

UPPER CLATFORD  
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2022  
AT 6.30 PM IN  
THE KING EDWARD VII MEMORIAL HALL

Present:	Speakers: Cllrs P Heslop (Chairman), PCSO C Hill, Mr C Barlow Chair Platinum Jubilee Committee, Cllr C Eyre, Cllr N Shah, Cllr R Bennett MVO, C Eyre, 53 Parishioners and HCC Cllr D Drew Minutes: C Emmett Parish Clerk	
ITEM	<b>Chairman's Introductory Comments &amp; Apologies for absence</b> The Chairman for the meeting, Cllr P Heslop, welcomed all attendees and expressed his delight at the numbers attending and apologised for the absence of E Winslade, the new landlady of the Crook & Shears and the representative from TVBC he had hoped would speak on the land South of Bury Hill Ring.	
1.	<b>Parish Council Annual Report (Chairman Cllr P Heslop)</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I'm Peter Heslop and I've been Chairman of your Parish Council since June 2017 having been re-elected to the Council in May 19 and voted into the Chair each May. The Parish Council has 10 seats, and I am pleased to say that (in contrast to many other Parish Councils) we still have the full quota of 10 Councillors. Members of the public are allowed at all of our meetings, and you are encouraged to attend. The records of the meetings are published on the village website, upperclatford.com, and displayed on the Notice Boards in Anna Valley and outside the Village Hall here in Upper Clatford.</li> <li>2. The past year has seen us emerging from the Covid19 restriction, and thankfully we have been able cautiously to return to in-person rather than virtual meetings; the legislation allowing virtual meetings lapsed at the beginning of the year. As a result we met rather less frequently with no meetings in June or August.</li> <li>3. <b>NDP.</b> An early milestone of the past year was the successful referendum on the NDP, leading to its adoption by TVBC as a formal Planning document. You will hear more about the NDP later this evening.</li> <li>4. <b>Taskers Rails.</b> Last summer also saw the installation of our Taskers commemorative feature in Anna Valley on the green verge by Valley Mead, constructed from genuine Tasker's relics donated by Michael Hampshire. Many people have welcomed the fascinating information boards which are part of the display.</li> <li>5. <b>Ward &amp; County Councillors</b> We continue to be well supported by the Test Valley Borough Councillors for Anna Ward, Maureen Flood and David Coole (who is also one of our Parish Councillors), who have made grants towards the costs for repairs to the track at the sports field and towards the upcoming Jubilee celebrations. We are also supported by our Hampshire County Councillor, David Drew from Goodworth Clatford, who has also approved a grant for the Jubilee celebrations.</li> <li>6. <b>Land &amp; Trees</b> As a Council we manage and maintain the small plots of land we own around the parish including the 2 play parks, the sports field and pavilion, The Green and the old Chalk Pit and several small plots given to the community by the developers in Anna Valley. These we aim to keep and maintain as public green spaces to be enjoyed by all. This year we have seen more than the normal expenditure on tree maintenance, latterly due to the recent storms but also due to Ash Die Back and the need to prevent trees damaging neighbouring properties. At the sports field we have had the pavilion externals redecorated and the access track patched. An aspiration to completely relay the track and establish a new parking area has been put on hold while we consider the possibility of a grander plan, to re-build the pavilion in a less waterlogged area of the field. We have one main user, Upper Clatford Youth Football Club (UCYFC), who currently use the facilities for free and, although they meet a few of the minor costs for the field, a charging system is being considered.</li> <li>7. <b>Speed Camera</b> The speed camera (or more correctly the Speed Indicator Device) continues to be deployed in its various locations around the village, encouraging motorists to observe the speed limit. The data gathered shows that the vast majority do drive within the speed limit, but there are (and maybe always will be) just a few who drive irresponsibly. As a cyclist I'm often disappointed to see how slowly I'm riding!</li> <li>8. <b>Planning</b> We are routinely invited to comment on all planning applications related to the Parish. The Parish Council is very mindful of the Conservation status of the area and views expressed by residents and developed within the NDP. Invariably where the Parish Council</li> </ol>	

