



PARISH OF CLAVERDON

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 14th May 2019

Present :- S Lawton (Chairman for the Annual Parish Meeting) : H. Spiers : D Middleton : K Meeson: M Wilcox:
N Dargan. County Councillor J. Horner
15 Members of The Public, including Speakers.

Apologies: - Apologies have been received from Philip Bicknell who was delayed in traffic and arrived during the Meeting, and District Councillor P Richards who was delayed at another meeting.

- 1 Parish Council Report for the year ending 31 March 2019. Simon Lawton advised that it had been a very busy year resulting in an unprecedented amount of email communication. The Chairman thanked the Councillors for all their efforts over the past year and for their time, which is freely given as their positions are unpaid. The Chairman also thanked the Clerk for managing a very challenging first year.
 - 1.1 One of the main tasks of the Parish Council is being a Planning Application Consultee. The input on 2 applications had been significant and had resulted in the cases going to Planning Committee with appropriate successes recorded against an application made by Heart of England Farms and another to alter the levels on established pastureland at the old Spiers Yard on Langley Road.
 - 1.2 The Parish Council reviewed the mowing contracts by obtaining quotes and last year changed the mowing contractors. This was not altogether successful and after conducting the same exercise earlier this year, other contractors have been employed and the standards have improved.
 - 1.3 There has been a 13% increase in the Precept for 19/20. There had been an effort to keep the increase low in previous years, but with the pressure of cost increases and the need for maintenance, the precept has been increased. Efforts to keep costs down will continue with quotes from 3 contractors being obtained for major costs to ensure value and service are delivered.
 - 1.4 Progress is being made on the Biodiversity Offset Management Plan for Yarningale Common that hopefully will improve the area and provide funding from WCC towards the mowing costs.
 - 1.5 Recreation Ground – A lot of work has been done to progress the improvements to the pavilion and new play area. Planning consent was secured, initial quotes obtained for both the pavilion and play area along with securing funding via the sale of Tattlebank Wood and grant funding from Sport England. Both amounts go a long way to providing a “good job” rather than a “patch – up” being achieved. Thanks go to the Cricket & Football clubs for their input to achieving the Sport England Grant, and to Emma Foulerton and her team for all the work on the play area and input to the WALC Grant application.
- 2 Parish Council Financial Report for the year ending 31 March 2019. - Michael Wilcox - Responsible Finance Officer (RFO)

A copy of the Parish Council accounts for the year ended 31st March 2019, is attached at **Appendix 1** of the minutes and the RFO highlighted the main points as shown there on

 - 2.1 The accounts show a surplus of £11.8k. When the precept was set in January 19, this was expected to a minimal amount as the following items have been committed to but not yet spent by 31st March 19 –

Receipt of S106 money which must be spent on play area equipment	- £4.5k
Notice Board ordered and delivery due soon	- £2.2k
Commitment to CASE for ANPR cameras	- £5.0k
Other creditors for PAYE, Clerk’s additional hours etc.	- £1.3k
 - 2.2 The Chairman concluded that though the Parish Council has reserves, these details showed that there was a need to increase the precept for this year to meet commitments.
- 3 The Warwick County Council Report was provided by County Councillor Horner
 - 3.1 Taxes have been raised by the maximum amount allowed by the Government of 3 % and 2% for Adult Social Care (ASC). WCC’s income is derived from General Rates, and any element returned to the Council from the collection of Business Rates. WCC get no general grant income, and specific grants are dependent on the health of the County Council
 - 3.2 The 2% increase for ASC is to aid the on-demand service following the high-profile financial crisis at Northampton CC. The Green Paper on the matter has been delayed due to BREXIT, but it will most likely

