

PARISH COUNCIL OF CLAVERDON

MINUTES FOR PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 24th JANUARY 2022

Present: Councillor N. Dargan (ND), Councillor H. Spiers (HS), Councillor P. Bicknell (PB), Councillor D. Goosen (DG), Councillor D. Middleton (DM), County Councillor John Horne (JH), District Councillor Peter Richards (PR), x21 members of the Public, Sarah Brooke-Taylor – Warwickshire Rural Housing Enabler WRCC (SBT)

In the absence of a PC Clerk, Cllr ND opened the meeting and asked for Cllrs approval for Cllr Spiers to take the minutes. Cllr DG approved the request and Cllr PB seconded.

1 **Apologies for absence:** Councillor K. Meeson

2 **Declarations of interest:** None declared

3. **Vote of appointment of a New Chair** – Following the resignation of the previous Chairman Simon Lawton at the December meeting, Councillor N. Dargan put himself forward for the position. This was proposed by Cllr PB and seconded by Cllr DG and Cllr DM.

3.2 **To receive Declarations of Acceptance of Office** - The new Chairman signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office. This was witnessed and signed by Cllr HS

4 **Minutes of the last meeting:** Minutes of the 4th October 2021 and December 6th 2021 – on the proposal of the Chairman, the minutes of the meetings held on 4th October 2021 and December 6th 2021 were taken as read and approved.

At this point, The Chairman suggested all the Cllrs introduce themselves to the members of the public accompanied with a brief background.

5 **District and County Councillor Reports:** District Cllr PR gave his report which covered the recent proposals to merge SDC and WDC, and its subsequent vote of approval to go ahead. It will now be passed on to The Secretary of State for approval. He reviewed the recent call for sites requested by SDC for their new local plan. Full details of his report can be seen in the attached document.

County Cllr JH explained the County Council has been very busy accounting this time of the year, preparing their budget and end of year results. The Government provided some funding from the tax they raise, and this is called the local government finance settlement and this year was £156 million. This figure is added to the projected council tax to fund the council's services. Warwickshire is a Tier 1 council and is permitted to raise council tax by up to 2% for the general precept and up to 3% as an adult social care levy before needing to hold a referendum. Although a decision will not be made until Council on February 8th, it is Cllr Horner's belief that the Council will only raise taxes by 2% for general precept and 2% for adult social care, causing a loss of £21 million which will be met from reserves. It would appear that Social Care budget has been overspent, however the plan is to draw down reserves and reduce costs; this may well impact roads/flooding costs. Warwickshire Fire and Rescue has just had an inspection by the Police and Fire Services Inspectorate and rated as requiring improvement in three areas – 1. Keeping people safe from fire and other risks, 2. Efficiency in doing this, and 3. How well we look after our own staff. The service has responded by committing to increase its "safe and Well" visits to resident's homes, improving inspections of factories and other commercial premises and reviewing personnel policies. He pointed out that Henley Fire station is regarded as one of the best in the Country. He summed up by reminding the public to be constantly aware of scams and advised everyone to remain cautious.

6 Public Forum

A member of the public stated they were hopeful the CPC would acknowledge how much the outgoing Chairman Simon Lawton had been appreciated by the village, and that he had done a sterling job over the years in office. Chairman ND echoed these sentiments, and explained that the PC would be addressing this later on in the meeting.

A gentleman asked if the PC had any update on the planning permission for lights at the tennis club – the Chairman replied that the PC intend to review where we are and what our role is from a legal point of view, and we would update the tennis club in due course.

A member of the public enquired if there is anything being done about the continuing problem of traffic speeding through the village, which is used like a “racetrack”. Was it possible to have another flashing speed sign? Cllr JH suggested the residents should petition the local Police Neighbourhood Team to increase speed checks. JH will follow this up. Cllrs pointed out that the Police Speed Van does regularly positions itself in the layby opposite The Crown, as it can no longer use the layby by The Old Police House, however it does not seem to be there at busy times of the day.

It was also noted that parking on pavement is becoming a regular problem, causing safety issues for pedestrians. (please note that the following day – 25TH January – the Police Speed Van was parked in the layby opposite the Crown from 2.30-4.00pm)

7 Housing in Claverdon – Sarah Brooke-Taylor introduced herself, explaining her role as rural housing enabler who reports back to SDC. She explained that following the October meeting, it became evident during the discussions, that there was an identified need and desire for shared ownership affordable housing, and the way forward would be to have a new Housing Needs Survey to officially gain evidence for this need, which could be presented to SDC. Chairman ND commented that he felt the younger residents of our community would like and welcome the opportunity to “buy” in the shared ownership scheme, and have an opportunity to remain living in the village. All Councillors were in agreement that we should carry out a new survey, and SBT advised there would be no costs to CPC. The Chairman was hopeful we could liaise with this as soon as a new clerk is appointed.

8 Planning - The Chairman read out the planning items on the agenda with the comments on the responses from items **listed in 8.1 – 8.2.11** of the agenda

8.3.1 -8.3.3 It was agreed that these planning issues would be reviewed and commented on after the meeting, especially as it was unclear which property – The Old Butchers Shop – was referring to.

9 Internal Audit. The chairman suggested the PC have a smaller working group to address and review the findings of the audit, liaise with the Football Club and Cricket Club at a separate meeting in the new pavilion Due to Covid restrictions, the opening and use of the new pavilion has been put on hold, however it is hoped the PC can now move forward with negotiations. It was agreed that all items in 9.1 – 9.7 could be discussed and addressed during these proposed meetings.

10 Police, CLASP and CASE – No update as everything is running smoothly, and reported crime in the village continues to be at a minimum. Cllr HS and Les Edwards expressed how useful the ANPR cameras are to the police, and we are often asked for help and information.

11 Recreation Field - Items 11.1.1-11.1.4 of the agenda will be addressed at the proposed meetings with the two sports clubs referred to above.

11.2.1. Update on Playground field issues and agree proposals to move forward - Chairman ND advised that the fitting of gym equipment has already been paid for, and the contractor will be contacted about erecting it.

11.2.2 - 11.2.3 The Rospa report was reviewed and noted, and it was agreed that the recommendations to move the fence further away from the Supernova and finger traps on the gates could be discussed and quoted for when the Contractor visits DG on site to review the broken fencing. It was the PC’s opinion that the play area can be

officially open now and the signs can be removed. The licenses for the sport clubs and any issues regarding locks, gates etc can be discussed when members of the PC meet up with the sports clubs.

11.2.4 Cllr DG offered to meet with the Contractor on site, to review the broken fencing/gates

12 Footpaths – Following the handover from the previous Clerk, the Chairman advised he had not seen any paperwork regarding 2 new stiles for the footpath off Oakdene. The PC will follow this up. The Chairman suggested we should formalise a method to enable parishioners to notify the PC of problems encountered on local footpaths and right of ways.

13 Yarningale Common - The PC have received x 4 quotes for the holly and bramble clearance work stated in the bio-diversity agreement. One was considered too expensive, however as the FOYC have requested further work to be done, possibly x 3 days, it was decided we should go back to the other 3 contractors who have submitted quotes, and ask them to quote further for the extra work, and also give an indication of timescale, taking into account the restrictions for hedge cutting etc that Spring will bring. Cllr PB offered to negotiate exactly what work is required with FOYC. As soon as the new quotes are received, CPC will allocate the work in order to get it facilitated as soon as possible.

14 Dorothea Mitchell Hall – We have reviewed the recent correspondence with our legal advisor and the matter is ongoing. Chairman ND confirmed that we have been advised legally that the request for deeds and documents should be straightforward, and have no issues in supplying this information. The PC will have a final discussion with their Solicitor and instruct accordingly.

15 Boys Club Field - As UK Youth have made the offer of two proposals, the PC felt that legal advice for both scenarios should be obtained before making any decisions. Cllr DM offered to help negotiate this.

16 Finance –

16.1 To authorise payments due to date and approve the account projection to end of Jan 2022 – After consideration by Councillors and upon proposal of Chair ND, payments listed in the agenda, together with the account projection to the end of Jan 2022 were approved by all Councillors

16.2 Income and expenditure for 3 months to 31st December 2021 – Councillors reviewed the Income and Expenditure Account against the budget and on the proposal of Chair ND, the three months Income and Expenditure Account to 31st December 2021 was approved by all Councillors present.

16.3 Bank reconciliation Jan 2022 Review and approval by Councillors – On the proposal of the Chair – ND, the bank reconciliation was approved by all Councillors present

17 Annual Budget and approve Precept

17.1 Review and Agree budget 2022-23 - Councillors reviewed the projections presented in the agenda, and on the proposal of Chair ND, all the Councillors approved the projections for the 2022-2023 budget

17.2 Precept - The 2022/2023 Precept figures were agreed by all Councillors present (£34,500), and submission will be made by the end of January 2022.

18 General Other Matters - The Chairman and Cllrs acknowledged their thanks to the previous Chairman – Simon Lawton, and their grateful appreciation to the many years he has given the village.

Chairman ND suggested we should appoint a Vice Chair, and proposed Cllr Spiers. Cllr DM seconded this proposal and Cllr Spiers accepted it.

Chairman ND said we should review the clerk applications as soon as possible, with a view to appointing a new clerk as soon as possible. It was agreed that there are certain procedures that should be left until the new clerk is in place

2115 – Chairman ND closed the meeting