

## EAST CLAYDON PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Village Hall at 8pm on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2016

**Present:** Councillors Graham Wylie (Chair), Peter Wright, Martin Paul, Clive Preston, Paul Lupton, Esther Turnbull, County Councillor Angela Macpherson, District Councillor John Chilver, Lynne Stacey (out-going Clerk), Carole Jackman (in-coming clerk) and six members of the public.

**1. Apologies:** Cllr Brian Cable

**2. Election of Chairman**

Cllr Clive Preston was unanimously elected to Chair the Parish Council for a three month period.

**3. Election of Vice-Chairman**

Cllr Peter Wright was unanimously elected to be Vice-Chairman for a three month period.

**4. Confirmation of Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)**

Carole Jackman, in-coming Clerk, was confirmed as the RFO.

**5. Minutes of the 2015 Annual Parish Meeting**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 21 May 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**6. Chairman's Report (2015-16 Cllr Graham Wylie)**

Cllr Wylie presented his report (**Attachment 1**).

It was also noted that:

- Copies of the **Village Design Statement (VDS)** should go to:
  - Each member of the Parish Council
  - AVDC and Bucks CC
  - Mushroom Club
  - District and County Councillors
  - If enough interest is shown, more copies could be printed
- The **Speed Watch Group** had recorded 90 people exceeding the speed limit, one at 70mph.
- The Parish will receive two more years of payments (£1664.28 in 2017-18 and £1664.28 in 2018-19) after taking on the **Devolved Services** from BCC.
- Fund raising for the **village hall redevelopment project** had not yet started. It was suggested that details should go onto the village website. It was also suggested that the village hall and school fund raisers should liaise so as not to clash with fund raising events.
- Details of the super-fast broadband are at **Attachment 2**.

**7. Financial Report**

Lynne Stacey, out-going clerk, presented her financial report (**Attachment 3**). Copies were handed to those present.

**8. Any Other Business**

- a. Concerned was expressed about the structural condition of the bus shelter.  
**Action: Clerk to add to the agenda for the next Council meeting.**
- b. Liz Truett had expressed an interest in joining the Council. It was agreed that she would be co-opted onto the Parish Council at the next meeting.

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- c. Cllr Turnbull presented Lynne Stacey with a scarf from the Council to thank her for her work as Clerk. Lynne thanked Council for the gift.
- d. Cllr Turnbull presented Cllr Wylie with a clock to commemorate his 34 years of service to the Parish Council, 23 as Chairman, and Cllr Preston gave him a vote of thanks and wished him well for the future. Cllr Wylie thanked Council for the gift and kind words.

This concluded the Annual Parish Meeting

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EAST CLAYDON PARISH COUNCIL - AGM 19 May 2016 – Cllr Graham Wylie, Report

1. Welcome to the 2016 AGM of the Parish Council. – Minutes from last year are ready for signing.
2. Welcome and thanks for their support and advice to Angela Macpherson our Bucks County Councillor and John Chilver our AVDC Councillor – these people are very hardworking and we do appreciate their efforts. Angela has provided the council with a 3 page report of activities for the year and I will be referring to this in my own report.
3. Chairman's report
4. Thanks first to my fellow councillors for their support during the year. Each of the councillors has contributed greatly to what has been a busy year and the community should be grateful we have such a proactive group.
5. Work on the Village Design Statement has been completed and it is available to review on the web site. The Council decided to print 25 copies of the VDS and lodge them with local councils. Our thanks go to the whole VDS steering group under Martin Paul and in particular to Gerry English for his efforts
6. The Council failed to stop the building of a waste incinerator at Calvert - now referred to as the Energy from Waste facility – and it is indeed now starting to burn waste. According to Angela this will save taxpayers £150m over the next 30 years – so that's good!
7. HS2 seems to be unstoppable with construction now expected to fully commence in the Spring of 2017. Clive Preston did a brilliant job in representing the villages and ensuring that no construction traffic will use the roads through our villages.
8. East West rail from Oxford to Bedford is progressing. The proposal for a station at Steeple Claydon to serve the HS2 construction operatives was not supported by the Commons Select Committee but this decision is being appealed. Our nearest station looks likely to be Winslow. 2019 is still the target date for operation although this is looking just a bit hopeful.
9. The Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign has been taken over by the local Speedwatch Group who are enthusiastically manning their recording stations on a regular basis.
10. The Parish Devolution Scheme agreement was finally signed giving us control over things such as grass cutting, verge maintenance trees and pathways. Some of this will take time to bed down but the grass cutting contractor is so far doing a much better job than we had experienced previously. Esther Turnbull is ever watchful on matters fauna and flora in the villages.
11. The village hall redevelopment project suffered a major hiccup during the year with the estimate from a Quantity Surveyor of a total cost of around £1.4 million for the design plan we had. So it's back to the drawing board and this time we are very focussed on costs.
12. This year has seen a complete revamp of the village web site – for which great thanks go to Peter Wright.
13. As I am sure you are aware East Claydon School has embarked upon an ambitious expansion plan which the Parish Council is pleased to support.
14. The planning application for new houses at New Farm in East Claydon was approved and when completed this should provide around £20k of grant money via AVDC.
15. The prospect of superfast broadband in our homes came a step nearer last week with the presentation by Gigaclear and Village Networks. If we can persuade enough villagers to sign up for the service it could be live by the end of the year. Paul Lupton has stepped forward to be the go to Parish Councillor on broadband.
16. The community came together to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday on what eventually turned out to be a really good evening. The ticket money funded the fireworks and the School fund made money from selling the food. Windsor Castle it wasn't but we had flags and fireworks and our very own beacon.

