

## **Minutes of the meeting of the East Claydon Parish Council Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

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

Apologies: – Clive Preston.

### **Public participation**

A member of the public commented that they had been unaware of the latest New Farm planning application and requested that the Parish Council should notify residents of such plans. GW commented that he had personally contacted each of the residents in the near vicinity of the proposed development. However, due to the apparent loss of the yellow planning notices placed on the property by AVDC, the planning officer, Claire Bailey, has agreed for an extension to the date for submission of comments. The residents requested a re-instigation of the email to residents – Councillors commented that the email system had previously run into difficulties due to privacy issues, maintenance of the lists and having the man-power to manage this project. The Council will investigate the feasibility of reintroducing such a system. A resident complained that agenda's and minutes of the meetings were not on the website but the Clerk assured him that in line with the Transparency Code, these were on the website and up to date. It was commented that the new website should make page navigation easier. ET will print off a copy of the agenda and put on the Church notice board prior to each meeting. Councillors also reassured residents that providing it is within the remit of a planning objection, the Parish Council does object if appropriate. For example an objection was raised to the Solar Farm due to traffic concerns and the pressure applied regarding construction traffic through the village for HS2 has resulted in a commitment that construction traffic will need to use an alternative route.

#### **1. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

#### **2. Village Hall Redevelopment Plans**

The project is currently on hold due to financial constraints and will be revisited in the New Year.

#### **3. Speedwatch**

This project had temporarily stalled, however, the co-ordinator is now going to arrange cascade training for the remaining volunteers.

#### **4. Update on junction of St Marys Road and Sandhill Road.**

BC met the Local Area technician who has now confirmed that a feasibility study would be required at a cost of £5K to improve safety at this junction. A traffic survey would also be likely to conclude that a footpath was required. Residents were opposed to the idea of removing the dead

tree to improve visibility. The Clerk pointed out that until very recently school children were having to cross at this point to access the school bus stop on Sandhill Road and visibility to pedestrians should therefore be a priority, as the Chestnut View stop may not remain long term. A resident commented that cutting back the Pump House hedge would also improve visibility. **BC** will forward information to AM in order that AM can try to establish why the feasibility survey would cost so much. AM commented that LAF budgets had been cut so it is unlikely the Parish Council would be able to access funds for a feasibility study from this source.

5. **School Signage**

The plastic sign advertising the school keeps tearing in the wind. The school has approached GW and requested that a more permanent sign is erected. The Council unanimously agreed to this request.

6. **Conservation Areas East and Botolph Claydon** Initial research has indicated that houses with a listed status may have more impact than implementing a conservation area. JC commented that there is a constant revisions timetable for conservation areas, however, the officer responsible for this area within AVDC is currently on maternity leave and as such no work is currently being done in this area. The Parish Council resolved to return to this topic at a later date when the officer has returned to post.

7. **Phone Box and Tidying of this corner of Botolph Claydon**

A tree has been planted in this corner to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the WI. However, it was noted that For Sale signs are now being pitched on this piece of land. **LS** to request their removal by the estate agents concerned. The final step in completing the tidy up of this area is the removal of the salt bin.

8. **Village Website**

PW presented to the meeting the new design for the village website. The aim has been to make the pages easier to navigate with information easier to find. PL will be the Village Hall web master and PW the webmaster for the PC. Thanks were extended to PW for all his work on this project. There are a few minor additions that need transferring over from the old website, in particular, ensuring all the relevant documentation to comply with the Transparency code are in place and legible. It was agreed that the website should now go live. PW will ensure the new website address is published in the village magazine together with a short overview on navigation.

9. **Grass Cutting for 2016/2017**

A quote has been received from RTM that holds the existing price for grass cutting for another year. RTM are also willing to invoice monthly across 12 months, even though they only cut for 8

months of the year. It was unanimously agreed to continue using RTM for the 2016/2017 grass cutting season.

