

CLOPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Clopton Village Hall at 7:00pm
on Thursday 16th May 2013.

Present: Cllr Angwin (Chair)	In Attendance: Cllr Pryke Cllr Yallop Cllr Fryatt County & District Cllr Bellfield Mrs. E Brown (Clerk) 10 (approx) members of the public	Apologies Cllr Compton Mrs. D Hughes PCSO Chatten-Berry
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CPC APM 001/13 To Receive Apologies

Clerk informed the meeting of apologies she had received. *(See above)*

CPC APM 002/13 To Approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 17th May 2012

The minutes were approved and signed as a true record. Proposer Cllr Pryke, Seconder Peter Bellfield.

CPC APM 003/13 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

CPC APM 004/13 Acting Parish Council Chairman's Report *(See attached reports)*

Cllr Angwin read the report he had prepared. Cllr Pryke presented ex-Cllr Freeman with a framed certificate and presents purchased by the serving Cllrs in recognition of her long service on the council and to the village.

CPC APM 005/13 Summary of Parish Council Accounts 2012-2013 *(See attached reports)*

The Clerk presented the figures for the Parish Council Accounts 2012-2013. A Summary had been given by the Acting Chair in his report. There were no questions about the Accounts.

CPC APM 006/13 Report from County and District Cllr Bellfield. *(See attached reports)*

Cllr Bellfield summarised his annual County report *(Attached)*.

Cllr Bellfield's District Report included:

1. There had been no increase in the District's element of the Council Tax.
2. The Boundary Committee are consulting on the proposal to reduce the number of County Cllrs by 12 to 43, this will reduce the District's costs. It is not known if this would have an impact on the ward of Otley. Changes would be implemented before the next SCDC elections in 2 years time. It is likely that changes to wards would be achieved by altering ward boundaries to include neighbouring parishes.
3. The District is becoming more involved in the development of Neighbourhood Plans. The District Council meet next week to discuss the Core Strategy and the National Development Framework. The CS replaces the Local Plan and has taken much time to develop and implement which in turn has reduced the quality of service provided by the planning department.
4. The Spa Pavilion had a district subsidy of £500-£600k per annum. It is now available for redevelopment or purchase as a theatre.
5. The Leisure Centres contract ends next year and SCDC would like to reduce the level of subsidy paid (currently approx £800k).

Cllr Bellfield thanked Sylvia Freeman for her many years of work on Clopton Parish Council, he also encouraged residents to contact him if they had any District or County concerns.

Cllr Fryatt congratulated Cllr Bellfield on his re-election as County Cllr for the Carlford Division.

CPC APM 007/13 Police Report *(See attached reports)*

PCSO Chatten Berry prepared the report which was summarised by the Clerk.

CPC APM 008/13 Reports from Organisations *(See attached reports)*

Village Hall Report prepared and given by Mr. David Hayhow *(attached)*. Mr. Hayhow added

- a) that there would be no more payments from the collection of recyclables,
- b) that Otley College were using the hedges around the Village Hall site to teach students hedge laying,
- c) It is likely that utility bills at the hall will increase especially as a new water meter is to be fitted that will be more accurate.

WJ Steel & Poor's Chairty Report prepared and given by Mrs. Sue Christensen (*attached*).

Local History Recorder's Report prepared and given by Mrs. Doris Main (*attached*). Mrs

1. Main added that the report is also sent to the Ipswich Records Office.

Parish Church Report prepared and given by Mrs. Doris Main (*see first paragraph of the*

2. *Local History Recorders Report, attached*). Mrs. Main added that the costs for restoring

3. the church bells is rising as the project continues.

Carpet Bowls Report. Prepared and given by Mrs. Anne Pryke (*attached*).

Clopton Ladies Group Report prepared and given by Mrs. Diana Dawson.

Clopton Communications Report (covering the Clopton website, Clopton eNews and

4. Clopton Newsletter) prepared by Mrs. Della Hughes and summarised by the Clerk.

Clopton Community Speedwatch Group Report prepared by Mr. Malcolm Gooch and

5. summarised by Cllr Angwin. Should the Parish Council wish to set up a second set of

6. equipment then Cllr Bellfield may be able to find approx £1000 towards the cost of this.

CPC APM 009/13 Matters raised by Parishoners.

Matters raised by members of the public included:

1. The number of Debach residents who were members of Clopton Organisations. This was felt to be zero by those at the meeting representing Clopton Organisations.
2. The number of houses in the Parish. Cllr Angwin felt this to be approx. 155.
3. The location, volume and timing of bird scarers in the parish, this was discussed at the last village coffee morning. Cllr Bellfield informed the meeting that this was a matter to be raised with Environmental Health at SCDC as a noise complaint.
4. The Parish Council's Budget for the current (2013-2014) year. Cllr Angwin summarised the budget that is to be approved at the Annual Parish Council Meeting. It was commented that a high proportion (approx 50%) of the precept is spent on a professional Clerk and other administration. Cllr Angwin stated that compared to other parishes of a similar size the precept raised by Clopton Parish Council is small. There followed some discussion about whether Clopton would be better served by having a Parish Meeting, with it's lower overheads. It is possible that through increased liaison (perhaps due to the development of a single Neighbourhood Plan) with other small parishes there may be an amalgamation of Parish Meetings and Councils in the vicinity. Cllr Bellfield informed the meeting that it is possible for the Parish to decided how to administer itself and that the Clerk's workload has increased dramatically sine he became a cllr in 1999. Cllr Fryatt informed the meeting that the level of bureaucracy for a Parish Council is similar to that of a Parish Meeting which also relies on the goodwill of several volunteers and has some restrictions compared to that of a Parish Council, one of which is the holding of land. SCDC would need to agree to any changes in the Parish's administration. There was some concern over the ownership of the village Hall (currently it is owned by the Parish Council) if Clopton were to have a parish Meeting. Cllr Fryatt informed the meeting that it would need trustees and could be arranged. Cllr Angwin agreed that the Parish Council would discuss this before the next APM.

Meeting closed at 8.05pm

Chairman:

Date: