

DRAFT
Minutes of the 18th, Claygate Village Meeting
7.45pm, on Thursday 24th May 2018, at Claygate Village Hall

Present:

Parish Councillors: Geoff Herbert (Chairman), Xingang Wang (Vice Chairman), Mark Sugden, John Bamford, Bill Chilcott, Bernadette Pearce, Julian Way, Ken Huddart and Tony Shearman

Parish Clerk: Shirley Round

Elmbridge Borough Councillors: Mary Marshall and Mike Rollings

Members of the Public: 17

Apologies: Surrey Council Councillor Mike Bennison

Item 1. Welcome from the Chairman of Claygate Parish Council (CPC)

Cllr Herbert, the new Chairman of the Parish Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained that every Parish Council has to have a Village Meeting which must take place between 1st March and 30th June. This is not a Parish Council Meeting but is one for residents, for the Parish Council to report on the previous year and for residents to pose questions. Cllr Herbert handed over the next part of the meeting to Cllr Sugden, who had been Chairman of the Parish Council for the last four years.

Cllr Sugden explained that he had not resigned from the Parish Council but had resigned as Chairman as he felt it was appropriate for another Councillor to take on the role. During the last year the Council had taken an active part in planning matters which is an important part of the Parish Council's responsibilities. He reported that the precept had remained the same for some years and the reserves had grown substantially and together with the Community Infrastructure Levy paid to the Parish Council had enabled it to give substantial grants to both the Claygate Recreation Ground Trust, 1st Claygate Scouts and the Youth Club. For the second year running the Parish Council had been involved in organising the Remembrance Day Parade in the Village using the Parish Council's public liability insurance, taking responsibility for the temporary road closure application and funding the private company road marshals to oversee the traffic restrictions during the Parade and outdoor service. It is hoped the Parish Council will be able to set up a working party to help with the Poppy Appeal collections later this year.

He thanked the Clerk and Cllr John Bamford (last year's Vice Chairman) for their support.

Item 2 Minutes of the last Meeting

The minutes of the last Annual Village Meeting held on Tuesday 28th March 2017 were available at the meeting. David Hinton proposed acceptance of the Minutes, seconded by Veronica Bamford and these were duly signed by the Chairman.

Item 3. Reports from the Chairman of the Committees of Claygate Parish Council (CPC)

Highways and Transportation

This committee is chaired by Cllr Ken Huddart who gave the report.

During the year repair of the horse ride in Woodstock Lane South has been completed together with the formation of a rural footpath running along Woodstock Lane South. This enables walkers to access the footpath to Chessington without encroaching onto the horse ride. The portion nearer the Stevens Lane end has not been included as this is a shared footpath and there would be technical difficulties in upgrading it for horses and pedestrians. Unfortunately it has not been possible to proceed with the recreational cycle route from Coverts Road, through Birchwood Lane and Arbrook Common to Claygate. Cllr Huddart asked the meeting if there was a local resident who would like to work with the Parish Council in progressing this project.

The Committee have tried, unsuccessfully, to halt the increased charges levied by Elmbridge BC on local car parks. The proposed control of on street parking in a short length of Church Road is finally being implemented and this should help to minimise grid-lock. The introduction of double yellow lines on the corners of some roads in Claygate is also being implemented.

With the help of the Claygate Tree Wardens, 5 verge trees have been planted, supported by donations from residents.

Planning

This Committee is chaired by Cllr John Bamford who gave the report.

He explained the role of the Planning Committee is to preserve the character of Claygate and the Green Belt. The decision makers are Elmbridge Borough Council but the Parish Council gives a view on all application and an objection made by the Parish Council means the application has to go to the East Area Planning Committee. In the last twelve months the Planning Committee has objected to 20

applications. 2 applications on Green Belt involved a considerable amount of time. Cllr Bamford detailed current applications awaiting decisions. All Planning Applications and decisions are available on the Elmbridge Borough Council website.