	<p>sees fit to object to a Planning Application, one of the reasons will be a conflict with some aspect of our Neighbourhood Development Plan.</p> <p>9. <b>Solar Farm</b> Last year at this meeting I spoke about a dispute with the owners of the Cowdown Solar Farm over promises made back in 2014 to the parishes affected of a “generous” fund which would be set up to benefit the community if the scheme was successfully built and commissioned. I’m afraid we have no resolution to report as yet. We continue, with our solicitor Peter Begg (who has worked tirelessly on our behalf) to pursue the current owner, a company called Equitix, whose behaviour consistently to deny any legal or moral obligation and to refuse all of our reasonable attempts to engage with them directly, leaves us with little option other than legal action. We have received good support from both TVBC and from Kit Malthouse MP. We have done our level best to try to find a solution which will avoid legal action; it’s important that all parties are seen to make every reasonable attempt to settle claims out of court if possible, and we are confident that at least on our part we have made every reasonable attempt to seek to explore possible solutions.</p> <p>10. <b>Water Quality &amp; Drainage</b> Better news regarding engagement with Southern Water. I’m sure you will all be aware of the national debate over the condition of our rivers and streams across the UK, and the wide concern particularly in this part of the world about the periodic discharge of untreated sewage into our otherwise pristine chalk streams. You may remember the notices which appeared last winter warning people to keep children and pets away from the Pillhill Brook. Whereas individuals and individual parishes seem to have little influence on the behaviour of the privately owned water companies who own and operate our sewerage systems, I’m pleased to say that when like-minded parishes choose to work together, even the largest companies can be forced to take notice. With support from TVBC, HCC and our MP Kit Malthouse, an ongoing “pan-parish forum” has been established comprising all of the parishes covering the Pillhill Brook catchment area. Quarterly meetings are held, which are attended by senior representatives from Southern Water, the Environment Agency, and all of the 8 affected parishes. Fyfield, Kimpton, Quarley, Thruxton, Amport, Monxton, Abbots Ann, and Upper Clatford. Our objective is to demand infrastructure improvements from SW which will reduce and eventually eliminate what currently seems to be an annual pattern during the winter/spring period of emergency measures (firstly tankering) often followed by “overpumping” (that’s the pumping of untreated sewage directly into the stream) when the network is overwhelmed. SW has reiterated its view that ground water infiltration appears to be the main issue, either due to damaged pipes or illegal connections of surface water drains into its foul sewers, and detailed surveys followed by sewer lining are their principal remedial measures. Extensive sewer lining has been carried out further up the catchment area, but unseasonably low ground water levels to date this winter have meant that it is not yet possible to assess the effectiveness of the works to date. Regular updates to all parishes have been promised by SW and have recently started to be received. The next scheduled meeting of the Pan Parish Forum is 11th April.</p> <p>11. <b>Volunteers</b> I would like to take this opportunity to thank not only my fellow Councillors for all the work they do, but also some of our unsung volunteers: Jane Cooke, who manages our defibrillator at the Village Hall; Keith Williams, who now manages the Speed Indicator Device moving it on a regular basis as required by the HCC licence and pulling off the data captured; Alan Wylde who stepped up and provided the First Aid cover for the annual Bonfire on Nov 5th. If there are others of you out there qualified in 1st Aid and prepared to help, we would be delighted to get to know you. Others volunteer, though not directly for the Council but all of us as parishioners benefit from the efforts of the local Conservation Group who step out on the 1st Saturday of each month to replace gates, clear ivy from trees, work on footpaths etc and the newly formed Platinum Jubilee Committee who are pulling together the plans for next summers’ celebration about which Charlie Barlow will speak shortly. Thank you all.</p> <p>12. <b>Budget &amp; Precept</b> Our accounting year ends at the end of March. Spending details are published in the minutes of the monthly Parish Council Meetings. This year we anticipate spending approximately £39,000, slightly below the anticipated budget. This expenditure is met from the Precept (£17,070), rent from the Old Chalk Pit (10,700), VAT refunds (£3,255) and grants plus a contribution from the parish reserves. (estimate £1640). The Chalk Pit rent will increase by £1200 over the next 12 months as a small section has been sublet to Groundbreakers South (or more locally known as AP Noyes) who will be using it for parking and storage. In the year ahead you will unfortunately see a rise in the Precept. While we are not planning on directly funding any major new projects next year, we have been forced to budget for quite a big rise in the precept which this coming year will be £49.91 per annum</p>	
