

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF CLIFTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 12th May 2016 AT 7.30 PM AT CLIFTON COMMUNITY CENTRE.

Councillors Present: Mr. B Livesey (Chairman), Mrs. P Livesey, Mr M Ephgrave, Mrs E Smith and Mr. A Cree

Also present: Cllr Wenham, Cllr Shelvey and Cllr Dalgarno

285. Apologies – were received from Mrs J Lanham, Mr P Lawrence, Mr I Pacey, Mr R Puritz, Mr R Dart and Mr S Langton. Mr. S.Fish not present no apologies received. Mr B Livesey (Chair) expressed his disappointment with the amount of apologies especially as it was the Annual Meeting.
286. To elected a Chairman for 2016/17. Mr M Ephgrave nominated Mr B Livesey seconded by Mr A Cree. Mr B Livesey accepted the nomination. All were in favour.
287. To elect a Vice Chairman for 2016/17. In the absence of the residing Vice Chair and only 5 members present it was agreed that this item be deferred to the next meeting.
288. To agree Committees – the current members of each committee were read out. In the absence of 7 councillors it was agreed that the committees will be confirmed at the next meeting. Mrs E Smith was elected onto the Planning Committee.
289. To confirm Finance Committee members – it was agreed that the Chair, Vice Chair of the Council, the Chair of Highways and Chair of Playing Field/community Centre committee and Adrian Cree to form the Finance Committee.
290. The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14th April were confirmed by the members and signed by the Chair.
291. Central Bedfordshire Council report – it was reported that due to the success of the Clean for the Queen campaign CBC would continue next year with a Keep Britain Tidy campaign. It was noted that Clifton have for many years carried out an annual litter pick regardless.

Consultations were currently out for Transport Strategy, Housing and Parking and everyone is encouraged to put forward their views.

The Rave Bus roadshow will be in Shefford on 5th June

It was reported that the ‘traffic warden cars’ would not be put back into action even though Eric Pickles MP, who made the decision to remove them, had been replaced with Greg Clarke MP and he would not be reversing the decision.

The planning application at Samuel Whitbread – it was pointed out that a ‘promise’ was made years ago to re-route the buses to and from Samuel Whitbread School to Hitchin Road. There has been a highways issue with this plan as the access is not wide enough. All CBC Councillors are in support of the proposal and are fighting the decision. A meeting will be held very soon to discuss this and Clifton PC will be invited to attend.

Mrs Livesey asked who to contact regarding the verge trees particularly the replacement Cherry Trees. Cllr Dalgarno advised her to contact David Leverington Countryside and Access officer.

A new reporting system for highways matters goes live on 18th May. It is hoped that the new system will prompt faster responses.

292. Community Centre Matters

- a) New paving – 2 quotes to re-bed and relay the current slabs and replace broken ones had been received. The Clerk declared an interest. It was proposed to accept the quote from John Henry Groundworks. All were in favour. It was agreed that the contractor meet with Mr A Cree to confirm what is required. **Action – Clerk to instruct**
- b) The Shutter – a contractor had been out to look and a quote will be submitted shortly. The repair last time was not carried out as per the invoice and it was suggested that we ask for a report from the new contractor. **Action Clerk to follow up**
- c) A tree had been purchased for the WI. They had already given a donation of £50 and a further payment had been received to cover the full cost. It was agreed that a repayment of £11.91 be sent as a repayment of VAT costs.

293. Highways Matters

- a) 4 lights had been reported as faulty.
- b) The gully’s had been cleaned.
- c) One of the bollards was missing and Mrs Livesey would be looking into it.
- d) The dip in the road at the bus stop of Church Street had been photographed and reported. It had been advised by Nick Carofalo that a gully would be fitted.
- e) Compost had been purchased for the planters/baskets. Bark had been laid to the front beds of the Community Centre and was now looking very tidy.
- f) A plan for the Queen’s Birthday Celebrations was presented. It was noted that it was disappointing that the community centre was not being used on the day.

294. The Pond – NTR although we have a resident Heron

295. Other Reports – Following the nomination, Gladys Dawson has been shortlisted to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Cheering Volunteering Awards evening on 7th June at The Grove Theatre Dunstable.

296. Finance Matters

- a) The Clerk reported that the renewal for the insurance from A-On was £6167.78. A comprehensive search had been made for alternative quotes. Came and Company who are a broker for Parish and Town Councils and recommended by SLCC and NALC had put forward 3 quotes and the recommendation from them was to accept the quote from Hiscox. A 3 year agreement would cost £3168.82 giving a saving of £2998.96. The broker would like to arrange a meeting to ensure that all the councils requirements are covered. It was proposed and seconded that we accept the quote and arrange a meeting on 31st May. All in favour
- b) The clerk reported that the laptop was in need of repair again. It was proposed that attempts to fix it again would not be financially viable. A new laptop should be purchased following the quotation A new Asus 15"6 Intel i5 laptop, 1 year subscription Antivirus and lifetime Malwarebytes, Office professional plus 2013 for £469.97. All were in favour
- c) All invoices were approved for payment. It was reported that the cheque payment from Esme Watts had been returned by the bank. Esme Watts had advised that she had made a direct payment to the bank to rectify. The Clerk asked if it was possible to received weekly bank statements as direct payments were now being made regularly and it would make reconciliation much more effective.
- d) The Annual return was agreed and signed by the Chair.

298. Date for next meeting – no committee meetings on 19th May. Full Council on 9th June. Committee meetings on 16th June.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed _____