

UPPER CLATFORD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES FROM THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13TH
MARCH 2019

AT 7.30 PM IN THE KING EDWARD VII MEMORIAL HALL

MINUTES REMAIN A DRAFT UNTIL AGREED AS A CORRECT RECORD AT THE NEXT MEETING ON 10th APRIL 2019

Present:	Parish Cllrs P Heslop (Chairman), D Coole, C Eyre, S Kennedy, C Williams, A Wilson, A Lockhart, A Newell, TVBC Cllr M Flood Minutes – C Emmett, Parish Clerk In Attendance: 1 x Parishioner
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1	Apologies for absence TVBC Cllr G Stallard, HCC Cllr A Gibson, Cllr C Eyre	
2	Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report The Chairman of the Parish Council addressed the meeting as follows: Welcome everybody to the 2019 Annual Parish meeting, and particularly to members of the public. I'm Peter Heslop and I've been Chairman of your Parish Council since June 2017 I'd like to welcome Nick Shah who volunteered as a Cllr during the year and has played an active role, particularly on the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group. The Council has changed its website during the year to create a wider site open to a broader section of the community. It can be found by using a search for Upper Clatford and the domain name is https://www.upperclatford.com/ and now forms part of a wider parish website. Here you can find agenda for Parish Council meetings, minutes of those meetings, audit reports and other obligatory publications. Perhaps more interestingly you can find out about progress on the Neighbourhood Development Plan, see a planning application tracker, and visit pages for various community groups from All Saints Church to the WI. There are also links to events and the Village Hall website. Please do visit it and if there is something you wish to advertise please contact Cllr Charles Eyre or the Parish Clerk. Work on the Neighbourhood Development Plan has absorbed much of the time of most of the Parish Councillors this year for which I thank them heartily. From the community feedback we have learned what matters to you and are delighted that by unanimous vote at a public meeting you endorsed taking the project into phase 2 where we have set up 3 WGs, (the Built Environment; Community Facilities, Business and Transport; and Environment and Countryside) to gather further evidence on what is needed and what the parishioners want. The Parish Council's intention is to continue towards developing a plan which is acceptable to the community, approved by Planning Inspectors and TVBC, and ultimately by you, the Parishioners, in a local referendum. As a Council we are routinely invited to comment on all planning applications related to the Parish. I stress the word comment, because that is the limit of our power. The authority to approve or reject applications is vested in TVBC. Since doing the NDP survey we feel more in-tune with the views of parishioners and aim to reflect those views in our responses. That said any member of the general public can make their views known to TVBC by letter or email to the planning department. The Council's main effort and expenditure this year, as in previous years, has been ensuring the parish owned lands, mainly the pavilion & sports field, the play parks at Balksbury Bridge and Anna Valley, The Green and other small areas of green space in Anna Valley, are appropriately maintained, with grass cut and bushes trimmed. The dry weather led to a severe deterioration in all the grassed areas, particularly the sports field cricket wicket which was not watered as there were no fixtures. However we did keep up grass cutting and general maintenance to cater for the regular users – the Upper Clatford Youth Football Team – who use it in both summer and winter. The sports field was also used by the PTA of the local school for a fund raiser, CLATFEST, in the summer. This has again been booked in for June this year.	

	<p>Unfortunately, last summer the sports field was again occupied by Travellers. This stopped its use by the football teams and the site was left with rubbish, green waste and domestic trash which needed clearing and a broken tap on the outside of the pavilion. As a result of this and similar Traveller occupations in previous years, the Parish Council has installed a height restriction barrier at the entrance which will hopefully deter further occupation.</p> <p>The Parish Council is responsible for many trees in the parish. We have kept expenditure to that needed to keep the trees in a safe condition. Recently we have commissioned a survey of the trees on Parish land at the bottom of Brook Way as branches of some of the older trees, covered by TPOs (Tree Preservation Orders) have been shedding bits onto neighbouring properties.</p> <p>We remain conscious of the traffic on our roads and have pressed through our local HCC Councillor and written directly to Highways about our concerns with the lack of speed limits on Watery Lane and Salisbury Road by the junction with Balksbury Bridge Road. We have also asked them to improve the surface of Sam Whites Hill. Unfortunately, these issues are unlikely to be resolved in the short term and, following a trial in 2016/17, HCC have also rejected the concept of extending 20 mph limits to further village areas. On the plus side, measures to improve sight-lines for traffic in the area of Waterloo Terrace were put to public consultation by TVBC recently. This should see parking restrictions on the bends to the east of Waterloo Terrace.</p> <p>Hampshire County Council is responsible for maintaining the surfaces of public footpaths but due to limited funds only deal with 5 of our Parish footpaths (prioritised by the Parish Council) and those are cut back just once a year. They have however recently cut back the overgrown hedges (a landowner responsibility) on footpaths 3 and 4 below Bury Hill Ring and are looking at doing some work to stop erosion of the path around the ring.</p> <p>Our accounting year ends at the end of March annually. Details are published in the minutes of the monthly Parish Council Meetings and are on the website. This current year we anticipate spending a total of approximately £28,500 which will be covered by the Precept (£15,300), rent from the Old Chalk Pit, grants, and a developer fund (s106) payment for the height barrier at the sports field. For next year we anticipate a significant increase in expenditure, mainly to cover employment of consultants for the NDP and possible work to improve the sports fields. The Precept will however be unchanged and we aim to cover the NDP costs with grants and use reserves for projects.</p> <p>And now the advert – Local Council Elections will be held on 2 May 2019 and most parishioners over 18 are eligible to stand for election to the Parish Council. There are 10 posts to fill. If you are interested and are considering applying but want to know more, please contact me or any other Cllr or the Parish Clerk to discuss the role. The first critical date for nominations is by 4 pm on 3 Apr 19 by which time formal nomination must have been received by TVBC. Both the Parish website and that of TVBC contain more detail about the paperwork and necessary steps. Should there be 10 or fewer nominations the election will be uncontested and we may have vacancies that need filling by co-option.</p> <p>Parish</p>	
3	<p>Open Forum</p> <p>A member of the public raised the matter of ivy growing in the parish owned ‘inset’ along Foundry Road asking what weedkillers or other methods could be used to prevent it growing into her garden. The Parish Council has had TVBC grounds maintenance team cut it back on their side of the fence and attempt to kill it. There will be a new contractor from Apr 19 and their advice and action will be requested. Any advice given on what actions the parishioner can take, on their property will be passed on.</p> <p>There being no other presentations or matters raised, the Chairman closed the meeting.</p>	

The Meeting closed at 7.47 pm