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	<p>per for a band D household. This is needed as we can no longer continue to subsidise our planned spending on maintenance of the estate from the General Reserves as in previous years, and we have a need to build on the Earmarked Reserves for longer term replacement of the Parish assets, including playpark equipment, safety play surfaces, fences around the play parks and the chalk pit. We have also anticipated rises in line with inflation for major routine bought-in services (HCC lighting and TVBC Grounds Maintenance, grass cutting and dog bin contracts) and increases in tree maintenance.</p> <p>13. <b>The Year Ahead.</b> In the year ahead, we look forward to:</p> <p>13.1 The May Fayre on Monday 2nd May, themed for the Jubilee, long-awaited after two years without a May Fayre due to Covid.</p> <p>13.2 Celebrating HM The Queens Platinum Jubilee itself. Planning of this is progressing swiftly under the guidance of a Committee of volunteers led by Charlie Barlow who will speak to you shortly</p> <p>13.4 A resurgent Crook &amp; Shears in the hands of Emily Winslade.</p> <p>13.5 Progress (hopefully) on TVBC's plans for their land to the S and W of Bury Hill</p> <p>13.6 The feasibility of developing a footpath between the Clatfords to make walking safer for all. Cllr Richard Bennett will say more</p> <p>13.7. Looking forward, if any Parishioner would like to consider joining the Parish Council, please be aware that this is our last year in office before the election of all Council members in May 2023. If you are interested and want to know more, please talk to the Clerk, Charles Emmett or any of the existing Councillors</p> <p>14. Questions.</p> <p>14.1 Does the budget include an element for contingencies to cover the unexpected? The unforeseen is not 'budgeted' for but that is why we maintain General Reserve.</p> <p>There being no further questions the Chairman invited PCSO Hill to speak next to allow him to depart before the end of the meeting should duty call.</p>	
6.	<p><b>Update from Local Police</b></p> <p>1. PCSO Hill gave a brief crime report noting that generally the Upper Clatford area was not a significant crime hot spot with only a single incidence of anti-social behaviour and a burglary (bikes) in the last two months. He reported on the increase in the manpower of the local team, now 4 PCSOs and 5 PC which should lead to a more obvious presence.</p> <p>2. Questions &amp; Answers.</p> <p>2.1. At about 6.30 on most nights (after dark) an Ice Cream van chimes in the area of Manor Rise. Is this suspicious. After some discussion a member of the public stated that there was a customer in the area who had a daily delivery.</p> <p>2.2. Is the layby in Watery Lane being used for drugs activity? Is the layby at Anna Valley Playing Fields also being used for dealing? Unknown. Will monitor.</p> <p>2.3. What is being done to replace the missing drain covers in Watery Lane? Having put barriers around the holes Highways have reduced it to routine in their priority list! The matter has been raised by the PC with Highways directly and through HCC Cllr Drew.</p> <p>2.4. Following the burglaries, what did the 'house to house' enquires entail? A letter drop along the route between the incidents in Upper Clatford and Goodworth Clatford. Many on the route had not received the communication.</p> <p>2.5. What is being done about van break-ins by Clatford Manor reported in Jan/Feb 22? Is this a lighting (lack of) issue? Forensics are not always deployed but the increased numbers in the Local Team will increase our presence. Some will be aware of a chase in another village which led to an unfortunate outcome for the offender. While you may be frustrated by the seeming lack of action it is always worth reporting incidents as it helps build patterns. Use 999 for ongoing incidents of concern of the internet 101 report system.</p> <p>After questions the Chairman thanked PCSO Hill who left shortly afterwards.</p>	
	<p><b>May Fayre 2 May 22 in Bawksbury Bridge Playing Field.</b> Steve O'Connell spoke briefly about plans for the May Fayre on the bank holiday Monday. Naturally the theme would be the Platinum Jubilee and all were asked to start putting aside the '4 Bs' (Bottles, books, bric-a-brac and bottles) for collection nearer the date Funds raised will go to good local causes. He finished with a call for volunteers to help set-up the stalls in the morning at 9am and remove them later in the afternoon.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Platinum Jubilee celebrations – Sun 5 Jun 22</b></p> <p>1. Charlie Barlow, Chair of The Organising Committee introduced himself stating it was his privilege to lead the volunteer planning team.</p> <p>2. He outlined the proposed plan as: Jubilee Tree Planting (tbc); Sports events at the playing fields in the morning including Children/Youth Football Matches, a Parents Football Match,</p>	

	<p>Tug Of War, Children's Fancy Dress competition, Children's Street Tea party, a Village Bake Off, an evening party on the street outside the Crook and Shears including Greenfield Hog Roast and live music (the road will be closed and individuals affected have been notified). He encouraged all to visit the Upper Clatford website as see more detail and to sign-up for events and childrens' tea party at <a href="https://www.upperclatford.com/community/upper-clatford-15048/platinum-jubilee-event1/">https://www.upperclatford.com/community/upper-clatford-15048/platinum-jubilee-event1/</a> or use the QR codes on the posters.</p> <p>3. This is to be a fun event of celebration and is not a fund raiser and noted that grants had kindly been made by TVBC, HCC and the Parish Council to try and ensure as little cost to individuals as possible.</p> <p>4. Volunteers to help with the event were encouraged to contact</p> <p>5. <b>Questions</b></p> <p>5.1. How do you use a QR code? An explanation was given but perhaps not understood by all. Most mobile phones will now have a QR app which will allow the link to be followed.</p> <p>5.2. What are the parking options for residents affected by the road closure, and would the Village Hall car park be available to them? A member of the Hall Committee stated that it probably would be as there were no other events booked for the hall that day.</p> <p>6. <b>Register your family for the day's activities by using the QR code at the end of the minutes or here:</b> <a href="https://forms.office.com/r/8HHSvfFa9Y">https://forms.office.com/r/8HHSvfFa9Y</a></p> <p>7. More volunteers will be needed nearer the date and anyone willing to help please contact the team at: <a href="mailto:ops@upperclatfordjubilee.co.uk">ops@upperclatfordjubilee.co.uk</a></p>	
3.	<p><b>The Crook and Shears under new management</b> Cllr Eyre apologised for the absence of the new landlady Emma Winslade due to illness and summarised his understanding of her plans as follows:</p> <p>1. Re-opening in early Apr 22 (bar only) after much self-help refurbishment of the kitchens, bar, gardens and skittle-alley. The latter will be turned into a bistro eating area as well as allowing skittles to be played</p> <p>2. Food Service by mid Apr 22 (hopefully)</p> <p>3. Volunteers to assist with painting would be much welcomed by Emma on <a href="mailto:Emmawinslade@aol.co.uk">Emmawinslade@aol.co.uk</a></p> <p>4. <b>Questions</b></p> <p>4.1. Car Parking. It was suggested by a parishioner that the pub needed parking space and asked if the Village Hall car park could be used to stop the dangerous parking on the double yellow lines outside the pub. Cllr Heslop responded by stating that the Parish Council was trying to facilitate discussion on this between the Village Hall Committee, the landlady and the pub owners (Stonegate). The later would prefer it to re-open before entering into discussion. Some had concerns that this would be in conflict with the needs of those renting the Hall and any limited concessionary parking agreement would need enforcing. These aspects would need to be worked out during discussion between the parties.</p> <p>4.2. Charles Eyre stressed his view that this was a vital community asset and had been registered as such by the Parish Council to ensure if ever put up for sale, the 'Community' would be given first refusal. He encouraged supporting it at the bar.</p>	
4.	<p><b>TVBC's proposed new public open space on West side of Bury Hill Ring</b></p> <p>1. Cllr Heslop expressed regret that he had been unable to get a representative from TVBC to come and speak on this matter. He said that we had had no formal update to the article published in the Local Paper some months ago but understood the purchase had now been completed and was intended to become a public open space with some tree planting along the southern border. He clarified the area in question on a map to those present saying it was between 37 and 38 acres. TVBC have agreed to engage with the Parish Council when developing their management plan for the site.</p> <p>2. <b>Questions.</b></p> <p>2.1. Is it possible that the site would be used for buildings? Several parishioners expressed concerns that this might happen and that change of use might be easier now that it was in LA hands. Some felt the Parish Council should seek guarantees that this would not happen.</p> <p>2.2. Plans regarding parking and concerns about the volume of traffic were questioned.</p> <p>3. <b>Answers.</b></p> <p>3.1. It was understood that there is an intent to make a small parking area on the land just inside the access gate in keeping with the environment and hopefully not hard standing</p> <p>3.2. A 'Change of Use' planning application would be needed but 'proper' processes exist where the LA is the applicant. This would be scrutinised in a similar way to other</p>	

	<p>applications and English Heritage would no doubt aim to protect the land from development due to its historic importance as an Iron Age settlement.</p> <p><b>3.3.</b> Cllr D Drew sated he was a member of TVBC Cabinet and could categorically state that there were no plans to use the land for building.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Neighbourhood Development Plan – Update</b></p> <p>1. Cllr Charles Eyre summarised the current position by saying that Upper Clatford Neighbourhood Plan 2019 – 2029 was 'made' following the positive referendum on 6 May 2021 It identified and recorded parishioners' views on key characteristics, features and issues. The plan reinforced the Local Gap and the existing Settlement Boundary and that the preferred size and type of new properties was to reflect community needs where possible which indicated that smaller, affordable and retirement houses were needed. The Plan also designation of 4 new areas of Local Green Space and had identified one "Site of Importance for Nature Conservation" (SINC). It also identified and protected views and landscape character inside and surrounding the villages and some community facilities. A big bonus is that the NDP gives the Parish Council a sound basis for planning decisions which reflect a community view!