- show more money is needed. The WCC spend on ASC represents 65% of the annual budget for this year and will rise to 67% next year.
- 3.3 WCC spend more than the average on childcare. The service is good and therefore may be attracting demand from outside the borough, however this is being checked.
- 3.4 Trading Standards at WCC were the leaders on Cyber Crime and provide good information on their “No Rogue Readers Here” website which has registered contractors/traders who have been vetted
- 3.5 Waste Disposal – “Slim you bin” initiative continues. WCC are set to spend up to £12.5m on new compactors at the recycling centres. Anything that can be done to reduce waste and the amount going to landfill will be beneficial.
- 3.6 WCC provides £500k for the UBUS Service.
- 3.7 WCC Highways were joint top with other counties in dealing with potholes.
- 3.8 The WCC Communities Grant Fund has been opened with applications due in by 7th June. The aim is to improve community cohesion. Any groups can apply for the grant and it is understood that Claverdon will make an application for the new play area.
- 3.9 Councillor Meeson asked how many compactors were being purchased for £12.5m. County Councillor Horner said that this covered 7 or 8 sites and that the budget of £12.5m did also include the budget for the Small Road Safety Schemes.
- 3.10 Dan Powel asked what the Child Care Services covered. County Councillor Horner explained that this covered at risk children, children in care, special needs transport to school, but excludes CAMS.

4 Village Groups and Organisations Reports

- 4.1 Gardening Club – Chris Duckworth. Committee Chair
- 4.1.1 Chris Duckworth gave his first presentation a year ago and what was then a “new” committee is unchanged with Chris, Kath Kaveney, Heather Sharp, Paul and Rachel Dryhurst, John and Anne Canfield, Peter Morgan, Carol Bale and Jean Forsyth on the committee. Chris thanked them all for their support, their experience, and for the great job that they do.
- 4.1.2 The weather was turbulent & unpredictable with some notable records - the summer was the warmest since 2006, the driest since 2003 and the sunniest since 1995 with no rain for 50 consecutive days. This did understandably affect the standard & number of entries at the Autumn Show.
- 4.1.3 The GC did intend running the Country Market in November but after considerable work organising the Autumn Show for the first time, decided to cancel it last year. The GC were advised last year by Country Markets Ltd that we were infringing their trademark name, so we are now planning for a “Country Fayre” at the DM Hall on November 9th, 19.
- 4.1.4 The GC have almost 100 members paying £10 per annum membership. They have some great speakers at their monthly meetings and some fun day trips out. This is as important for its social benefits as much as sharing gardening advice, with many members who were also in the village WI, that has now sadly finished. They have had a couple of evenings with no formal speaker, with quizzes and competitions and chance for a general catch up, which was enjoyed by all.
- 4.1.5 Achievements over the last year include planting daffodils on the approaches to the village & addressing the triangle on the corner of St Michaels and Langley Road which now has two new wooden planters to add seasonal colour. The GC also refurbished the bench there and provided slabbing for all three items.
- 4.1.6 Chris thanked the Parish Council for their continued support and help in making these projects happen.
- 4.1.7 The Chairman thanked Chris & his team as it was recognised that they make Claverdon more special by all their efforts.
- 4.2 Claverdon Primary School - Dan Powel. Head Teacher.
- 4.2.1 The School was built in 1965 and is now considering plans for a Diamond Jubilee Celebration. It has undergone a rebranding exercise and introduced a new school house to achieve 4 in total.
- 4.2.2 A site visit to discuss signage and road marking is arranged with WCC Safer Routes to School
- 4.2.3 The current pupil roll is 206 with a finalised Reception intake of 32 in September
- 4.2.4 Investment in the curriculum and learning environment during the year have involved investment in a new reading scheme from Reception Year to year 5 , a new projector & screen, repainting of the communal areas, installation of new display boards, the building of a nurture and intervention meeting room, redevelopment of the memorial garden and the creation of a Welcome Meadow in front of the school entrance.