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17. Work is starting shortly on the repainting of the metal climbing frame and swings at the playground – which is somewhat overdue but will be ready for the summer holidays.
18. Now I will ask Lynne our Clerk to quickly review the Parish Council accounts for the year to March 2016.
19. Thanks go to Nigel Turnbull for once again auditing the accounts.
20. As you are aware tonight is the last meeting for Lynne Stacey as our Parish Clerk. Can I be the first to formally welcome Carole Jackman as the new Clerk and wish her every success? Lynne has served the Council and the community for several years and helped us through some tricky times in our working methods and accountability. She has always manage to achieve this with a smile (sometimes just a little forced) and somehow managed to combine this with a running successful business and managing a family. The Council wants to place on record its great appreciation and personally I can say that I would have been lost without her support.
21. This is also my final act as Chairman and a member of the Parish Council which I am leaving after probably far too many years – a point no doubt some of you would agree with!  
I have really enjoyed being involved with this community and hope I can continue to stay involved in some other way.

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## EAST & BOTOLPH CLAYDON PARISH COUNCIL SUPER-FAST BROADBAND IN THE VILLAGES

The internet is now a way of life for us all. From communicating with friends and family, grocery shopping, the kid's homework, booking tickets, watching downloadable content to watching catch up TV we are increasingly dependent on our broadband connection. In 2016 the reality is that a fast and reliable internet connection is essential for modern day living and in many towns and cities is taken for granted.

As technology evolves the emphasis on superfast broadband in the home will continue to grow and rural communities such as ours will be left in a technological black hole.

### **The Problem**

At this point in time BT has no plans to bring their superfast network to our villages and there is no guarantee that they ever will. Village Network Ltd currently offers a wireless broadband service of around 5mbps but only in direct line of sight of a transmitter.

### **The Solution - a Fibre-To-Home superfast / ultrafast broadband network provided by Gigaclear**

#### **Who is Gigaclear?**

Gigaclear is an Oxfordshire company that specialise in the installation and supply of Fibre-to-Home (FTH) broadband services in rural areas. In the last five years they have provided FTH services to tens of thousands of homes that were left unsupported by BT.

Gigaclear has agreed a supply deal with Village Networks and all of the services outlined below can be sourced either directly through Gigaclear or via Village Networks.

#### **What is on offer?**

The proposed fibre network offers download and upload speeds of 50mbps- 1000mbps - which means that computer access to the internet is instantaneous and it will be possible to download all the services currently not available to us.

#### **What will it cost?**

Gigaclear tell us that there will be £100 per premises setup fee plus installation using a simple DIY kit or by professional installers who charge typically about £95 per premises depending on distance from the roadside. Then, as with any broadband supplier, a monthly fee is required. Packages range from £39.90 per month for the 50 mbps service and £74 per month for the 1GB service.

You can view the packages on offer at: <http://www.gigaclear.com/what-we-offer/for-home/home-broadband-packages/>

Over the course of a 12 month period the costs of the 50mbps Gigaclear package are comparable with its competitors while offering a better package.

#### **Will I still need to bear the cost of a landline?**

For the fraction of the cost of a landline rental you can add the Vonage Voice over Internet Protocol - VoIP for short. This uses the superfast FTH network to provide a telephone service to your home. In most cases you can transfer your current landline number too. No land line would be required.

