

Meeting: Environment Committee, Clapham Parish Council
11th June 2024 at 7:00pm

Council Members in attendance: Cllr. Ian Gaskin (IG), Chair
Cllr. Michael Walmsley (MW), Vice Chair
Cllr. Jacky Fraser (JF)
Cllr. John Keech (JK)
Cllr. Adrian Langley (AL)
Cllr. Nigel Sparrow (NS)
Cllr. Eric Cooper (EC) – arrived 19:46

Apologies received: Cllr. John Reid (JR)
Cllr. Charlie Tomkins (CT)

Non-attendance: N/A

Clerk to the Council: Rosemary Plum (RP)

MINUTES OF MEETING

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

- Cllr. John Reid (JR)
- Cllr. Charlie Tomkins (CT)
- Cllr. Eric Cooper (EC) who subsequently arrived at the meeting at 7.46pm

2. Declarations of Interest

None received.

3. Open Forum (*Open to the public for 10 minutes*)

Nothing to report.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting held 9th April 2024

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

PROPOSED: Cllr. Michael Walmsley

SECONDED: Cllr. John Keech

5. Matters Arising (*for information only*)

- I. NS noted the Churchyard and Burial ground were omitted from this Agenda.
- II. NS asked for thank to MW to be recorded for his who immediate response in clearing brambles from the Green Lane cemetery.
- III. Concern raised about subsidence of graves following wet winter and spring causing considerable damage. This is a health and RP

safety issue requiring urgent attention and will be raised at Full Council in June.

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| IV. | Regardless of Ts and Cs we should do it as a Grass seed. It was noted that in accordance with Parish Council regulations, it's the responsibility of family/relatives to maintain graves to a safe standard. However, the Parish Council has a statutory responsibility to uphold safety. | RP |
| V. | RP receives requests from families of deceased for the straightening of headstones and whether the Parish Council could provide this service. RP to get details from Foster Hill Road cemetery of how they deal with this situation. | RP |
| VI. | IG renewed call for all councillors to suggest tree planting opportunities within their individual areas. Nothing received by RP following previous request. | All |
| VII. | MW due to do a river water testing sample this month in Radwell and along the Ford as part of his collaboration with the BedsGOVET project based in Stevington. | MW |
| VIII. | RP written to Fire and Police for support on educating residents on the risks and dangers of swimming in the river. | RP |
| IX. | Kings Ditch – the Borough had said they're looking at installing a trash grill at the culvert across FP14. Nothing further heard. RP to chase Ricky Dawkes for updates. | RP |
| X. | IG to speak to CT for an update on the turf for Riverside Gardens. | IG |
| XI. | RP to follow up with Highways on the traffic/pedestrian situation at The Close. | |

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

- Asked Jack Tompkins to come and quote for pruning trees along the boundary of KGV playing field with FP 14 – lot of complaints from residents saying they're overhanging into their gardens
- Heard nothing more from Tristram re Fetlock Close tree on the Green.
- Shingle base in RG – been too wet to pursue.
- Waiting on further information from Borough Tree Officer regarding trees for the Parish from the Woodland Trust
- 6inches of soil screening in Stevington – info distributed
- New Sergeant appointed at Riseley to work with the Inspector and PC's

7. Riverside Gardens

a) Update

- I. Sincere thanks to John Reid recorded for the excellent mowing of grass after the poor quality of Borough cutting. Volunteers pleased to see Councillors supporting them their efforts.

- II. Low numbers of volunteers past two Saturday due to holidays and illness. Currently looking really beautiful. Thanks to volunteers duly noted.
- III. NS suggested the Parish Council could recognise the efforts of the volunteers with a picnic to show appreciation. NS to approach all volunteers to identify a suitable date for all. NS
 PROPOSAL: Request a Parish Council grant to cover the cost of providing a picnic.
 PROPOSED: Cllr. Ian Gaskin
 SECONDED: Cllr. John Keech
 VOTE: Unanimous

8. Millennium/Community Gardens

- a) Update RP
 - I. Borough has cut the grass this week.
 - II. RP advised formation of a Steering Group under the leadership of AD is being convened.

