

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

CLAYTON VILLAGE HALL
THURSDAY 11TH MAY 2017 at 6-00pm

MINUTES

- 2017/24** **Present**
Councillor Chris Kaushal-Bolland (Chairman, Clayton Parish Council)
C. Hepton (Clerk and Finance Officer)
- 2017/25** **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies were received from Victoria Bowling Club, Carol Thirkill
- 2017/26** **In attendance**
29 members of the public,
- 2017/27** **Welcome and introduction**
The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.
- 2017/28** **Previous Minutes and Matters Arising**
Proposed: C. Kaushal-Bolland **Seconded:** S. Gudgeon
- 2017/29** **Clayton Parish Council – Finance summary 2016/17**
Claire Hepton, the responsible Finance Officer gave the following report:
- Income:**
Clayton Parish Council receives the majority of its income from Council Tax payers in Clayton through the precept. The total precept for 2016/17 generated income of **£33,561** plus **£4,314.00** for the council tax support grant.
- The Parish Council runs Glenholme Allotments and close working relationships with the Allotments Association ensures that allotment income is used to maintain the allotment site; including paying the water bills. The Parish Council received allotment income from allotment tenants which amounted to **£900.00** plus **£750.00** for the Bradford Council Allotments Grant.
- Due to the financial cuts by Bradford Council it was envisaged that some ‘front-line’ services would be transferred from Bradford Council to the Parish Council. As such, **£10,000** was used from the Parish Council reserves as a transitional budget.
- Bank interest amounted to **£40.00**.
- Therefore, available funds to the Parish Council for 2015/16 amounted to **£49,565.00**.

Expenditure:

Running expenses e.g. Clerk & Finance Officer's salaries; printing and stationery; subscriptions to national parish council bodies & insurance, account for around 30% of the expenditure.

The Council meets the costs of holding all the committee meetings along with the costs of its own full meetings.

The Council continues to provide the Christmas Lights and the Christmas tree for the village (approx. £4867) as well as the providing hanging baskets and maintaining the library which makes for a very attractive appearance.

Grants – 27% of the total expenditure budget was spent on the Grant Aid budget in 2016/17 which amounted to **£13,905.00** which was awarded to deserving causes. The Parish council has awarded **£6,000.00** for the new play area adjacent to Thornaby Road which will soon begin the building process. The Village Hall continues to be supported by way of a grant for new flooring and a new central heating system. Clayton Scouts also received £3,000.00 to help pay for a replacement mini bus.

Total expenditure for 2016/17 was **£51,586**.

2017/30**Presentation for Grant Aid recipients**

The 16th Diehards Bradford Scouts group came to say thank you to the Parish Council for the grant which was awarded. It was used to help fund a replacement mini bus which had been stolen. Young members of the group spoke about how great it was being able to get out to places again.

Victoria Bowling Club were unable to attend but sent a letter of thanks for the grant which was awarded to help purchase a new lawnmower.

Jean Pitts from Clayton Community Association provided an update. See item 2017/33.

2017/31**Clayton Parish Council – Chairman's report**

Cllr Kaushal-Bolland provided the following update:

As Chairman of the Parish Council, it is my duty to preside over the meeting this evening and I welcome you all very much.

This is my first year as Chairman and I wish to deliver the Annual Report to the Annual Parish meeting on our activities for the past 12 months.

To all members of the public, including yourselves for coming this evening and to the hundreds of people who engage with us on a regular basis either via the various social media platforms, by email, telephone or in writing, thank you. Without your engagement, either positive or otherwise, our purpose and mission is fruitless.

I would also like to thank my fellow Councillors who volunteer their time to deliver the business of the parish council. For several months now we have held several Parish Councillor vacancies on the council. I am pleased to report that we have had three applications which will be considered at our next Parish council meeting on Thursday 18th May. Whilst this will bring us back to a full council I do encourage

everybody to consider standing as a Parish Councillor and help to make a difference to your community.

I would also like to thank the staff of the Parish Council – whilst we only have two part-time staff, the work that they undertake is remarkable. **Claire Hepton** is our Clerk and Finance Officer and has worked with the Council for 4-years and **Helen Rankin** who is our Asst Clerk & Volunteer Co-ordinator has only recently joined in March but has made a positive impact.

Thank you is to the dozens of **Volunteers** who have offered their time to work in the Library. Helen, as Volunteer Co-ordinator, is now co-ordinating the volunteers and will shortly be providing training to support them in their library duties.

As we are all aware, Bradford Council are facing considerable financial constraints and to balance their budget several front-line services have been either reduced or completely removed. To ease this transition we have utilised £10,000 of funding from our reserves.

