

These are draft minutes and are subject to approval at the next meeting.



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Council
held at 7.30pm on the 15 May 2014
in the Small Village Hall**

Present: *Chairman:* Mark Sugden
Councillors: Alex Coomes, Kate Hallett, Ken Huddart, Geoff Herbert, Noel Isaacs, Anthony Sheppard, Michael O'Brien, Helen Maguire, Mary Marshall

In attendance: *Parish Clerk:* Freda Collins
4 members of the public

Anthony Sheppard opened the meeting.

1. To elect a Chairman

Anthony Sheppard nominated Mark Sugden for Chairman.
Alex Coomes seconded the nomination
There being no other nominations, Mark Sugden was declared Chairman.
Congratulations were given to Cllr Sugden

Cllr Sugden took the Chair.

2. To elect a Vice-Chairman

Mark Sugden proposed Alex Coomes
Anthony Sheppard seconded the nomination
There being no other nominations, Alex Coomes was duly declared Vice Chairman.

3. Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

The Chairman stated that it is good that Claygate has a parish council. Lots of people in the past fought to set it up. We are the only parish council in Elmbridge and we must do our best to work for Claygate and influence our Borough and County Councils.

Cllr Sugden signed the Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance, which was witnessed by the Clerk.

The Clerk will send a copy to the Monitoring Officer at EBC.

AP1 The Clerk to action.

4. Apologies for Absence

None

5. Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda

Cllr Herbert declared that he is a Borough Councillor and a member of Elmbridge Rent Start.

Cllr Sugden declared that he is on the Committee of the CVA, a Trustee of the CRGT and a member of the Elmbridge Business Network.

Cllr Hallett declared that she is a Trustee of Claygate Village Hall Association and is Secretary to the CVA.

Cllr Coomes declared that he is a Borough Councillor and a Trustee of the CRGT.

Cllr Huddart declared that he is Chairman of the Trustees of Claygate Village Hall Association, President of the CVA and Acting-Chairman of the Claygate Conservation Areas Advisory Committee.

Cllr Marshall declared that she is a Borough Councillor.

Cllr Sheppard declared an interest in the report on the flooding of Hare Lane Green as he lives in Raleigh Drive.

6. Confirmation of the Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 6 March 2014 had been circulated. The minutes were agreed, and signed by the Chairman.

7. To report on the actioning of items from the last meeting

AP74- stones at base of fountain- now being dealt with by the Environment Committee.

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AP76- *cheque signatories*- the documents for Cllr Marshall have been completed and sent to the bank. Cllr Sugden still needs to complete the necessary paperwork.

AP77- *Table tennis table for CRGT*- the CRGT is still trying to obtain quotes.

AP78- *list of Community assets*- the Clerk has drafted one application which has gone to Cllr Hallett for checking.

All other actions have been carried out.

It was noted that the working party on the function of CPC has not yet met. It consists of Councillors Huddart, Coomes, Maguire, Sugden and O'Brien. They will meet and will report back to the Strategy Meeting on 5 June 2014 which will be held in the Youth Club.

8. Delegation to Committees, Employees and other Local Authorities

8.1 CPC has three Committees, Planning, Environment, and Highways & Transportation, which are set up and run in accordance with legislation, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

8.2 CPC has only one employee, the Clerk.

8.3 CPC has one delegation arrangement with Elmbridge BC; the maintenance of the Highway Garden Sites.

9. The remits of the Committees

It was AGREED that each Committee will review their remits at their first meeting and any changes will be reported back to the next Parish Council meeting.

AP2 The Clerk to agenda.

10. To appoint members of Committees

a. Planning

Ken Huddart, Alex Coomes, Noel Isaacs, Michael O'Brien

b. Highways & Transportation

Ken Huddart, Anthony Sheppard, Kate Hallett, Helen Maguire, Geoff Herbert

c. Environment

Anthony Sheppard, Kate Hallett, Geoff Herbert, Mary Marshall

d. Communications Working Party

All councillors are invited to meetings, but the regular members are:-

Helen Maguire, Alex Coomes, Anthony Sheppard, Geoff Herbert, Mary Marshall, Noel Isaacs

e. Staffing Committee

Chairman (ex officio), Vice Chairman (ex officio), Anthony Sheppard, Noel Isaacs

f. Complaints Committee

Chairman (ex officio), Vice Chairman (ex officio), Kate Hallett, Mary Marshall, Noel Isaacs

11. Charters with other bodies & Review of Contributions

11.1 CPC has a Charter with Elmbridge Borough Council. This was revised in 2012. It was agreed that it does not need to be revised.