The Committee will continue to monitor planning applications and will endeavour to do the best for Claygate within planning policy.

Environment and Leisure

This Committee is chaired by Cllr Bill Chilcott who gave the report.

The Clean Up Day on the 28th April had been quite successful with 40 people and the members of 1st Claygate Scouts taking part. The increase in the number of people involved was thought due to increased publicity using banners and social media. Cllr Chilcott expressed his appreciation for all the volunteers who help on the maintenance of the Highway Garden Sites. These sites are largely maintained by volunteers with the help of one professional gardener. There will be some work undertaken on the trees on the Meadow Road Green, which is classified as a village green, in September. Cutting back some smaller shrubs and bushes will be undertaken by local residents. The Woodstock Lane triangle has been re-planted.

The hanging baskets and troughs have been put up this week. It is hoped they make a better display than those purchased by the Parish Council from EBC last year. EBC did not charge for those baskets however it meant that the Village did not have the displays that had been enjoyed in previous years.

Item 4. Presentation of the Brian Rhodes Community Cup

A record number of nominations had been received from members of the community and it took 3 rounds of balloting to secure the winner. The Chairman announced the winner of the cup this year was Neal Williams. Neal has been a volunteer at Claygate Royals FC for 12 years— firstly as a team Manager and for the last 5 years, Vice-Chairman of the club. He comes to the Recreation Ground on a regular basis when CRFC play their home matches to undertake a whole range of club-related tasks. Not only is he responsible for all the club's equipment he supports the Chairman in every aspect of the day-to-day running of one of the largest football clubs in Surrey. Neal thanked the community and Parish Council for the award.

Item 5. Open Forum

In response to resident questions:

Closure of the footpath by Elmbridge Eagles Rugby Club.

This had happened very recently. The reason is not known however the Parish Council will try to find out the reason. It was suggested this might something to do with flooding and that the path may be closed for some weeks.

Recent vandalism and parking problems in Dalmore Avenue

The recent vandalism had been reported to the Police. Residents felt that the reduction in policing had increased vandalism as individuals now felt they could get away with it. A problem had also arisen at the time of the second fire on the recreation ground when fire engines had not been able to access the recreation ground because of parked cars. Residents are working with SCC, EBC and the police commissioner.

Painting yellow lines

It is understood that this work has not been completed due to parked cars and SCC will be returning to finish the job. Cllr Marshall will contact SCC and Cllr Bennison to complain about the unfinished work. Cllr Marshall is also attempting to get the roundabouts repainted. Cllr Huddart reported that parking by bus stops will soon be a parking offense. Residents also complained that there were no signs displayed to explain the restrictions.

Strategic Direction

The Chairman agreed there may well be strategic projects which CPC could become involved in and agreed that CPC will further engage with various organisations in the Village for ideas.

Tree in the Parade outside the Game Larder

This tree has recently been cut down and a high stump remains. It is thought to be unsightly and residents wonder why it remains and cannot be removed. The stump is still alive and is sprouting and it is recommended that we wait to see what happens.

Reduction in Plastic Packaging

Owners of the Game Larder are anxious to encourage reduction in the use of plastic packaging. This will form a regular agenda item at Environment & Leisure Committee meetings. Cllr Marshall is keen to encourage local shopkeepers to promote the use of paper and cloth bags and explained there may be grants available from EBC.

Poor attendance at the Village meeting

Although the meeting had been widely advertised on the website, social media, notices on the notice boards and mention in the Courier it was suggested that improved publicity, for example banners and leaflet drops, may encourage more residents to attend in future. The Parish Council will consider additional publicity.

Support for Claygate Youth Club

It was felt that during the evening nothing had been mentioned about the importance of supporting the Youth Club and other youth activities. The Parish Council has donated £500 to the Youth Club this year for refurbishment work.

The Chairman closed the meeting, thanked those residents who had attended for raising a considerable number of issues and hoped they would spread the word and encourage more people to attend next year. The date of the meeting will be publicised well in advance.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

Signed:

Dated: