

DRAFT

Minutes of the 17th, Claygate Village Meeting
7.45pm, on Tuesday 28th March 2017, at Claygate Village Hall

Present:

Parish Councillors: Mark Sugden (Chairman), John Bamford (Vice-Chairman), Bill Chilcott, Geoff Herbert, Bernadette Pearce, Julian Way and Gavin Wilson.

Interim Administrator & Proper Officer: Shirley Round

County Councillor: Mike Bennison and 20 residents

Apologies: Cllrs Ken Huddart, Xingang Wang and Tony Shearman

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

Cllr Sugden welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked all the Councillors for their work over the last year and Shirley Round the Interim Administrator, while the Council recruits a new Clerk. 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 to Councillors. He noted that CPC finances were in good shape and that the precept for 2017/18, recently agreed by CPC held the Band D rate unchanged.

The Council had received £16.9k in Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds since the inception of the scheme in 2013, with a further £6.3k being held by Elmbridge Borough Council (EBC) for the Parish Council. A grant of £30,000 had recently been awarded to the Claygate Recreation Ground Trust towards the clubhouse rebuild project. 50% (£15,000) of this grant is coming from CIL funds held by the Parish Council. A grant had recently been agreed for the Youth Club to help fund their activities.

He noted that CPC had recently submitted a response to EBC draft Local Plan and had once again supported the Annual Remembrance Sunday Parade, taking responsibility for the temporary road closure application, utilising the Parish Council public liability insurance and funding the private company road marshals to oversee the traffic restrictions during the Parade and Outdoor Service.

Item 2 Minutes of the last Meeting

The minutes of the last Annual Village Meeting held on Thursday 26th May 2016 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 Ken Huddart and in his absence the Chairman read his report.

Maintenance of the horse ride in Woodstock Lane South has recently been completed. Local equestrians had helped by lopping some of the vegetation. Support had been given to the Ruxley Heights Residents' Association in its application to re-open, for pedestrians, the track to the bridleway bridge by the A3. The Committee have tried, unsuccessfully, to halt the increased charges levied by Elmbridge BC on local car parks. Surrey CC completed its initial consultation on on-street parking and has decided not to propose the addition of significant new controls. The proposed control of on street parking in a short length of Church Road, if finally implemented, should help to minimise the grid-lock there. The Cycling Working Party has identified a project of a recreational cycle route from Coverts Road, through Birchwood Lane and Arbrook Common to return to Claygate, which is being progressed. The Committee continues to report to Surrey CC defective roads with potholes, water leaks and faulty reinstatements particularly in Oaken Lane and Hare Lane. With the help of the Claygate Tree Wardens, verge trees have been planted, mainly in Brookfield Gardens, supported by donations from residents.

Planning

This Committee is chaired by Geoff Herbert who gave the report.

He mentioned that the Planning Committee reviews all applications in Claygate, recognising that the final decision on applications rests with EBC. The Committee had been heavily involved with Green Belt issues – especially the proposed Traveller site on 40 Acre Field and also the proposed extension to the Scout Centre on Oaken Lane, amongst others. He emphasised the pressure for building new houses had never been greater and it is the aim of the Planning Committee is always to try and moderate building to maintain quality of life. This doesn't mean no development, but managed development. 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 Bill Chilcott who gave the report.

He mentioned Claygate Clean Up Day on Saturday 22nd April and encouraged as many people as possible to turn up on the day. The meeting point is the Hare Lane car park (by Champions) at 10am. The land at the end of Derwent Close has recently been reinstated, 50% funded by CPC and 50% received from local residents but the long term management is undecided. He expressed his appreciation for all the volunteer help on the maintenance of the Highway Garden Sites. The bus shelter outside the Village Hall has been in need of repair for some time but responsibility for the repair is disputed between Surrey CC and EBC. The telephone box outside the Village Hall has been saved from disconnection but BT are being encouraged to remove the disconnected boxes in Coverts Road.

Item 4. Presentation of the Brian Rhodes Community Cup

From nominations received from members of the community the Chairman announced that the winner of the cup this year was Helen Maguire. Helen was nominated for her tremendous contribution to the Claygate Recreation Ground Trust and especially during the difficult period following the fire at the clubhouse.

Helen thanked Councillors for voting for her. However, she felt that the contribution made by the Trustees of CRGT were also deserving of thanks for their hard work and support in the last few months.

Item 5. Open Forum

In response to resident questions:

Claygate Courier

The Chairman reported that there had been an immense amount of pressure on the Council recently, including the resignation of the Clerk and the fact that the volunteers who had acted as key co-ordinators of the Courier's production had moved on. It was hoped that a Spring edition would be produced. He reinforced that it's production relied on volunteers as is the case with so many organisations in the Village. He noted that communication with residents remains critically important and that communication on local issues needs to be across multiple media, including the Courier but also via the updated CPC website and social media.

Litter

Cllr Chilcott was thanked for arranging the Clean Up Day.

Foley Mews

Thanks were given CPC for assisting local residents over their issue with Thames Water. Their current problem lies with trying to ascertain who has responsibility for trees on land abutting Foley Mews and who should clean the pavements and gullies. The Chairman noted that EBC should clean the pavements and SCC the gullies and that he had informed both authorities that this was not a private road.

Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Herbert reported that considerable restructuring of Neighbourhood Watch has occurred resulting in the structure being much more web-based. He will be attending a Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators meeting in early June and will contact the local volunteers if they are willing to continue.

40 Acre Field Planning Application

The Chairman reported on the above planning application which had gone to appeal and that CPC had joined with other concerned residents and had agreed to partially fund the cost of specialist planning and legal advice.

Future 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.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm