

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

CLAYTON VILLAGE HALL
THURSDAY 21st MAY 2015 at 6-15pm

MINUTES - draft

Meeting commenced at 6-15pm.

- 2015/15** **Present**
Councillor Jean Pitts (Chairman, Clayton Parish Council)
C. Hepton (Clerk and Finance Officer)
- 2015/16** **Apologies for Absence**
None
- 2015/17** **In attendance**
9 members of the public,
- 2015/18** **Welcome and introduction**
The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.
- 2015/19** **Previous Minutes and Matters Arising**
The clerk identified a typo error in regards to the fund balance that was recorded in the financial report. The actual amount should've read £37,677 not £27,677. The minutes would be amended. Therefore the amended minutes were accepted as a correct record and there were no matters arising.
Proposed: D. Delaney Seconded: C. Thirkill
- 2015/20** **Clayton Parish Council – Annual Report**
The Chairman gave the following report:
- It has been a privilege to serve you as Chairman for the past 12 months. Much has happened during the last 12 months and obviously behind the scenes activity ensure the smooth running of the council and this is due in no small measure to our very efficient clerk who last year also became the Responsible Finance Officer to the council.
- The most disappointing part of last year was the resignation of 4 councillors for varying circumstances who were experienced in the workings of the council. However I feel confident that we shall be able to recruit new members and every indication is that this will happen shortly. I do wish to thank the resigning members for their efforts on the council on behalf of the people of Clayton. I also wish to thank the various heads of working parties/committees for their individual work.
- The WW1 commemoration ceremonies went well with Parish Church community choir and the Clayton C of E Primary School holding a magnificent concert in church. The history group did us proud by organising a display of memorabilia etc. held in St. Johns church which was extremely interesting. Clayton in Bloom was again held and judged in July and the prize presentation was held in August to coincide with the Horticultural Show.

However for this year we feel we should have our own event probably to held on 8th August 2105 and make this a social event to involve local businesses. Notices will be placed around the village and I do hope we can rely on everyone to attend and make this a successful event.

Our hanging basket arrangements were again greatly admired and I wish to thank Claire for her organisation of this.

In June we had an extraordinary meeting to discuss Clayton Library and the very sorry state of repair it has been allowed to descend into. It was estimated that the cost of repairs given to us by Bradford Met would be over £70,000 which included the cost of labour. We had registered our interest in the library becoming a community asset for which confirmation has now been received. We are aware that Bradford Met do not have any funds to effect any repairs and it was decided to postpone any expenditure from the Parish Council until we know more of their intentions. I have noticed that the roof over the entrance is in a dangerous state and this will be discussed at the next meeting. We did manage to have building painted and a few minor repairs effected due to our district councillor's effort and I wish to thank you Carol for this string pulling.

During July we welcomed our new councillor James Vasey and we hope his stay with us will be interesting and fruitful.

During September/October your planning committee had to consider an application from Morrisons supermarkets to build a mini-market on the land opposite St. Antony's church in Bradford Road which was strongly protested against to Bradford Met Planning dept. maily on the grounds of situ so near to the school. Representatives from Morrissions were to attend a meeting but this did not come to fruition.

The Christmas Lights were again a huge success and well organised by Claire.

It was decided by the council not to plant more bulbs in the Aunturnn but the display in spring this year has once again been wonderful.

Assistance was given to the Dickensian Market by means of a grant and again they had a very successful day. They applied to the council for help with the replacement of key committee members who has resigned for various reasons at the end of the year. The posts concerned wanted a rest from the organisation. The assist those your Chairman agreed to be treasurer for a trial basis of one year.

For the forthcoming year it was decided to increase the precept to £12.93 being 8.5% increase and resultant in a £1.01 increase per household per year on Band D. I would like to point out that the precept has not been increased over the last 4 years and is one of the lowest in the district, Haworth being £20.50 as an example. Overall the country the average precept is £50.

In January we had a visit from David Green – leader of the council to discuss and explain the implications of the 'New Deal' and how it would affect Parish Councils etc. I was unable to attend but the vice chairman Chris Kaushal-Bolland attended and reported although the audience was small questions were asked and answered informatively.

Only last week Claire and I attended a meeting in Baildon chaired by Ian Day of Bradford Met on the implications of the New Deal. Cuts are to be made during the year particularly for essential services and councils may have to take on operational duties such as maintenance of grass verges, parks and general gardens. We shall await their introduction with trepidation.

The council has awarded grants to various organisations in Clayton of £8159.33 which I feel have been fairly given. Not every application has been successful but each one has been decided on its merits.

In conclusion may I thank all councillors for their attendance at Parish Council meetings and to the general public for their support and questions which I hope have been answered to their satisfaction.

2015/21

Clayton Parish Council – Financial report 2014 - 2015

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 £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 38% of the expenditure. Keith Pickles who had served on the council for a number of years retired and the clerk took up these responsibilities. The Council meets the costs of holding the Planning meetings along with the costs of its own full meetings.

The website was redesigned and is now being managed by the clerk. £620 was invested in this some of which included purchasing a new laptop.

The Council continues to provide the Christmas Lights throughout the village (approx. £3800) as well as the providing hanging baskets at £245 for the businesses of Clayton. £171 was again given towards the garden competition.

The Village Hall was supported to the tune of £3,000 in 2014/15; whilst the Dickensian Market was assisted with a payment of £1,200. Grants totalling £8,160 have also been given to other organisations in the Village.

The fund balance at the year-end amounted to £41,951, £12,000 of this was provision for the cost of possible future elections. £29,951 is unallocated and available for the council to spend.

Proposed: C.Thirkill

Seconded: E.Edgely

Resolved: That the financial report is accepted.

2015/15

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 questioned why the precept was raised given the council's balance sheet. The Chairman explained that some funds may be required in relation to the library. Mr Kaushal-Bolland also added that the council would be looking at other initiatives and that such a balance would not be carried forward. With potential services being devolved from Bradford Council in the future as in the "New Deal" there was some uncertainty how this would affect Clayton in the coming years.
- b) The date for next year's Annual Parish Meeting was to be decided as would be held on a different evening to that of The AGM of the Parish Council.

- c) Some concern was shown in regards to the state of repair of the library. Health and safety of the employees and users was highlighted.
- d) There was support for a sign outside the Village Hall to highlight that the Parish Council used this as its home. The Village Hall committee would look into this.
- e) Mr Delaney thanked the chair and the clerk for their efforts over the year.

The meeting closed at 6.45pm and all were thanked for their attendance.