

Minutes of the Clavering Annual Meeting on Monday 15th May 2017 in Clavering Village Hall at 8pm

Attendance: 21 Parishioners, District Cllr Oliver, Essex County Cllr Gooding, Cllr Gill, Cllr Clayton, Cllr Carter, Cllr Patmore, Cllr Stanford, Cllr Barrow, Cllr Couchman, Clerk,

1. **Apologies - none**

2. **Welcome by Chairman** & introduction of the Parish Councillors & Clerk

The Chair thanked all for attending tonight. She advised the meeting was recorded.

The Parish Councillors introduced themselves.

Cllr Rebecca Stanford stood down in May as Vice Chairman and was thanked by Cllr Gill for supporting her over the past two years.

3. **Minutes of the last meeting of Clavering Annual Meeting of the Parish** held on 16th May 2016 were approved. P: Alex Weston S: Melody Carter All in Fav

4. **Chairman's Annual Meeting of the Parish Report** on past year.

Since the last Annual Meeting of the Parish, two Councillors stepped down: Lisa Williams and Conrad Smith. In May last year, our Clerk of two years, Kevin Money, tendered his resignation. The PC has a new Clerk Victoria Moore.

Victoria lives in the village, but may I remind you that unannounced visits to her home should not be undertaken.

Please do telephone her to arrange a meeting if your query cannot be answered via email or on the phone.

The Precept was increased for the following reasons:

- There was a reduction in the UDC grant received. This will actually go to zero next year.
- In 2016 the PC agreed to donate an amount annually to the Jubilee Field in respect of grass cutting
- The expected cost of the Affordable Housing Survey (amortised over 4 years)
- Provision made for an expected increase in the PC grass cutting costs.

THE RCCE housing survey will be distributed to every household in Clavering mid-June. The Chairman encouraged as many people as possible to complete it as the results of the survey are used to inform planning.

ECC has still not begun repair works to Cock Lane. The PC appreciates the anxiousness of parishioners living in its immediate vicinity and endeavours to do all that it can. The PC has been led to believe the repairs should take place from the 2017-18 budget.

The Parish Council continues to work to retain the rural, village setting of Clavering. The PC acknowledges that housing directives from Central Government drive the local targets for house-building. Future planning decisions may be taken by weighing the harm arising from the development against the benefit arising if the development contributes significantly to the rural housing supply sought by the Planning Framework and the Government's Productivity Plan.

The Parish Council has supported:

- Visits are made to the Over 60's Club to keep them updated of the changes to the bus service, especially the new on demand service, and to canvass their views for the County Council's passenger transport meetings
- It has been agreed to move an existing bench at Blacksmith's Corner to facilitate the Listening Bench, an initiative of the Landscape History Group
- Funds have been provided for the publication of a New Villager's Welcome Pack, an initiative of the Parish Church
- Grant Funds have been agreed to enable the Bowls Club to purchase a new mower and also to the Pre-School for a Light Box.
- The Information Board at Blacksmiths Corner has been replaced.
- The PC is considering a new village sign and would appreciate villager's comments.

The Chair advised the meeting that the Parish Council will continue to work, as best it can, next year for the benefit of all parishioners. The Chair reminded that any votes taken in the meeting tonight are not binding on the Council for action – although the Council will consider them at the next, appropriate, Parish Council meeting if it is empowered to do so.

5. Essex County Councillor Ray Gooding

Cllr Gooding was congratulated on his reappointment. Cllr Grundy is the new Cabinet member for Highways. Cllr Gooding will petition him for the repair of Cock Lane. Cllr Gooding will have the same portfolio again – Education. Cllr Gooding reminded the meeting that ECC is responsible for Highways and Education and that Adult Social Care is a big consideration for ECC. Cllr Gooding spoke about Byways and advised that after the general election will be a good time to start lobbying to close/restrict byways.

Q: What provision will be made for the extra local burden of school places following the closure of Friends School? ECC has a duty to find children a school place and is in discussion with local schools. There are no places in Saffron Walden schools.

The Chairman thanked Ray Gooding for his address.

6. District Cllr Edward Oliver spoke on the developments on the Local Plan and the lack of a 5-year housing supply how is affecting planning applications. Currently the Local Plan focuses on more development in towns and a new settlement either at Great Chesterford or Great Easton. There is not likely to be a Traveller site on the Local Plan as there is not a local need. Cllr Oliver told the meeting that the planning committee showed a complete lack of interest in Hazels at the Planning Committee meeting and approved it without comment. In addition, the committee ignored the Inspector's comments.

Q: Can parishioners do anything about this?

No, as approval has been given.

7. Essex Police were unable to speak on their Active Citizen Scheme

8. A representative from the Jubilee Field Committee spoke on developments concerning the trust deeds. The Jubilee Field is owned by everybody and run by elected trustees. The representative reminded those present that the committee was always looking for volunteers. The trustees are now insured and there is no exposure at the moment. The JF has a good bank account and relationship with the Village Hall. The Bowls Club, Tennis Club and Scouts are all good tenants. There has been some vandalism recently where all the bolts were removed from the bridge.

Q: Would it be logical to merge the Jubilee Field and Village Hall?

This is an ongoing conversation, there are pros and cons to ideas. The two committees work as well together as they can and have representatives on each other's committees.

9. A representative from the Village Hall Council of Management

The trust deed is 75-80 years old and out of date so a representative from the VH committee has spoken to the RCCE and the management committee are considering becoming a CIO. The trust deed does not explain how to run the meeting. Currently trustees have unlimited liability, fortunately they do not turn over large amounts of money. The VH is well used and maintained. The representative advised that the committee was looking for new trustees. There was concern about the Village Hall Car Park. Residents were urged to report all incident to the police on 111. ECC Cllr Gooding advised the meeting that there is a significant problem with gang culture. There are gangs from Europe and London who are targeting vulnerable people in these areas. CCTV was discussed but there have been no significant security breaches and installation of CCTV would be expensive. A councillor suggested that the PC could consider a grant application under the Easement money. The Village Hall representative asked why the PC would not provide a trustee for the Village Hall management committee. The PC responded that an individual Councillor would have conflict of interest. Potentially what is right for the VH may not be in the best interests of the Parish Council. As a trustee the charity must come first.

10. The following Village Organisations made presentations on membership to their clubs:

Tennis Club, Bowls club, Cricket Club, Hands off Clavering, Landscape History Club.

11. Questions and comments from Electors

A Parishioner thanked the PC for all that they do and reminded the meeting that the PC is currently 4 Councillors short. The Councillors are all volunteers and often pay for materials themselves.

Meeting closed at 9:30pm