For more information visit:

<http://www.gigaclear.com/what-we-offer/for-home/home-phonpackages/>

#### **I want this service – what do I do next?**

It is essential that you place an order for the service as soon as possible. This requires you registering on the website, selecting the package that best suits you and completing the direct debit mandate.

Register at: <http://www.gigaclear.com>

**IMPORTANT NOTE: - NO MONEY IS TAKEN AT THIS POINT. GIGACLEAR CONFIRM THAT THE FIRST PAYMENTS WILL BE DUE ONCE THE SERVICE IS UP AND RUNNING. THERE IS NO UPFRONT FEE AND SHOULD THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF HOUSHOLDS NOT BE REACHED THE CONTRACT WILL BE CANCELLED AT NO COST TO YOU.**

As with any business Gigaclear have to be sure that there is demand for their product, with the long term goal of providing a return on their investment. Their business model allows them to commit considerable resources to installing a network, without the need for immediate payback.

To make their investment worthwhile and for a viable project Gigaclear requires firm commitment of 35% of 291 catchment premises (approximately 100). Planned installation start could be September 2016, with a target live date of January 2017.

#### **TCS Biosciences Ltd – a Company's perspective**

TCS based in Botolph Claydon have kindly provided the Parish Council with the following assessment of the proposal from Gigaclear:

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'In 2015 TCS Biosciences Ltd celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> year of trading. We have built up an international reputation for providing top quality products, backed up by first class customer service. Conducting business on the international stage brings its own challenges, which are made harder with a limited broadband connection. TCS have worked with Village Networks for a number of years and truly appreciate the work they have done in order to provide us with a fast and reliable broadband connection. However, our demand for broadband has effectively outstripped the performance capabilities of an overland wireless network.

Most companies rely on websites to endorse their brands and email has over taken the telephone and fax machine as the primary business communication tool. More recently the development of the cloud and cloud based services has increased the business need for broadband. We are currently struggling to make the most of the latest versions of a range of software as their features are so heavily cloud based. Poor broadband also means video conferencing is something we cannot utilise, even basic Skype calls are currently impossible. As a result we fully embrace the opportunity that Gigaclear have presented to us and are pleased to announce that we are signing up to this service.

We hope that you can see the benefit of this exceptional service and will join us in committing to this exciting and empowering village initiative.'

**Parish Council Conclusion**

We would urge you to follow the links in this note and look at the offerings from Gigaclear yourself. We are very keen to grab this opportunity to have super-fast broadband in the villages possibly as soon as this winter – the alternative seems to be waiting until BT get around to us which just may be never.

Recent experience has taught us that while super-fast broadband does not sell houses – super slow broadband is often a reason not to buy.

Parish Councillor Paul Lupton is ready to discuss this with you if you have any questions not answered by the web sites or this note. Please email [villagehall@theclaydons.org](mailto:villagehall@theclaydons.org)

May 2016

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<b>EAST &amp; BOTOLPH CLAYDON VILLAGE HALL</b>		
<b>Statement of accounts as at March 31st 2016</b>		
	<b>As at 31.03.16</b>	<b>Year to 31.03.15</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Hall hiring	6030	3931
Mushroom Club rent	6000	6000
<b>Profit on events:-</b>		
Quiz night	892	943
Halloween	0	(93)
Theatre Night - Fossil Lady	(15)	308
Theatre Night - Victor & Albert	189	0
Xmas Bazaar	259	393
2014 BBQ (£250 paid for RB 2016)	690	443
Easter Egg Hunt	0	95
Race Night	(50)	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>13995</u>	<u>12020</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Cleaning	2093	2234
Oil, Water & power	4516	5266
Maintenance & hedge cutting	1524	1499
Insurance	1369	1513
Wine purchased for events	619	240
Wine charged to events	0	(120)
Web site	0	192
Go Pak tables	515	0
Ovens & Hob	747	
BBQ & Gas bottle	0	243
Other expenses	476	124
Hall repainting	1595	0
Redevelopment fund	0	2000
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<u>13454</u>	<u>13191</u>
<b>Excess of expenditure over income</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>(1171)</b>
<b>Bank accounts b/f</b>	<u>6980</u>	<u>8151</u>
<b>Village Hall Funds</b>	<u>7521</u>	<u>6980</u>

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