

Meeting	Clapham Parish Council 17 th January 2023 at 7.15pm
Parish Council Members:	Cllr. Phillipa Simms, Chair (PS) Cllr. Sarah Walker, Vice Chair (SW) Cllr. Eric Cooper (EC) Cllr. Paula Hurley (PH) (late arrival) Cllr. John Keech (JK) Cllr. Adrian Langley (AL) Cllr. Cicely Palmer (CP) Cllr. John Reid (JR)
Borough Council Member:	Cllr. Jane Walker (JW)
Apologies Received:	Cllr. Jacky Fraser (JF) Cllr. Ian Gaskin (IG) Cllr. Dora Ornithari (DO) Cllr. Allan Prudham (AP) Cllr. Nigel Sparrow (NS) Cllr. Charlie Tomkins – not in attendance
Clerk to the Council:	Rosemary Plum (RP)

MINUTES OF MEETING

1. Apologies for Absence

As recorded above.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Adrian Langley – Item 8

Cllr. Phillipa Simms – Item 16b

Cllr. Eric Cooper - allotments

3. Open Forum

- I. Village Green application has been submitted for Fetlock Close.
Once served on the new owners, they cannot apply for planning permission until the application with necessary maps has been decided.
- II. We await further information/decisions from the Borough Council.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes were agreed as a true reflection of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

PROPOSED: Cllr. John Keech

SECONDED: Cllr. Sarah Walker

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes (*for information only*)

None reported.

6. Clerk's Report (*for information only*)

The Clerk reported on the following activity:

- a) The big task was the garage demolition which we know has been successfully completed, ahead of time due to weather turning against us in the planned week. Good conversations with all local residents. More details on the Agenda item later.
- b) The Milton Road development is starting to gather pace with an online meeting with a team from the developers last week. I have distributed summary notes on this.
- c) From the administration perspective, budgeting has been the focus for the preparation of the precept. This work has given rise to several queries about standing orders such as Water and Electricity which I'm addressing.
- d) We continue to receive monies for allotment rent so still ongoing admin there for paying-in at the bank.
- e) The Chair and I have had to make another visit to the bank. The need to regularly go to the bank is becoming a real burden, even more noticeable at this time of year with allotment cheques and cash needing to be paid in. More about this on the agenda later.
- f) Good engagement from the police – next item on the Agenda anyway.
- g) New website is live – not yet finished with all the information but I can only complete it now if it's live.

7. Police Matters

a) Crime Figures

- I. Police are very happy about the hedge cut down in Millennium Park
- II. Browns Wood vandalism and muddy car repairs in the High Street and parking on the High Street notified to the Police.
- III. The mud on the road will be reported to Highways Department at Bedford Borough Council. RP-report
- IV. Local police will be at Tesco in Clapham on 20th January 2023 from 11:00 – 12:30 to engage with the community of Clapham.

8. Borough Council Report

a) Update from Cllr Jane Walker

- I. Local Plan 2040 passed at Borough Council on 11/1/23 and being prepared to go before the Inspector.
- II. Council Tax increase will be less than 3%

- III. Balance of Ward Fund given to Scouts for toilets and kitchen refurbishment and also Ursula Taylor for litter picking.
- IV. Village Green at Fetlock Close – situation is as recorded above. As soon as the application is verified, JW will advise of next steps.
- V. Still no update on cycle path at start of village (Bedford end) which was requested and paid for years ago.
- VI. JW will follow up issues raised about the phasing of the traffic light at the Sainsbury's roundabout.

JW-
application

JW-traffic
lights

9. Environment Committee

Nothing to report as the Environment Committee didn't meet in January 2023.

10. East West Rail

a) Update on latest developments

- I. Poll sent out by EWR for availability for public meeting. No further news.

11. Planning Committee

a) Applications Decided

As report attached to the minutes.

b) Current Applications

As report attached to the minutes.

c) Milton Hill Developer Meeting 9/1/23

- I. Summary overview of online meeting from SW.
- II. Developer application goes to Bedford Borough planning on 3rd April. Parish can respond at consultation.
- III. We have a number of areas of concern. In particular, around lack of intention to create Highfield Road footpath. Oakley Parish Council also objecting to lack of Highfield Road path. Developer needs to mitigate impact.
- IV. Parking situation at Tesco already bad before with considering removal of bus stop.
- V. We need planning committee comments to feed into the outline planning permission.
- VI. We will convene a planning committee meeting now we have printed maps.

RP- cttee

12. Publicity Report

a) Advertising Cost Review

- I. Next edition of Village News comes out early March. Deadline for contributions is 1st week Feb.
- II. ¼, ½, full page ads available. Good value for money according to current advertisers.
- III. Increase advertising rate from £100 to £120 full page from June.

