

CLIFTON UPON DUNSMORE PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING

Held on Monday 7 March 2016
At the Townsend Memorial Hall, commencing 7.30 pm

Present: Cllr M Nash (Chair), Cllr H Duncan, Cllr L Edwards, Cllr C Palmer and Cllr A Robinson

Also present: Borough Councillors' Michael Stokes and Leigh Hunt, and also eight residents of Clifton upon Dunsmore.

Clerk: Mrs C M Lord

Minute	ACTION
15/226	<p>1. Apologies for absence Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr G Neelakantan, County Councillor Phillip Morris-Jones and PCSO Sharon Ballie-Crabtree</p>
15/227	<p>2. Declarations of Members Interests and requests for dispensations. Councillor Robinson declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 9; planning application R16/0250 in view of his friendship with the applicant.</p>
15/228	<p>3. Councillor Michael Stokes – Leader of Rugby Borough Council Councillor Michael Stokes (MS) opened his presentation by outlining the Borough Councils present position which is that its Members have voted not to become part of the new West Midlands Combined authority as a non-constituent member as yet. This is because at the time of the vote there was no clarification on voting rights or the pooling of business rates. He explained that these issues have now been resolved, with non-constituent members being provided with 10 votes and the business rates pooling retained, and that due to business community pressing for a definite decision, and that Nuneaton and Bedworth BC and Stratford DC have voted to join, it may be wise to review the decision. Warwickshire CC too, had initially voted not to join however there are now discussions taking place on whether to reconsider this.</p> <p>There are some clear advantages, such as having access to the larger pot of funding, particularly when central government grant for local councils ceases in 2019. The new authority will also provide a more 'joined up approach to roads and planning across the region. However there are still some concerns over regional development strategies and having to take a greater share of growth, than has been allocated via the Local Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>In response to questions on funding and identity</i> (MS) explained: The initial cost of joining as a non-constituent member is £20,000. The borough could join with either Leicestershire or Northamptonshire, but it is more logical to join the West Midlands authority. At present districts and borough councils cannot join as full members until the initial set up is complete, but eventually that would be at a cost of £500,000. The Combined Authority which includes Birmingham, the black country and Coventry councils' will be run on the 'Manchester Model' from a project office in Wolverhampton. It will have with a Chief Executive and an elected Mayor (such as London) with greater and more powers devolved from central government to act on a regional basis.• <i>In response to questions about retaining power within the new authority</i> (MS) explained that each council will retain its own identity but there will be more opportunity for combined working and access to funding. Voting on

decisions would be based on one per council, so it would not be possible for a larger council such as Birmingham to dominate.

- *In response to questions on what the borough council 'bring to the table' (MS) considered that Warwickshire and Rugby could bring high levels skills, a strong rural economy and a level of affluence. Its central position and highways network would also be an advantage to the new authority.*

In conclusion (MS) stressed that no decision had been reached on whether to join the authority as yet, but that the borough council were keen to provide its parishes, residents and local businesses with as much details as possible to help them inform the decision. The decision would not be taken lightly, and would mean a leap of faith in some ways.

The Chair thanked Councillor Stokes for his though provoking presentation. Councillor Stokes left the meeting at 8.05pm.

15/229 **4. Public Forum – suspension of Standing Orders**

The Chair opened the Public Forum at 8.06pm.

A resident informed the meeting that the church would be 'Spring Cleaned' on Saturday morning, and invited anyone who was available to join in.

A resident informed the meeting that there had been an increase of dog fouling on South Road particularly on the corners.

In response the Chair requested the Clerk to inform the Borough Council's Dog Warden. CLERK

A resident expressed his delight at the number of residents who had helped at the Clean for the Queen event, which demonstrated a real community spirit. He suggested that those who were concerned about the environment should form a voluntary group perhaps 'the Clifton Society' which could undertake works around the churchyard and the rest of the village.

In response the Chair requested the Clerk to place the proposal on the Agenda of the next meeting for further discussion. CLERK

A resident remarked that the speed and frequency of traffic on Hillmorton Lane was causing a danger to pedestrians using the road. He suggested that the Parish Council should request the County Council to install a footpath from the canal bridge on Hillmorton Lane to the junction of South Road; as part of the improvements relating to the Radio Mast development and traffic calming scheme.

In response the Chair requested the Clerk to write to Warwickshire County Council to request the provision of the footpath from the canal bridge on Hillmorton Lane to the junction of South Road. CLERK

A resident expressed concerns over the condition 3-4 Ash Trees on the boundary of the Glebe Allotment Site, which may be affected by Ash Dieback. *In response the Chair requested Councillor Edwards and the Clerk to check on ownership and report back to the Parish Council* Cllr Edwards/
CLERK

15/230 **5. Public Forum closed and Standing Orders resumed at 8.15pm**

15/231 **6. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1 February 2016**

The minutes of the meeting were approved and signed by Cllr Marion Nash as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

15/232 **7. Matters Arising and progress against resolutions**

None reported.