Without the efforts of the Parish Council, **Clayton Library** would have closed at the end of March 2017. Although a somewhat contentious issue, we have now established an office in the Library, from where Helen works and a consequence of this has been a reduction in shelf space. I remain convinced that the decision to do this was correct and we can continue to enjoy the benefits of the library – not only a place to loan books but a social space for everyone. Whilst the office within the library is managed by the Parish Council – it is for public use, subject to availability and I encourage people to use it – whether that be for small meetings, children's homework clubs, or a place to bring your own device and undertake some work.

We have been more successful in raising our profile as a Parish Council over the past 12-months. Whilst we have exceeded our Grant Aid budget I am comforted that this investment is for worthy causes within our own community. We have however ensured that our bottom-line balance remains in-tact.

I am pleased that some recipients of Grant Aid funding are present this evening and will provide a short presentation in due course.

Upon entrance to the centre of the village it is always pleasing to be received by the pleasant and well-kept roundabout at the bottom of the Avenue with Bradford Road...this is now managed and maintained by the Parish Council and we have placed signs on the roundabout, again to promote our existence.

Unfortunately, private land adjacent to the roundabout looks rather shabby. The Parish Council have written to the owners in the past and it was cut back. I will be writing again to ensure that the land is maintained and blends-in with the surrounding area.

Victoria Bowling Club, unfortunately who are not able to be present this evening and send their apologies were grateful for Grant Aid funding towards their lawnmower. The club is growing from strength to strength and I know that they will also have some tough decisions coming their way over the coming year, again relating to Bradford Council cuts – like the library – either take over the running of

the asset with volunteers otherwise Bradford Council will close the facility and it will become part of the park.

I can also foresee similar discussions with **Victoria Park** in the future – whether Clayton Parish Council will become the responsible body to maintain the park will remain to be seen. I am sure you will all agree that Victoria Park is a delightful place to spend time...however, we have some issues to address:

- Litter
- ASB
- Speeding

These are issues that we have continuously battled with over the past year and there isn't one simple solution but these are areas that our newly appointed **Youth Council** will also be addressing.

On the matter of speeding, over recent months we have seen a collision and overturned car on Park Lane and the attendance of the Air Ambulance on Hunters Park Avenue. Why should we have to wait for a fatality before action is taken, especially around the centre of the village, within the vicinity of the park and near schools where children are present. Whilst I recognise that enforcing speed restrictions is an issue I am convinced that it serves as a deterrent. As such, I am working with our Youth Council to draft a letter to Bradford Highways and West Yorkshire Police to consider a 20-mph zone at these key locations. However, this work comes at a cost which comes from yourselves via your precept.

This year the Parish Council has established a governance structure with several Committees and Working Groups.

Events Committee

I would like to thank **Clr Jean Pitts** for Chairing the **Events Committee** over the past year. Whilst we all enjoy partaking in events themselves, the work and planning that goes into making such arrangement is often forgotten.

We had another successful **Clayton in Bloom** completion which concluded with the prize-giving ceremony in the Village Hall with a Cream Tea. Thank you to the volunteers of Clayton Community Association for all the challenging work they do and my sincere thanks to Clayton Community Choir who provided us with a rendition of a selection of their songs. Watch out on the internet for details about Clayton in Bloom again this year – Applications Forms will be available from next week in various shops and on the Parish Council website.

I am informed that **Northcliffe Nurseries** have received our empty hanging baskets and they will be propagating these over the coming weeks ready for another floral summer across Clayton.

The **Christmas Tree** in the Park and the **'Carols around the Tree'** service again provided popular and we will be doing this again this year.

The **Picnic in the Park** was lots of fun, although the weather was rather inclement it certainly didn't dampen spirits and the Clayton Women's Institute certainly showed off their baking skills – well done to **Pam Cunningham** and her dedicated team of workers.

The Parish Council is taking a wider role in the organisation of the **Dickensian Market** this year and we all look forward to another fantastic day again this year. I would like to thank all the people involved in the past Clayton Dickensian Markets to make it the success that it is now. Last year £8,000 was raised and donated to charity.

Planning Committee

Work has certainly heated up with our **Planning Committee** and I would like to thank Cllr Carol Thirkill for chairing this committee over the past year.

Bradford Council have set out their long-term Land Allocations Development Plan Document to meet the district's needs for new homes until 2030 which includes:

- 35,500 new homes:
- The provision of 46 pitches for travellers and 45 plots for travelling show people;

Our Planning Committee received these documents and at the time we made our formal objections clear, that any large-scale development in Clayton would not be appropriate and would cripple our already poor road infrastructure, not to mention the impact on overcrowded schools and local NHS provision.

We are aware of the proposed Westminster Avenue developments and I am grateful for the work of residents and the 'Keep Clayton Green' Action Group in their efforts to stand firm and submit strong objections. As a Parish Council, we do not simply rule-out any developments but I maintain that large-scale developments for Clayton are completely out of proportion to the character of our village.

On a positive note, I am pleased that the new park development is going ahead adjacent to Thornaby Drive.

Finance Committee

Cllr Sharon Gudgeon has maintained a tight steer on the Finance Committee to ensure that we are in a healthy position. Also thanks to our Finance Officer for completing the end of year accounts which are now with the auditors for scrutiny and approval.

Staffing Committee

As with any organisations, employing staff, volunteers, having face-to-face contact with members of the public requires a wide range of policies and procedures to be put in place. I must thank Cllr James Vasey for his Chairmanship of the **Staffing Committee** and overseeing this work.

I would also like to **Cllr Andrew Cunningham** for taking care of **Clayton Allotments Association** – this is another provision that is going from strength to strength and we have all plots currently subscribed to, mainly by residents.

And finally, many thanks to **Cllr Ian Hepton** for leading the **Police Liaison Meetings**. I know that PC Lord is keen to deal with local issues mentioned earlier and there are some opportunities where we can bring local Neighbourhood Watch areas together to work together.

There is one area that I have not managed to develop in the past year – this is the **‘School Achievers Award’** – a scheme designed to reward co-curricular activities that prepare our young children with the key attributes and values of good citizenship in the categories of:

- **Encouragement and Inspiration**
Someone who does not simply walk by on the other side but intervenes with words and/or actions of wisdom to provide encouragement and inspiration to others;
- **Style, Form and Manners**
Someone who adopts appropriate styles of behaviour, attitude and demonstrates good manners in the presence of others;
- **Adversity**
Someone, who in the face of adversity, has shown strength and determination to overcome any personal emotions to achieve greatness;

I will be taking this initiative forward with our local school in the near future.

In closing may I once again thank you for all your continued support over the past year and it has been my absolute pleasure to serve as Chairman and I look forward to another year ahead working with the Parish Council. Next week, Thursday 18th May is a full council public meeting, where Councillors will elect a new Chairman and official officers of the Council and I will be submitting my interest to stand for another year to complete the work that we have started.

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Police update

Our Ward Officer PC Kevin Lord presented the update as follows:

Currently we have 3 PCSO's with a view to recruiting one more. With the summer/lighter months approaching anti-social behaviour is something that they will be monitoring. Urged to keep on reporting crimes/issues on the 101 number. There has been an increase of 9% on crime in the area which although an increase is less than most other areas. Urged to keep cars locked and windows/doors shut. A lot of crimes are of an opportunistic nature so be more careful.

2017/33

Clayton Community Association (CCA)

Jean Pitts, Vice Chairman of CCA provided the following update:

During the last year and to preserve the facilities of Clayton library CCA has agreed to work in partnership with Clayton Parish Council. CCA are the Responsible Body and will form part of the Library Oversight Group. Bradford Council and CCA have entered into a Service Level Agreement to ensure that the joint venture commenced at the beginning of April 2017 and is working successfully.

We have also agreed to hold the grant funding which was awarded to contribute towards a new children's play facility by Thornaby Drive.

CCA agreed for a sign to be attached to the front of the building featuring Clayton Parish Council who use the facilities of the hall for their meetings.

CCA have applied to BIFFA for a grant towards a new central heating system to which the Parish Council have help support by way of a grant. We also received a grant for the new flooring in the Village Hall. CCA thank the Parish Council for their continued support.

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Clayton Youth Council

The Chairman of the Youth council, Mollie Douglas introduced herself along with the other members. Currently they meet on Mondays in the Village Hall. There have been several initiatives that they have been working on. These will be presented to the Parish Council in July 2017. Some of their concerns relate to speeding around the village especially near the park and the amount of litter.

2017/34

Questions from the public

Q: When would the build of the new park development start?

A: Hopefully in the new 5-6 weeks. More details would be circulated once they have been confirmed.

Q: Has anyone considered flood lights in the football court in Victoria Park?

A: That wasn't something that had been previously considered though it would be a matter for Bradford Council rather than the Parish Council.

Q: How much money was in the reserves?

A: at the end of March 2017 there was £27,450.00 in the reserves account.

The meeting closed at 7.00pm and all were thanked for their attendance.