11.2 CPC receives a grant from EBC towards maintenance of some Highway Garden Sites which is increased by RPI each year.

12. Roles/Representation on External Bodies

The following appointments were AGREED: -

Assets Register	-Alex Coomes & Helen Maguire
Christmas Lights Representative	- Kate Hallett
CVA liaison	- Kate Hallett
Neighbourhood Watch Representative	- Geoff Herbert
Surrey Rail Forum & Regional Passenger Committee	- Ken Huddart & Anthony Sheppard
Recreation Ground Trust	-Mark Sugden
Village Hall Representative	-Ken Huddart
Youth Club	- *
Elmbridge Audit & Standards Committee	-Geoff Herbert & Mark Sugden

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Police Liaison	- Helen Maguire
SALC Representative	- Anthony Sheppard (Mark Sugden deputy.)
Elmbridge Local Committee for SCC (observer)	- Mark Sugden deputy Ken Huddart
EBC/CPC Liaison Committee	- Chairman & Chairmen of Committees/Working Parties & all other Councillors
Elmbridge Business Network Group (observer)	- **
Surrey Countryside Access Forum	- Ken Huddart
Webmaster	- Alex Coomes
HGS contract	- Chair of Environment
Flower Show display	- Noel Isaacs, Kate Hallett, Mary Marshall
Press Liaison Officer	- Alex Coomes

*- at the moment there is no Managing Committee, so negotiations are in hand for SCC to take back the management of the building. It was agreed that we would not nominate a representative until the situation is resolved.

** - There are 2 elected members from each geographical area of the Borough. Currently the elected members for Claygate are Gary State and Mark Sugden. All councillors are welcome to observe at meetings.

Cllr Maguire gave apologies and left the meeting.

13. Review of Assets

13.1 CPC holds an asset register. As equipment is purchased, it is written off. We have to include a nominal value of £6 in the accounts for certain assets because we insure them. These are:-

- i. the notice boards
- ii. the bus shelter at Church Road
- iii. the Millennium sign
- iv. the Christmas trees
- v. the bench in Church Road

13.2 CPC does not own land or buildings.

13.3 Cllr Coomes will carry out an inspection of the assets.

AP3 Cllr Coomes to action.

14. Insurance Cover

Insurance arrangements were reviewed at the November 2012 PC meeting when the insurance came up for renewal. We are now insured with Zurich under a three year contract.

15. Review of Policies & Procedures

All relevant policies were circulated by the Clerk.

- i. Health & Safety Policy- agreed
- ii. Standing Orders- recently updated, agreed
- iii. Financial Regulations- a new version of these has been issued by NALC. It was agreed that a working party of the Clerk and Cllrs Sheppard, Sugden, and Isaacs will be arranged to review them.

AP4 The Clerk & nominated Councillors to action.

- iv. Register of Interests- this should be updated on an ongoing basis. Councillors were asked to look at their Register of Interests and inform the Clerk if there are any changes.
- v. Hospitality Register- no entries in the last year.
- vi. Risk Assessment Policy – the risk assessment for the Council was agreed. It was noted that each Committee has risk assessments which will be reviewed at the forthcoming meetings.
- vii. Complaints procedure- agreed

16. Freedom of Information and Data Protection Policy

16.1 We have adopted the model publication scheme. We have had no requests for information.

16.2 We have registered under the Data Protection Act.

17. Press and Media Policy

17.1 We have a Press and Media Policy. No change is required.

17.2 It was noted that Alex Coomes is the Press Liaison Officer for CPC.

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18. Dates, Times & Places of Council Meetings

These have been set for the year and circulated to all councillors. All amendments have been circulated and updated on the website.

19. Chairman's Allowance

It was AGREED that the Chairman should have an allowance of £100 as per the budget which is used for such items as the CPC wreath for Remembrance Sunday.

20. Payment of Annual Subscriptions

A list of organisations to which the Claygate Parish Council subscribed in 2013 had been circulated.

Organisations

NALC/SCAPTC

Local Council Review

SLCC

Annual Service Agreements

Sage

RBS (accounts software)

AGREED.

Resolution 1.

It is RESOLVED that the Claygate Parish Council pays the subscription fees to all organisations as agreed at the Annual Meeting 2014.

PROPOSED by Anthony Sheppard

SECONDED by Alex Coomes

UNANIMOUS

21. Report from the Chairman

21.1 Cllrs Hallett, Herbert, Sheppard and Maguire met to discuss the possible future relationship of CPC with the CRGT. It was agreed to speak to EBC Officers at this time but not to make a formal approach to Cabinet members. It was agreed that we need to know how much the other grounds in Elmbridge cost to maintain, as the CRGT was originally set up as a way of saving EBC money. It was agreed:-

i. the lease needs to be agreed and assigned

ii. we need to know why the grant from EBC is not indexed linked.

iii. we need to obtain information on the cost of maintenance of other recreation grounds. The Borough

Councillors should be able to obtain this information- but if they cannot, we will request it under the FOI Act.

AP5 Cllr Coomes to action.

22. Feedback from SALC briefing

Cllr Shepard attended this briefing and has circulated a report. *Appendix A*

22.1 It was agreed that someone from SALC should attend the Flower Show.

22.2 The legislation on the filming of meetings has changed and we will need to make an amendment to Standing Orders. We need a model policy on this matter.

AP6 The Clerk to action.

22.3 It was agreed that the Staffing Committee should invite Paul Baker of the SCC Pension Dept to explain the pension changes.

23. Report from the Parish Clerk

23.1 The CPC laptop is now six years old and making strange noises. It is also running on Windows XP, which is now no longer supported by Windows. Upgrading to Windows 7 is not practical given the age of the device.

Resolution 5

It is RESOLVED that this Council buys a new computer for use of the Clerk, at a cost of up to £600.

PROPOSED by Anthony Sheppard

SECONDED by Geoff Herbert

Cllr Hallett proposed an amendment that the amount be reduced to £450. This amendment was AGREED.

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The amended resolution was put forward.

It is RESOLVED that this Council buys a new computer for use of the Clerk, at a cost of up to £450.

8 FOR

1 ABSTENTION

The CPC printer recently started to smoke and then would not work. The Clerk is currently using her own printer for CPC use.

It was agreed that a colour laser printer is necessary for business use. The Clerk will speak to Tip Top computers about the printer when she talks to them about a new computer. We have a store of toners for a Samsung printer. These will be taken into account when printers are priced up.

Resolution 6

It is RESOLVED that this Council buys a new colour laser printer for use of the Clerk at a cost of up to £200.

PROPOSED by Anthony Sheppard

SECONDED by Mary Marshall

8 FOR

1 ABSTENTION

AP7 The Clerk to action.

24. Finance report

23.1 All Councillors were given a copy of the Balance Sheet, the Income and Expenditure Account and Annual Return for the year ending 31.3.2013. A full copy of the accounts for year ending 31/3/2013 is on circulation. There were no queries.

24.2 A copy of all payments made since the start of this financial year were circulated prior to the meeting. All payments made since the last meeting were APPROVED.

24.3 Bank Reconciliations for all months since the start of the financial year have been prepared by the Clerk and signed by the Chairman.

Resolution 2.

It is RESOLVED that the Parish Council approves the accounts for the financial year ending 31st March 2014.

PROPOSED by Anthony Sheppard

SECONDED by Mary Marshall

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.

A copy of Annual Governance Statement was circulated prior to the meeting.

Resolution 3.

It is RESOLVED that the Parish Council approves the Statement of Accounts and the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year ending 31st March 2014 and that the Chairman and Parish Clerk are authorised to sign them.

PROPOSED by Anthony Sheppard

SECONDED by Alex Coomes

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.

25. To Review Expenditure for the Year

24.1 The financial information was reviewed.

24.2 Cllr Sheppard circulated a report on Reserves prior to the meeting. It was noted that Unallocated Reserves were £8528 at 31 March 2014.

26. Brian Rhodes Community Cup

Those nominated this year were:-

Carol Shorter , Michael Hill , Barry & Bonnie Fitzpatrick , John Bamford , Ian Yates , Albert Boyman, Claire Statham and Kate Nicholls , Pam Jarvis and Russ Guyatt

It was agreed that it was a really good, strong field of people who work very hard for the village.

The vote was conducted by secret ballot.

Bonnie and Barry Fitzpatrick were the winners of the cup this year, which will be presented at the Village meeting.

