

Claygate Village Meeting

7.45pm, on Thursday 26th May 2016, at Claygate Village Hall

Present:

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

Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer: Zak Keshavjee

Borough Councillors: Mary Marshall

County Councillor: Mike Bennison

and 21 residents

Item 1. Welcome from the Chairman of the Parish Council

Cllr Sugden welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked all the Councillors for their work over the last year and noted that the Council had appointed a new Clerk in August 2015, who was in attendance.

He mentioned that the Parish Council finances were in good shape with balances at year end 2015/16 of £58,000 and that the precept for 16/17, recently agreed by the Parish Council, held the Band D rate unchanged.

The Council had received £13,488 in CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) funds, included in the year end balances, since the inception of the scheme, with a further £4,142 being held by EBC for the Parish Council. None of this had been expended.

He noted that the Parish Council submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England had been influential in ensuring that the borough council boundary for Claygate was unchanged. Moreover, the Parish Council had stepped in to support the continuation of the Annual Remembrance Sunday Parade by taking on the responsibility for the temporary road closure application and utilizing the Parish Council public liability insurance for the parade and outdoor service. An updated Parish Council website went operational in February. A grant had recently been agreed for the Youth Club to ensure that Surrey County Council (SCC) continued to provide three evenings a week for Claygate Youth, until Easter 2016.

He then asked the meeting for approval to take item 4, the Presentation of the Community Cup, at this stage of the meeting. This was agreed.

Item 4. Presentation of the Community Cup

From nominations received from members of the community the Chairman announced that the winner of the cup this year was Albert Boyman. Albert was nominated for his tremendous contribution to the Claygate Gardening Society over many years. He has organised a huge number of gardening society trips which have and continue to enrich the lives of many residents.

Albert addressed the meeting and thanked Councillors for both the nomination and for voting for him. He said that he was very honoured to be awarded the cup and that he had very much enjoyed and continues to enjoy organising the trips both in the UK and also abroad.

Item 2 Minutes of the last Meeting

The minutes of the last Annual Village Meeting held on Thursday 28th May 2015 were available at the meeting. They were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

Claygate Village Meeting (cont'd)

Item 3. Reports from the Chairman of the Committees of the Parish Council

Brief verbal reports were provided.

- **Highways and Transportation**

This Committee is currently chaired by Ken Huddart who gave the report.

He noted that a second ticket machine was being provided at the station. A new horse crossing had been constructed on Woodstock Lane South with financial support from the community. A cycling sub-committee had been established and a cycling survey had been included in a recent issue of The Courier. Issues relating to on-street parking will be subject to a future review by SCC.

- **Planning**

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

He mentioned that the Planning Committee reviews all applications in Claygate, recognising that the ultimate determination of applications is with Elmbridge Borough Council. The Committee had dealt with a wide range of applications, from fences to new houses.

- **Environment and Leisure**

This Committee is currently chaired by Julian Way who gave the report.

He thanked residents and the Scouts for their assistance and help at the Claygate 'Clean Up' Day in April and hoped to get even more volunteers in the future. He expressed his appreciation for all the volunteer help on the maintenance of the Highway Garden Sites.

Item 5. Open Forum

In response to resident questions:

- **Highways**

-Cllr. Wang reported that he had raised the matter of poor Thames Water utility repairs with them and our MP and that he hoped that the repairs to the High Street, in particular, would be fixed shortly.

-Efforts are being made to get the fire hydrants in Oaken Lane by the Scout Hut sorted.

-Cllr. Shearman noted that assessment was being made on whether there was a need for a 'lollipop' person at either Church Road, opposite the 'Rec' and/or by Londis on the High Street, to enhance safety to school.

- **Planning**

-A number of planning matters were raised - general and specific. It was reiterated that EBC is the ultimate arbiter. EBC will be updating its Local Plan and the Parish Council will do its best to keep residents posted on proposals and how to comment. On planning applications in Claygate, any resident can attend the regular meetings of the Parish Council Planning Committee when these are discussed and/or submit their views direct to EBC via their website.

- **Young People**

The Council is committed to do whatever it can along with local voluntary organisations to support all elements of our community and in response to questions particularly related to youth noted its financial support to the Youth Club.

- **Future Direction**

The Chairman noted that the Council seeks to, identify, based on resident feedback, potential future strategic projects to benefit the Village. The Council could also potentially utilise the General Power of Competence which gives councils the power to do anything an individual can do provided it is not prohibited by other legislation, to deliver projects.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm