

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

CLAYTON VILLAGE HALL
THURSDAY 8th MAY 2014 at 6-15pm

MINUTES - approved

Meeting commenced at 6-15pm.

- 2014/07** **Present**
Councillor Jean Pitts (Chairman, Clayton Parish Council)
K. Pickles (Responsible Finance Officer)
C. Hepton (Clerk)
- 2014/08** **Apologies for Absence**
None
- 2014/09** **In attendance**
11 members of the public,
- 2014/10** **Welcome and introduction**
The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.
- 2014/11** **Previous Minutes and Matters Arising**
The previous minutes were accepted as a correct record and there were no matters arising.
Proposed: D. Delaney Seconded: R. Spencer
- 2014/12** **Clayton Parish Council – Annual Report**
Jean Pitts, Chairman, reported as follows:
Once again it has been my privilege to serve as your Chairman during the last 12 months. I would like to thank all the Councillors particularly those who have served on committees and working groups throughout the year. Special mention to our new Clerk Claire Hepton who has successfully taken over the duties entailed with this position admirably which augers well for her new position as Responsible Finance Officer.
During the year we have been happy to support a number of applications for grants such as Clayton Village Hall, Clayton History group, Clayton Community Association, Clayton Baptist Church and PCSO Croft for a youth diversion group in the village. I feel that these grants have been given fairly and will no doubt be appreciated by the groups concerned. We give every consideration to grant applications which are for the wellbeing of the Clayton community.
During the year we have had various issues to deal with particularly with regard to Planning and one issue is still ongoing. There have been applications to extend licensing hours at various establishments in Clayton to which we have expressed our concerns. The original demands have not been met by Bradford Met. My thanks go to our district councillor Carol Thirkill who has worked hard on these matters.
Our Police Liaison Group meetings are particularly well attended and I am of the opinion that Clayton is policed well despite the severe cut-backs. We are

very much aware of the problems which we have with a few of the younger people in Clayton along with car speeding. I am sure that the Police are aware of these problems and are dealing with these matters the best they can.

During the year we have welcomed to the Council 3 new members – Shazed Parvez, Ian Hepton and Andrew Cunningham. It is hoped that they will continue their interest in the workings of the Council for the good of the community.

The Clayton newsletter has been distributed and my thanks go to our Vice-Chairman, Chris Kaushal-Bolland for his efforts with this project which I know has not been easy and fraught with various problems along the way. Chris has been responsible for the new look print work and letter head logos which give it a more up to date impression.

As usual the Dickensian Market again did Clayton proud and although held on not the best of days raised a substantial amount for charity. The Christmas lights once again did brighten the landscape and my thanks to Claire for the organisation and co-ordination involved.

More daffodils and other spring flowers were planted and were absolutely wonderful but I think we are possibly running out of green space for planting. Any suggestions please see Claire.

The library is still our concern and we are to hopefully replace the windows and paint the exterior very shortly. We are looking at the possibility of improving the gardens and all these improvements will be met from the fund we have set aside for the WW1 commemoration. We are also planting poppies and other perennials in the park and this work is being affected by Gerry Drapier. On behalf of the council we offer our thanks to Gerry for this. Our allotments are now being looked after by Andrew Cunningham who is also the Chairman of the newly formed Glenholme Allotment Association which now has its own constitution but still directly reports to the council. I wish to thank Andrew for his efforts on our behalf.

Mention must be made of the decision of the council to maintain the precept at the same level which it was felt was appropriate in these taxing times.

I have attended several functions on behalf of the Council, the most memorable being at the Gospel Hall and Baptist Church and a Thanksgiving service arranged by Ikley Parish Council.

In conclusion may I once again thank all Councillors for their attendance and considered debate at our meetings which are held every 2 months. Finally thank you the general public for your attendance and question at our meetings and to Eileen for supplying the refreshments.

2014/13

Clayton Parish Council – Financial report 2013 -2014

Keith Pickles, Responsible Finance Officer reported on the financial position as follows:

Clayton Parish Council receives most of its money from council tax payers in Clayton. This amounted to £27,213 in 2014/15. For 2014/15/ Clayton Parish Council received an extra £3,999 in Council Tax Support Grant from Bradford Council. This amount is decreasing year on year. If this grant ceases, Clayton Parish Council (along with other parish councils) will be left with financial problems.

The parish council runs the allotments and receives income from the allotment tenants. Working closely with the Allotments Association, this money is spent on maintaining the allotment site; including paying the water bills.

Running expenses e.g. Clerk & Finance Officer's salaries; printing and stationery; subscriptions to national parish council bodies & insurance, account for around 40% of the expenditure. The Council meets the costs of holding the Police Liaison Meetings as well as the costs of its own meetings. The cost of this newsletter is also met by the Council.

The Council continues to provide the Christmas Lights throughout the village (£2,212) as well as the £935 for bulb planting & hanging baskets at £210. £140 was again given for prizes in the garden competition.

The Village Hall was supported to the tune of £3,000 in 2013/14; whilst the Dickensian Market was assisted with a payment of £1,200. Grants totalling £5,229 have also been given to other organisations in the Village.

The fund balance at the year-end amounted to £37,677. £12,000 of this was provision for the cost of possible future elections. £25,677 is unallocated and available for the council to spend.

Proposed: I. Hepton

Seconded: E. Edgely

Resolved: That the financial report is accepted.

2014/14

Any other business

All in attendance were given the opportunity to make comment and discuss ideas and matters relating to the village.

Questions/Comments from the public were made as follows:

- a) Mr Delaney thanked Councillor Jean Pitts on her work done throughout the year. He also thanked Keith Pickles the RFO who was retiring from the Parish Council.
- b) Mrs Edgely congratulated the council on the newsletter.
- c) Mr Delaney mentioned that there would be an evening of music at St. John's. The community choir along with Clayton CE school choir would be participating.
- d) The chairman presented Keith with a voucher and thanked him for all his hard work over the years. This was concurred by those in attendance.

The meeting closed at 6.35pm and all were thanked for their attendance.