

Meeting:	CLAPHAM PARISH COUNCIL 16 th January 2024 at 7.00pm
Council Members in attendance:	Cllr. Phillipa Simms, Chair (PS) Cllr. Tamsin Bromley-Rahike (TBR) Cllr. John Keech (JK) Cllr Eric Cooper (EC) Cllr. Adrian Langley (AL) Cllr. Allan Prudham (AP) Cllr. Charlie Tompkins (CT) Cllr. Michael Walmsley (MW)
Apologies received:	Cllr. Sarah Walker (SW) Cllr. Ali Dove (AD) Cllr. Nigel Sparrow (NS) Cllr. Jacky Fraser (JF) Cllr. John Reid (JR) Cllr. Ian Gaskin (IG) Cllr. Jon Abbott (JA) Cllr. James Petrides (JP)
Non-attendance:	None
Borough Council Members Present:	Cllr. Jane Walker
Clerk to the Council:	Rosemary Plum (RP)
Public Attendance:	Inspector Russell Goldsmith (RG)

MINUTES OF MEETING

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

- Cllr. Sarah Walker (SW)
- Cllr. Ali Dove (AD)
- Cllr. Nigel Sparrow (NS)
- Cllr. Jacky Fraser (JF)
- Cllr. John Reid (JR)
- Cllr. Ian Gaskin (IG)
- Cllr. Jon Abbott (JA)

2. Declarations of Interest

The following declarations were made:

- Cllr. Eric Cooper – Allotment holder

- Cllr. Phillipa Simms – Chair of Village Hall Committee
- Cllr. Charlie Tomkins – Matters relating to JDT Contracts

3. Open Forum

CT asked for the following to be recorded in the minutes: If there is a change of Government or VAT increase in independent school fees in the coming year, Bedford is unique with the number of independent schools for the size of town. This could have a detrimental impact on the economy of the area.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

PROPOSED: Cllr. Phillipa Simms

SECONDED: Cllr. Tamsin Bromley-Rahike

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

Nothing to report.

6. Clerk's Report (for information only)

- a) Coronation tree: Issued encountered with Borough Council while pruning taking place on 15th January 2024. Borough officers maintained the Parish should not go ahead with the tree maintenance work despite TPO approval as the tree is owned by Highways Department and not Parish Council. The matter was eventually resolved and work completed on the day. The Clerk will follow up the matter with the Borough Council. RP
- b) Bus Shelter: new road safety regulations mean it will have to be sited slightly nearer the kerb but no no problems envisaged as path is wide enough
- c) New Rural Police Inspector at Riseley Police will be taking the following actions to support the Parish Council:
 - I. Negotiating a meeting with Motorhouse, PS and RP to set out agreed rules about parking and fitting in with community life.
 - II. Concerns raised about the fence along FP14 which looks derelict and will automatically attract anti-social behaviour. Request for Parish Council to take action on this.
 - III. Would like to see more engagement with young people and activities in addition to the Football Club.
 - IV. Keen for Police involvement in any projects for the regeneration of Millennium Park.
- d) Deputy Police Commissioner Ian Dalgarno attending February Parish Council meeting.
- e) Borough help requested for clearance of rubbish strewn across the village following high winds. May take up to 10 days for intervention.
- f) Road sign cleaning has been requested again. Photos sent to Borough.
- g) Kings Ditch flooding: Borough looking into the modifications at the culvert.
- h) Green Lane residents have been notified in writing regarding riparian responsibilities for the maintenance of ditches along the road.

- i) Deputy Mayor & Portfolio Holder for Environment, Highways & Transport Cllr Jim Weir will be attending February Parish Council meeting for Q+A session.
- j) Spriggs Close resident has requested permission to prune/cut down trees next to her property. The land is the responsibility of the Highways Department and they have agreed to the work being done by the resident as long as it is a professional contractor and the resident pays all costs.
- k) BATPC training sessions: Pavenham and Stevington Parish Councils have agreed to a 3-way division of costs for any training undertaken by the Clerk.
- l) Neighbourhood Watch and Police meeting at Woodlands Manor 29th January 2024 at 7pm.

