income to 31st March 2016 is £1176 New Homes Bonus.

Expected bank balance at year end £7383.01.

Payments to be made in the new financial year of subscriptions to OALC (£133) and Community First Oxfordshire (£55) were agreed.

Audit:

The audit procedure for 2015/16 and 2016/17 will be as normal after which an external audit will not be required if the parish expenditure is less than £25,000. The Parish Council will continue with an internal audit and be obliged to publish its figures within the village. A new body has been set up to assist parishes if the figures are challenged, in which case a full audit may be required. It was agreed to opt in to membership of this service.

94 AOB

The hedge at the rear of Bignolds Close was reported as obstructing traffic along the Cropredy Road. The Chairman agreed to check it out.

It was suggested that, as an unlit urban area, there should be 30mph repeater signs through the village.

It was agreed that details of the long term empty houses in the village would be passed to Cllr Atack who would enquire whether anything could be done.

An updated register of electors was issued.

95 Next Meeting

Tuesday 10th May following the Annual Parish Meeting

The meeting closed at 20.40.