- 4.2.5 The site security will be improved by the Local Authority installing new boundary fencing
- 4.2.6 There are new appointments in 2 new full-time teachers and 1 part time teacher and the school welcomes Kathy Hewitt who joins Governing Board as LA Governor following a successful teaching career.
- 4.2.7 Councillor Wilcox asked how many children attended Claverdon School from outside Claverdon. Dan Powel said he would ascertain the details and let Councillor Wilcox know. Dan Powel also addressed Councillor Wilcox's concern over places being available for families moving into the village and said in theory no one within Claverdon would be turned away.
- 4.2.8 The Chairman asked if there has been any response in connection with the Boys Cub Field (BCF). Dan confirmed that the School continue to use the right of way access to he BCF granted exclusive to the school until the end of May. All hoped to hear soon from UK Youth, or their advisors and the Chairman said he would like to see the land retained for the benefit of the school and the community.

- 4.3 Dorothea Mitchell Hall – Trustee - David Middleton
 - 4.3.1 David Middleton confirmed that bookings at the Hall were healthy through to 2020.
 - 4.3.2 WIFI and CCTV had been installed & a full refurbishment of the Hall conducted, with just the replacement of the curtains to complete the project.
 - 4.3.3 The barrier had been erected in the car park to prevent vehicles damaging the neighbour's fence
 - 4.3.4 The Trustees had also addressed the responsibility of a Hirer of the Hall by increasing the amount of the initial deposit
 - 4.3.5 There are currently 5 Trustees, and more are needed along with a Treasurer. David appealed for any interested Accountants to apply.
 - 4.3.6 In answer to the Chairman's question of why were booking increased, David said installing WIFI had meant that the Hall had attracted seminar bookings and that the installation of CCTV had addressed complaints from neighbours.

- 4.4 CASE & Neighbourhood Watch
 - 4.4.1 Both Les Edwards and Paul Johnson were, at short notice, unable to attend the Meeting. The written report provided by them was read to the Meeting by the Chairman and is attached to the minutes at **Appendix 2**.
 - 4.4.2 The Chairman gave a vote of thanks to Paul Johnson & his team. Other villages are interested in replicating what CASE have achieved and the outcome supported the Parish Council decision to contribute £5k to the initiative.

- 4.5 Claverdon Tennis Club - Sarah Duck. Chair of the Tennis Club
 - 4.5.1 The club is LTA affiliation, has 2 super courts and a club house. There is coaching, league matches, through to family fun tennis.
 - 4.5.2 The club hold a Wimbledon ballot for tickets every year at the Crown Inn to raise funds and to have fun
 - 4.5.3 The club hold 7 tournaments from April to October and in May 18 they held free sessions for non-members and successfully converted participants to being members
 - 4.5.4 There are 6 league teams of 3 men and 3 ladies' teams, and the club has 103 members, 12 of which are under 18 i.e. junior members. In 2013 the club had 70 junior members, however Claverdon is 1 of 2 clubs in Warwick but is the one without lighting. The club hold summer junior coaching, but cannot continue this through the winter, so juniors move elsewhere, and it is difficult to attract them back.
 - 4.5.5 Sarah invited all attending to come and join them
 - 4.5.6 The Chairman thanked Sarah for her presentation advised that the Parish Council would do what they could to help.

- 4.6 Claverdon Land Trust – County Councillor Horner & Darren Hewitt
 - 4.6.1 County Councillor Horner provided a brief history of Claverdon Land Trust, its members and reason for initial formation. County Councillor Horner explained that the main challenge is always finding a site to build upon and at the right price.
 - 4.6.2 In 2018 David Evans at Curlieu Farm agreed to sell 1.8 acers of land at a favourable price and the option on the land was signed in January 2019. In March planners confirmed that they would support new homes at the site.
 - 4.6.3 Darren Newitt of MDG Architects provided the Councillors with preliminary proposals showing 12 affordable 2 bed houses for the site. Darren explained that the proposal was sympathetic to its surroundings and would provide single storey dwellings with play areas, an allotment, & native hedgerow boundary together

with a communal orchard. Though single storey, there was a double height area within, and the style reflects a farm/ agricultural arrangement. There was either cedar or larch cladding with metal roofs. There is a high level of sustainability with solar power, geothermal heat retention, rainwater harvesting & attenuation ponds.

