



PARISH OF CLAVERDON

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 5th May 2021

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

Apologies: - Apologies received from Quilting club, Badminton club, The Village shop, British Legion and the Monday Club and CASE.
Also from The Tennis club, DM Hall and District Councillor P. Richards who all provided written reports. **See Appendices 1,2,3.**

1 **Approve minutes of 2019 Annual Parish Meeting.** SL proposed the 2019 minutes be approved, seconded by Nick Dargan. The Minutes were approved by all councillors present.

2 **Parish Council Report for the year ending 31 March 2021.**

2.1 Simon Lawton advised that it had been a remarkably busy year despite Covid lockdowns, resulting in an unprecedented amount of email communication. Thanks for given to the parish clerk, Jane Whitehurst for her efforts over the past year.

2.2 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.

2.3 Progress is being made on the Biodiversity Offset Management Plan for Yarningale Common and the formation of a new volunteer group "Friends of Yarningale Common" was welcomed. The Common has seen unprecedented use during lockdown and council will need to see if this continues going forward.

2.4 Recreation Ground – A lot of work has been completed to progress the improvements to the pavilion and new play area, both of which have been very time consuming. The Pavilion was completed late due to Covid restrictions but on budget and will be a real asset for the parish for the next 50 years. It has been completed to a very high standard. There have been major ongoing issues with the Playground contractor Kompan regarding the quality of the installation.

3 **Parish Council Financial Report for the year ending 31 March 2021.** – Jane Whitehurst - Responsible Finance Officer (RFO)

A copy of the Parish Council accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021, is attached at **Appendix 4** of the minutes and the RFO, Jane Whitehurst highlighted the main points from the accounts.

3.1 The accounts show a Deficit of £15.6k. This is mainly due to the fact that various incomes/expected grants/fundraising and expenditure for the pavilion and playground expected to fall into the 2019/2020 financial year (which had a large surplus), actually fell in 2020/21 due to delays in starting and Covid restrictions.

3.2 The £23k Installation fee to Kompan remains unpaid due to the ongoing dispute and there remains £5k in unclaimed VAT.

3.3 Question was asked from the public as to why the precept and risen by more than inflation. Chair SL outlined the proposed works to Yarningale common and to the stiles and footpaths that has resulted in the rise.

4 **The Warwick County Council Report** was provided by County Councillor Horner. **See Appendix 5**

4.1 In addition to the 3 C's of COVID, climate change and Council Tax, Councillor Horner acknowledged the recognition given by the Lord Lieutenant to Toby Lapage-Norris for his work supporting people who were isolating during the pandemic with food boxes.

4.2 Question from Chair SL on views on the potential merger of WCC and SDC. JH replied that the merger has been on the cards for along time with the main intent to save overheads of replicated job positions in each council, especially as 80% of budget is spent on social care.

5 **Village Groups and Organisations Reports**

- 5.1 **Claverdon Primary School** - Dan Powel. Head Teacher.
- 5.1.1 The current numbers on the roll is 197 pupils with the current attendance being 97.2%.
- 5.1.2 The School has 30 children or 15% on the SEND register with some waiting upwards of two years to get assessed and so large amount of his budget has been spent getting his children assessed privately.
- 5.1.3 3% or approximately five children qualify for free school meals.
- 5.1.4 During Covid, attendance was approximately 46% of children in school and there were two cases of Covid from separate families and several staff members had Covid very early on in the pandemic.
- 5.1.5 Mrs Silk, the previous deputy head has left to become the head of Snitterfield school and the new deputy head will be Matthew Tyler. The school also welcomes three new governors.
- 5.1.6 Moving forward, the school wishes to sort out the lease with the Boy's club field which runs up until July and highlighted the need to ensure the safety of the children during the build period of any new houses on Beach Lane .
- 5.1.7 SL offered to talk with Dan Powell regarding the Boy's club field as he has a generous offer of a local resident to mow and maintain the field.
- 5.2 **Claverdon Benefice Housing Association** - Mike Thompson, Manager/Secretary
- 5.2.1 In September 2019, CBHA went through a reorganisation from a sheltered to support accommodation and in February 2020 they purchased the freehold from the diocese of Coventry.
- 5.2.2 In March 2020, remaining bungalows were filled and so all bungalows are now occupied.
- 5.2.3 Criteria for residency is to be over 60, a resident of Claverdon or neighbouring parish and capable of independent living.
- 5.2.4 The weekly coffee mornings allowing residents to get together had to be stopped during Covid. The residents continued to meet outdoors, socially distanced, when permitted in the good weather. MT reported how residents were very impressed with support from the shop and the local support scheme during Covid.
- 5.2.5 Quarterly board meetings continue to be held by zoom during the pandemic. BT open reach had quoted for fast fibre into the bungalows but the quote of £8200 per bungalow was not competitive.
- 5.2.6 Residents celebrated V-E Day in May and it was hoped they would be more interaction with the local community going forward and the initiative of working with the School to develop a garden on the recreation field was cited as a future potential project.
- 5.2.7 The search for new board members has been successful, resulting in five new members identified.
- 5.3 **Claverdon Tennis Club** - Sarah Duck
- 5.3.1 Sarah Duck provided a written report for the tennis club **see Appendix 1**.
- 5.4 **Friends of Yarningale Common** - Martin Fairlie
- 5.4.1 Martin Fairlie introduced friends of Yarningale Common which he described as a new, small, like-minded informal volunteer group who were interested in the Common, biodiversity and ecology. He hoped to encourage other like-minded individuals to join.
- 5.4.2 He outlined that the Claverdon Parish Council had in the past commissioned to reports in 2015 and 2019 on how to manage the common and the aim is to work with the Claverdon Parish Council to promote the implementation of the recommendations of these reports on a volunteer basis.
- 5.4.3 To date the group has spoken informally to most residents living locally around the common and to several visitors. They had also posted flyers to local houses to keep them informed and they had received a positive and encouraging response to date.
- 5.4.4 He also reported that many older residents had a lot of wealth of knowledge on The Common and were willing to share this knowledge and experience. He encouraged anybody with an interest in the common to get in touch with the Fairlies, the Bowaters or the Ogdens or to get in touch via the Parish Council.
- 5.5 **Cricket Club** - Vince Hammond
- 5.5.1 Reported on a very eagerly awaited season which was continuing under national Covid guidance but should be as normal except for the use of the pavilion and the teas.
- 5.5.2 Men's cricket will continue to play on Saturday afternoons with women's cricket playing on a Wednesday training night.

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- 5.5.3 Junior cricket program comprises of under 15 and under 13 teams who all have been entered into junior leagues. New age groups are represented by the All-Stars (5 to 8 yrs) and the Dynamos (8 to 11-yrs) who meet for a training night on Friday evenings. On the Friday evening sessions, they have upwards of 100 children. There are also plans to host a summer camp.
- 5.6 **Claverdon football club** - Charlie Waterworth. CW did not attend.
- 5.7 **5.7 Other village clubs/ organisations**
- 5.7.1 **Stepping Stones Preschool** - Louise Barlow
- 5.7.1.1 The preschool runs out of the church centre and currently has 23 children on roll, 12 from the village, 8 from neighbouring villages such as Bearley and three from further away. It was highlighted and welcomed that many families were choosing to move into the village having attended Stepping Stones, so the children could move with their cohort into Claverdon School.
- 5.7.1.2 The preschool has particularly good links with the community with the links to groups at the Church Centre and activities such as Noah's storybox and with the School. They have links with the Rural Cinema group using their equipment to run very successful children's cinema events which have been very successful and popular with local families. The children have also been busy recently planting lots of sunflowers.
- 5.7.1.3 The preschool went into the pandemic in a good financial position, but the costs of PPE equipment has been very high and Covid has affected the number of children on the roll as some younger children have delayed starting.
- 5.7.1.4 The Preschool is grateful to have had exclusive use of the church centre during the pandemic but look forward to welcoming back the other users of the church centre soon.
- 5.7.1.5 The Stepping Stones garden has proved a useful space to interact with the community during the pandemic.
- 5.7.1.6 Chair SL recognised Stepping Stones as one of the most valuable assets the village has, and he hoped that current Parish Council policy on affordable housing will welcome new younger families into the village.
- 6 With no further questions, Simon Lawton ended the meeting, remarking how Covid has been a very challenging time and how hard everyone had worked and expressed gratitude to the large number of volunteers and organisations which make up such a thriving village.