7. Police Matters

- a) Crime Figures
Data distributed prior to meeting.

8. Borough Council Report

- a) Update from Borough Councillor Jane Walker
 - Walkway and road between Oakley and Clapham will be closed for 4 days from 27th January.
 - Fusion finishes contract at Robinson Pool at end of January. If anyone is a member, don't top up online a/c and cancel DD as money will not be refunded. Greenwich Leisure taking over from 1st Feb and will honour membership but cannot issue refunds. Closed for staff training on 1st and 2nd February 2024.
 - Borough Council has bought Debenhams site for very reasonable price and it will be redeveloped into smaller shops.
 - Xmas events all very successful with good, increased footfall. Increase in bus usage as well as car park use.
 - Report due next week about expansion of Lincroft Academy to increase capacity of secondary places.

9. Environment Committee

- a) Update

Minutes from the December Environment Committee meeting distributed prior to the meeting.

PROPOSAL: To accept the quote from JDT Contracts for removal of dead and self-trees from Kings Ditch.

PROPOSED: Cllr. John Keech

SECONDED: Cllr. Phillipa Simms

VOTE: Unanimous

10. East West Rail

- a) Update

- Next BeFare meeting 30th January 2024.
- The Parish Council commended the group for its energy in continuing to move forward.

11. Planning Committee

a) Applications Decided

Distributed prior to the meeting.

b) Current Applications

Distributed prior to the meeting and responses provided to Borough Planning.

Pigeon Property Company has bought Twinwoods Business Park in the Parish of Milton Ernest. The Parish Council will review for development plans in future.

Oakley Parish Council has put money in their precept for path relating to new Milton Road housing development. Developers are also investing in the footpsth and crossing. Borough Planners are answering Clapham Parish Council objections in due course and there is ongoing discussion.

12. Communication

a) Update

- I. Good Neighbour Scheme still needs volunteers to support local residents.
- II. A Rubber duck race was proposed as a future Clapham Event for Charity. CT
CT will investigate further.

13. Allotment Committee

a) Update

- Thanks given to all those from the Parish Council who attended the Allotments Association Pub Quiz in January.
- FP14 Fencing: need to determine which preferred fencing option.
- EC and RP will investigate grant funding sources.
- There has been an increase in demand for allotment plots. Association is using it's funds to prepare more plots for rental.

RP/EC

14. Burial Ground

a) Update

Nothing to report.

b) Church Wall maintenance

Item deferred to a future meeting.

15. Highways

a) Updates

- I. Councillors were reminded that anybody can report potholes to Bedford Borough Council using <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-travel/roads-and-pavements/potholes>
- II. Borough has confirmed completion of the cycle path along Bedford Road paid for by Ward Councillor funding.

- III. Renewed call for the Borough to repaint faded yellow lines across the Parish.
- IV. Issues regarding removal of bollards and parking in The Close has been highlighted to Borough.
- V. Bus stop in Highbury Grove still needs road markings to be repainted.

16. Village Hall

a) Update

- All proceeding well with increased hiring.
- Roof maintenance work scheduled for March 2024.

17. Finance

a) Financial Report

Circulated to members prior to the meeting.

b) Payment of Accounts

Accounts to be ratified were circulated to members prior to the meeting.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Phillipa Simms

SECONDED: Cllr. Eric Cooper

c) Ratify precept 2024-25

Annual Precept 2024-25 agreed on 9th January 2024 to be ratified was circulated to members prior to this Parish Council meeting.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Phillipa Simms

SECONDED: Cllr. Michael Walmsley

18. Correspondence

Nothing to report.

19. Date of Next Meeting

20th February 2024 – Methodist Church Hall

The meeting was closed by the Chair at 9.00pm

Signed as a true reflection of the meeting:

Signed	
Dated	20 th February 2024

Chair