- 4.6.4 County Councillor Horner explained that 9 of the houses were to meet Local Needs and 3 were for Norton Lindsey local housing need.
- 4.6.5 Councillor Middleton asked about parking and it was confirmed that the intention was to have 2 car spaces per residence. Councillor Bicknell ascertained that the site was at the furthest edge of the Claverdon parish boundary. It was also confirmed that there were no costings for the preliminary proposal yet.
- 4.6.6 The Chairman advised that the Meeting was not the forum to make any decision and that Councillors would take the information away, seek further details as necessary and when appropriate make a decision on what has been presented.

5 General Questions from the Floor

- 5.1 A lady asked why a hole had been made between trees on Langley Road & Church Road in connection with fibre optic cabling and why could it not be underground as in Mickleton. Councillor Wilcox confirmed that a cable passes over his building and he had learned that it was a cost saving decision to have the cables overland. BT install the posts showing a planning notice with details thereon if there is any objection.
- 5.2 The Chairman reported that nothing had been advised to the Parish Council and there fore it was likely that the Parish Council possess no power to object but would find out.
- 5.3 With no further questions, the Chairman thanked all The Village organisations for their contribution to the meeting. The Chairman concluded the Annual Parish Meeting for 2019 and announced that the Parish Council Meeting would commence straight away.

	Budget for the Year	Payments & Receipts to 31/03/19	
-			
Income			
<i>Precept</i>	£26,000.00	£26,000.00	
<i>Recreation Field (Clubs Etc.)</i>	£750.00	£675.00	<i>Payment for fees from 17/18 season-Midland Rangers & the 18/19 Season Football fees from Claverdon FC & £165 for WCC use.</i>
<i>Bank Interest</i>	£50.00	£247.51	
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	£0.00	£71.00	<i>Compensation from Lloyds Bank following an error.</i>
<i>Playground Grants & Fundraising</i>	£25,000.00	£4,516.02	<i>S106 Funds received. Contract determines how the funds may be spent</i>
<i>Pavilion Re-build Grants</i>	£110,000.00	£0.00	
<i>Verges mowing reclaim from SDC</i>	£520.00	£1,275.98	<i>Funds received in full exceed the estimated budget</i>
<i>Wayleave Rent and Easements</i>	£290.00	£277.27	<i>Wayleave</i>
<i>VAT Reclaimed</i>	£31,000.00	£4,643.88	<i>Vat reclaimed from 16/17 & 17/18</i>
<i>WCC Councillors Grant Fund</i>	£0.00	£1,000.00	<i>Grant received towards the new Notice Board - not expended in 18/19</i>
<i>Donation for ANPR Cameras</i>	£0.00	£3,500.00	
Total	£193,610.00	£42,206.66	
Expenditure			
<u><i>Administration</i></u>			
<i>Clerk's Salary</i>	£7,500.00	£7,246.41	
<i>Clerk's & Admin Expenses</i>	£1,200.00	£977.97	
Total	£8,700.00	£8,224.38	
<u><i>Recreation Field</i></u>			
<i>Mowing</i>	£1,600.00	£2,250.00	<i>Charges were increased for mowing season 18/19 and have been held for 19/20 season</i>
<i>Playgrounds - new all ages playground at Recreation Field.</i>	£35,000.00	£0.00	
<i>Pavilion Refurbishment/Rebuild</i>	£100,000.00	£2,509.20	<i>Architect fees for Planning & Quantity Surveyors fees re. Claverdon Cricket Pavilion</i>
<i>Other General Maintenance and Field work</i>	£1,650.00	£1,715.06	<i>Water, electricity & repair to drain cover, repair pedestrian gate £220, hedge cutting £300, play area maintenance & replacement swings £550</i>
Total	£138,250.00	£6,474.26	
<u><i>Yarningale Common</i></u>			
<i>Mowing</i>	£2,000.00	£1,850.00	<i>Cost of mowing twice in the year</i>
<i>General Maintenance</i>	£1,000.00	£85.00	<i>Strimming done 17/10/17 & paid for this year</i>
Total	£3,000.00	£1,935.00	

<u>Other Village Areas</u>			
Verges and Lye Green Mowing	£3,500.00	£1,744.00	This is for the mowing of the verges, some of which has been recovered from SDC and is shown in income
CLASP/Road Safety		£3,500.00	ANPR cameras & installation. See donations received
Trees, Footpaths and Gritting, Village and Lye Green Maintenance	£6,700.00	£1,098.71	Plants & Village planters, strimming bridleway & weatherproofing bench & notice board at St Michaels' Rd.
Tattle Bank		£0.00	
Total	£10,200.00	£6,342.71	
<u>Miscellaneous and Professional</u>			
Professional Costs	£6,120.00	£852.91	Annual insurance policy £638 & £200 Audit Fees, Bank Charges £15. Budget includes £5k for legal expenses
General other costs	£33,100.00	£6,555.96	VAT incurred £2240, Neighbourhood Plan costs £1502 & WALC Subscription & others £531 & Hire of meeting rooms £275. Website Hosting & IT related costs £260. New Footpaths & bridleway Maps £920. Sundry other £827
Total	£39,220.00	£7,408.87	
Total Expenditure	£199,370.00	£30,385.22	
Surplus / (Deficit)	-£5,760.00	£11,821.44	

APPENDIX 2

Claverdon Neighbourhood Watch report for Parish Council meeting 14/5/2019

Description of Neighbourhood Watch:

Neighbourhood Watch is an organisation made up of people who are interested in working together alongside the Police to reduce crime and make the place in which they live a safer place. They do this by keeping an eye on their street or neighbourhood and reporting anything they see that seems out of place or suspicious.

Changing nature of Neighbourhood Watch:

Back in the 80s when I first started as a NHW coordinator and through the 90's when I took over as Claverdon Area Beat Chairman there were monthly meetings where information would pass between coordinators and police and paper documents would be handed out for distribution to households within each coordinator's local area. Now, almost everything is instant and online where coordinators and the public can:

- call the police on the non-emergency 101 phone number to report on suspicious activities or incidents
- access the police website for specific information or register to receive crime-related bulletins from the police

Not everyone can use online technology so, to help keep all parishioners up to date I write a monthly Newsletter for Claverdon's Parish magazine. This contains the most recent reports on local incidents plus general warnings and relevant advice.

In 2015, fifteen Claverdon Community Speed Watch volunteers successfully completed police speed gun training and I acquired equipment and hi viz jackets with financial assistance from Claverdon Parish Council, Stratford District Council and Stratford District Neighbourhood Watch. We carried out a number of successful speed monitoring sessions and passed on the details of a number of speeders for police follow up. I have since loaned the equipment to Wolverton for their own Community Speed Watch scheme and got the gun recalibration funded by Stratford District Neighbourhood Watch. Once I fully retire from work, I will look to recommence local monitoring. In the meantime, the police continue to carry out their own sporadic speed checks in Claverdon.

Current Situation:

Police numbers have dropped, but a number of different community communication schemes are in place that attempt to reduce crime in this area. These include:

- The Neighbourhood Watch web portal: www.ourwatch.org.uk
- The Police Community Messaging Service
- Next-door social networking service for neighbourhoods
- My own email distribution list of interested contacts.

I'm proud to have been and continue to be closely involved in the most important crime prevention development within the parish over the last year - the introduction of the incredibly successful CASE initiative. I believe this subject will be covered separately but in summary CASE Committee members use four strategically located ANPR camera systems to monitor and report on suspicious activities or incidents that are reported via related WhatsApp phone groups. Despite increasing crime levels nationwide and in the surrounding area, not one serious criminal incident has been reported within our protected area since the implementation of CASE and other incidents have dramatically decreased.

My telephone number is shown inside the back cover of the Parish magazine in case anyone wants to speak to me with any concerns or if they need advice on anything related to crime or policing.