

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**CLAYTON VILLAGE HALL
THURSDAY 19th MAY 2015 at 6.00pm**

MINUTES - draft

- 2016/16** **Present**
Councillor Jean Pitts (Chairman, Clayton Parish Council)
C. Hepton (Clerk and Finance Officer)
- 2016/17** **Apologies for Absence**
None
- 2016/18** **In attendance**
11 members of the public,
- 2016/19** **Welcome and introduction**
The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.
- 2016/20** **Previous Minutes and Matters Arising**
Proposed: D. Delaney **Seconded: C. Kaushal-Bolland**
- 2016/21** **Clayton Parish Council – Annual Report**
The Chairman gave the following report:
For the last time as Chairman I wish to deliver the speech to the Annual Parish meeting on our activities for the past 12 months.
First of all I would like to thank our hard working parish clerk/responsible finance officer, Claire Hepton who has kept us all informed and updated on essential details. Her role is of prime importance to the smooth running of the council. Secondly thanks to our parish councillors who work extremely hard on behalf of the people of Clayton.
The sign for the parish council has now been fixed to the frontage of the village hall. Thanks to Cllr Chris Kaushal-Bolland. Arrangements for grit bins and the establishment of local snow teams are being arranged.
Thanks to Claire and our district councillor Carol Thirkill for their efforts with this matter.
Once again our Clayton in Bloom competition proved to be popular and we had an afternoon of prize giving at the Village Hall. Music from Clayton Community Choir opened the event. Thanks to Rowan Russell musical director. The afternoon finished with a cream tea which was enjoyed by all.
We had a wonderful display during the summer with our hanging baskets. Due to cuts with Bradford district council they will no longer be able to provide these. The same applies to the roundabout though we have arranged for a company to now take care of the latter.
This year was a first for a Christmas tree in the park. This I felt was a tremendous success particularly the 'Carols round the Christmas Tree' event. Thanks once again to Clayton Community Choir.
During the year we were informed that there was a good chance of Clayton Library coming under threat of closure and although this is still a factor we understand that our local district councillors have helped delay a decision until possibly 2017. All the cuts which are now coming into being are the result of the 'New Deal' and central government reducing the amount paid to local councils.

A forward Business Plan is being considered by the Parish Council as a result of the New Deal and for this year's budget we have reserved £10,000 for additional costs which may be forthcoming.

We granted the amount of £4,398 to applicants requesting assistance with finance to their various organisations but we had a budget of £9,900.

Our cumulative fund balance as at 31/3/2016 is £44,299. The precept we have received for this coming year is £33,561 and a council tax support grant of £4,314 – therefore if we expend all the budget costs we shall use some of our reserves of approx. £10/11,000. My own opinion is that although we must reserve funds for any eventuality and taking into consideration increases each year on the precept we should look at applications for any grant in a more favourable way.

Once again our daffodil planting over the last few years has proved to be more spectacular than usual and has been commented upon very favourably.

At our parish council meeting in March it was agreed that we would celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday by holiday a picnic in the park on Saturday 11th June from 1-3pm. Arrangements are already in place for this and will be advertised shortly.

In closing may I once again thank you for all your continued support over the last four years and wish the incoming Chairman my best regards for what has proved to me to have been a very wonderful experience.

2016/22

Clayton Parish Council – Financial report 2015 - 2016

Claire Hepton 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 £29,522 in 2015/16. For 2015/16 Clayton Parish Council received an extra £3,933 in Council Tax Support Grant from Bradford Council. The future for the council tax support grant has been in question for some time so it cannot be guaranteed. 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. This year £570 was spent on trimming and cutting some of the trees that were becoming somewhat unkempt.

Running expenses e.g. Clerk & Finance Officer's salaries; printing and stationery; subscriptions to national parish council bodies & insurance, account for around 46% of the expenditure. An increase on the previous year mainly attributed to the increase in the hours of the clerk.

The Council meets the costs of holding the Planning meetings along with the costs of its own full meetings. There have been regular police updates delivered prior to the start of the full council meetings

The council agreed that a Christmas tree and lights should be planted in the park. This was a great success with an evening of carol singing and refreshments served after at the Village Hall. There was a one off cost from Bradford Met to prepare the groundworks for the tree to be installed and also for the cost of the lights. This totalled £3415. The tree itself and the installation of the lights came to £2093.

The Council continues to provide the Christmas Lights throughout the village (approx. £4824). An increase as some of the installations were in need of repair. The council also continued to provide hanging baskets at £257 for the businesses of Clayton. £245 was again given towards the garden competition and a prize giving afternoon with cream tea and an afternoon of music.

The Dickensian Market was supported again this year with a payment of £1,200. Grants totalling £4738 have also been given to other organisations in the Village. This is down 41% on last year. The fund balance at the year-end amounted to £44,285.74, £12,000 of this was provision for the cost of possible future elections. £32,285.74 is unallocated and available for the council to spend.

Proposed: C.Thirkill

Seconded: E.Edgely

Resolved: That the financial report is accepted.

2016/23

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) A question was received regarding the fund balance. The Chairman explained that some funds may be required to maintain some services Bradford Council wouldn't be able to deliver.
- b) Transfer of services – The Localism Act. Clayton Parish Council does not yet know how it will affect the village
- c) Youth groups – some concern over anti-social behaviour. The council may, in conjunction with the development of a business plan look to set up a youth council.
- d) Policing Issues – whilst the police force is stretched in terms of manpower people are urged to report either via 101 or on-line any non-emergency issues.

The meeting closed at 6.55pm and all were thanked for their attendance.