

**MINUTES OF THE OPEN MEETING OF CLIFTON HAMPDEN PARISH
COUNCIL
VILLAGE HALL**

Wednesday 25^h May 2015 at 7.30pm

Present: Chris Neill (Chairman) , Carolyn Read , Bob Matthews, Jaqi Mason, Oliver Thompson and Peter Madden..

Apologies Lorraine Lindsay Gale (OCC) Sue Lawson
(SODC)

Also Present

21 Parishioners

1.Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th May 2015 having been circulated, were taken as read and approved as drawn.

2.Chairman's report

The Chairman reminded the meeting that , over the last 12 months the Village Plan had been finalised, and the content of this would be a guide for the Parish Council over the next 10 years.

One of the main roles for the Parish Council is to be involved in planning matters, from area plans to enforcement activities. The SODC local plan is expected to be available by the end of June 2016, and it will be interesting to see what areas SODC have allocated for housing development., and whether any proposals have been put forward that will directly affect the Parish and its residents.

The Parish Council has made a grant to support the patients group at Clifton Hampden surgery purchasing a mobile ECG monitoring machine – to save residents from having to travel into Oxford and attend the JR is they need heart monitoring, in addition t the defibrillator at the surgery, there is now another one at The Close in Burcot, and soon the Parish Council will be buying a generator to provide emergency power in the event of long power cuts, bad weather or flooding. The Parish Council has recently bought a marquee, which will be available for residents to hire, and which will first be used for the Village fete on 4th June.

The Parish Council manages the upkeep of the Recreation ground and The Wharf, and has recently agreed that the payment from Gigaclear for the Wayleave giving permission for the cables to pas sunder the river will go to provide some support for the Church. The Parish Council has also supported Bachport, and it was good to see over 100 people attending the recent meeting to discuss the planning application for gravel extraction at Fullamoor Quarry.. The next project for the Parish Council is to produce Neighbourhood Plan, and the Council will now be looking for volunteers to be part of the Neighbourhood

Plan Steering Group. The main objectives for the plan will be to consider housing developments and community benefits for the Parish over the next 20 years (including a new facilities on the Recreation ground, a new doctor's surgery and some housing development, but all ideas will be gathered together and then will be put to a referendum of residents of the Parish.

3 Finance

The Clerk presented the accounts to the meeting and explained the Parish held about £46,000 in reserve to support planning responses to the application at Fullamoor Quarry. During 2015/16 the Parish Council had also received a grant from SSE Ltd to purchase equipment to support the Parish in the event of a long power outage or severe weather event. This included purchasing another defibrillator (the one now in Burcot) a generator to provide emergency power, some first aid kits , blankets, grit and sandbags etc. These will be bought during the course of the year.

The Parish, while appearing to have healthy finances, beaks even with its precept on its everyday running costs, and once the planning reserve has been spent the credit balance in the bank will be significantly reduced.

4.Councillor's Reports

None.

Annual reports have been circulated to Parish Councillors.

5. Parish Plan Committee

The Parish Plan Committee has now completed its report and the Committee has retired. It has retained one ongoing project – to create a footpath from Courtiers Green down Watery lane into the Village.

6. Report from the WI

The WI has had a very successful year with an increased membership. have a varied number of speakers , go on outings held a successful Christmas party and a tea party to celebrate the organisation's 100th Anniversary. The branch always welcomes new members and guests.

7. Scouts

The Scouts are about to welcome a new Scout leader. They are a group of about 100 members, and being "sea scouts" attract members from a wide area. The scout hut is used on average about 4 times a week and most weekends. There is a Scout boat tethered near the Church.

IN April one member of the Scouts Group was granted the Queen's Scout award. The group is sorting out funding for a new baot storeon the Recreation ground, and making an application for grant support towards the cost, and the group has recently received grant assistance towards the urchase of new kayaks and boating equipment.

The group has a waiting list for its “beavers” section, and most children stay with the group until they become Explorers.

The year it will be the 30th Anniversary of the first Beaver group in the Village.

