

**CLIFTON REYNES & NEWTON BLOSSOMVILLE
JOINT PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
DRAFT**

Minutes of a meeting held on 20th May 2015 in the Reading Room.

Apologies were received from Cllrs. McLean, Geary and Hosking, Mr A Burton and the Footpaths Officer. Clls. Kent, Sibbald, Watson. Swanston and Finn-Kelcey and 9 members of the public attended.

At the beginning of proceedings Cllr. Joe Stacey from Olney Town Council spoke to the meeting on the subject of the Olney Neighbourhood Plan. This is an enormous undertaking and involves housing, education ,doctors services, transport, parking problems and future provision of housing. It is expected to be ongoing for the next couple of years.

The Joint Parish Council thanked him for his attendance and reverted to the Annual General Meeting

1. Election of Chair: Mr Sibbald was proposed by Mrs kent and seconded by Mr Finn-Kelcey
2. Election of Vice Chair: Mr Finn-Kelcey was proposed by Mr Swanston and seconded by Mrs Kent
3. Chair and Clerks Report:
Clerks Report
When I first became clerk the job was not particularly onerous and all four meetings a year were very good natured.
The increase in workload has been tenfold and I have lost count of the number of procedures and policies that have had to be produced as a result of new legislation. As a result my salary was reviewed this year.
Parish Councillor duties have also become far more time consuming and as their posts are unpaid, good responsible Councillors have become far more difficult to find and keep. No travelling expenses have ever been claimed by any councillors whilst I have been in post and I feel sure this has helped to keep precepts at a low level and lessened the amount passed on to residents via their council tax bills.

Meeting attendance by Councillors is excellent but by members of the public is very low. Fellow clerks have confirmed that this is not unusual.

In my opinion more time is spent debating procedural points at each meeting to the detriment of the main concerns such as the condition of the footpaths, potholes, dog faeces, traffic speeds, verge and drainage maintenance and the general management and well being of the two villages.

There were 14 planning applications this year. Three were refused by the Planning Department despite no objections from the Joint Parish Council or residents.

Two have since been approved , one is still outstanding.

The flooding problem in Clifton Reynes has finally been investigated fully and hopefully rectified. The resurfacing after a 7 year wait since the original request has been very well received.

The question of speed limit reductions to 20mph in each village was raised yet again and this year SID's have finally been used to ascertain exactly what speeds are reached through each of the villages.

Newton Blossomville is currently set at 30mph and regardless of the results we hope to have an enforceable limit in Clifton Reynes in the very near future.

The Solar Farm at Petsoe End will result in funding of £11,500 for the use of the Joint Parish Council and is not restricted to green issues which makes it more user friendly. Upon its receipt every household will be consulted for its views on where this extra money might be put to good use.

A possible Sainsburys store has generally been welcomed but the possible extraction of gravel in the area has not.

Allotments are in good order. One was returned to grass this year and one is still unoccupied. Hopefully this may be let this year.

Chairs Comments

Mr Sibbald informed the meeting that as a result of changes to procedures this would be the last year an internal audit was required.

The introduction of the Transparency code means that policies and procedures are to be posted on all parish web sites. He confirmed that many of the policies already exist and that a review would be undertaken over the next few months to ensure full compliance with the code.

He also reminded the meeting that there would be elections in 2016.

4. Election of Representatives to
 - (a) Reading Room Committee (Mr D. Watson)
 - (b) Kites Charity(Mr Sparrow and Mrs Hellewell to 2017)

5. Annual General Meeting Minutes 2014: These were agreed to be correct and signed by the Chair.

6. Matters Arising

Renewal of dispensation on declaration of interest for councillors for a further year. In view of the Transparency code it was agreed that this wording would appear on all agendas in the future.

Adoption of standing orders. The Clerk reported that these had been updated and Mr Sibbald confirmed that the document had been added to the web site.

7. 2014/2015 Accounts: These were agreed to be correct and signed by the Chair.

8. Reports: Footpaths Officer- Mr Foll sent his apologies.

9. Miscellaneous/Any other business: There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.50pm and reopened as a general meeting.

