



Claydon with Clattercote

CLAYDON WITH CLATTERCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) of the Parish Council held on Thursday
30th May, 2024
at 7:15pm in Claydon Church Room**

Start: 19:15 hrs **End:** 19:30 hrs

Council: Cllrs Gary Denham & Rebecca Meyrick

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| 1. | Apologies for absence | | |
| NA | | Complete | All Cllrs |
| 2. | Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda | | |
| NA | | Complete | All Cllrs |
| 3. | Approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 23rd May, 2023 | | |
| Approved | | | |

Community - Support our local communities, encourage inclusion and diversity.

Environment - Protect and enhance our local environment.

Governance - Promote participation, good management, and efficiency.

To maintain and enhance the quality of life and sense of community within the Parish of Claydon & Clattercote.
To safeguard the individual character of our village and protect its rural environment whilst supporting sustainable development that meets the needs of residents now and in the future.

4 Address by chairman

Cllr Ames did not stay for the meeting and there was no address therefore by the Chairman. In his absence both Cllr Denham and Cllr Meyrick gave an informal report on the key activities of the year. In the absence of the Chair, Cllr Denham, as Deputy Chair, facilitated the meeting:

It had again been a very tough year, with a large turnover of councillors, two of whom had had to step down for personal reasons. Thanks were expressed to Cllrs Love and Ives for their contributions through the year.

One of the difficulties for councillors is the lack of understanding from members of the village regarding the role: no Parish Clerk receives any financial benefit from undertaking the role, and it is sometimes felt that councillors receive much negative feeling and feedback about how the parish is run, and meetings can be the main arena for this behaviour. A further difficulty for the Parish Council is the lack of a Parish Clerk. Significant delay in appointing a possible candidate has impacted on the running of business. Cllr Meyrick to action as a matter of urgency.

However there has been a great deal achieved during the year. Key workstreams have included:

- Development of the website. Thanks were expressed to Mike Ives for his continued support with this and for remaining in post as Webmaster.
- Completion of the Village Survey. Work streams for this will be a main objective for the coming year. The Parish Council awaits a summary report from former Cllr Ives before progressing this.
- Foundational development of tree and bulb planting project for the village. This is in line with the newly developed Biodiversity Policy and Action Plan for the year. The Parish Council is working closely with the Claydon.... In this workstream.
- The village has been well maintained in terms of grass, hedge cutting and maintenance of the Blue Brick path.
- A worthwhile and successful visit to the village had been made from Network Rail. Full report is available on the Parish Website, Claydon.org.uk
- Gratitude was expressed to Mick Michael and Victoria Pearce for their huge support to the village through the Village Community Group; and to Mick also for his key role as Auditor over recent years. He and Cllr Denham have worked closely together in developing and improving financial systems for the Parish.

All Cllrs

5 Public participation session

Disappointment was expressed at the lack of attendance from representatives of different organisational groups within the village. However it was acknowledged that personal invitation had not been extended to the different groups for their contributions to the meeting. Cllr Meyrick had received a report from St James the Great Church PCC regarding their activity in the year. Full report is on the village website, claydon.org.uk, but a particular note was made regarding the positive impact of Sarah Fenby as the new incumbent for the Shires Edge Benefice, of which Claydon is a part.

It was also noted that poor attendance at the meeting may be due to the fact the original APM intended for 14th May had been cancelled at short notice; and secondarily, due to an administrative error on the part of the Parish Council, the

new APM date had not been adequately publicised. Cherwell District Council and OALC had been consulted for advice regarding whether or not to go ahead with the meeting, and the advice was indeed to go ahead as APMs are required to fall between March and the end of May each year. It was suggested next year's APM be held in March (as had indeed been suggested by a parishioner last year). This is to be scheduled by the Parish Council.

A suggestion was made that the Parish Council consider the purchase of property, should it become available, within the village in order to enable the establishment of a larger Village Hall. The proposer was suggesting the Parish Council would need to consider selling the existing Playing Field in order to fund the project.

Concerns raised included:

Villagers may not need a larger village hall as there is such a small uptake when events are arranged. Also there is only a very small number of villagers who involve themselves in leading or arranging events, so evidence of the need of a larger venue is questionable.

Villagers may object to the idea of (a) selling the playing field; and (b) encouraging development of the site into an area of housing. This would need full and robust consultation. Cllr Denham also expressed that he could not envisage the parish raising the funds for such a project.

However, should property become available for purchase it was suggested the Parish Council consider the suggestion fully.

No further discussion ensued and the meeting closed at 19.30 hrs.