

MINUTES OF CLAVERING ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, MONDAY 18TH MAY, 2009

PRESENT: The Chairman, Jon Cooke, Vice Chairman, Rebecca Stanford, Councillors Eggie Abrahams, Mike Patmore, Philip Smith, Claire Rourke, Ron Couchman and Rory Joseph. along with approximately 40 parishioners.

Apologies were received from Brian Barrow, Des Abrahams and Nigel Cook.

The Chairman welcomed parishioners to the meeting as an opportunity for the village to come together. The Parish Councillors introduced themselves to the meeting.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in 2008 were read out by the Vice Chairman, approved and signed.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: The Chairman said that as he had only been in post for 3 months, it had been an interesting challenge. He thanked Rebecca Stanford for her work on the footpaths. He commented that the Parish Council had joined various village committees and entered the Best Kept Village competition (which is now more about communications and sustainability) after a gap of several years. A litter collection had been held the previous Sunday and the judging will take place in June. The renovation of the benches has been completed and the PC is taking over responsibility for the phone box in Skeins Way. It is hoped that a grant can be obtained for clearance work to the Horse Pond. The Chairman thanked Edward Oliver for his work as Finance Officer – the precept is as low as possible. Nigel Cook, editor of the Parish Newsletter, asked all parishioners to have the newsletter sent by e-mail in order to keep printing costs down. The Chairman reported that Carol Wilkinson had resigned as Clerk to the PC and thanked her for all her work over the years. The post of Parish Clerk is being advertised and he welcomed any applications. He finished by saying that it had been a pleasure to work with the Council and he looked forward to many more years.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Mrs. Alex Weston asked whether the drain by the Horse Pond could be cleared (even if a grant is not obtained). It was agreed that the railings should be marked showing where the drain is located. Mr. Hitchcock agreed to lend a digger.

Mr. Simon Cooke raised concern about the cars parked on the village green outside Dr. Gourlay's old house. It had been agreed that they could park there until the building had been finished, when the green would be re-instated. Mr. Cooke also asked who put the minutes on the village website. It was agreed that the procedure will be reviewed.

Mrs. Melody Carter asked the PC to give thought towards a written policy re. the preservation of the village greens. It was agreed to look into this.

Mr. John Smith asked if the speed sign at Oxleys Close could be moved back. Mr. Couchman replied that the County Council have the necessary funds and a meeting had been held with the Highways Dept. in April. He reminded parishioners that there is a speedwatch team meeting on 30/05/09.

Mr. Shane Rhodes raised concern re. the parking of cars by Montessori school parents. Mr. Cooke replied that the school has just changed hands but councillors will visit the new owners to remind them of their obligations. Mr. Rhodes also commented that the by-way closure was ineffective. The police have been informed but the monitoring is difficult.

Mr. Murdoch asked about the cutting of traffic sight lines on Hill Green. It was explained to him that a regular grass cutting policy had been agreed and it will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Mr. Dave Smith informed the meeting that the Fox & Hounds pub will re-open on 21/5/09.

Mrs. Stephanie Gill said she was disappointed to read in the PC minutes that one councillor had abstained from a PC resolution to work in harmony. Mr. Couchman said that he had given a full explanation at the meeting but this was not recorded in the minutes. Mr. Cooke said he is attempting to re-build the councillors trust and commented that the PC is working as harmoniously as possible.

Mr. Ray Lomas commented that village traffic had increased significantly particularly outside the school and the Bower House and asked if warning signs could be erected.

The Chairman thanked parishioners for their input.

PARISH PLAN:

Mrs. Alex Weston reported on the progress of the parish plan and said it had been a fascinating study. Mrs. Gill had carried out a workshop with Year 5 children at Clavering School on the positive and negative features of life in the village with class discussions and ways for improvement. Mr. Stanford gave an update on the results of the village questionnaire that had been distributed to every (500) household with 264 replies. A professional statistician had compiled 105 pages of results and the final

plan is hoped to be produced before the end of the year. At the end of the study the documents will be archived and used for future study. Mrs. Weston welcomed parishioners to help write the plan.

The Chairman then invited village organisations to speak:

Members from the Cricket Club, Horticultural Society, Countryside Group, Village Hall, Bowls Club, Village Society, History Society and Tennis Club all gave an insight into their own organisation and all welcomed new members to join them.

Peter Cooper informed parishioners of the 'Beating the Bounds' walk proposed for May Day 2010. He appealed for helpers to form an organising committee, a bus and driver and sponsorship.

The Chairman thanked all the organisations.

A.O.B.

Mr. Couchman said he was trying to get a 30 mph limit through the village and he was thanked for his efforts.

There was further discussion about the by-way problem and it was agreed that Highways should be contacted.

Simon Cooke proposed a vote of thanks to the Parish Council and wished it well for the future. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.