</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>BUT SOME OF THESE GAINS ARE UNDER THREAT!</b></p> <p>2. Cllr Nick Shah stated that TVBC Local Plan – 2040 Revision is now ongoing which could invalidate parts or all of the NDP which has to be written in conformance with TVBC's Local Plan. It is uncertain whether the new version will retain policies on the Local Gap and Local Green Spaces. This means that Local Gap status could disappear. The number of new houses to the year 2040 will also be set and sites will need to be identified across TVBC. This could impact on the parish area and the Parish Council are looking at responding to the first stage of public consultation now in a way that will best reflect your NDP aspirations. He stressed that it was important that individuals respond to the TVBC consultation either directly and by completing a short parish questionnaire which the Parish Council can use to re-state parishioners' priorities. Please see the Village Facebook page, Website, <a href="https://www.upperclatford.com/community/upper-clatford-15048/the-local-gap/">https://www.upperclatford.com/community/upper-clatford-15048/the-local-gap/</a>, or by using the QR code at the end of the minutes.</p> <p>3. Questions &amp; Answers.</p> <p>3.1. Is the water meadow field to S side of Watery Lane being developed? The owner had aspirations to use it as a caravan/camping site in 2020 under 'Permitted Development' however this was stopped by an enforcement action and an Article 4 restriction was imposed by TVBC. This means that the formal planning process must be followed allowing full consultation prior to any LA decision. The owner is allowed to make a 19m entrance driveway which may explain the piles of earth/hardcore.</p> <p>3.2. What can be done if we wake to find the site occupied by several caravans? The proper process will be action by TVBC.</p> <p>3.3. Concern was expressed about filling-in of the drainage pond/ditch/stream.</p>	
6.	<p><b>. Proposed path to Goodworth Clatford</b></p> <p>1. Cllr Bennett stated that the Parish Council had picked up on suggestions for a pathway between the villages providing access to the playing fields, which was expressed during the development of the NDP and supported by the Hampshire Countryside Access Plan 2015-25. An Outline Development Plan was produced in February 2022 and a Feasibility Study is to be completed by 1 June 2022. A representative from Goodworth Clatford Parish Council has been nominated. Engagement with key enabling stakeholders (landowners, HCC, TVBC) has commenced. Aspects of the study will include assessment of whether it be a footpath or cycle path, design and construction, and funding. He did not wish to go into too much detail about the route until after discussions with local landowners and HCC.</p> <p>2. Questions &amp; Answers.</p> <p>2.1. Were there not safety concerns about use by both cyclists and pedestrians? Yes, hence the examination of the matter.</p> <p>2.2. What will the surface be? Yet to be determined but the aim would be that it be appropriate to the rural surroundings and suitable for intended users.</p> <p>2.3. What impacts will there be on the school bus service? There was then some debate about this, and it became clear it needed examining to ensure the service was not jeopardised.</p> <p>2.4. Footpath 2 has dangerous barbed wire. What can be done? Cllr Bennett and/or Cllr Eyre agreed to liaise with the landowner/manager.</p>	<p>RB</p> <p>RB</p> <p>RB CE</p>
7.	<p><b>. Parishioners Issues</b> Cllr Heslop opened the meeting to the floor for any issues parishioners want to raise.</p>	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Public Notice Board in Anna Valley. This suffered storm damage last week and needs repair or replacement. The work had been offered to a local tradesman, but he could not manage it in the near future. Alternatives would be sought</li> <li>2. Are the water meadows north of Bury Hill Farm House threatened by possible changes in the Local Plan 2040? Yes. It is part of LGS 4 and in the Local Gap. There is also a current (ongoing) planning application from the owner to use it for nitrate filtration. The Parish Council have objected to this and await a decision from TVBC.</li> <li>3. Village Street. A comment was raised about a hedge encroaching onto Village Street in the middle of Upper Clatford which further restricts a very narrow street. A view was expressed that it should be cut back (a matter for the owner).</li> <li>4. All Saints Church Roof. The church roof repairs have started. Thanks to all who have contributed to the £110,000 raised to date. The appeal will remain open for a while more in the hope of raising another £20,000 - £30,000</li> <li>5. The Clatford Magazine. Charles Eyre advised all that the magazine is available as a print copy. Subscription details are at: <a href="https://www.upperclatford.com/community/upper-clatford-15048/parish-magazine---available-online/">https://www.upperclatford.com/community/upper-clatford-15048/parish-magazine---available-online/</a></li> </ol>	<p>Clk PH</p>
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**Meeting Closed at 8:22 pm**

Jubilee Registration	Local Plan	Clatfords Magazine
		