

Meeting: Environment Committee, Clapham Parish Council
8th October 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 8.10pm
Cllr. John Reid (JR)

Apologies received: Cllr. Charlie Tomkins (CT)
R Plum (RP) Clerk to the Parish Council

Clerk to the Council: L Walton (LW) Assistant Clerk

MINUTES OF MEETING

1. Apologies for Absence Cllr. Charlie Tomkins (CT)	
2. Declarations of Interest Nothing to report.	
3. Open Forum (Open to the public for 10 minutes)	
4. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 16th September 2024	
5. Matters Arising (for information only) Nothing to report.	
6. Clerk's Report (for information only) RP on annual leave. Updates sent to IG.	
7. Riverside Gardens a) <u>Update</u> I. Voluntary group unable to assist due to weather and water still high. II. No update regarding black sacks in river – Clerk to chase the Environment Agency. b) <u>Flood damage</u> No damage to Riverside Gardens just flooding. c) <u>New turf</u> Turfing to be rescheduled due to weather agreed to leave till spring.	RP

8. Millennium/Community Gardens a) <u>Update</u> I. No update at present II. Chair wishes to thank MW for his efforts in refurbishing the benches III. AL has volunteers from the local football team offering to help in Millennium Gardens with any works. IV. AL asked the question what are the plans with Millennium Gardens? PROPOSAL: Works to be carried out so far trim trees and clear of paths PROPOSED: Cllr. Adrian Langley SECONDED: Cllr Ian Gaskin	RP RP
9. Tree Planting a) <u>Update</u> On hold at present due to all the works with the flooding.	
10. Flood Group a) <u>Update on recent floods</u> I. Chair would like to thank Cllr John Keech and Cllr John Reid for all their work regarding the floods especially late in the night also a thank you to Cllr Phillipa Simms who was also out late in the early hours helping residents. II. Flood signs to be collected. III. 124mm of rain, three and half month's rain in four and a half days compared to 65mm of rain at Christmas 2022. IV. Sand purchased for flooding by JK. One tonne of sand still left on JK front garden – JK handed receipts to Assistant Clerk. V. Aqua sacks were delivered to JK. VI. Residents from Oakley and Bromham came to Clapham for sand and bags. VII. Bedford Borough Council were a good support regarding sandbags. VIII. Mayor Tom Wootton has allocated £500k into flood resources within the borough. IX. Bedford Borough Council are to be pushed to clear gullies. X. With EWR and new development of 500 houses off Milton Road, flooding will get worse. XI. New bags needed, plastic not hessian. XII. NS pointed out Riseley have a flood group and have had their brook dredged, we need a long-term plan. XIII. Clerk to find out who the contact is at Environmental Agency. XIV. People were moving flood bollards and driving through. Vehicles going through floods and splashing houses which was not helping the houses affected by the flooding. b) <u>Plans going forward</u> I. Suggestion of an article in newsletter and on social media groups suggesting to residents of ideas how to prepare their homes for any	RP RP RP RP

future flooding e.g. airbricks covered, install floodgates and storing of sandbags. II. Oakley to have a Flood Group and to work together with Clapham Flood Group. III. Storing of sand and bags (in similar to) grit boxes and to be stored in Clapham also boxes in Oakley and Bromham. Areas to be decided where to store. IV. Gulleys to be cleared and kept clear: • Fetlock Close by Anglian Water • Milton Road by Beds Borough Council V. Non-return valve in ditch near Fox and Hounds – push Bedford Borough Council to sort this as causes problems VI. Ditch at Miller Close/Milton road to be cleared by Beds Borough Council VII. Cllr Phillippa Simms to speak to the developers of the future development at Milton Road regarding the recent and past flooding issues. Council would like to know what mitigation they have in place and have concerns how this could impact Clapham with the future development.	RP RP RP
11. Highways & Footpaths a) <u>Update</u> I. Wheelie bins blocking footpaths II. Footpath on Milton Drive/Bridle Drive – resident fell over and damaged shoulder. Tree roots lifting path. Clerk to contact BBC urgently about this. b) <u>Green Lane</u> I. Leak still not been dealt with and gas pipes still to be changed. Written assurance is required that all works to be completed prior to any resurfacing works. c) <u>Footpath 14</u> No update. d) <u>Drain/Gulley Cleaning</u> See Item 10. Flood Group. e) <u>Clapham Village Sign</u> I. Milton Road sign damaged. Decision was to leave current sign and have a new sign when contractors start the build at Milton Road development. PROPOSAL: Leave existing sign, wait for a new sign when contractors start building new Milton Road development. PROPOSED: Cllr Nigel Sparrow SECONDED: Cllr John Keech	RP RP RP

11. Churchyard & Burial Ground a) <u>Update</u> I. Burial grounds in good condition even after bad weather. II. Gate at Milton Road Burial Ground – Has new lock has been purchased as this is urgent?	RP
12. Litter picking No update due to bad weather.	
13. Any other business RP to chase any outstanding issues on her return from annual leave.	
14. Date of Next Meeting Tuesday 12th November 2024	

The meeting was closed by the Chair at 8.45pm.

Signed as a true reflection of the meeting:

Signed	
	<i>Chair</i>
Dated	12th November 2024