

CLAYDON & WHITTON PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Claydon & Whitton Parish Council was held in The Village Hall, Claydon on Monday 11 January 2010 at 7.30 pm.

Present: TJ Messenger (Chairman), Mrs C Lay (Vice-Chairman), D Mallitt, Mrs M Moore, J Rose, J Whitehead, JRG Williams, G Wood, PCSO C Howard, Sgt C Curtis, J Field (County Councillor), M Redbond (District Councillor), 3 members from SCC on behalf of Claydon Pre-School and one member of the public

1. APOLOGIES

B Fotheringham (delayed), S Heald (work), CJ Studd (unwell) and F Swan (family commitment)

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2009 were approved and signed subject to the following amendments:-

Under Footpath No. 1 – “good” instead of “god”.

Under Matters raised by Chairman – amend “Training Course” to “Web Training Course”.

3. MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

4. RECREATION GROUND / PRE-SCHOOL

The Recreation Ground Management Committee had approved the site for use as a pre-school and plans of the site were available for inspection at the meeting.

The Chairman closed the meeting to allow members of Suffolk County Council and the pre-school to speak.

Mr Williams recommended that clarification is sought on the legal status, particularly when signing documents. The Chairman explained that in our role as a parish council we are acting on behalf of the residents as custodian trustees of the land. The pre-school is a non-profit making charity and it was confirmed that as a charity, if the pre-school were to fail in their business, another charity of similar status could take over.

The parish council are prepared to lease the land and SCC will own the building. SCC will aid in the management of the pre-school. The Government funding held by SCC for this project will cease in March 2011. The Chairman confirmed that a lease is in existence that would assist this and SCC offered a template which could be run through our solicitors. Cllr G Wood suggested a working party to deal with this.

The proposed term of lease to be set at 50 years is acceptable by all parties. The lease is not transferable to a third party.

”Claydon & Whitton Parish Council are in favour that the strip of land on the eastern boundary of the Recreation Ground, adjacent to the Primary School land (formerly leased to the Claydon Scout Group) be leased to Suffolk County Council at a peppercorn rent to enable a new pre-school to be erected. The land is only to be used for pre-school purposes and the lease is not transferable to a third party.”

Proposed by Cllr D Mallitt, seconded by Cllr J Williams and unanimously agreed.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Items of correspondence were noted.

6. PLANNING & AMENITIES REPORT

Mr Mallitt attended the enquiry on the Mockbeggars application and we now await the decision from the planning inspector.

Planning Application No. 3489/09 – Approval of Reserved Matters details of 353 dwellings

Former Masons Cement Works and adjoining Ministry of Defence Land, Gipping Road

This application has outline permission and the following comments were made on the house designs:-

1. Concerned at the lack of information on the railway station site and how the site would be integrated with the housing development, especially should the railway station not be developed and an alternative use be sought.
2. If the railway station site was accessed via Gipping Road, this would mean 3 accesses onto this road and a considerable increase in traffic into Claydon, especially if the B1113/Bramford Road junction is controlled by traffic lights, which is the current proposal.
3. The height of the flats proposed being 3 storeys is not in keeping with this area.
4. Cllr J Williams made the comment that social housing in clusters is not acceptable.

Mr Redbond confirmed that the employment land and industrial land had to be reserved. Access from Gipping Way and a bus only access on Chapel Lane. He confirmed that the flats are proposed to be 3 storey high which is not an uncommon thing nowadays.

£200,000 had been put aside within this financial year to update the B1113 junction with traffic lights. Traffic from Gt Blakenham turning right towards Bramford would not be incorporated in the sequence of lights.

7. FINANCE REPORT

Precept 2010/11

Mr Wood proposed that we precept for the sum of £31,650 for the year 2010/2011, as recommended by the finance committee. This was seconded by Mr Mallitt and unanimously agreed.

The current clerk is intending to leave the post as of May 2011 and it was agreed that the new clerk would need to work alongside the present clerk for a period of 6 months. An allowance for this has been made in the precept.

Election of Councillor to Finance Committee

Mr Messenger proposed that Cllr John Whitehead joins the Finance Committee, this was seconded by Mr Wood and unanimously agreed.

8. HIGHWAY MATTERS

- (a) Mr Messenger stated that he is happy with the current operation of the gritters. An item "Grit Bins" will be placed on the Planning & Amenities agenda for 9 February. If grit bins are used the clerk to be told in order that SCC are informed for insurance cover. We must also inform SCC if bins need filling or grit heaps need replacing.
- (b) Vehicles are again parking on the grass near the village sign and the clerk will report these to the Enforcement Officer. Registration number are required.

9. QUESTIONS ON WRITTEN REPORTS

Police

A copy of PCSO Howard's report is appended in the minute book.

Mrs Moore was concerned that although the diversion was over, lorries were still using Station Road.

The Chairman reported that Neighbourhood Watch for Hereford Drive is in hand and nearing completion. To promote Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in Claydon and Whitton we will endeavour to arrange a speaker for the Annual Parish Meetings. Publicity to highlight this is required in the Community News.

Chairman

Copy of report appended in the minute book.

Meet & Mingle meeting being held at the Community Centre on 21 January from 6.30pm – 7.30 pm and it was hoped as many parish councillors as possible would attend.

County Councillor

In the absence of a written report, Mr Field gave a full verbal report on County Council matters.

District Councillor

Copy of report appended in the minute book.

Mr Wood had contacted the Waste Department regarding non-collection of refuse. Mr Redbond to investigate and report back.

Mr Redbond reported that there is £40,000 available for youth activities in the area and we need to make sure that there are some proposals put forward.

Village Hall

No report was available.

Recreation Ground

Minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2009 had been circulated to all parish councillors and a copy appended in the minute book.

Youth Committee

Mr Whitehead attended his first meeting of the Youth Support Group on 1 December and he was also made treasurer. The bidders will pitch their projects by the end of February with a £10,000 maximum per project. Feedback forms have indicated preferences for such projects. Mr Whitehead will provide a written report for future meetings.

10. WEBSITE

Mrs Swan and Mr Messenger had discussed this with Mr Tuppen but felt that their knowledge of websites was insufficient and Mr Messenger asked for someone who is more computer literate to assist.

The website needs to be user friendly and we need to change the mentality of the parishioners to view the website, i.e. highlight the website on all correspondence that is issued by Claydon & Whitton Parish Council regardless of the correspondence. Mr Tuppen would update parish councillors on the number of hits to the website page.

11. CONSERVATION AREA

Mr Mallitt and Mr Wood offered to help Mr Messenger to clear and maintain this site once the weather improved as this had not been cleared for approximately 2 years.

12. NUCLEAR POWER STATION AT SIZEWELL

A copy of the email from the Office for Nuclear Development had been circulated to all parish councillors and it was felt that no further comment could be made at this stage. The clerk will notify councillors of any updates as they arrive.

13. WHITTON RURAL NOTICE BOARD

Mr Mallitt had no further update as still awaiting prices. An item will be placed on the Planning & Amenities agenda for 9 February.

14. THE LOCAL COUNCILLOR

Mr Williams praised the first class quality of this publication.
"Email Summons" to be placed on March agenda.

15. SNOASIS

Mr Williams reported that he is drawing up a presentation to Town and Parish Councils, if they are equally faced with something similar. Nothing specific to report on SnOasis.

16. CLAYDON & BARHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE

Mr Mallitt and Mr Messenger had visited MSDC to discuss funding opportunities. To obtain funding the Community Centre needs to be offering as many different services/facilities as possible.

New windows are required for the back room before this can be used effectively. S106 monies are available and Mr Mallitt proposed that these monies be used to provide the centre with new windows to the value of £3000. This was seconded by Mr Messenger and unanimously agreed.

Mr Messenger had requested that, in future, we have a set policy in place for the use of S106 monies that are available for community use.

If the pre-school vacates the building, there is an opportunity to open an internet café which could attract pupils from the high school as well as residents from the community. All parish councillors were in favour in principle.

17. SUCH BUSINESS THAT IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIRMAN SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES TO BE SPECIFIED IN THE MINUTES

The Chairman felt that a date for the Annual Parish Meetings needed to be decided so that this could be publicised. It was agreed to hold these meetings on Monday 26 April 2010. Whitton Rural at 7.00 pm and Claydon at 7.30 pm and endeavour to arrange a speaker on Neighbourhood Watch.

18. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

Mrs Moore asked for her apologies for absence due to holiday to be noted until April 2010.

Mrs Moore was concerned about the absence of buses and more complaints had been received.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

Chairman