

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



**Minutes of the 14th**  
**CLAYGATE VILLAGE MEETING**  
**7.45.00 pm on 29 May 2014 at Claygate Village Hall**

**Present:**

**Parish Councillors** Mark Sugden (*Chairman*), Ken Huddart, Geoff Herbert, Alex Coomes, Noel Isaacs, Mary Marshall, Helen Maguire

**Borough Councillors:** (Alex Coomes), (Geoff Herbert), (Mary Marshall)

**County Councillor & Mayor of Elmbridge:** Mike Bennison

**Parish Clerk:** Freda Collins

Approx. 25 electors

**Item 1. Welcome from the Chairman of the Parish Council**

The Chairman, Mark Sugden, welcomed everyone to the meeting which was being hosted by the Parish Council. The meeting is convened by the Parish Council on behalf of residents.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Sheppard, O'Brien and Hallett.

He told the meeting that he is proud of the Parish Council which works very hard on behalf of Claygate.

**Item 2. Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes for the last village meeting on 16 May 2013 were available at the meeting. They were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

**Item 3. Report of the Committees**

- Ken Huddart – **Highways and Transportation**
- Noel Isaacs – **Planning.**
- Anthony Sheppard – **Environment.**

**Highways & Transportation**

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

i. The main part of the report was the initial findings of the parking survey. There has been a 20% response-some on-line, some hard copy.

Only part of the survey has been analysed so far, all the comments section has yet to be processed.

a. 99% of the replies were from residents, and 84 % of those thought there is a parking problem.

b. 70% would like controls during particular times; not all day. The majority wanted weekday controls only and there was a rejection of 'pay & display' machines.

c. There were different views in different parts of the village, but 72% thought there should be some control in Zone A.

d. 32% use the car parks at least weekly, usually for shopping. 76% would use them more if the first half hour were free.

ii. SCC has started on planned road maintenance. The cushions are being removed from The Avenue and Aston Road.

iii. The station now has a longer platforms. Initially, there will only be 4 longer trains per day.

iv. CPC requested station refurbishments, some of which have been done.

v. We arranged to have work done on Old Claygate Lane where there was a large wet patch. It has improved, if not solved, the problem.

vi. CPC and the CRGT are liaising with EBC to open the rear gate for the Torrington Lodge car park during the day at weekends to encourage more use of the car park by users of the Recreation Ground. EBC will carry out a consultation.

**Planning**

This committee is chaired by Noel Isaacs, who gave the report

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- i. The 40 acre plot at Barwell Farm has been sold. It is now being offered for sale in smaller lots. CPC has kept a weekly watching brief and photographic record regarding everything happening on this site. Currently there are 3 horses grazing in the field nearest to Claygate Common. A check has been kept on the sale website and currently 4 lots are under offer.
- ii. During the period May 2013 until 30 May 2016, there is a temporary change involving Prior Notifications (PN's) for domestic extensions. This doubles the length of single storey rear extensions from 3 to 6M for terraced, semi-detached dwellings and bungalows, and 4 to 8M for detached dwellings. With the Larger Home Extension Notice, all that is required is that the neighbours be consulted and that they agree to the work. All these extensions must be completed on or before the 30 May 2016. For further details see the government planning portal, [www.planningportal.gov.uk](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk).
- iii. There was an update on Community Infrastructure Levy on 24 February 2014, the key criteria being Self-build and residential extensions will be exempt from CIL. Applicants 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.
- iv. Within the local infrastructure spending boards 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. We have yet to receive money from EBC. When it happens it will be done over 2 instalments each year.
- v. 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.
- vi. 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.

#### Environment

This Committee is chaired by Cllr Anthony Sheppard who wrote the report. The report was given by Mark Sugden.

- i. Continued thanks to the Green Team and members of CIB who keep the village looking nice. More volunteers are needed.
  - ii. There are lots of people who regularly pick up litter in their streets and we thank you
  - iii. CPC re-tendered the HGS contract and it was awarded to Pauls Gardening Services. We get a small grant from EBC towards this; CPC contributes more funding and volunteer help.
  - iv. The Environment Committee and the whole Parish Council supported the refurbishment of the War Memorial.
  - v. We have carried out improvements to the HGS at Red Lane and Glenavon Close.
  - vi. We organised a successful Clean Up day when bags of rubbish were collected by residents and the Scouts.
  - vii. One of our volunteers regularly picks up litter along Woodstock Lane South which is one of the worst areas in the Borough for fly tipping. A huge amount of money is spent every year by EBC to clear this up. EBC are now offering a reward to those who give information leading to a conviction for fly tipping.
  - viii. Cllr Sheppard has been in contact with Thames Water and the Environment Agency over the recent flooding and sewer overflows near Hare Lane Green.
  - ix. Tree work has been carried out on Meadow Road Island and other HGS sites.
- Thanks were given to all those who help to keep Claygate a great place to live.

#### **Item 4. Presentation of the Brian Rhodes Community Cup**

The Chairman announced that there were a good, strong number of nominees this year. He announced that the winners of the cup for this year were Bonnie and Barry Fitzpatrick for their work on the Flower Show. In a direct quote from one of their nominations '*they have taken the show to a higher level and prepared it for the next 100 years*'

The Chairman presented the cup and Barry gave a short speech of acceptance.

#### **Item 5. Speaker –Dave Page**

Due to unforeseen circumstances, there was no guest speaker.

#### **Item 6. Open Forum**

The Chairman announced that general questions would be taken.

Q: The parking problems in the village are mostly created by commuters. Many commuters do not know how reasonable the season ticket is for the car park. There has been an increase in parking on the pavement; this is an unacceptable practise.

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A: CPC has really tried over the last 9 months to put information out. Volunteers have put information leaflets out in the roads where commuters park and included an article in the Courier. We will repeat the exercise. In response to a request from CPC, EBC has put notices up in the car parks stating the annual season ticket price.

We have resisted handing out leaflets at the train station as we do not want to upset SW Trains. They have a car park which is in competition with the EBC car parks. We are grateful that they allow free car parking at the weekend and we do not want them to remove this concession.

There is legislation to prevent parking on the footway, but Police will not enforce this unless there is total obstruction (usually all 4 wheels). At the Police Panel meeting, the Police stated that is advantageous to have parked cars in a road as this slows the speed of the traffic. It was noted that this problem has got worse in the last 12-18 months.

It is known that EBC have carried out a parking review and Hare Lane is specifically mentioned in the review.

Q: Is it not an offence to dangerously park? Is it not an offence to park close to a junction?

A: Unfortunately as most of the population are motorists, most people are against enforcement. Some yellow lines have been requested at some junctions- we are waiting for SCC to implement them. It is not an offence to park close to a junction; it is just a code.

There is a great deal of additional data on the parking surveys- all the comments have to be analysed.

Q: Are figures available for the number of people using the station? Are there figures available for how many of them travel to the station by car?

A: Figures are available in the Surrey Rail Strategy.

Q: The station car park is usually half empty- will SW Trains reduce the fees in order to entice more users?

A: This argument has been going on for decades. All day parking costs £2 in the EBC car park and £5 in the station car park. There are other car parks along the line which are full. SW Trains cannot reduce the fees in one car park without reducing the fees in the others.

Q: How many cars are parked on the road compared to the number of empty spaces in the car parks?

A: EBC are concerned about revenue from car parks. It is believed that raising car park rates will be counter-productive and will lead to less use and, hence, less revenue. EBC can prove, however, that raising rates does raise revenue if the levels are raised in small steps.

CPC is trying to encourage use of car parks. But fewer cars on the roads will only lead to more commuters driving to Claygate to use the spaces left by motorists now using the car parks.

Q: The problem with Claygate is that we have free parking on the streets- but part of the joy of living in Claygate is that it is a village –so we don't want yellow lines. If we have yellow lines in Zone A, then the parking will spread to Zone B. If we get residents parking- this will make life more difficult for residents and their visitors. If we do get parking controls they should be limited to the middle of the day to prevent commuter parking. Parking of strange cars causes a security problem as the owners are not known to residents.

A: It is recognised that there is an issue, but there is not an obvious solution. We are currently analysing the comments of residents in the parking survey. But any decision will have to be a village decision. This will not satisfy everyone, as with the case of The Avenue. Residents in The Avenue did want the humps removed, but the majority decision from residents in surrounding roads was to remove the humps- so the humps are to be removed. CPC want the Police to monitor the speed in The Avenue after the removal of the humps.

Q: Why are all the bus stops not no-parking zones?

A: This is mainly a problem at the Hare Lane bus stop at the junction with Dalmore Avenue. The frontagers were consulted on changing the parking controls and refused them.

Q: The Parish Council used to support Youth activities in the village- is there no longer that focus?

A: We try to do our best for all residents; young or old. We do not have a specific Councillor for Youth in the same way that we don't have a specific Councillor for the elderly.

Q: Can we have a one-way system in Church road as it is so difficult to get down the road now. There will be a serious altercation there soon.

A: There was, in fact, an accident in Church Road very recently. Certain sites have been flagged as problems in the parking survey.

Q: Can we have more enforcement of parking- we need more traffic wardens. There is still parking on both sides of The Parade even though the station car park is free at the weekend.

A: The Traffic Wardens are under EBC and generally do a good job. Yellow lines are down to the Police to enforce.

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Q: I note that you have Committees other than H&T, Planning and Environment.

A: There is a Communications Working Party which organises the production of the Courier. It also oversees the website which gives all the statutory information we are obliged to publish. We looked at Social Media sites some time ago and rejected their use by CPC. We are now reconsidering whether we want to join these platforms. We have a Strategy group which meets once a year to look to the future of the Parish Council. Councillors listen to residents views and use this to provide a vision for CPC. All Councillors are members of this group. Councillors get views by listening to residents and by being members of other organisations.

Q: There is a problem with people parking in disabled bays.

A: SCC made a mistake by putting 2 disabled bays outside the Coop. One has now been taken away. CPC has asked for another bay outside the pharmacy.

Q: There is a problem with overgrowing vegetation in Oaken Lane and other parts of Claygate.

A: Some of the vegetation belongs to one of the Councils, but some belongs to residents. The best way to deal with this is to report it to SCC. They will deal with it.

Q: Years ago, CPC won a national award for their publications of the Courier and Claygate Life. Claygate Life was a large magazine funded by advertising which gave every organisation in Claygate a chance to communicate. Will CPC ever publish a Claygate Life again?

A: It is certainly something we could look at.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and raising issues.

A member of the public thanked all the Councillors for doing a brilliant job and expressed gratitude to them for doing it.

.....Chairman

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