

Meeting: Clapham Parish Council
20th June 2023 at 7.15pm

Council Cllr. Phillipa Simms, Chair (PS)
Members in Cllr. Tamsin Bromley-Rahike (TBR)
attendance: Cllr. Sarah Walker (SW)
Cllr. Jacky Fraser (JF)
Cllr. John Keech (JK)
Cllr. Allan Prudham (AP)
Cllr. Nigel Sparrow (NS)

Apologies Borough Cllr Jon Abbott (JA)
received: Cllr. Eric Cooper (EC)
Cllr. Ian Gaskin (IG)
Cllr. Adrian Langley (AL)
Cllr John Reid (JR)
Cllr. Charlie Tompkins (CT)
Cllr. Michael Walmsley (MW)

Non-attendance: Cllr. Dora Ornithari

Borough Council Cllr. Jane Walker (JW)
Member: Cllr Jon Abbott (JA)

Clerk to the Rosemary Plum (RP)
Council:

Public James Aspinall, Village Hall Facilities Manager (JA) 8:45-9:00pm
Attendance

MINUTES OF MEETING

1. Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from: • Borough Cllr Jon Abbott (JA) • Cllr. Eric Cooper (EC) • Cllr. Ian Gaskin (IG) • Cllr. Adrian Langley (AL) • Cllr John Reid (JR) • Cllr. Charlie Tompkins (CT) • Cllr. Michael Walmsley (MW)	
2. Declarations of Interest • The following interests were declared: • Cllr Phillipa Simms is Chair of the Village Hall Committee • Cllr Jacky Fraser is an allotment plot holder	

3. Open Forum a) <u>Introduction of Village Hall Facilities Manager</u> - James Aspinall will be taking over from Jean Coy - NS welcomed JA and gave sincere thanks to Jean and Mick Coy for their tireless work over the years for both the village and the Village Hall. b) JA advised of a number of new hirers for the Village Hall as well as the return of family parties with bookings every Sunday in June for this type of event. c) NS raised the need for more chairs in the Committee Room to accommodate public attending Environment Committee meeting. d) AP received a phone call from a concerned resident about raised concrete around the kerb outside 16, George Street. e) Chair confirmed that the Parish Council has written to the Chief Executive of Bedford Borough Council, at the request of NS, regarding the lack of response to our questions, particularly to the Highway Department.	RP
4. 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 Tamsin Bromley-Rahike	
5. Matters Arising from the Minutes (<i>for information only</i>) - Notice board at shopping parade cleaned, restored and back in action - New lock put on allotments gate at the High Street entrance.	
6. Clerk's Report (<i>for information only</i>) - Lot of activity connected to the burial plots. Looking for records for plots reserved over 25 years ago and identifying whether they were originally paid for as double or single plots. - Still no response from Andrew Prigmore despite several requests for a meeting to discuss Highways. In fact not even an acknowledgement. - Clapham doesn't appear in any of the Borough highways, footpaths or resurfacing plans for 2023-24 - Clerk has sent letters to Mayor of Bedford and the Chief Executive and copied to our Borough Councillors. - Good Neighbour Scheme is producing both requests for and offers for help. This is managed outside Parish Council remit but we have been supporting with the promotion and collection of survey forms. - Large amount of general maintenance completed around the village for upkeep of assets.	

• Trying to finalise ownership of the street lights. The Borough have raised an invoice but it had been agreed the Borough was taking back ownership of the street lights. • Maintenance and software update of CCTV cameras confirmed. • Quotes received for replacement bus shelter on Oakley Road next to Fox & Hounds Public House on • Clerk continues to attend, Environment and Allotment Committees, Events Group. Football Club and Village Hall management committee meetings and ongoing support provided to the Allotments Association. • New high speed fibre internet connection installed at Village Hall. Cost of £43/mnth will be shared between Village Hall, Football Club and Parish Council. This represents a monthly cost saving of around £25. • May/June particularly busy with residents correspondence and have a number of enquiries from Bents Close. • We need to appoint Councillors to cover designated areas of the village to deal with residents' enquiries. • TBR will speak to resident who has issues following a newbuild property where the owners haven't cleared the site of temporary buildings.	
7. Police Matters a) <u>Crime Figures</u> I. Statistics have been distributed to Councillors prior to the meeting. II. Clerk highlighted that police have made changes to the data provided. Figures will be circulated every two approximately, depending on shift patterns of the officer producing the data.	
8. Borough Council Report a) <u>Update from Borough Councillors Jane Walker</u> • Kite and Motoring festival Bedford Riverside was a great success. • Local Development Plan hearing is in its first stage. Mayor has taken legal advice about pausing the Plan and has been told it will not be possible. Mayor has put a marker down to the Inspector to pause discussions in the future and reserves the right to legally pursue this. • New trial of 4hrs free parking every day in the town centre from September Allhallows and Lurke Street car parks. • The new Borough Council is still working to the previous budget • . As a result they can't implement the trial across the town due to lack of funding. • Solar Together scheme has been launched again. Separate applications can be made to buy or apply for a battery.	

