

Minutes of the meeting of the East Claydon Parish Council

Thursday 17th March 2016

Present: Councillors Graham Wylie (Chair), Peter Wright, Brian Cable, Martin Paul, Clive Preston, Paul Lupton, Esther Turnbull, District Councillor Chilver, Lynne Stacey (Clerk) and six members of the public.

1. **Apologies:**–None

2. **Public participation**

The Chair of Governors of East Claydon School gave a presentation on the plans the school has in order to ensure it can remain viable, as the school is losing pupils before the end of Y2 as parents secure places for their children at preferred schools that cater for ages up to year 6. As a first step they will convert to a C of E school by September 2016 which will strengthen the links it already has with the church. The County Council will not financially support the school converting to a primary school but the Diocese is likely to. The next step will be to expand the age range from 2-7 to 2-11 by September 2017. £40K will need to be raised and the school is looking for grants, local business support and the friends committee to raise this money.

3. **Minutes of the November 2015 and January 2016 minutes**

Both sets of minutes were approved and signed with no further amendments.

4. **Resignation of Parish Chairman**

Graham Wylie has been on the Parish Council in excess of 30 years and has been Chair for the majority of this time. He now feels it is time to step down to pursue other interests. A vote of thanks was proposed for everything GW has done whilst a Councillor which has frequently been above and beyond the call of duty.

5. **Resignation of Parish Clerk**

Due to work commitments the Clerk will also be standing down at the AGM. Thanks were extended to LS for her contribution to the Council. An advert for a replacement will be run in the Parish magazine and it was suggested MKBALC should be contacted to advertise the vacancy on their website. Councillors were asked to spread the word locally.

6. **Planning**

The New Farm development has been unanimously approved by AVDC committee and the old barns will now be replaced with houses. Highways consider the access to be suitable. Section 106 money will be available to the parish. Mr Oliver of 26 Sandhills has withdrawn his application for a garage but wanted to point out that the application by 26A should be prevented by the original restrictions on what was permitted when 26A was built. The meeting was advised that the Parish Council have only limited planning reasons on which they can object and in this instance there

was little the Council could do. It was felt that if there was a boundary dispute then the two parties would need to resolve this between themselves. The Heritage Officer has looked at the plans for 26A.

7. External audit for Smaller Authorities

The Parish Council could now choose to opt out of the current external audit arrangements and choose instead to source their own external auditor. It was agreed Mazars provide a good service at a reasonable price. The Council unanimously agreed to OPT IN and stay with the existing arrangements – no action is required.

8. Approval of new Financial Regulations

Additional time is required to review these regulations and this item will be reviewed at the next formal meeting of the Parish Council in July. It was confirmed that Councillors review the budget statements provided by the Clerk prior to each meeting and the bank balances are checked regularly by a number of councillors to keep a formal check on the internal controls of the financial systems. On a quarterly basis the Clerk will provide the meeting with bank statements and the monthly bank reconciliation figures for a formal check to be made.

9. Best Kept Village Competition

Thanks were extended to Clive Preston for his excellent organisation of the Clean for the Queen event. **ET** will complete the application for the Best Kept Village competition which costs £20 to register. The entry will be publicised as there will be a requirement for villagers to keep their front gardens tidy and the grass mown. **ET** to contact RTM re doing the paths with round-up. The salt bin at the junction with Weir Lane will be moved to a less intrusive position. **ET** will investigate purchase of a more neutral salt bin.

10. Village Hall Redevelopment Plans

Steve Neale, who lives in the village and works in property will visit the village Hall with a view to submitting a proposal as to what can be done to improve the building.

There was a request from a member of the public that other user groups such as the WI are kept involved in this project.

11. Update on Junction with St Marys Road with Sandhill Road

PL and ET met with the highways agency's Deputy Leader of Schemes who advised there was little that could be done to improve this junction due to budget constraints. He did however recommend that hedges were cut back to improve visibility. **Clerk** to write to the owner of the Pump House to formally request that the hedge is cut back to the fence. The meeting were also advised that the Speedwatch project is going well. Speeding drivers will get a letter for a first offence, a stronger letter for a second offence and an invitation to attend speed awareness for a third offence where failure to attend will result in points on their licence.

12. Queen's 90th Birthday

There will be a celebration of the Queen's 90th Birthday on Thursday 21st April in the village with a beacon, bonfire and fireworks. Tickets will be £5 per household and will be sold door to door. £600 has been spent on fireworks and it was agreed the Parish Council will offset any costs not collected from the entry ticket. The insurance company, police and fire brigade will need to be advised of the event.

Generators will be sourced by CP for the event for lighting and a generator for the PA system. Eddie Oliver has offered the loan of a generator. The school will be cooking food on site. There will be no alcohol on site.

13. Village Design Statement

The VDS has now been approved by AVDC. A formal letter of approval is awaited. Due to changes in planning policy, the weight of the VDS has diminished in the years since this project was commenced. It was therefore felt it would no longer be sensible to provide one copy to all villagers and instead it was formally agreed to divert the funds Precepted for this project to more pressing areas. 25 copies will be printed once formal approval has been received. Villagers will also be able to look at the VDS on the website. Formal thanks were extended to the VDS group for their work on this project.

14. Superfast Broadband

GW met with Fibre Broadband supplier Gigaclear to see how viable their proposition was for getting fibre broadband into the village. Gigaclear want to hold a village meeting to gauge support and provide information to villagers. It is anticipated it will cost each householder £100 to install and £30/month connection although more precise costings will be available at the meeting.

15. Finances and Accounts for Payment

Payments out

RTM Landscapes	Devolved Services Grass Cutting	£379.99
Safety Supply Company	Litter Pickers	£36.42
Safety Supply Company	Litter Pickers	£36.42
Stretton Services	Website Hosting	£54.00
Claydon Tree & Garden	Tree chipping	£45.00
BPFA	Annual Subscription	£20.00
RTM Landscapes	Devolved Services Grass Cutting	£379.99
Lynne Stacey	Clerk Salary	£TBC
HMRC	Tax	£TBC
Clive Preston	High Viz Jackets (CP paid upfront)	£79.65

It was requested that Councillors remember to advise other Councillors when they have authorised a BACS payment>

16. Next Meeting Date

AGM Scheduled for Thursday 19th May 2016 at earlier start time of 7.30pm. A short meeting of the Parish Council will be required on this date to approve the annual accounts prior to submission to the external auditor.

17. Any other Business

First grass cut is scheduled for 11th April 2016.

A quote for repainting the climbing frame and other play equipment in the play area has been received and accepted from John Bigsby. The work will require priming, undercoat and some repairs.

A quote for repairs of £422 has been received from Playdale following the inspection of their play equipment. BC to confirm to Playdale to proceed with this work as discribed.

There was a request to consider at some point in the future taking out the road signs ad putting in something better at the Sandhills junction.

New pads have been received for the defibrillator. It was noted the defibrillator has not been used to date.

The 3 year insurance deal is due to end this year. **LS** to forward details of Zurich proposal when received to **GW**.

There have been teething problems with the incinerator. It has been found that there may not be a requirement to illuminate the incinerator as is does not appear to be a requirement from the Aviation Authority.

Steeple Claydon will no longer be getting the HS2 spoil, so this may improve traffic in the area. Steeple Claydon will also not now be getting a station.