Appendix 1

REPORT FOR CLAVERDON PARISH COUNCIL FROM THE TENNIS CLUB

2020-21

Sarah Duck (Chairperson)

This year, above all others, has demonstrated what a fantastic, distanced and non-contact sport tennis is. The LTA noted that there was an increase of over 300% in court bookings throughout the UK from the beginning of May to end July 2020 compared with the same period in 2019.

As soon as lockdown 1 finished court demand at Claverdon Tennis Club was up and whether it's been singles, doubles, playing within a household or bubble the demand was high.

This continued throughout the year. Wednesday evening social tennis was incredibly popular. Limited to 8 people due to government restrictions it could have been filled many times over! And it's proving to be just as popular this year too.

Although none of our usual social events have been able to take place, including the celebration we had planned for the club's centenary, we did manage to get some championship matches played.

Over the past year the committee's main focus has been on our planning application for court lighting. Our lighting partner, Exclusive Leisure, has worked tirelessly to produce the best possible lighting plan that suits a small village club in 2021. They have also lent support to those in the village who fear change, having spoken to objectors and explained some of the finer details. However, it would appear the village still has residents who do not wish to embrace change and are doing their utmost to stop our plans. Despite having gone through the democratic process of a council planning committee they are still endeavouring to prevent there from being a wonderful amenity for the village, something that will bring a bonus to the families with children who think sport is a priority. In particular, the 5 committee members of the Dorothea Mitchell Hall Trust have objected both as an organisation and as individuals. They are now spending money on legal fees in an endeavour to intimidate the tennis club into abandoning the project despite having acquired the proper and legal planning permission. What a sad situation that a village organisation wastes time and money when they are supposed to be a representative of the whole village. A total of 65 households in Claverdon objected to the Tennis Clubs plans. The population of Claverdon is over 2,000. And since March 2021 the club has had 16 new members, ALL of who live in Claverdon. Surely the time has come to accept that this is in the interest of families of the village and the future. The lighting installation is scheduled for September.

With the commencement of league matches once more, the club is full steam ahead for an exciting 2021. The tennis club continues to welcome new members of all abilities and all age groups. We need to be a club that can offer year round exercise and fun. Tennis is no longer simply a summer sport.

Appendix 2

Dorothea Mitchell Hall Trust

Registered Charity No 502021

Parish Meeting Report

5 April 2021

Covid has closed the hall for the majority of the year, but work continues in the background.

The gardens have been maintained by Ian Price. Anne & John Canfield have voluntarily nurtured the planters and surrounding area of the hall.

The Trust is responsible for the majority of trees and hedges within the site. A comprehensive arboriculturist review of all the trees was commissioned. The recommendations were adopted in full. Conservation Area status required permissions to be obtained from Stratford DC prior to work being carried out.

The tree surgeons exposed an area in the corner of the site where a beautiful garden has now been planted in memory of all those lost through the Covid pandemic. Thanks go to Anne and John Canfield and Kath Kaveney for all the work and time dedicated to this project,

An aged and faulty water pump in the basement of the hall became apparent due to electricity cost being incurred when everything was switched off! This has now been replaced together with a new central heating boiler which will be installed and commissioned for the hall reopening on 17 May.

A few classes will not be returning, but others are filling these vacant slots. So the various exercise classes, flower arranging and Gardening Club will all be returning. Thanks go to Kath Kaveney and Les Edwards for maintaining the DM Hall as Covid compliant since June 2020.

With all of Anne Canfield's volunteer work, the Trustees were delighted when she accepted the Caretaker role. In her first week she has already done a sterling job taking further bookings for parties and wedding receptions.

The Trust is also in the process of renewing the leases for the Community Shop and the Nursery and contractual rent review with the Surgery.

The Trustees offered the hall several times for Covid vaccinations but it was not required. It would have been an ideal use of the hall to have been actively involved in fighting the pandemic.

Claverdon Lawn Tennis Club secured SDC planning consent to erect floodlighting on the site. All our tenants' leases stipulate that all applications for planning must be approved by the landlord prior to consent being sought and again before any alterations are undertaken. Claverdon Lawn Tennis Club and the Parish Council are fully aware that the Trustees are solely responsible for the management of the site and that all approvals rest with them. No request for either planning permission, or actual commencement of works has yet been received by the Trustees.

The Trustees and their advisers have sought to engage with the Tennis Club on numerous occasions to ensure that the Tennis Club proceed no further with any works without proactively consulting with the Trustees beforehand.

The current, duly appointed, trustees are Phil Rowley (Chairman), Tom Doherty, Les Edwards, Kath Kaveney and Shirley Reading.

The Trustees
Dorothea Mitchell Hall

Appendix 3

Annual PC Report Snitterfield Ward – April 2021 Cllr Peter Richards

For the last twelve months the District Council has been predominately focused on the Covid-19 pandemic. Local authorities across the Country were tasked with facilitating Government grant schemes and to date we have paid out in excess of £45m in various grant schemes.

Alongside facilitating those payments the Council have also changed their way of working to enable services to continue to operate through home working alongside public meetings being held via video conference. Many of the changes will continue to operate for the foreseeable but both Council members and officers are now looking forward to a return to the office as soon as possible, with public meetings reverting from video conference back to in person meetings from May onwards.

The Covid pandemic has resulted in a huge loss of income to the Council due to closures of business' and tourism coming to a complete standstill. National research suggests that Stratford on Avon is the fourth worst hit authority in the Country. Despite that the Council has been able to produce a medium term financial plan and maintain a reasonable level of reserves.

Part of the savings the Council have implemented include shared services with Warwick District Council while further work is underway to explore a more permanent merger with WDC in the near future. That work continues and I will keep you updated as further information comes forward.

Joint working with WDC has led both Councils to agree to produce a South Warwickshire Plan, which will in essence be a review of and update to our existing Core Strategy, which sets planning policy for the area.

The first stage of public consultation on the South Warwickshire Plan will begin on 10th May and run through to 21st June 2021. For more information on the SWLP please visit: stratford.gov.uk/swlp.

Appendix 4 Claverdon Parish Council Accounts for the Year to 31 March 2021

ITEM 11.3 - AGENDA	Budget for the Year	YTD Payments & Receipts to 31/03/2021	Period 1/01/2021 to 31/03/2021	NOTES
Income.				
<i>Precept</i>	£30,600.00	£30,600.00	£0.00	
<i>Recreation Field (Clubs Etc.)</i>	£0.00	£5,724.00	£0.00	<i>Donation from Claverdon AFC for drainage works to Recreation Field £5724</i>
<i>Bank Interest</i>	£150.00	£29.28	£3.82	
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	
<i>Playground Grants & Fundraising - WALC & Donations</i>	£8,000.00	£8,344.61	£0.00	<i>£5000 Claverdon Village Fete Charity Donation for Pavilion fixtures and fittings and £3344.61 from playground team</i>
<i>Pavilion Refurb & Extension Grants</i>	£48,416.00	£22,745.00	£0.00	<i>Sports England grant for Pavilion</i>
<i>Verges mowing reclaim from SDC</i>	£1,300.00	£1,319.73	£1,319.73	
<i>Wayleave Rent and Easements</i>	£277.00	£777.27	£0.00	<i>Western Power + Wayleave Holly Cottage</i>
<i>VAT Reclaimed</i>	£17,650.00	£20,300.45	£0.00	<i>To 31/10/2020 ,£5000 still to reclaim for 20-21 financial year</i>
	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	
<i>Yarningale Biodiversity Management Plan Payment</i>	£5,818.00	£5,818.00	£0.00	
<i>WCC Councillors Grant Fund</i>	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	
	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	
Total	£113,211.00	£95,658.34	£1,323.55	
Expenditure				
<u>Administration</u>				
<i>Clerk's Salary</i>	£8,500.00	£8,080.90	£1,298.57	
<i>Clerk's & Admin Expenses</i>	£1,200.00	£848.67	£136.78	
Total	£9,700.00	£8,929.57	£1,435.35	
<u>Recreation Field</u>				
<i>Mowing</i>	£2,295.00	£2,250.00	£150.00	
<i>Playgrounds - new all ages playground at Recreation Field.</i>	£48,000.00	£37,204.30	£0.00	<i>Komplan invoices outstanding @ £23788 NET</i>
<i>Pavilion Refurbishment/Rebuild</i>	£20,715.00	£34,500.00	£0.00	
<i>Other General Maintenance and Field work</i>	£1,650.00	£6,773.12	£729.96	<i>Hedge and Tree Work to Recreation Field</i>
Total	£72,660.00	£80,727.42	£879.96	

