

Minutes of the Meeting of **CLAPHAM PARISH COUNCIL** held on **Tuesday 21 June 2022** in the Methodist Hall

PRESENT Cllrs Phillippa Simms, (Chair), Sarah Walker (Vice chair), Ali Dove, Jacky Fraser, Ian Gaskin, Paula Hurley, Allan Prudham, John Keech, John Reid, Adrian Langley, Nigel Sparrow, Borough Councillor Jane Walker.

No.	Item	Action
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllr Cicely Palmer	
2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Cllr Sarah Walker for item 6 as involved with a project linked to East West Rail. Cllr Jackie Fraser for item 15 as allotment tenant.	
3.	OPEN FORUM Cllrs discussed concerns about users of the Ford in the warm weather, car parking at the entrance and potential safety issues and potential incursions over the bridleway onto private land. Cllrs noted the need to keep posting reminders online. John Keech raised the ongoing issue of illegal issue of electric scooter users, Council agreeing to keep a watching brief.	
4.	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING The minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2022, which had been circulated, were approved by those present and signed by the Chair. Proposed Cllr Sparrow, seconded Cllr Keech.	AGREED
5.	MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: (Information only) None	
6.	EAST WEST RAIL – PUBLIC MEETING 18.5.22 Cllr S Walker updated briefly on recent communications from EWR following the recent public meeting, confirming there was no new information.	
7.	REPORTS – NETWORK MEETING 26.05.22 Cllr Sparrow updated on the contribution by the PCC to the recent meeting. Cllr Sparrow had raised the ongoing issue of vandalism, difficulties getting through to 101 phone line and his request for more police in rural Beds. On Highways, Bedford Director of Highways had updated on the problems caused by the roadworks at Clapham, confirming they should be complete on June 22. On the Local Plan, no further development was earmarked for Clapham. Council agreed to provide a response to the consultation, supporting that in the draft Local Plan. The meeting had discussed the need for greater interaction across parish councils. This was supported by council.	Cllr S Walker to draft
8.	POLICE MATTERS Crime statistics had been circulated. It was noted some appeared not to be directly in Clapham.	

9.	BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT Cllr Jane Walker reported on the consultation into the Local Plan, repeating the importance of submitting a response. The condition of the A6 has been raised as being poor but no improvements were planned. The Borough was maintaining its support for EWR's 4 track option in the Rail Strategy. There remained ongoing issues in Green Lane. There appeared to be a stalemate over the Peppercorn Park Bus Shelter. Both Cllr Jane Walker and Cllr Simms had pursued. Cllr J Walker agreed to pursue to delay to the Clapham village sign.	Cllr J Walker
10.	ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE 14.6.22 Cllr Sparrow reported. Cllr Keech was to purchase a new post for the Riverside Gardens tree. With volunteers likely to be away over summer, committee had raised the potential need to employ a village handyperson for next year, given likely work also needed in Millenium Park. Cllr Sparrow thanked Cllr Gaskin for looking after the burial ground. Cllr Sparrow raised an issue of rubble dumped in the ditch on the corner of Woodlands Manor. Cllr Simms would check to see if Bedford BC could write to the relevant property owners. There was no update on when resurfacing work on Mount Pleasant would be programmed. Speeding in Highbury Grove continued to be a problem. Cllr Sparrow agreed to raise again with the police. Cllr Ian Gaskin was thanked for looking after burial ground matters. Council discussed the need for a better plan of the graves. Cllr Simms agreed to pursue the terms of the contract with Bedford BC on requirements for grave identification.	Cllr Simms
11.	PLANNING COMMITTEE There were no applications decided. Application received below. a) 22/01021/FUL - conversion of existing double detached garage to front into a habitable space at 61 Spriggs Close – no objections b) 22/01260/FUL - single storey rear/side extensions at 5 The Slade – no objections c) 22/01260/FUL - single storey rear extension with raised ridge at 7 Hunters Close – no objections d) Bedford Borough Council Local Plan 2040 consultation – Council agreed to send a supportive response.	See action item 7
12.	NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NDP) The referendum had produced a response which overwhelmingly supported the adoption of the NDP. Cllrs Simms and S Walker had attended the count and reported that the 13% turnout had been a strong response.	

18.	FINANCE a) payment of accounts Proposed Cllr Langley, seconded Cllr Reid b) insurance renewal Premium of £2,567.64 was due. Proposed Cllr Prudham, seconded Cllr Dove c) data protection fee Premium of £40 was due. Proposed Cllr Prudham, seconded Cllr Hurley d) payroll and accounts package Council discussed the need for an accounts software package to enable a future financial offer to produce accounts more easily. Council thanked Cllr Palmer in her absence for supporting the accounts in the interim. Decision on which software was deferred to enable further discussion on options.	AGREED AGREED AGREED
19.	CORRESPONDENCE None	
20.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING Tuesday 19 July 2022	

Signed:

Date: