

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

CLAYTON VILLAGE HALL
THURSDAY 17th MAY 2018 at 6-00pm

MINUTES - DRAFT

2018/35 **Present**
Councillor James Vasey (Chairman, Clayton Parish Council)
C. Hepton (Clerk and Finance Officer)
H.Rankin (Asst clerk)

2018/36 **Apologies for Absence**
None received.

2018/37 **In attendance**
13 members of the public,

2018/38 **Welcome and introduction**
The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

2018/39 **Previous Minutes and Matters Arising**
Proposed: E. Edgeley **Seconded:** J.Pitts

2017/40 **Clayton Parish Council – Chairman’s report**
Cllr Vasey provided the following update:

It is an honour to have served as Chairman of the Parish since being elected in January and I thank my colleagues for re-electing me to serve for the 2018-2019 council year.

To all members of the public, I want to thank you for your engagement in village life, the work of many voluntary groups, and your work with the Parish Council.

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors who volunteer their time to deliver the work of the Parish Council. I would remind councillors and member of the public, especially, there are currently 3 vacancies on the council. I would encourage everyone to consider putting themselves forward, and co-option information is available from Claire Hepton, our Parish clerk, being a Parish Councillor is an excellent way to contribute to village life.

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 have worked with the Council for five years. Helen Rankin is our Assistant Clerk and Volunteer Co-ordinator who has been with the council for just over a year and helps ensure the Library is open through her team of volunteers.

Thanks you are certainly due to the dozens of volunteers who have offered their time to work in the Library. Helen, as Volunteer Co-Ordinator, manages the training, rota and support to the volunteers.

At the district level, I would like to congratulate Cllr Engel on her re-election to represent Clayton & Fairweather Green in Bradford Council.

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 continued to set aside £10,000 of funding from our reserves.

We spent within our Grant Aid budget, and I am confident that this investment is for worthy causes within the parish.

I would like to thank members of the events committee for their work over the last year, we all enjoy the events, but we often overlook the work that goes behind in organising them, and I thank the committee for their work.

We held another successful Clayton in Bloom competition which concluded with a prize-giving ceremony in the Village Hall and creams teas. Thank you to volunteers of Clayton Community Association for all their work and to Clayton Community Choir who sang a wide range of their repertoire.

The Clayton in Bloom competition in 2018 is being revamped and detailed will be advertised shortly.

The flower baskets, supplied by Northcliffe Nurseries are due to be filled with this years flowers.

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

The Parish Council was involved in the organisation of the Dickensian Market this year and we will look forward to another fantastic day again this December. Over £8,000 was raised for Charity.

However, due to a shortage of councillors able to support the event, the Parish will not be involved in its organisation, but individual councillors will continue to support the event.

This year, we have established a short story competition for Primary Schools and we have received good feedback from the schools involved.

In planning, work has certainly heated up with our Planning Committee and I would like to thank members for their work diligently reviewing applications and for their work in objecting to the Westminster Avenue / Holts Lane development.

As a Parish Council, we do not simply rule out any development but large scale developments in Clayton are out of proportion to the character of the village. As an example, the proposed development between Blackberry Way and Baldwin lane would increase the village population by almost 10%.

Our finances are kept on a tight leash by our Finance Committee to ensure that we are in a healthy position and thank you to our Finance Officer for completing the end of year accounts which will be presented shortly.

Our staffing committee now has responsibility for initial vetting for potential co-opted councillors, to ensure that there is more transparency in the process for co-opting members of the public onto the council.

I would like to thank Cllr Cunningham for taking care of the Clayton Allotments Association, the allotments are in regular use, with all plots in use, and a small waiting list.

Unfortunately, the Youth Council has not been the success we would have liked and I will be asking the Business Planning Working Group to propose alternative ways to work with all the youth groups in the village.

I hope that many residents of the village will be able to get involved in many of the events we have planned for the year, and I again ask for people to come forward and help support the work of council, by putting themselves forward for co-option onto the council.

2018/41

Police update

Our Ward Sgt Paul Riley presented the update as follows:

The community policing team will be seeing an expansion in the number of officers on its team. This would enable the Police alternate the shift patterns allowing for more cover when it was needed.

Statistics:

	26/3/18 – 14/5/18	v	same period LY
Domestic burglary	18		34
Theft form motor vehicles	18		25

Looking to try and engage with the local primary schools. That might be by way of football tournaments etc. the expectation is that the police can help, support and educate children.

Questions from the public:

- Drug dealing. The response was that all information should be passed on. Ring 101.
- Speeding. Looking at more use of the speed gun and mobile units. There are rules about where you can sight them
- Quad Bikes. Again to report any nuisance. There is a dedicated team that deals with this.

2018/42

Clayton Parish Council – Finance summary 2017/18

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 2017/18 generated income of **£40,321** plus **£5,229** 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 **£738.00** plus **£805.00** 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 **£30.00**.

Therefore, available funds to the Parish Council for 2017/18 amounted to **£57,240.00**.

Expenditure:

Running expenses – The Parish council employed another member of staff in April 2017, an assistant to the clerk and volunteer co-ordinator for the library. Clerk & Finance Officer's salaries; printing and stationery; subscriptions to national parish council bodies & insurance, account for around 58% of the expenditure.

Library – the parish council entered into an agreement until 2020 with Bradford Council that Clayton library would be run as a Hybrid library. This saved it from closure altogether. It has been running very smoothly. The council set aside £6,000 to build an office with the library.

The Council meets the costs of holding its own full meetings at the Village Hall but with an office at the library the smaller committee meetings are held there.

The Council continues to provide the Christmas Lights and the Christmas tree for the village (approx. £5211) as well as the providing hanging baskets and maintaining the library which makes for a very attractive appearance.

Grants – 17% of the total expenditure budget was spent on the Grant Aid budget in 2017/18 which amounted to **£9,592.00** which was awarded to deserving causes. The Village Hall continues to be supported by way of a grant new central heating system. The Dickensian market were supported by the council by way of payment for insurance and marketing/promotional material.

Total expenditure for 2017/18 was **£57,505**

2018/43

Grant Aid recipients

The clerk reported on what grant aid had been given in the financial year. Clayton Village Hall, St.Johns Parish Church, St John's toddler group, Clayton Community Cinema and 1st Clayton Guides were amongst the recipients.

2018/44

Clayton Community Association (CCA)

Carol Thirkill, Chairman of CCA provided the following update:

The Village Hall had received a grant towards the cost of providing a new central heating system and flooring – the Parish Council was thanked for their continued support. The running costs are very high for the Village Hall. The hall was there for all residents to benefit from.

2018/45

Questions from the public

Q: How much money was in the reserves?

A: at the end of March 2018 there was £17,480 in the reserves account.

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