15/233 **8. Financial Matters**

15/234 **Payments**

The list of payments made since the last meeting was presented and accepted by the Members of the Parish Council. The Chair signed the list of payments made on behalf of the Parish Council.

01/02/16		Christine Lord – Expenses Protected under DPA 1998
01/02/16	5.00	NALC (publications)
08/02/16	20.00	TMH - Hall hire
15/02/16	30.33	EON
25/02/16		Sarah Esworthy Burial Clerk Payroll Protected under DPA 1998
25/02/16		Christine Lord Payroll Protected under DPA 1998
22/02/16	261.58	EON

15/235 **Financial Statement**

The Members considered a report on Income and Expenditure as at 29 February 2016 and observed that the figures were in line for the time of year. The Chair signed the reconciliation of the cashbook and the bank statement for February 2016.

9. Planning matters

New Planning Applications

- R16/0250 – Resubmission of previously approved application to includes amendments – Stable Cottage

CLERK

15/236 **RESOLVED:** The Parish Council has no objection to the application.

- R16/0303 – Reserved Matters (Green Infrastructure) Rugby Radio Station (key phase 2)

15/237 **RESOLVED:** The Parish Council has no objection to the application.

CLERK

15/238 **10. Correspondence**

- Letter from RBC – Local elections 5 May 2016

The Chair reminded the meeting of the key dates for candidates who wished to be considered as a parish councillor; which are – forms available from 30 March to be returned by 7 April 2016.

Cllr
Edwards

- Letter from Townsend Memorial Hall Committee – Notice of AGM
Councillor Edwards will attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

- Letter from St Marys Church Fabric Team – Churchyard repairs
Councillor Edwards and the Clerk will examine the contents of the letter in more detail

Cllr
Edwards/
CLERK

- Letter from Bank of Scotland – moving to Treasurers Account
Noted.

15/239 **11. County and Borough Councillors' reports**

Borough Councillor Hunt

Reported that the recent traffic calming exhibition had been very well attend, and that the comments will be considered by WCC at a meeting with the developers, and the revised plans provided for the Parish Council.

Reported that the recent Clean for the Queen litter pick went well, but expressed her concerns that dog waste bags were being left in trees and bushes.

Reported that at the election in May 2016 the parish will be split into 2 Wards: Clifton upon Dunsmore and Rugby Radio Station Wards. There will be 7 councillors for Clifton upon Dunsmore and 1 for Rugby Radio Station Ward.

15/240 **12. Reports from Councillors**

Councillor Nash – Community Engagement event

Councillor Nash provided an overview of the event, which was the first of its kind for many years. The Connecting Clifton event was well supported by local groups and well attended by the residents, and it is anticipated that it will become an annual event. She thanked all those who helped with the organisation and especially the local groups and organisations who had taken part. Councillor Nash provided an overview of the survey results, which will be available on the Parish Councils website soon, and used as evidence for funding bids etc.

Councillor Palmer – Joint Burial Committee

Councillor Palmer reported that during the recent proposals to install new memorial fixings, issues over the previous decision making process, reporting mechanism and constitution of the Joint Burial Committee had arisen. Following a recent meeting between the 2 Parish Chairs to discuss the work of the JBC it was been agreed that it would be useful to bring together a sub-committee to work on these areas.

Councillor Edwards – Clean for the Queen

Councillor Edwards reported that the event had gone very well, with around 28 bags of litter and debris collected as a result of the 2 litter picks – in Clifton village and at The Locks. The Borough Council provided 10 litter picking sticks and Hi-Viz vests to be kept by the Parish Council for the community to use.

15/241 **13. NALC Model Financial Regulations 2016**

The Members examined the Financial Regulations which had been revised at the national level by NALC (National Association of Local Council), because of changes to legislation. They agreed that it would be prudent for the Parish Council to adopt the same Financial Regulations as all other local councils in England.

Councillor Nash proposed that the new Model Financial Regulations 2016 should be adopted by the Parish Council. Councillor Robinson seconded the proposal. On a show of hands all Members supported the proposal.

15/242 **RESOLVED: That the NALC Model Financial Regulations 2016 should be adopted by the Parish Council.**

15/243 **14. Parish Councils Standing Orders**

The Members examined the Councils Standing Orders to ensure that they were still relevant and fit for purpose. As a result no amendments were identified as necessary.

Councillor Nash proposed that the Standing Orders 2016 should be adopted by the Parish Council. Councillor Robinson seconded the proposal. On a show of hands all Members supported the proposal

15/244 **RESOLVED: That the Standing Orders 2016 should be adopted by the Parish Council**

15/245 **15. Members Motions for next Agenda**

Councillor Robinson – update on proposed improvements to the play area, including schedule of works

Councillor Palmer – update on Burial Committee progress

Councillor Nash – proposals for village environmental group

15/246 **16. Date of next meeting**

- Annual Parish Meeting Monday 21 March 2016 at 7.30pm
- Parish Council meeting Monday 4 April 2016 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

Minutes approved and accepted as correct

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Chair

Dated

DRAFT