

DRAYCOTT IN THE CLAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 12 May 2016

Apologies: Cllr Sue Fulford

Present: Chairman Cllr Ken Rudman
Vice Chairman Cllr Mark Flavell
Cllrs Caroline Hulse, Barbara Marshall, Nigel Powlson and Arthur Renshaw
Parish Clerk Mrs Rita Hill
Borough Cllr Stephen Smith, Crown Ward
1 Member of the Public

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14 May 2015 were agreed as read.
Proposed by Vice Chairman. Seconded by Cllr Barbara Marshall. All in favour.

CHAIRMANS REPORT 2015 – 2016

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 has undergone a major change this year as the Village Hall Committee resigned en masse. The reasons for the resignation, although made clear at the time, they were either unaware or unwilling with what responsibilities went with being a committee member.

This left the Parish Council with the options to either close the Hall or find a new committee. Thankfully there is still enough support for the Hall that a new committee has been and is now operational and is fully informed as to their responsibilities.

The challenge of the new committee is to get the Hall supported and used more by the parishioners so that it becomes a vibrant centre of the community and not just an empty brick building that is used occasionally.

There is no doubt in my mind that as hard as the new committee works it will still require support from the Parish Council. This is something we made need to consider when discussing our precept later this year.

As will be mentioned in the next section the opportunity of getting a new hall from a Section 106 agreement is now dead in the water for at least another 5 years.

Planning Matters

To fully participate in planning consultations.

During this year the owners of the Kuehne Nagel site have changed and Kuehne Nagel have signed a new contract for 5 years, so any new build of houses has definitely been put on hold. With regards to a green footpath the new owners are being less than helpful in helping us achieve this. Mr Richard Norgrove our main contact has not come back with answers.

There are currently some planning applications that the Parish Council is fully involved with trying to get the best for our parishioners.

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.

The on-going closures to the A50 are still a large cause for concern for both the Parish Council and the parishioners. Even though SCC has supposedly found a new diversion route during the upgrade of the A50 they are still using the B5017 as we always knew they would. I strongly feel that we should get Philip Atkins, Andrew Griffiths, a senior Balfour Beatty representative and Cllr Stephen Smith to the same meeting to discuss how inappropriate the current route is.

The other item that has come up this year is the fight to reduce the weight limit of vehicles on the A515. The Parish Council made representations to a committee last year and are still awaiting its report. We have also informed them about the two recent accidents involving LGV's. I know this idea has its opponents but I strongly 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.

We have set up a Community Speed Watch team this year and I'd like to thank all those that help out with this. At the moment I know more people are being sought to help out with this but hopefully they will be found and the scheme will continue to function.

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. However, it appears that its success is coming at a cost as things start to either erode or wear out. This again we must take into consideration when discussing the coming year's precept otherwise we run the risk of it turning back to what it was originally.

Summary of the year

First of all I would like to thank our Ward Councillor Stephen Smith for all his help and backing through the year.

I feel that there are a number of positive things that have started to happen this year that could ensure the future health of this Village including a new Village Hall committee who I wish every success.

However, with regard to the Village Hall I still have concerns over its long term financial viability and I foresee the Parish Council having to give far more support than just 10% of its precept. This may require us to increase the precept in the coming years to cover its cost.

My opinion is 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 hasn't changed over this past year. So, I feel we must maintain our efforts, and get involved where ever possible, to get something we want from this. It doesn't matter whether it's an improvement to Stubby Lane or a weight restriction on the A515 but I feel we must not allow ourselves to miss out on the opportunity of gaining something for the village.

Finally I believe the Parish Council continues to represent Parishioners in all matters to the best of its ability.

Issues from the floor

No issues were raised.

Email from Cllr Philip Atkins re Uttoxeter Rural Report 2016. Chairman commented about the flow of traffic on the A515 through the village and that the average speed cameras were outside of our Parish.

Borough Cllr Stephen Smith handed over a copy of a letter from a gentleman at Kings Bromley. Parish Clerk to send a copy to Cllrs. **Action – Parish Clerk.**

Discussion took place round traffic on A515, pinch points and speed limit reduction.

Cllr Smith gave an annual update about the new Mayor, by-election, mid-term financial statement (going to be challenging for ESBC), planning (Local Plan approved last year makes planning applications more controllable), renaming of the WASP fund and think

road safety poster. He added, looking forward, the A50 works have started, that he was setting up a date for the Chairmen's of Marchington and Draycott in the Clay to drive the B5017 with a representative from SCC. Cllr Smith added that he had spoken to PC Lucy Hadfield about getting involved as well, by having an influence of Police on B5017 route when the works go ahead. Cllr Smith went onto speak about the 'Uttoxeter Deal' – which promotes the regeneration of Uttoxeter High Street. Vice Chairman enquired about The Maltings. Cllr Smith was not sure. Cllr Smith recommended that Cllrs kept their ear to the ground on the issue of combined authorities. He finished by saying that with regard to planning, things would change, encourage house building especially with brownfield sites.

The Annual Parish Meeting closed at 7.55 p.m.

Signed *Signature removed*

Date 11 May 2017

Chairman