13. Allotments

a) Update

- I. Interim Allotments Association committee in place. Plan to vote in new Clapham Community Allotments and Garden Association committee in February and elect new members. Need volunteers.
- II. Guest speakers will attend event.
- III. Association is now affiliated to the national Allotment and Leisure Gardens Association. Plot holder membership fees for the National Association are included in rental fees for this year.
- IV. Clapham Allotment Association plans to embrace Clapham gardens also.
- V. Trading Hut not yet up and running and needs volunteers. EC has ordered 175kg seed potatoes for quick win at favourable price to members.
- VI. There is a post box outside the Trading Hut for the Association business.
- VII. Allotment Association Newsletter no. 3 is about to go out.
- VIII. Need urgent meeting of the Parish Council Allotment Committee to decide where things sit going forward between Parish Council and Association Committee.

14. Garages & Parking Spaces

a) Demolition Update

- I. Demolition complete ahead of schedule and according to plan.
- II. A number of garages had not been cleared by persons renting them and additional clearance charges were incurred.

b) Security Fencing

- I. Temporary Harris fencing provided by demolition company as no cost for one month to secure the allotments area.
- II. Required 3 x 2mt lengths of Palisade fencing and maintenance person will erect with the help of a second person.
- III. **Proposal for cost of materials £500 + VAT**
PROPOSED: Cllr. Paula Hurley
SECONDED: Cllr. Eric Cooper
- IV. Sign for Clapham Community Allotments requested and agreed to be placed at entrance to allotments.

c) Blocked gully & bin repair

- I. Resident at no. 174 complimentary about the work done so far in demolishing garages. He is asking what will be done about the flood water as it's leaking into his home.
- II. We need to empty the gully properly in order to investigate further why the flooding is occurring. We aren't allowed to discharge the surface water from the parking area into the highways drainage system.
- III. **Chair proposed a budget of £350+VAT for gully clearance. RP to find suitable contractors.**

PROPOSED: Cllr. Sarah Walker

SECONDED: Cllr. Cicely Palmer

RP-gully

d) Permit parking

- I. Car parking spaces will be clearly marked with white lines, numbered spaces and authorized parking only signage.
- II. Authorised vehicles must display a parking permit issues by the Parish Council.
- III. New contracts will be issued to all parking space holders. Vehicle registration number to be clearly indicated on each contract.

e) Rent Review

- I. No vehicles larger than the British standard car parking space may be parked in Parish Council parking spaces.
- II. Shown in contract small print that Parish Council reserves the right to raise rent periodically.
- III. Propose increasing parking and all garage rental fees. Fee will remain the same but VAT at current rate now needs to be added to the fee.

- IV. **PROPOSED: Cllr. John Keech**
SECONDED: Cllr. Sarah Walker
VOTE: Unanimously agreed

15. Highways

a) Updates

- I. Church View potholes have been repaired.
- II. Oakley Parish Council has expressed annoyance about the blocking under the Oakley Road railway bridge. Network Rail aren't responding. Borough intending to raise the footpath so school children don't have to walk through water. This is expected to be a temporary solution until Milton Road development decisions are made.

16. Finance

a) Precept

- I. Chair of Clapham Parish Council proposes there will be NO INCREASE in the precept for the financial year 2023-24.

PROPOSED: Cllr. John Keech

SECONDED: Cllr. Sarah Walker

VOTE: 7 votes FOR – 0 vote AGAINST – 1 Abstention

b) Payment of Accounts - ratified

- I. The accounts payable presented in the financial report attached to these minutes were ratified.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Sarah Walker

SECONDED: Cllr. Eric Cooper

c) Online Banking & Debit Card

- II. The new Mandate of signatories was approved by HSBC legal department on 19/12/2022 but still not added our accounts in branch.
- III. **It is proposed by the Chair that when the Mandate has been added, the Clerk will apply for telephone banking, online banking and a Parish Council debit card.**

PROPOSED: Cllr. Adrian Langley

SECONDED: Cllr. Sarah Walker

d) S106 Sports Contribution

- I. Parish Council has approx. £50k available in two instalments to be allocated to sports equipment. Bedford Borough is keen on the installation of outside gyms. £23k must be allocated by Nov 2023 with the balance due in 2024.
- II. Persimmon Homes still have jobs outstanding and Bedford Borough will not take over The Glebe play area until this work is completed.

17. Correspondence

- I. See correspondence log attached to these minutes.
- II. Folly Park resident raised concerns about bus stop at Fox & Hounds which is apparently rotten and falling to bits and the roof leaks. Roof leaks. The resident has requested a new bus stop with a sign updating bus arrivals.
- III. Parish Council has budgeted for a bus stop but the cost on a new one has increased considerably and is beyond the scope of funds budgeted. We will get quotes for the repair and updating of the bus stop. RP-bus stop

18. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday, 21st February 2023
in the Methodist Church Hall, Clapham.

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.56pm

Signed as a true reflection of the meeting:

Signed	
Dated	

Chair