These are draft minutes and are subject to approval at the next meeting.

The Clerk will notify Bonnie & Barry and all the other nominees, and will post a notice on the notice boards.

AP8 The Clerk to action.

27. Arrangements for the Village Meeting

The Village meeting will be on 29 May 2014.

Arrangements:-

- i. Dave Page has been invited to speak at the meeting. He requires a projector. Cllr Hallett may be able to arrange the loan of a projector.

AP9 Cllr Hallett to action.

(Post meeting note: Cllr Hallett has arranged the loan of a projector from her sister. Cllr Coomes to collect and bring to the hall).

- ii. Set up will be at 7.15pm, with the meeting starting at 7.45pm.
- iii. Chairs and tables will be used to provide informal seating.
- iv. Refreshments will be provided prior to the start of the meeting.
- v. Committee Chairs will provide a five minutes report. As Cllr Sheppard will not be at the meeting, Cllr Sugden will read out the Environment Committee report.
- vi. An update on the yes/no answers to the parking survey will be given. The analysis of the comments will not be ready in time for the meeting. A display of pie charts of the yes/no answers will be arranged.

Apologies were given by Cllr Hallett

28. Flower Show 2012

This will be on the agenda for the July meeting.

There was a resolution for this item:-

Resolution 7

It is RESOLVED that this Council underwrites the attraction 'Spider Mountain' for the Flower Show 2014 up to a total cost of £785 + VAT

PROPOSED by Anthony Sheppard

SECONDED by Michael O'Brien

After a discussion it was agreed to support this project as it is a good community event and will benefit the CRGT if they can make a profit on the venture. It was felt; however, that CPC should not underwrite the full amount, so Cllr Marshall proposed an amendment to the resolution to change the figure to £365 + VAT.

Cllr Hallett seconded this amendment.

A vote was taken and the amendment was accepted by 8 votes FOR and 1 ABSTENTION.

The amended resolution was put forward:-

Resolution 7

It is RESOLVED that this Council underwrites the attraction 'Spider Mountain' for the Flower Show 2014 up to a total cost of £365 + VAT

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY

The Clerk to inform the CRGT.

AP10 The Clerk to action.

29. Communications report

Cllr Sheppard gave the report

29.1 The Courier was recently printed and distributed.

29.2 Social media sites were discussed at the recent SALC briefing. It was noted that Facebook and LinkedIn are increasingly being used by older users. It was agreed that we need a Social Media Policy. It was noted that using Facebook etc would involve work as the site needs to be monitored daily. This matter was delegated to the Communications WP to discuss.

29.3 As Communications is run by a working party and not a committee, they do not have a formal budget, so spending has to be authorised by this meeting.

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Resolution 4

It is RESOLVED for the financial year 2014/15, that the Communications Working Party be authorised to incur an expenditure of £5595 to cover the cost of production of three Claygate Couriers, publicity and development of the website.

PROPOSED by Anthony Sheppard

SECONDED by Noel Isaacs

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.

29.3 It was agreed to check when the re-tendering for the design of the Courier needs to take place.

30. Brownies Centenary Display

Last year the Brownies made a request to display some sort of artwork on one of the HGS to celebrate their centenary. This was agreed in principle in November 2013 by CPC subject to approval of the design and siting.

They have recently sent through a design which consists of a painted board with small garden at the base. It was agreed that the design could be improved. Cllr Isaacs will contact the Brownies with some suggestions for improvement. Once the design is agreed, Vanessa Relleen will need to be consulted on where to site the garden on the Firs verge.

AP11 Cllr Isaacs to action.

Post Meeting note: Cllr Isaacs has spoken with Beccy from the Brownies to discuss the display and has learned that it is not to be a billboard structure. It will be cut outs to face both ways with a central post to secure them into the ground. To avoid disturbing bulbs, they will use a couple of tyres at the base of each securing pole and fill it with earth to do the planting around the brownies feet. Contained within the upper part of the central feature there will also be planting to grow up and over it. Beccy will liaise with Vanessa regarding the positioning of the display.

31. Report of the Planning Committee

Cllr Isaacs circulated a written report prior to the meeting. All minutes of the Planning Committee have been circulated.

