

# Clutton Parish Council

## Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2010 in the Village Hall

### Submissions from members of the public.

1. The developer of the field by Maynard Terrace addressed the meeting on the subject of the letter he had sent recently to the Clerk and which was tabled. He was concerned that facts should be checked with the speaker before reports are published in the press; and urged the Council to consider whether it could do anything to remind residents of the boundary between campaigning and lobbying activities and criminal action.
2. A resident also expressed concern about what he saw as press reporting which unfairly represents what has been said at Council meetings.

### Minutes of the meeting of the Council

Item		Action
27/10	<b>Present:</b> Councillors A. Marwood (Chairman), B. Bailey, C. Glover, E. Healey, A. Hillier, S. Marwood, A. Parfitt, D. Phillips, E. Pickman, M. Williams, D. Withers; Mr. S. Willcox (Ward Councillor); Mr. S. Barran (Clerk); 5 members of the public.	
28/10	<b>Apologies and Absences:</b> Apologies were accepted from Cllr. Veale. Cllr. Starr was absent.	
29/10	<b>Minutes</b> of the meeting held on <b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2010</b> were <b>approved</b> .	
30/10	<b>Report from the Clerk</b> The Council <b>accepted</b> the report previously circulated by the Clerk. The Clerk drew attention to the full list of cheques signed outside the meetings which had not previously been reported to the Council; and reported further that the railing at the end of Valley View had been replaced. Cllr. Willcox reported that he had spoken with the operator of Low Cost vans.	
31/10	<b>Other matters arising from the minutes:</b> <b>125/09 (4)</b> Cllr. Willcox reported that the hedges to both Frank Senogles' field and the field below that had been cut, but it was asserted that a more severe cut would be required as the hedges still overhang the road. <b>13/10:</b> Cllr. Withers reported that the tree surgeon had pronounced that it was not yet advisable to prune the sycamore on the green by the Church; and that it was advisable to prune the ash on the allotments. DW had accepted a quotation of £200 for pruning the ash. It was <b>agreed</b> that Cllr. Withers should ask the tree surgeon to prune the ash and confirm in writing his advice about the sycamore. It was also <b>agreed</b> that it would be wise to commission an annual report on the state of all trees owned by the Council, and that the Clerk should seek estimates for this. <b>24/10 (1):</b> Cllr. Parfitt reported that he had drafted a 'C.V.' to support the Council's nomination of Aubrey Willcox for the Chelwood Rotary Club's Community award for the Clerk to submit.	<b>SW</b>  <b>DW</b> <b>Clerk</b>  <b>Clerk</b>
32/10	<b>Finance:</b> 1. The Council <b>accepted</b> the following reports previously circulated by the Clerk: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Budget Monitoring report</li><li>• Bank reconciliation</li><li>• Finance Report</li></ul>	
33/10	<b>Planning Sub-Committee Report:</b> Cllr. Marwood reported that:	

1. B&NES had refused the application has been received in respect of **Silver Lee**, Upper Bristol Road.
2. The Inspectorate had refused the Appeal against B&NES refusal of the application in respect of **23 The Mead**. This had been conducted under the new 'accelerated' process, and it was agreed that the Council must take great care in future to be clear about its grounds for supporting or opposing applications, in case it is given no further opportunity to make its views known on a particular application. The Clerk undertook to ensure that members be notified whenever an appeal is lodged.
3. The Inspectorate had refused the Appeal against the B&NES enforcement notice in respect of the smoking shelter at the **Railway pub**. It was agreed to question with B&NES the suggestion that this is a listed building.

**Clerk**

**Clerk**

#### **34/10 The Development of the B&NES Core Strategy.**

After a brief discussion of the Clerk's note and the Chairman's report of a briefing meeting, it was **agreed** that this matter would be deferred to the next meeting.