Luton Borough Council have bought a number of properties in Bedford Borough and are in the process of evicting tenants in order to house homeless from Luton.	
9. Environment Committee a) <u>Report from Environment Committee meeting 13/6/23</u> I. Swing over Ford – need to correct minutes of previous Parish Council meeting. Tree is in Bromham Parish. II. Litter at The Ford on Bromham Side, photos to be circulated to Bromham Clerk. Paddle boarders going down to the Ford seem to be causing problems. III. Water tank at Riverside Gardens is ‘a godsend’. Thanks given to JK and his wife for watering shrubs and trees every day. IV. We are short of volunteers at the moment due to holidays. V. NS said it would be nice to see Parish Councillors helping with Riverside Gardens maintenance on Saturdays – it would be welcomed by the volunteers. VI. Environment Committee is anxious to see the entire village looking tidier and would like to see the P3 litter picking group reinstated in collaboration with the Borough Council? VII. Can wildflowers be seeded into verges as the Borough is only cutting then twice a year? Hedgerow along A6 from Clapham to Bedford has become unsightly and dangerous with overhanging hedges and long grass. VIII. Highways will remain an item on the Environment Committee Agenda without need to include in on the full Parish Council Agenda.	RP
10. East West Rail a) <u>Update on latest developments</u> I. SW and JW present at last meeting. II. Important to remember there’s a lot of confusion. Current events are not a consultation but an information update on the route and current status of project. III. Consultation will start next year. IV. Currently suggesting home owners will be offered 15-20% lower than market value. Has to be done in negotiation with the District Valuer and has to be market rate. We would have expected better with clearer maps to explain. V. The only people who can stop EWR is the Government and it’s felt Richard Fuller MP is doing a great job on this. VI. Strong preference and feedback to put a rail station in Bedford Hospital car park to facilitate medics and biochemists coming from Cambridge on the train to perform surgery. However the scientists have said they do this work remotely.	

VII. We've got to keep engagement with Richrd Fuller MP and ensure people get the right information. VIII. EWR will affect every person in Clapham and may go on for years. It can only be stopped if we use available powers to create sensible opposition.	
11. Planning Committee a) <u>Applications Decided</u> - Details (available online) were given at the meeting. - Ask the Borough to change contact details to new Clerk (RP) b) <u>Current Applications</u> - Details (available online) were given at the meeting. c) <u>Milton Road Development</u> - No further updates. <u>Other planning matters</u> 29 and 29A High Street, Clapham - Information requested by JK has been provided. - Motor house, High Street - JW has asked planning enforcement to look into the illuminated signage on the new garage.	
12. Communication a) <u>Summer Fete</u> - Plans are in full swing for event on 8th July 12-4pm with lots of events and exciting raffle prizes. - Organisers working out of the football club as Village Hall is hired out on that date. - Banners going up in next few weeks and has been promoted in the Village News and on Facebook.	
13. Allotment Committee 1. <u>Report from Allotment Committee meeting 8/6/23</u> - Summary report from RP - NS says feelings were running high at the allotments but seem to have been addressed saying "we cannot dictate and impose". - New lock to be provided for dog park gate and key given to Borough grass cutters.	
14. Burial Ground a) <u>Update</u> - New reserved plot markers have arrived. - Marking out of plots will be started in the next month.	

15. Garages & Parking Spaces a) <u>Update</u> Nothing to report.	
16. Highways a) <u>Updates</u> • Ongoing problem with Highways Department and not getting any replies from Manager, Andrew PRigmore. • NS contacted JW to report matter stating it's disgraceful when there's no courtesy in replying to emails from the clerk. • Appalling situation with roads in the Parish. • AWA leaks in Green Lane still not dealt with. • RP to mail Yvonne Gregory at the Borough Council who may be forming a plan for the whole area. • Parking on Mountpleasant Road. Emergency services and buses struggling to get through. • Accident in village a few days ago. Van is still there and wheels are sticking out. Should it have a police notice on it? RP to report to police.	RP
17. Bus Shelter a) <u>Shelter outside Fox & Hounds – update</u> PROPOSAL: To replace the bus shelter with the more expensive option of the quotes received and move the shelter in future if necessary. PROPOSED: Cllr Phillipa Simms SECONDED: Cllr John Keech VOTE: Unanimous	
18. Village Hall a) <u>Update</u> I. New Internet will be offered to hirers as an added benefit. II. New PA system will be available with the hall hire. III. Facilitie Manager having positive meetings with regular and new hirers. IV. New concert party effort in spring 2024. V. Committee Room has been turned into office for use by Environment Committee and other commercial hirers. VI. Digital noticeboard available in entrance hall to promote events for all users. VII. Hearing Loop ought to be added into sound system. VIII. Very positive first meeting with the Village Hall Management Committee. IX. We need to look to the future, create a sterring group and discuss what plans for a new Village Hall could look like. Involve all groups within the village who have vested interest.	

No point in waiting for the house development. NS holds original drawings.	
19. Finance a) <u>Financial report and Payment of accounts</u> I. RP noted additional income of approx. £11,500 has been confirmed by Borough Council as CIL money for two new build houses on Milton Road, Clapham. II. RP to send 2023-24 precept copy to all Councillors. The accounts as presented were approved. PROPOSED: Cllr John Keech SECONDED: Cllr Sarah Walker	RP
20. Correspondence Correspondence list circulated prior to meeting.	
21. Date of Next Meeting Tuesday, 18 th June 2023 in the Methodist Church Hall	

The meeting was closed by the Chair at 9:35pm

Signed as a true reflection of the meeting:

Signed	
Dated	18 th July 2023

Chair