

MINUTES OF CLAVERING PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2008

(Key to votes: P: Proposed S: Seconded F: For the proposal A: Against Ab: Abstained D.Int: Declared an interest).

- 1 PRESENT: Chairman Edward Oliver, Vice Chairman Richard Carter, Edgar Abrahams, Ron Couchman, Des Abrahams, Mike Patmore, Rebecca Stanford, Nigel Cook, Jon Cooke and Philip Smith, and 5 members of the public. Brian Barrow sent apologies.
- 2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:
Edgar Abrahams: Prejudicial interest in P3 financial matters, as receiving funds.
Prejudicial interest in the Cricketers Access as a friend of the owner.
Interest declared in matters concerning CVH and JF as the Chairman of both organisations.
Des Abrahams: Prejudicial interest in the Cricketers Access as a friend of the owner.
Mike Patmore: Prejudicial interest in Allotments Rents vote as an allotment tenant.
- 3 PUBLIC QUESTIONS
Mr Rowley said he was organising another work party for the Dick Ball Meadow on 15 November, and was thanked for this. He gave his views on the grasscutting regime. Mr S Cooke commented on some past minutes and requested that the Horse Pond be allocated in the budget for clearance; he also read out from his notes on the Freedom of Information Act Scheme submitted by him on behalf of the Council.
- 4 MINUTES: The Minutes of the meeting of 4 August 2008 were approved and signed. A hearing loop microphone had been installed by the Village Hall and was activated by their Chairman.
- 5 MATTERS ARISING:
a Parish Notice Board for village events – Ron Couchman reported a quote of approx. £1015 for this; it was decided he should supply a copy of his sketch to the clerk for further quotes to be obtained.
b Christian Centre layby – no further updates from Highways.
c Druce footbridge: Awaiting documentation from the Environment Agency. It was agreed to cover this for insurance purposes to the value of £50K. No action to be taken over dumped water tanks in the river.
d Village Tour – being arranged.
e Emergency Plan – Ron Couchman said this was excellent, but Edgar Abrahams pointed out that it was completely out of date. Ron Couchman agreed to set up a new Plan.
f Storage of documents – Jon Cooke kindly offered fire-proof storage facilities; this was agreed, once the copies have been checked and collated.
g Computer hard drive backup disc – now being held by Nigel Cook, for updating periodically.
- 6 FINANCE
The Financial Budgets were circulated, together with the list of invoices for payment. The RFO was awaiting the Auditors report on the Year End Accounts, and had reclaimed the VAT early as a substantial amount was due.
Invoices to be paid:
- | | | | | |
|-------------------|--|--------|------|--------|
| Mr B Barrow | Newsletter postage, July 08 | 27.00 | - | 000967 |
| MG Maintenance | Grasscutting, 18 July, 9 Aug | 210.00 | - | 000968 |
| Amazon UK | via Clerk; Hard Drive Backup System | 52.84 | 7.24 | 000969 |
| Mr N Cook | Newsletter printing & postage, Sept 08 | 59.86 | 4.17 | 000970 |
| Post & Stationery | via Clerk; Recorded Del.& copy paper | 5.62 | 0.32 | 000971 |
- Ron Couchman asked what had been done with the £10 cash sent to the Clerk by MrTomlinson for his FOI request and where this was. The Clerk said it had been banked on 25 March 2008 (Stub No.100225) and the RFO/Chairman said it had been shown as amalgamated with other payments in the cashbook.
- 7 PLANNING:
Appeal: UTT 0545 Talks, Ash Tree Market Gardens. To be dealt with by written representations.
Appeal: Funstons re using their site for new/used Machinery and Tractor storage and sales – Dismissed.
Appeal: UTT 0159 BF Contracts. Appeal against the refusal for 7 houses at Barlee Close.
UTT 0994 B F Contracts, Barlee Close. A further application for 6 houses. Approved.
UTT 1044 Brice's Farm – rebuilding. Amendments to UTT 0284. Approved.
UTT 1449 Devlin, Brocking Croft, Roast Gn. Division into 2 houses. Approved.
UTT 1154 Webb Investments., Paddock adj. South Mill. New detached dwelling. Refused.
UTT 1239 Moore, 16 Pelham Rd. New porch. No objections.
UTT 0400 BAA – Second runway at Stansted. No comments at present. The Council agreed to log in as wishing to comment at the Public Inquiry in the spring, and if the public meeting on 11 Sept does not

support this view, this could be cancelled.
UTT 1326 Johnson, May Cottage, Starlings Green. Rear and side extensions. No objections.
UTT 1404 Keeble Bradford, Camlea. Alterations to UTT 1655 to increase dormer windows. No objections.

NEW TOWNS: Joint PC Steering Group. Suggestions following meeting by Sir Alan Haselhurst to find solutions to the extra 4200 houses required under the R.S.Strategy. Proposed all villages take a proportion to spread it District-wide. Clavering share suggested over 15 years – 41 commercial and 28 affordable homes. The Council accepted in principle what was trying to be achieved and was happy with a small increase over 15 years, but wanted further information and could not commit to numbers (P:JC, S: PS, F: 5, A: 4).