**Clerk**

#### **35/10 Development of a Parish Plan**

Cllr Pickman reported that following suggestions from B&NES officer Sarah Dixon, the Working Group had agreed changes to the structure of the draft Plan. Ms. Dixon had produced a number of useful maps with detailed information – the accuracy of which was questioned by members (e.g. Listed Buildings – the location of Cloud Hill Farm; the listing of the railway Bridge at the Leisure Area). B&NES also seems to have inadequate information about employment sites in the parish – neither Clutton Hill Farm nor the Stowey Road depot, nor the buildings where Councillor Phillips is based are noted. The Clerk agreed to contact to Liz Elford about this.

**Clerk**

Cllr. Pickman also reported many details from the most recent census, showing that on average the population of the parish suffers little deprivation, other than having poor access to services.

#### **36/10 Report on improvements to the Play Area**

Cllr. Phillips reported that the new equipment had been installed and that apart from some minor snagging the Play Park was ready to be re-opened for use. The Clerk undertook to ensure that Cllr. Willcox received a copy of the invoice in due course.

**Clerk**

#### **37/10 Correspondence**

The Clerk reported that the Council had received correspondence from:

1. **Paul Williams**, seeking the consent of the Council to the pollarding of the trees on the bank by the Cabin. It was agreed that in principle this should be granted subject to the advice of the Council's tree preservation office, which the Clerk should first seek.
2. **Mr. Drew**, of Lower Bristol Road, complaining about litter along South Bristol Road, and suggesting that the Parish Council might provide pots for summer bedding plants at various locations around the village. The Clerk would chase the matter of litter with B&NES, and seek further information about the summer flowers proposal from Mr. Drew, including information about property owners' consent, public liability, etc.
3. **Sgt Stuart Peard**, regarding the behaviour of dogs along the track leading from Maynard Terrace towards High Littleton and Greyfield Wood, where cows had been worried; and seeking the support of the Council.
4. The **Energy Saving Trust**, seeking to interest the Council in the

**Clerk**

**Clerk**

Green Communities project. It was agreed that this should lay on the table.

5. **Victim Support**, seeking financial support. It was agreed that this should lay on the table.

### 38/10 Highways

1. Cllr. Parfitt reported that although some **potholes** had been repaired since the bad weather, other (in some cases worse) potholes remained unattended. There appears to be no rationality about these decisions. Cllr. Willcox reported that the rest of those which had been marked should be repaired within the next few weeks.
2. It was agreed that the potholes at the **junction of Station Road (Cook's Hill) with the A37** should be on the list for repair.
3. It was agreed that **Trina Cummings** should be pressed to ensure that the Council is informed about her next tour of inspection and invited to accompany her. The Clerk was asked to contact her about this.
4. **Marsh Lane improvements**: No progress has been made on this. Cllr. Willcox undertook to speak to Cllr. Les Kew about this.

Clerk

SW

### 39/10 Reports of Sub-Committees

The following reports were received:

1. **School**: None
2. **Leisure Area**: There has been no response from B&NES about the draft lease, although the MP has been informed that B&NES may be entertaining proposals for development of the site. It was **agreed** that the Council should write to the relevant Strategic Director and others to complain about the lack of effective communication.
3. **Village Hall**: the Village Hall committee has not met this month. The Chairman reported that he had had a constructive meeting with the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee and that his attendance at the next meeting of that committee was not now necessary.
4. **Footpaths**: Cllr. S. Marwood introduced the 'Parish Agency Scheme' (under which parish councils undertake to cutting of surface vegetation along public rights of way in exchange for an annual fee), and asked that it be placed on the agenda for the next meeting for decision.
5. **Parish Mapping**: The Chairman reported on meetings he had attended. The project is getting under way very slowly, and the real difficulty is getting the B&NES information into the digital maps. A student has been allocated to work with the Council and meeting will take place shortly with him.
6. **ALCA**: There was to be a Special General Meeting this week to discuss amendments to the subscription costs in response to the withdrawal of several large authorities from the Association.

Clerk

Clerk

**Close: The meeting ended at 9.29 p.m.**