The meeting asked that their congratulations be passed to the Queen Scout and the Scout group for this tremendous achievement.

8. Cricket Club

The president of Clifton Hampden Cricket Club advised the meeting that the club played in the OCA second league and the mid week league. However it was looking for players- both playing and non playing. There are no local members, although the Recreation ground is a fantastic place to play.

9. Tennis Club

The Tennis Club reported that it had had an eventful season, as serious deterioration in the court meant that it needed to be refurbished urgently. It was closed in early summer 2015 and re-opened with a refurbished court on 2nd August 2015. There are adult members and it is also used by the school. Attempts to train youngsters using the “short tennis” method have not been successful, but membership has now been extended to parents of children at the Village school.

The Club will have a trophy named after the late Jooan Oliver, who will be sorely missed, and they will also be inscribing a bench.

The Committee is now up to strength and connections have been made with Dorchester – a social game will take place shortly. The Club website has been updated and linked to the Village Website. The Club is involved in liaison with other users of the Recreation ground via the Recreation Committee, and was grateful to the Parish Council for its donation towards the cost of refurbishing the court. The immediate proposals for a Multi user Games Surface have been out on hold, but will proceed once funding has been found.

10. Archery

Clifton Hampden has a Longbow Society which meets on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings on the sports field at Culham school. The club was formed in 2003 , using traditional weapons constructed in the same manner are those of medieval times. The club, which has about 20 regular members, shoots to marks, with a maximum distance of 150 yards.

11. Recreation ground and Entertainment Committee.

The Cricket Club was given thanks for the amazing condition of the Recreation ground.

The Committee has had trees removed near the tennis court and a hedge replanted. The Parish Council have bought a strimmer to maintain the grass around the play equipment.

The Marquee will arrive shortly and its use will be managed by a small committee.

The Village School is using the Recreation Ground and the football goals.

The Village fete will take place on 4th June. It will be an evening event with swing and cover bands and a hog roast. Everyone welcome!

12. Clifton Hampden Village Hall

The Village Hall is really well used – with a playgroup in during the week and other regular bookings. It will be redecorated during the summer, and there are plans for a disco and bar in the autumn.

13. Clifton Hampden Village School.

The school is doing really well, with an excellent number of children starting in September. It was awarded a “good” at its recent OFSTED inspection.

14. Footpaths and cycle ways

This group is working towards the construction of a cycleway between Clifton Hampden and Long Wittenham, with support from OCC, who are trying to develop a cycle path from Didcot to the Science Centre, along the road between the two villages. This group is working with OCC (who have about 4.3M to spend on improving links in Science Vale) on the design of the cycle path.

The group would also like to improve the route from Clifton Hampden to Berinsfield, which has overhanging branches and leaning fences. They would also like to see a useable cycle/footpath along Watery Lane and along the river.

15. Environmental group.

In the Village Plan 67% of respondents indicated that the Wharf is the area of the village most in need of attention. The site contains 3 rare plants – snakeshead fritillary, Lodden Lily and the Butterbar (which is under the walkway). A grass cutting regime has now been agreed, with the first cut taking place a week ago. The Wharf is a teaching site for school children and the group hope to install a log circle of seats for classes later in the year.

16. Bachport

Since the public meeting a few weeks ago the Bachport Committee had put together a strong case against the proposals, and there was a strong opposition. Once it has been finalized the submission will be placed on the bachport web site and all residents are invited to comment etc. \$ parish Councils (Clifton Hampden, Long Wittenham, Culham and Appleford) have agreed the case, MPs John Howell and Ed Vaizey are supporting the opposition and over 500 objections have been sent to OCC.

The next stage is for the Applicant to respond to the opponents’ case, and the statutory consultees need to give their views. The application is unlikely to be determined until Autumn at the earliest.

Bachport intend to keep the pressure on with media reports. All residents were asked to stay involved, support the planned activities and to keep writing letters of objection.

The information in the response will be summarized and circulated to parents of children at the school.

17. Any Other Business

None.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.20pm.