Planning breaches:

It had been agreed that the Clerk should check the current status of all outstanding matters, and request progress.

- a. Barn and lake at Starlings Green: Under review by UDC.
- b. Parking at The Druce: Logged in as ENF.253.05.
- c. Jojacks Farm: Under review.
- d. TPO Tree in Sidestream woodland: No news on the trench being filled in.
- e. ENF.18.08 Fox & Hounds: Container in the car park. Awaiting the Council's request for further action.
- F High Elms grasscutting; Passed to Inter-County via Jon Cooke to check the position.

8 HIGHWAYS

Ideas requested for any items under the £1M grant available for Highways work, to Brian Barrow.

- 9 CORRESPONDENCE The list had been circulated and all correspondence was in the file to read; see list for details.
National Flood Forum Presentation – no volunteer to attend. Edgar Abrahams said a parishioner had asked for sandbags and the Clerk agreed to get these and also to ask Peter Briggs if he would store some for Druce residents.
Shane Rhodes – complaint to Chairman about close grasscutting in Middle Street.
Sir Alan Haselhurst – acknowledgement re Highways requests. Cllr Hume: acknowledgement also.
Bus Passenger News – agreed to take this by email in future.
Essex Rural Partnership – Market Towns status. Essex Tree Initiative: suggestions from Jacky Cooper also.
EALC – Courses, roles for cllrs, law and procedures, Greens & Commons, County Update, Grant scheme documents.
RHT – Oxleys close house available for sale. Berden Parish Clerk – letter to ECC re Rose Lane, Berden.
Playequip brochure – given to JF. ATomlinson further complaint, Chairman had replied. Jacky Cooper – ideas for Allotment Centenary celebrations. Martin Davey advised he had put a skip on Hill Green.
Peter & Jill Walters – complaints about late grasscutting on Stickling Green and biodiversity problems. The Clerk had acknowledged; advised that the Council is not empowered to grant new accesses to land on the north side.
Open Road – alcoholism information. Making the Links bulletin. West Essex Forum meeting. EALC AGM.
The remainder of the correspondence and brochures was as listed, and in the file.

10 ACCESSES AND GREENS

- a. The Cricketers access – The resolution to go into Committee was reconfirmed (P:EO, Sec: RWC, F: All).
- b. Lower Hill Green - WORKING PARTY REPORT. This had been circulated to all councillors and was accepted in full, and the Minutes filed. The recommendations for the grasscutting regime were to be trialled only for 1 year, and the request from Mrs Oliver for the Council to take over cutting the village verges was declined. It was agreed that the Council alone should deal with contractors and other authorities; also agreed to print the summary in the Newsletter. Agreed to write to all residents who mow adjacent to their properties that they can only cut 1m in future.
- c. Work required to 17 trees on Hill Green: The Clerk had requested TPO permission. Quotes to be requested.
- d. Horse Pond clearance – agreed to get estimates from 2 contractors.

- 11 P3 SCHEME AND FOOTPATHS Rebecca Stanford updated the Council and information will be given to the public.

12 VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS – no reports.

- 13 RISK ASSESSMENT – The Document was approved and adopted by the Council with no further amendments. (P:EO, S.PS. F:All).

- 14 ALLOTMENTS : It was agreed to set the rent levels this year at £1 for the Centenary Year (2009), and it was confirmed that the tenants' Allotment Fund was at a healthy level. (P: RS, S: NC. F: 5 A:3, Ab.1 Mike Patmore left the meeting).

- 15 SPEED LIMITS COMMITTEE - Amended report and Minutes from previous meetings awaited.

- 16 FOI PUBLICATION SCHEME - the Clerk had circulated a copy of the Model Scheme to all councillors for discussion at the next meeting. The Commissioners required another scheme to be put in place to last until

the new scheme in January 2009. Nigel Cook and the Clerk confirmed they did not hold a copy of the scheme done by Simon Cooke, nor did the Commissioners, but had notes from him stating he had submitted it.

17 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 1 It was agreed to ask the Walden Buskers for a date for the Carols Evening.
- 2 Risk Assessment – the Clerk reported that the Council held no insurance documents for Mr T Gingell for grasscutting public land, nor the Walden Buskers who do not hold this.
- 3 Eggie Abrahams reported a hole in the verge adjacent to the Cricketers; the Chairman to inspect.
- 4 Richard Carter reported that a post outside the Chapel had been knocked down, but considered this did not need replacing at present.__

17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING Monday, 6 October 2008. The meeting then went into Committee.

MEETING IN COMMITTEE on 1 September 2008 TO DISCUSS THE CRICKETERS ACCESS

No further response received. It was therefore agreed that the Council had no choice but to follow the solicitor's and NALC advice. The Clerk was instructed to pass the matter to the designated barrister from NALC. It was also noted that all legal or administrative costs incurred could be passed to the owner if the matter was not settled amicably, so that these did not fall to ratepayers. (P: RWC S: MP, F: 7, A: 1. ECA and DA left the meeting).

There being no other business, the meeting was closed.

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