

**Minutes of the meeting of the East Claydon Parish Council
Thursday 8th October 2015**

Present: Councillors Graham Wylie (Chair), Peter Wright, Brian Cable, Martin Paul, Esther Turnbull, Clive Preston, Lynne Stacey (Clerk) and one member of the public.

1. **Apologies:**– Paul Lupton and County Councillor Macpherson.

2. **Public participation**

The Parish Council has decided to add a regular public participation section to the Council meeting agenda. It is anticipated to last 10-15 minutes. Steve Brown came to advise the meeting that he had put in another planning application for 6 houses. He met with AVDC at a pre-application meeting in March. The plans show the buildings including gardens are on the footprint of the existing barn and it is hoped this will help overcome many of the objections that the residents of Sandhills Road had with previous applications. It is informally believed by Mr Brown that AVDC support this application. The properties are link detached and include a variety of 3, 4 and 5 bedroom properties. MP commented that the house designs in this application were likely to come up against the VDS had this been in place. The field between the site and Lacemakers is not part of the development. It may be possible to put a covenant on it or most likely, it will be sold as paddocks to the various new house owners which will reduce the risk of it being developed. The Parish Council will await the formal application from AVDC before commenting.

3. **Minutes of the last meeting**

It was noted that the Bernwood Farm planning application cannot be decided until more environmental studies have been conducted. The Sandhills Road planning application has been refused. **GW** is obtaining quotes for painting the Climbing frame in the play area and it was reported that the bin has now been repaired. It was noted that the padlock on the big gate at the play area has been removed. **ET** will ask the farmer if he has it. The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

4. **Village Hall Redevelopment Plans**

The project is currently on hold as the Quantity Surveyor's report has estimated the design will cost £1.437 million to realise. There is still a lot of support for the plans to redevelop the hall including the Mushroom Club and WI. A number of items, such as acoustic dividers, could be removed from the design, however, it was felt even with these modifications the plan would be too expensive. The majority of big funding applications closed at the end of September therefore, it will be a year before these grants will reopen. **GW** advised that some improvements to the Village Hall were still being implemented such as new ovens and redecoration.

5. **Speedwatch**

BC has emailed the volunteer organiser of the Speedwatch project for an update on progress but no response has been received as yet. The MVAS battery needs changing and it was agreed to keep the unit at the Lacemakers site for one more session before moving.

6. **Resident concerns regarding speeding at junction of St Marys Road and Sandhill Road.**

BC met with TfB to discuss the possibilities of making this area safer. TfB indicated it may be possible to narrow the triangle or make the triangle one way. However money will need to be sourced from the LAF to conduct a survey. **BC** will continue to push for this. **PW** will contact TfB and request a village walk-around with the Local Area Technician.

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| GW |
| ET |
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| BC |
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| BC, PW |

7. Conservation Areas East and Botolph Claydon & RTM Quote for Treeworks

ET felt areas of East Claydon should be made conservation areas, in particular the areas containing listed buildings. At the request of the Parish Council **ET** will contact AVDC to establish how this process can be commenced. A number of trees along St Marys Road have been identified as requiring crown lifting by the devolved services contractor. **ET** will meet with the contractor on site and agree which trees require work. Additionally the contractor has quoted for the removal of the dead tree opposite St Marys Close. RTM will be instructed to carry out this work immediately as the tree is considered unsafe.

ET

ET

8. Phone Box and Tidying of this corner of Botolph Claydon

The phone box has now been removed. A tree has been purchased by the WI to be planted at this site to commemorate 100 years of the WI. **PW** will look into moving the salt bin to a more suitable spot.

PW

9. Village Design Statement

The booklet is not yet available as Gerry English who is editing the document is currently on holiday. GW confirmed he had an email from David Broadley, Senior Planner (Forward Plans) at AVDC that they are happy to accept a PDF only version of the VDS. Mr Broadley stated that if they needed to see a printed version they would be happy to print it themselves.

GW spoke to Steeple Claydon PC regarding joining in with their Neighbourhood plan, however, they felt that they were now too far down track to add in another area and in any case, the two villages were too dissimilar to warrant a joint plan. It was noted that the Government have vastly reduced the requirements for a Neighbourhood plan and consequently the cost of producing one was now in the region of £8-£10K. Concern was expressed over AVDC's decision to approve a planning application that was outside of Great Horwood's adopted Neighbourhood plan area.

10. Noticeboard Replacement

The current noticeboard is not really fit for purpose as it is difficult to access. The Village Hall have offered to provide 50% of the funding for a new board. It was agreed **GW** would source a new noticeboard with the PC contributing up to £500 towards the cost on a 50:50 split with the Village Hall.

GW

11. Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities

LS confirmed all the requirements for complying with the Transparency Code were now on the village website. These included listing all items of expenditure above £100, end of year accounts, annual governance statement, internal audit report, list of councillors, details of public land and building assets, minutes and agenda's of meetings. There is funding available to help small Parish Councils comply with this code and it may be possible to access these funds to help with the redevelopment of the village website.

12. Finances and Accounts for Payment

The annual audit has been approved by the external auditor and the relevant documentation is now on display on the Village notice board.

Payments out

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| RTM Landscapes | Devolved Grass Cutting | £379.99 |
| JB Architects | Village Hall Redevelopment | £994.60 |
| Tower Surverys Ltd | Village Hall Redevelopment | £2400.00 |
| Mazars | External Auditors | £120.00 |
| RTM Landscapes | Devolved Grass Cutting | £379.99 |
| Information Commission | Data Protection Registration | £35.00 |

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|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|
| AVDC | Uncontested Election Fee* | £125.00 |
| Geo Cheshire Plant Hire | Removal of BT box and top-soil | £180.00 |
| RTM Landscapes | Devolved Grass Cutting | £379.99 |
| E.ON | Streetlight Electricity | £1.94 |
| Lynne Stacey | Clerk Salary | £252.50 |

Action

13. Next Meeting Date

Scheduled for Thursday 26th November 2015 at 8pm.

Clerk to provide a list of dates for 2016 at the next meeting.

LS

14. Any other Business

A discussion was held as to why it is difficult to allow open comments on the village website. Concerns were expressed over the availability of a moderator who would have time to manage the comments to ensure inappropriate material was not published. The majority of the Councillors felt the website had contact details, both email and telephone, for all Councillors should parishioners wish to comment on any issue. Additionally, a request to email parishioners the agenda or minutes was deemed unnecessary as the website contained this information. The Village Hall own the website and pay for the domain. A small group of GW, PL, BC, PW and LS will meet to discuss how to progress the development of a new website.

GW will contact Playdale to organise a playground inspection.

ET attended the LAF and encouraged everyone to put in their vote for the charities hoping for a share of the £9500 spare budget.

Thanks were extended to CP for his management of the HS2 petition on behalf of the Parish Council. GW, PW and CP had attended a meeting with HS2 Ltd where the concerns of East Claydon Parish Council regarding construction vehicles using the village roads was expressed. CP has now received a letter from HS2 Ltd advising that the Secretary of State for Transport will require the nominated undertaker to restrict HS2 Large Goods Vehicles construction traffic from entering the villages of Botolph Claydon and East Claydon. Based on this letter CP has now withdrawn his petition. **LS** to scan letter and put on website.

The Parish Council have written to BCC in support of the Calvert/Steeple Claydon Community HS2 Mitigation Plan which BCC will be presenting to the Select Committee.

There is a new editor for Claydon News.

The PC noted with regret that Peter Knight, ex vicar of the Parish has died.

GW, PL, BC, PW, LS

GW

LS