<u>Yarningale Common</u>				
Biodiversity Management work & fees	£5,818.00	£345.00	£0.00	Thistle spraying
Mowing	£700.00	£800.00	£0.00	Mound mowing
General Maintenance & Other major works	£1,750.00	£0.00	£0.00	
Total	£8,268.00	£1,145.00	£0.00	Covid disruption to planned works
<u>Other Village Areas</u>				
Verges and Lye Green Mowing	£3,048.00	£2,859.89	£0.00	
CLASP / CASE / Road Safety	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	
Trees, Footpaths and Gritting, Village and Lye Green Maintenance	£2,350.00	£150.00	£0.00	
Village Green Design Costs	£6,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	
	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	
Total	£11,398.00	£3,009.89	£0.00	
<u>Miscellaneous and Professional</u>				
Professional Costs	£2,655.00	£1,460.77	£0.00	
VAT Payable	£16,355.00	£14,742.29	£20.35	
	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	
General other costs	£3,260.00	£1,277.13	£0.00	
Total	£22,270.00	£17,480.19	£20.35	
Total Expenditure	£124,296.00	£111,292.07	£2,335.66	
Surplus / (Deficit)	-£11,085.00	-£15,633.73	-£1,012.11	Komplan invoices outstanding @ £23788 NET and VAT reclaim due £5000
Opening Bank Balance 1/4/2020		£124,708.81		
Closing Bank Balance 31/03/2021		£109,075.08		
Balance Change		-£15,633.73		

Appendix 5

County Councillor Annual Report

The last year can be summed up in three Cs – Covid-19, Climate Change and Council Tax.

We seem to be coming through Covid-19 due to the success of the vaccination programme. Warwickshire was mentioned by the Minister of Health a couple of weeks ago for running the most successful vaccination programme in the country. I congratulate the GP and NHS staff running the various vaccination clinics across Warwickshire. Covid-19 did affect the County as we were in the middle of a staff reorganisation and this became more difficult to complete. As a consequence the delivery of small road improvement schemes pretty much came to a complete halt for 12 months. A new end to end delivery team started working in April and we should see schemes completed more effectively in future.

Climate change is becoming more apparent as this is the third winter of unusual rainfall. Most of the focus of politicians and the media is on actions to slow down climate change. The problem facing the County and individuals is that we are already feeling the effects of climate change and even in the most optimistic scenario these are here to stay. If the scientists are correct this country can expect wetter, warmer and stormier winters into the future with the odd very cold snap. This will mean even more rainfall and more flooding than we have seen recently. The increasing size of cars adds to the problem as when they try to pass each other on our narrow lanes the verges get worn down and the wheels run off the edge of the tarmac and rut the soil. Water runs down this new channel and gets under the tarmac and breaks up the road surface. The result is higher roads maintenance costs or poorer roads. This is just one example of the effects of climate change.

Like last year the Government calculated its grant aid to local councils on the basis that they would raise tax by 2% for the general precept and up to 3% as an adult social care levy. Given the pressures we are under from Covid-19, Climate Change and Children's Services the County followed guidance and raised the general precept by 2%. As Warwickshire is relatively wealthy compared to other areas we have fewer people eligible for Adult Social Care Support and an increase in levy of only 1% was approved. As a consequence we raised council tax by 3% this year.

John HORNER

Tel. 01926 842068