

EAST CLAYDON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
held in the Village Hall
at 8pm on Thursday 17 June 2021**

Present: Councillors Peter Wright (Chair), Gary Baldwin (GB), Gareth Williams (GW), Colin Kitchen (CK)

Also present: CC Frank Mahon (FM), Carole Jackman (Clerk) and three members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr Martin Paul.

1. Minutes of the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16 May 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record. An Annual Meeting in 2020 was not held due to the COVID19 lockdown.

2. Chairman's Report

Cllr Peter Wright presented his report (**Attachment 1**).

3. County Council Report

County Councillor Angela Macpherson had circulated the Councillors' reports prior to the meeting which can be found at: [Appendix 1 for Buckinghamshire Council Annual Report.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#) and [Appendix 1 for Covid-19 Update Report.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#).

3.1 New County Councillors

Chair noted that East Claydon, within the Grendon Underwood Ward, was represented by three Councillors: Angela Macpherson, Frank Mahon and Michael Rand. Cllr Mahon said that he was the 'first point of call' for East Claydon.

3.2 Speedwatch

Following Chair's comment that he hoped that the new Police Commissioner would stand by his commitment during the Police Commissioner election campaign and support the speedwatch; Cllr Mahon said that he believed that the Commissioner would.

3.3 Planning

Cllr Mahon said that he thought that it would be useful if all councillors attended a planning course, as he had, and went on to explain the PIP (Permission in Principle) and the Parish Council's ability to 'call in' planning applications.

3.4 EWR/HS2

Cllr Mahon noted that useful contacts for HS2 are:

Deputy Cabinet Member for EWR/HS2: peter.martin@buckinghamshire.gov.uk and

Cabinet Member for Transport: steve.broadbent@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

4. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

5. Close

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35pm.

Chairman's Signature: _____

Chairman's Report

17 June 2021

This year has been an extraordinary and difficult year with all the pressures and concerns linked to the COVID pandemic. However the work of the parish council has continued albeit in a different form with meetings on zoom and limited face to face contact by all.

The first major action by the council was the decision to finish the reroofing of the village hall completing three further sides together with the repainting of the chimney stack. Further improvements and work have continued throughout the year by the village hall committee. This has included relaying the patio, improving the garden, completing the internal decorations of the annex and Mushroom Club. Taking the opportunity created by the closure of the club, a new floor has been installed in the bar and club area plus the hall annex. The Club has been redecorated by volunteers, refurnished which is now nearing completion and they plan to have a special opening party for the Mushroom Club and Village Hall. The date is still under reviewed and depends on the covid regulations.

Other work completed in the year includes the resolution of the problem of flooding on Saint Marys Rd. it is hoped that the work done by transport for Bucks will have resolved this issue going forward. The proposal for a revised traffic flow around the triangle in East Claydon has yet to be resolved as Buckinghamshire Council insist on an expensive feasibility study before any action is taken. The old tree on the triangle remains in a dangerous condition and will in due course be removed, before it is blown down. The white lines in the village have now been completed to ease the dangers at various pinch points. There has during the course of the year had a significant increase in through traffic in the village, and speeding remains a key problem. We have purchased and installed a new speed and traffic indicator and monitor. This has demonstrated exactly how many vehicles are now using our roads as rat runs.

The actions of a previous parish council have prevented much of the HGV's from HS2 coming through the village. There remains a high level of tipper lorries linked to the housing developments in Steeple Claydon and this remains an ongoing issue. The council has been actively participating in attempting to mitigate the damage to roads and verges caused by HGV vehicles from both East West Rail and HS2, and this is an ongoing battle. We have however been successful, in co-ordination with other local parishes, in reducing the number of weeks that Sandhill Rd is closed. However the number of road closures in the area has remained an irritant to all local residents. We have applied for funding for the School and Village Hall car park and drop off area from HS2 and EWR. The issue of school parents having to disembark children in the narrow village highway remains a major cause of concern.

In the village, the parish council has added an area for parking of cars by the play area to attempt to reduce the muddy patch which had been created last winter. The flooding of church walk remains a problem with no obvious solution. The footpath on Saint Marys Rd has been cleared and this improves and widens the footpath. Four new trees have been planted along this footpath to replace trees that were dead and decaying. The play area is in need of refurbishing and painting but high commercial quotations will require a major voluntary exercise from residents to action this in the near future.

The major methods of communicating with residents remains the website, parish Council minutes, Facebook and be very excellent parish magazine which is distributed on a monthly basis.

Finally the unitary elections to Buckinghamshire Council were held in May and as a result we have two new Unitary Councillors, Frank Mahon and Michael Rand who join Angela MacPherson representing the ward of Grendon Underwood