31.1 Rowan School and the Oaken Lane Sports Centre applications have been the most noticed in the time since the last CPC meeting:-

i. Rowan School had previously been granted permission to raise their pupil numbers in 2002 when they applied to replace the current building with a new 3 storey purpose built one. They have kept the application current by updating their permission when the validity ran out. Although there is much concern regarding parking and traffic movements in this area raised with the recent new application, SCC declined to change their mind and consequently the application was passed.

ii. Oaken Lane Sports Centre, this application concerned the planning committee and the Tree Wardens as it is a Green Belt site and the approved planting schedule in application 2011/6407 had not been adhered to. When the latest application for removal and reduction of trees bounding the site arrived we recommended that this planting schedule be adhered to prior to any further work happening. EBC has passed the application but in the decision letter, item 4 they were going to pass on the information to the enforcement team to ensure the original planting schedule be adhered to.

Cllr Isaacs contacted the Enforcement Team on 14 May but found they knew nothing about this. She has since had a return call from Clare Simpson who will be looking into the matter.

31.2 Enforcements:-

i. 1 Woodlands Close – this has now been completed.

ii. Oaken Lane Fence – this is the system.

31.3 Cllr Isaacs attended an EBC Planning User Group meeting and the following were covered:-

i. EBC is updating the planning process especially at the validation level where plans can fail as they do not meet the validation requirements.

ii. EBC is proposing to start a new quarterly newsletter for the users of planning to keep them informed and up to date with the new policy decisions coming through.

iii. There was an update on CIL on the 24 February, the key criteria being:

a. Self-build and residential extensions will be exempt from CIL. They will need to send in an exemption form to EBC before commencement of work on site. If work has already been started then it is too late to send this form. When exemption is used there will be a charge placed on the property and if it is sold within 3 years then the exemption on CIL will have to be paid.

b. There will be an option for charging authorities to accept payments in kind through the provision of on or off site infrastructure.

These are draft minutes and are subject to approval at the next meeting.

c. A vacancy test will be available, this being 6 months out of 12 months, currently it is 3 years and the exemption will be on new floor space over the existing.

d. There will be a provision for phasing the levy payments for more complex developments.

31.4 Spending CIL:

i. 25% of CIL will be given to each settlement, Claygate being different in that there is already a means in place for direct payments to be given.

ii. There will be a first meeting in June to decide the strategy for spending the EBC 75% of CIL payments and agree a spending programme.

iii. The 123 list has recently been published. There cannot be a double spend allocation and the section 106 list has to be separate from the CIL list. There has to be clarity between the 106 and CIL spend.

It was noted that other areas of the Borough, but not Claygate, have been allotted CIL monies in a report from EBC recently. Cllr Coomes will look into this.

AP12 Cllr Coomes to action.

31.5 EBC is currently going through the representations for the Development Management Plan in preparation for submission in May to the Inspectorate. Anyone who has submitted a response will get a letter of when the submission will go ahead.

31.6 EBC is reviewing the plans for the Settlement ID Plan as they were required to collect more information and a new consultation will happen in November. They are anticipating an early 2015 submission.

31.7 Ann Biggs has been the Development Manager since November 2013 and has previously worked her way through many of the planning departments in EBC. Ann has seen many of the changes coming through recently and is currently dealing with the changes involved with retail to residential and Prior Notifications (PN's) for domestic extensions.

Currently there are two large developments:

- Chipping Farm at Cobham – there is a proposal to build 500 houses and a new school.
- Rydens School – the proposal here is for housing to enable a replacement school.

Her department wants to be able to give better information and advice for developments. They are looking at the percentage base for housing development on Green Belt (this relates to the existing properties sited within and near Green Belt and their related expansion in size from their current form).

31.8 There is a programme to train staff and councillors on the environmental impact of flooding.

31.9 Work is currently being done in the Registry Department to reduce the invalidity base of the planning applications currently received.

32. Report of the Highways & Transportation Committee

Cllr Huddart circulated a written report prior to the meeting.

The Committee met on 24 Apr 14, and the minutes have been circulated. Issues discussed included the car parks, on-street parking, the bus service, maintenance of roads, Rights of Way consultation, speed limit consultation, and street nameplates.

32.1 The Old Claygate Lane track wet patch had become wet over the winter, despite a successful contracted maintenance task. The contractor noticed this and dug out some clay to give better access to the new drainage, which helped, and he has promised to complete this correction. The rest of the track is also wet, following 21mm rain in the past week, so there may be need for future maintenance.

32.2 The on-street parking survey end date was 10 May. There has been a good response. The results are being analysed to permit the working party on 18 May to recommend a way forward, including policy options and publicity.

32.3 There have been critically damaged highway trees near 7 Foley Road and 38 Oaken Lane.

32.4 Street lighting replacement continues. In The Parade, a heritage design has been provided, funded by Elmbridge B.C., Surrey C.C. and Claygate P.C. The design, having rectangular luminaries, white lights and ladder bars is somewhat more in keeping with the 100 years heritage, although being slightly taller.

32.5 The footpath sign in Common Road, pointing towards Oak Hill, has been replaced.

32.6 It is believed that a child was knocked over in the road in Church Road- facts will need to be obtained.

32.7 When work began at the Chessington Equestrian Centre it was reported that the width restriction on Claygate Road would be removed to allow access for all heavy vehicles. This is not the case. It is believed that they will be replaced with a rising bollard which the contractor will be able to open to allow access for his lorries.

33. Report of the Environment Committee

Cllr Sheppard gave an oral report to the meeting. All minutes have been circulated.

33.1. A successful Clean Up day was held in April with support of Scouts.

These are draft minutes and are subject to approval at the next meeting.

33.2 A response has been received from Thames Water regarding the flooding of Hare Lane Green area. The sewer in Raleigh Drive is functioning, and the electrical pumping equipment in Hare Lane Green has been repaired. Thames Water states that they have a three month maintenance plan for the pumping station. We should ensure that this is working during autumn.

33.2 The Environment Agency has not yet carried out the annual clean of the Rythe. There are signs of deterioration of the bank which EBC will need to repair.

34. Matters for information only

34.1 There will be a working party meeting for the parking survey on 19 May 2014.

34.2 There will be a Strategy Meeting on 5 June 2014 held at the Youth Club.

34.3 There will be a liaison meeting with EBC at 11am on 12 June 2014.

35. Date of next Meeting

The next meeting will be

Thurs 10 July 2014 at 7.30 pm in the SVH.

Signed.....as a true and fair record of the meeting.

Date.....

Please note: -

*Agenda items and resolutions need to be sent to the Clerk **two weeks** prior to the next meeting.*

APPENDIX A

NOTES FROM SALC BRIEFING FORUM, 1 MAY 2014

Preparing for 2015 Elections

Many Parish Councillors are expected to stand down across Surrey and there is concern about a possible lack of candidates. Support from SALC is available:-

- Material to encourage/inform potential Council candidates is available from SALC as literature packs or on memory sticks.
- SALC can attend a big event such as the Flower Show and would probably be willing to speak at a Council information evening.

It was pointed out that embedding a free draw offer or similar in the middle of a magazine can be a way of monitoring actual readership!

Social Media for Parish Councils

There was an excellent presentation on this topic, by a consultant who was well aware of the issues and pitfalls for public bodies using such media. Some social media sites are increasingly used by older users, notably Facebook and LinkedIn.

- Pages on media like Facebook are more informal and flexible than websites and are suited to gleaning feedback, outreach into the community and informal discussion.
- Twitter lends itself to short factual messages in emergency situations (road closures etc).
- Social media need daily monitoring and moderation to be successful.
- A Parish Council intending to use social media should agree a Social Media Policy** (guidance in NALC Communications Toolkit).
- A Facebook page needs to make it clear which (if any) postings represent official Council policy.
- Detailed advice booklets on use of Facebook and Twitter are available from Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (www.oxonrcc.org.uk).

This topic was followed by a presentation on Queen's Park Community Council, just about to be elected as London's first Parish Council.

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Pensions

SCC Pensions declined to attend the meeting on the ground that there was no point in them coming to give a general explanation. They are however willing to come and talk to individual Councils and we should certainly arrange this. The contact is Paul Baker at SCC.

Apparently the Surrey Actuary ruled that Parishes could not be pooled for pension purposes because the Surrey Pool did not, in his judgement, have enough critical mass to sustain the liabilities. A considerable number of Surrey Parish Councils are not in LGPS. By contrast West Sussex had no such issue and its parishes remain pooled in LGPS.

Parish Council staff have no automatic right to join the LGPS, but, under the new superannuation rules, Councils must offer to contribute to a pension scheme, which need not be LGPS. This will need to be born in mind as and when our Clerk retires.