

DRAYCOTT IN THE CLAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 14 May 2015

Apologies: No apologies for absence

Present: Chairman Cllr Ken Rudman
Vice Chairman Cllr Mark Flavell
Cllrs Sue Fulford, Barbara Marshall and Arthur Renshaw
Parish Clerk Mrs Rita Hill
1 Member of the Public

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8 May 2014 were agreed as read. Proposed by Vice Chairman. Seconded by Cllr Sue Fulford. All in favour.

CHAIRMANS REPORT 2014 – 2015

This reports on progress against each of the 4 main priority areas we provided to the ESBC a couple of years ago as a proxy for a Parish Plan.

- (1) Developing the Village Hall.
- (2) Planning Matters
- (3) Highway/Traffic Matters
- (4) Village facilities, maintenance and landscaping

Village Hall

The Village Hall continues to be under supported and continues to be a 'money pit'.

As before the same three events of last year the Race Night, Beer and Skittles and Pamper Evening continue to be their major source of funding. However, it still continues to be a struggle for the Committee to sell tickets and after last year the Beer and Skittles may be dropped through lack of interest.

The Village Hall Committee continues to work hard and tries to remain self-funding for the general running of the Hall but as soon as a repair is required, unless they can get a grant, it will be down to the Parish Council as trustees to bail them out.

The good news on that front is that a grant has been obtained for the repair of the flat roof which is really urgent and will take place in the very near future. However, the Parish Council has to pay for the repair to the guttering in an attempt to prevent further flooding of the Hall.

I believe that in the not too distant future there will be one bill that is so large the Parish Council will not be able to help out.

It will be mentioned in the next section 'Planning' that there is the possibility of a new Hall being built as part of a Section 106 agreement on a new development. I believe that this can't come soon enough.

Planning Matters

To fully participate in planning consultations.

There is the possibility of new building development of approximately 170 new houses on the current Kuehne and Nagel site. I do understand that some parishioners have some issues with the current application, which need to be addressed, but I feel that this has a lot of positives for the village.

The new build will bring younger people into our village which will ensure our excellent school continues to prosper and the new influx of people will help keep our local Post Office (which is so important for some of our O.A.P's), help the village shop and our pubs to be profitable enough to survive, we should get a new Village Hall, we should get the footpath on Stubby Lane completed and may also include a 'cycle path' and the age demographic of the village will be much better.

The only downside is that it will create another small hamlet rather than giving the village a heart.

Highway / Traffic Matters

Last year we had 3 objectives:

To promote highway safety through the Village.

To pursue footpath / green footway provision on Stubby Lane.

To pursue lighting schemes in areas of need.

The issue of the 30 mph speed limit through the village is now dead but at least we have got the 'speed cameras' working and the results have proven that they were needed.

Even though SCC have supposedly found a new diversion route during the upgrade of the A50 they are yet to give us information as to what this is. I am of the opinion that they were trying to get us 'off their back'. We should not let this happen. We should continue to pressure them for everything we can get because as a village I think we are going to suffer some real disruption to our lives.

The other item that has come up this year is us joining with Yoxall and Kings Bromley in the fight to reduce the weight limit of vehicles on the A515. Again this has its opponents but again I feel this is a positive for the village making it safer.

The relationship we have with Graham Hunt is still good and I feel that it is time to use it to put more pressure on SCC to help us with both these items.

With regard to road maintenance I believe our relationship with Highways and the Neighbourhood Highway Team remains good so potholes, hedges, etc. are repaired or attended to with as much speed as is possible.

Village facilities, maintenance and landscaping

To improve the appearance of the Village.

To improve play facilities for the children and young people of the Village.

The playing field continues to be a huge success with people both from within and outside the village and is in use most days, almost regardless of the weather.

There is a new owner of the Roebuck and the owner of the Swan continues to develop his property with the forthcoming opening of a farm shop.

It is understood that the football pitch at the back of the Swan is to remain but may be slightly moved.

Summary of the year

There are a number of positive things that have started to happen this year that could ensure the future health of this Village.

I am still of the opinion that we are in danger of being trampled over by the 'big boys' with regard to the disruption we are going to experience with the traffic from the A50. We must continue to fight to get something we want from this be it an improvement to Stubby Lane or a weight restriction on the A515, we must not allow ourselves to miss out on the opportunity of gaining something for the village.

As already stated in my report the Village Hall concerns me with regard to our potential financial commitment but maybe the new Hall will come to our rescue.

Finally, I believe the Parish Council continues to represent Parishioners.

Issues from the floor

No issues were raised.

Email from Cllr Philip Atkins re Uttoxeter Rural Report 2015. Cllrs noted the report, but their reaction in relation to the section A515 and HCVs was of disbelief.

The Annual Parish Meeting closed at 7.43 p.m.

Signed



Chairman

Date 12 May 2016