

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Meeting:                | Clapham Parish Council<br>16 <sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 7.35pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Council                 | Cllr. Phillipa Simms, Chair (PS)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Members in attendance:  | Cllr. Tamsin Bromley-Rahike (TBR)<br>Cllr. Sarah Walker (SW)<br>Cllr. Eric Cooper (EC)<br>Cllr. Jacky Fraser (JF)<br>Cllr. Ian Gaskin (IG)<br>Cllr. John Keech (JK)<br>Cllr. Adrian Langley (AL)<br>Cllr. Allan Prudham<br>Cllr. Nigel Sparrow (NS)<br>Cllr. Michael Walmsley (MW) |
| Apologies received:     | Cllr. John Reid                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Non-attendance:         | Cllr. Dora Ornithari                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Borough Council Member: | Cllr. Jane Walker (JW)<br>Cllr Jon Abbott (JA)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Clerk to the Council:   | Rosemary Plum (RP)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Public Attendance       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

## MINUTES OF MEETING

### 1. Election of Chairman

**PROPOSAL:** Nomination of Phillipa Simms to continue as Chair of Clapham Parish Council.

**PROPOSED BY:** Cllr. Nigel Sparrow

**SECONDED BY:** Cllr Adrian Langley

**VOTE:** Unanimously agreed

### 2. Election of Vice-Chairman

**PROPOSAL:** Nomination of Sarah Walker to continue as Vice Chair of Clapham Parish Council.

**PROPOSED BY:** Cllr. Phillipa Simms

**SECONDED BY:** Cllr John Keech

**VOTE:** Unanimously agreed

### 3. Apologies for Absence

- Cllr John Reid

## 4. Declarations of Interest

Declarations were received from:

- Cllr Eric Reid
- Cllr Jacky Fraser

For any items relating to the Clapham Allotments.

## 5. Co-Option of New Councillors

The following residents of Clapham were co-opted as Councillors of Clapham Parish:

- Mr Charlie Tompkins, an experienced parish councillor  
**PROPOSED BY: Cllr. Nigel Sparrow**  
**SECONDED BY: Cllr. Allan Prudham**
- Mr Michael Walmsley, a retired teacher and former FA Coach living in Green Lane and who loves gardening.  
**PROPOSED BY: Cllr. Phillipa Simms**  
**SECONDED BY: Cllr. Nigel Sparrow**

## 6. Open Forum

- Bench opposite 103 The Glebe covered in graffiti. Still under Persimmon Control.
- Dog Park – mesh for fencing and lock to large gate needs to be replaced. RP

## 7. Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

**PROPOSED BY: Cllr Sarah Walker**  
**SECONDED BY: Cllr Ian Gaskin**

## 8. Matters Arising from the minutes – *information only*

- NS has asked the Chair to write a letter to Bedford Borough Chief Executive as soon as possible with regard to the lack of action and response in rural parishes by Borough Departments. PS
- Notice board at the beginning of the Shopping Parade – NS has spoken to the Clerk and Chair as it needs to be put back into service as soon as possible. RP

## 9. Clerk's Report – *information only*

- The Mayor of Bedford introducing inclusion the Parish Council meetings into the list of weekly meetings which Democratic Services circulate to all Borough Councillors.

- II. The Mayor has requested dates and full details of all Parish Council meetings to be emailed to the Borough weekly. The information will be uploaded onto the council website and distributed across the council to the Borough Councillors and senior management.
- III. Thanks to CT and David Bishop, our maintenance person, we now have a suitable water tank for Riverside Gardens. David B building a suitable platform to secure the tank at height to allow volunteers to get a watering can under the tap for filling. The water level will be regularly topped up from the river by David B.
- IV. The terrible condition of grass cutting particularly in Riverside Gardens and The Slade has been reported by RP to the Borough.

## 10. Police Matters

### a) Crime report

- I. Recent Incident at IDC Yarls Wood: PS found out about this by speaking to a member of staff at the IDC. No official notification was given to Parish or Borough Councils. JR phoned the police about 3 people unknown to him in his field. Police appeared disinterested in JR finding 3 abscondee in his barn.
- II. JW contacted Police Crime Commissioner and it seems the police didn't know about the incident and the Commissioner is looking into this.
- III. Appears G4 were trying to contain the issue within Yarls Wood.
- IV. JR has contacted the local MP.
- V. Conversation to be had between Group 4 Security and the Police. What is their policy and is it acceptable? PS
- VI. Write to Police Crime Commissioner to complain and request they provide reassurances. PS
- VII. PS today reported a possible public intimidation incident in Peppercorn Park. Police were called and seemed disinterested.
- VIII. 120 people are now housed at the former Sharnbrook hotel. They are not in detention and free to circulate.

## 11. Borough Council Matters

### a) Elections 2023

- I. NS requested that the Chair write formally to the new Mayor to congratulate on his success.
- II. Welcome was extended to our new and experienced Borough Councillors, Jon Abott and Jane Walker.

### b) Borough Councillor Report

- I. Clapham is now part of the new Oakley and Clapham ward with two Borough Councillors.

- II. The First Past the Post mayoral election, was won by Cllr. Tom Wootton who has been a parish councillor for many years and has great affinity with rural parishes.
- III. New Mayor wants Borough Councillors to avoid Parish Council creating conflict with Parish Council meetings and intends the Borough to work more closely with Parish Councils. The Mayor will come to Parish Council meetings to understand first hand and hear the issues.
- IV. Bedford now has 14 Labour Councillors, 13 Conservative, 13 Libel Democrat, 3 Green Party and 2 Independent councillors. There will be a by-election in Wyboston to replace the newly appointed Mayor who was a parish councillor there.
- V. Bedford Borough Council now has an all-Conservative Cabinet.
- VI. 'Families' is being added to the 'Education and Children Services' portfolio.
- VII. The Borough has signed off on new £26m Government Funding for SEND school in Kempston (on the old Robert Bruce site).
- VIII. Introduction from JA who has been a Borough Councillor for 7 years, the least 4yrs for Oakley and has "always worked well with Jane Walker". He outlined the different dynamics between rural parishes and JA looks forward to working with Clapham Parish Council.
- IX. When EWR announce their route update, JA said it will be important for the Mayor to come and talk to our Parish and tell us how he intends to tackle the situation.
- X. JA expressed gratitude for all the good work done by PS in the recent election looks forward to working together in Clapham.
- XI. White lines along middle of 30mph roads are no longer being repainted by the Borough. Their theory is if drivers aren't shown where the middle of the road is, they will take more care and drive more slowly.

### 12. Environment Committee – Appointment of representatives

#### a) Meeting 09/05/23

- I. All existing members have expressed willingness to stay on the committee. MW expressed interest in joining the Environment Committee and was appointed.
- II. NS gave sincere thanks to the Environment Committee for their hard work for the past 4 years, to EC for all his work in getting the allotments association up and running, to IG for his support in mapping the Burial ground, JR for the flood group taking calls 24hrs a day and JK for being the eyes and ears of the village.

- III. NS gave further thanks to JW for the speedy way in which she responds to communications and to RP for understanding how he works and thanks in absentia to former Clerk, Ann Paice for her many years work.

## **13. Planning Committee - Appointment of representatives**

- I. All existing members have expressed willingness to stay on the committee. TBR expressed interest in joining the Planning Committee and was appointed.

## **14. Allotment Committee – Appointment of representatives**

- I. All existing members have expressed willingness to stay on the committee. TBR expressed interest in joining the Planning Committee and was appointed.

## **15. East West Rail**

- I. Currently a lot of speculation in the planning world about what will be announced in May or whether there will be further delays. Government has backed EWR but no further news so far.

## **16. Community**

### **a) Coronation**

- I. PS gave thanks to those who helped in setting up and to RP for the equipment. Event was a success despite torrential rain. Letter of thanks received from Rev. Steven Liley.

### **b) Summer Fete**

- I. Events Group meeting at the end of this month.
- II. Fete will be Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July from 12noon to 4pm
- III. The Mayor will be invited.
- IV. May be an opportunity to put up information about EWR.
- V. New member to join the Events Committee would be most welcome.

Acknowledgment that Local community police team has been very good at a local level especially with patrols at the allotments in the evenings.

## **17. Highways**

- I. Plans afoot for Green Lane. JA will survey Green Lane with JW and they will double pressure on Borough.
- II. Highbury Grove corner with High Street – repairs have been carried out to a good standard.

## **18. Finance**

- a) Payment of accounts  
The accounts as presented were approved.

**PROPOSED: Cllr Sarah Walker**

**SCONDED: Cllr Tamsin Bromley-Rahike**

- b) 2022/23 Accounts  
Error on Agenda – this item already dealt with at the APM
- c) Review of direct debits
  - I. Expected reduction in electricity costs 2023-24 following planned supply audit.

## 19. Correspondence

## 20. Date of Next Meeting

20th June 2023

The meeting was closed by the Chair at 9.15 pm

Signed as a true reflection of the meeting:

|        |                            |
|--------|----------------------------|
| Signed |                            |
| Dated  | 20 <sup>th</sup> June 2023 |

*Chair*