#### 10. **Village Design Statement**

A copy of the VDS has now been received from Blurb at a cost of £13.95. It was agreed the booklet will be circulated amongst the parish councillors for their final comments. Any comments should be put on with post-it notes, with no writing on the actual document. MP stated that as the VDS had been reviewed a couple of times by Councillors, only glaring mistakes would be amended now. It was agreed the new website address should be put into the final document. **MP** will check whether Blurb have the copyright on the layout as **PL** felt he should be able to produce a PDF document from this material.

#### 11. **Superfast Broadband**

The Parish Council have been approached by TCS (local Botolph Business) regarding a possibility for superfast broadband via a company called AV Broadband. We were told by TCS that their current provider of broadband is not sufficient for their business needs. Broadband via AV Broadband is now being installed in Granborough and North Marston and the Claydons would be the next logical route to take. AM also mentioned about Gigaclear as a possible alternative provider as they are now installing in Calvert Green. It was agreed that people should be encouraged to register an interest with both providers.

#### 12. **Donation Requests**

Donation requests have been received from Dial-a-Ride Aylesbury, CAB and Winslow Community Bus. AM advised that Dial-a-Ride will be stopping during the early part of 2016 due to lack of funds. It was agreed to provide a donation of £150 to CAB and the Winslow Community Bus only.

#### 13. **Precept 2016/2017**

An initial spreadsheet had been forwarded to Councillors of expected expenditure for 2016/2017. It was felt a contingency for grass cutting and grounds maintenance would need to be built up over the coming years as the grant from Bucks County Council will only be received until 2018, with the 2016/2017 payment being over £1K less than that received this financial year. Additionally, as it is unlikely that a complete renovation of the Village Hall will be possible due to financial constraints, it is accepted that lesser works will need to be carried out to prevent it falling into a state of disrepair. A contingency for the Village Hall is therefore also required. It was felt a gate should also be reinstated at the play area at the entrance next to the road. The majority of Councillors felt it was therefore appropriate to submit a Precept for £18K in line with that received for the current financial year. **Clerk** to advise AVDC.

#### 14. **Finances and Accounts for Payment**

15. **Payments out**

|                           |                                 |         |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|---------|
| 16. PT Projects           | VH Redevelopment Project Costs  | £1800   |
| RTM Landscapes            | Devolved Services Grass Cutting | £379.99 |
| Community Heartbeat Trust | Village Emergency Telephone     | £100.00 |
| RTM Landscapes            | Tree works                      | £720.00 |
| Vista Display             | Noticeboard                     | £476.40 |
| Esther Turnbull           | Padlock for Play area gate      | £4.95   |

1. **Next Meeting Date** Scheduled for Thursday 14th January 2016 at 8pm.

Other dates for 2016 were advised as: 17th March, 19th May (AGM) (start at 7.30pm), 14th July, 6th October, 24th November.

1. **Any other Business**

In line with all businesses, the Parish Council need to investigate the provision of a pension to its employee. Due to the low salary of the Parish Clerk, the Council will not need to automatically enrol the Clerk in a pension scheme. GW has formally written to the Clerk to confirm this. Within 5 months after the Parish Council's staging date of the 1st November 2016, the Council will need to declare their compliance online using the automatic enrolment declaration on the Pensions regulators website.

AVDC have requested that the Council provides details of how the £19,248 of S106 money should be spent should the New Farm development be approved. New play area equipment and redecoration and new equipment for the Village Hall will be requested.

The Parish Council will consider after consultation with other village organisations whether a celebration of the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday should be organised. The Parish Council have been invited to participate in the big litter clean to celebrate the event.

PW suggested entering the Best Kept Village Award – this received support from the Council. The incinerator has been undergoing tests and a problem with the burners has been identified. It will not be relit until this problem has been rectified. JC will check whether emissions information will be made public.

East West rail has been delayed for 5-9 years.

The Parish Council has not responded to the request for a letter in support of Great Horwood over the issue of AVDC planning apparently ignoring the content of the Great Horwood neighbourhood plan when they approved a planning application.

MP will attend the next LAF meeting in March 2016.

Aylesbury Vale CRPE has now disbanded as they felt their views were being completely disregarded by AVDC.