9. Tree Planting

- a) Update
 - I. RP not received any responses to call for tree planting suggestions.
 - II. RP awaiting reply from Borough Tree Officer regarding suitability of individual trees for each area of the Parish.
 - III. Proposal from IG to plant trees on corner of The Close.
 - IV. JK proposed avenue of trees at each entrance to the village.
 - V. RP to request walk around with IG and Tree Officer to clarify legalities. RP
- b) Tree maintenance
 - I. RP has asked JDT Consultants for quote to prune trees in the Playing Field along the boundary with FP14. RP

10. Flood Group

- a) Report
 JR not in attendance.

Still need to push Borough for drains to be cleared regularly. Lot of authorities base maintenance schedules on risk assessment so it's importance we prioritise critical drains for clearance.

11. Highways & Footpaths

- a) Update RP
- I. Bollard on corner of Highbury Grove and The Close has been knocked over again. Already discussed above possibility of replacing with a tree.
- RP
- b) Green Lane maintenance update
- I. Very busy road, speed of vehicles is excessive. Borough had said they were monitoring this but nothing appears to have been done. Condition of the road is terrible. RP ask for update on Borough plans for reconstruction of Green Lane that is supposed to be carried out this financial year and keep Borough Cllr. Walker informed. RP
 - II. Consider asking for flashing speed signs.
 - III. Vehicles turning out of Church View cannot see vehicles because of the overgrown banks. Vehicles are speeding down the road. Borough needs to cut back along the bank. RP
 - IV. Little compliance noted following request to Golf Club manager asking to alert members to speed limits.
 - V. Dangerous driving coming out of Green Lane onto A6 and traffic cutting corners when coming from Bedford.
 - VI. Is there an opportunity for Public Councillors to attend a Borough Highway public meeting? RP to get information. RP
- c) Grass cutting update
- I. Condition of grass along Bedford Road into Clapham is a 'total mess'.
 - II. Quality of grass mowing around Bridle Drive and Horse Estate is terrible although 100% better than it was prior to cutting.
 - III. Hedge grown across ditch along Milton Road bank near bus stop and can't see the bend. RP to speak with Borough. RP
 - IV. Lot of brambles growing out of the gardens of residents across FP14. RP spoke to Borough Footpaths Officer who insists the Borough is only responsible for maintenance of the ground on which people walk and not the surrounding areas i.e. fence, hedge etc. RP to ask independent contractor for price. RP to write to residents of Cody Road reminding them of their duty to maintain hedges at bottom of gardens. RP
 - V. Alleyway between Milton Road and Bridle Drive – laurel bushes are nearly across the entire alleyway. Also large hole in ground and dead tree stump at edge of footpath, hidden by overgrowth. RP to ask Borough to deal with. RP
 - VI. Hedge from nos. 40 and 42 The Glebe obstructing path. RP will report to Borough. RP

12. Litter Picking

- I. IG been approached by a member of Clapham Football Club who would like “to do something for the village and get involved in something like litter picking” in appreciation the Village support for the FC and its members. Equipment, supervision, hi-vis jackets and gloves would be required for H&S. Full supervision would be provided by members of the FC and/or parents.
- II. Councillors agreed they do not have any issues with the proposal as long as robust health and safety is in place and management of the areas to be cleared is undertaken.

PROPOSAL: Ask Borough Councillors Walker and Abbott to cover the cost of litter-picking equipment from Ward Funds.

RP

PROPOSED: Cllr. Nigel Sparrow

SECONDED: Cllr. Adrian Langley

13. AOB

Nothing to report.

14. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 9th July 2024

The meeting was closed by the Chair at 8.50pm

Signed as a true reflection of the meeting:

Signed	
Dated	9 th July 2024

Chair