

CLIFTON UPON DUNSMORE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING

Held on 21 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, County Councillor P Morris-Jones and 11 residents of the parish.

1. WELCOME BY CLLR MARION NASH

15/247 Cllr Marion Nash welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

15/248 Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr G Neelakantan, Cllr L Hunt (RBC), Steve Woodford and June Deacon.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD 27 MARCH 2015.

15/249 The minutes were approved and signed by Cllr Marion Nash as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF CLIFTON UPON DUNSMORE PARISH COUNCIL, CLLR MARION NASH

15/250 Firstly, thank you to all the individuals and groups representatives that are here tonight.

The start of this municipal year, and the uncontested Parish Council elections in May, brought a number of challenges and changes for the Parish Council; with the resignation of 3 Councillors and the Clerk.

I would like to place on record my thanks to Bill Ballard, Kevin Rochford and Ed Bembridge and our former Clerk, Mary Barratt, for their time and commitment to the Parish Council during their tenure. In particular, Mary Barratt had served the Parish Council for many years and has been missed by many of her friends in the village.

After a period of hiatus, with an interim Clerk in May and June 2015, we were fortunate to recruit an exceptionally qualified and experienced Clerk, Christine Lord, who began work with us on 1 July 2015. Christine has supported the council to address all the gaps identified and bring its work up to speed to meet continually changing requirements. It has taken a lot of work by everyone on the Parish Council to get things back on track.

We were also fortunate to co-opt two new councillors to the parish council – Councillors Crispin Palmer and Heather Duncan - who between them bring a wealth of transferable business skills, knowledge and experience of public life to the parish council, and so to the parish. Councillor Duncan is also able to represent and engage the valuable area of the parish in which she lives; The Locks. This becomes increasingly important as the development of the Mast Site continues.

The professional skills and experience now available to the parish council through the councillors now range from community engagement, fund raising, partnership work, governance, risk management, accountancy and project management. In addition to this, four of our Members have undertaken formal training provided by the Warwickshire Association of Local Councils this year. This wealth of experience has been fundamental to the continuing development of the Parish Council and the service is now offers to the local community.

The need to identify and work in collaboration with partners becomes one of the council's next challenges. This makes increasing sense as the work of local communities become

more localised, to the extent that I am informed that this way of working will form part of the forthcoming Charter for Parish Councils.

The Parish Councillors have worked hard this year and have achieved a great deal:

I am proud that our new website, which went live in September, complies with the requirements of the Transparency Act 2015. The site now provides Agenda and Minutes, details of councillors and their roles, details of Council's finances and policies and above all the website regular local news, alerts and information updates for our residents. The website which has around 300 regular users, is complemented by our Facebook page, which provides a more informal platform for 2-way communication.

Anecdotally, it has become clear that residents like the way that things are now going with the parish council as they know what is going on and have an opportunity to influence things. We continue to receive really positive feedback about the transparency and accountability that is now evident of the work undertaken by the parish council.

Our administration has been strengthened with monthly financial reports, the development of a Health and Safety Policy, a website, social media policy and a formal complaints procedure.

We have encouraged external speakers to meetings, with the developers of the mast site, the Local Plan team and the Leader of the Borough Council all coming to give informative presentations to Members and residents.

In February the Parish Council ran its first community event for many years. The Connecting Clifton event was designed to explain what the Parish Council does, engage residents and encourage them to join in local activities. The event was very well received and we look to run another next year.

In terms of environmental improvements we have also been busy. At the playing field the football pitch has been refurbished, new teams engaged and the moles, which were causing a health safety issue to park users, have been removed. The interior of the pavilion has been thoroughly cleaned and its security improved by the installation of the key safe.

We have arranged for a large and potentially dangerous branch in the churchyard to be removed legally and safely, and arranged for the County Council to remedy issues such as potholes, blocked gullies and damaged verges on behalf of our residents.

In March the Parish Council organised a Clean for the Queen litter pick at both in the village and at the Locks. We were delighted and encouraged by the number of residents who turned up on a cold Saturday morning to take part, and did a fantastic job.

I am encouraged by the progress that we have made this year, and hope that we will continue serve the community with a strengthened parish council after the local elections on 5 May.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the parish councillors who, despite most having full-time jobs, give up their spare time freely, for their hard work throughout a demanding year. I would also like to thank our Borough Councillor Leigh Hunt and County Councillor Philip Morris-Jones for the support they continue to show for the village.

Finally, and most importantly, I should like to thank the villagers that are attending parish council meetings in increasing numbers to inform the thinking of the work that the parish councillors undertake. We sincerely hope that this trend continues so that we are able to address the many varied local concerns that arise.

5. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR CLIFTON UPON DUNSMORE PARISH COUNCIL FOR 2015-16

15/251 Financial report

Due to the earliness of the Annual Parish Meeting ahead of the Easter period (and prior to the end of the financial year) it has not been possible to submit the final accounts for the year 2015/16 for internal audit.

I anticipate that this will have taken place by the next parish council meeting on 4 April 2016 in the meantime; I shall present an overview of the accounts as we currently understand them. I should confirm that the accounts will be subject to the Annual Return External Audit process in June 2016, and will be available to anyone who wishes to see them during the period of public inspection.

In the meantime; the parish council began the year with £17,821.36 in the bank; of which around £2,750 is earmarked for the replacement of play equipment.

For the financial year 2015/16 the parish council received £23,252 in precepts from the Borough Council. We also received monies from the football clubs' use of the playing fields, from the allotments and grazing fields and we have received some generous donations from local businesses for funding towards the creation of the website.

Significant outgoings this year are for the usual costs of running the parish council meetings, street lighting costs, insurance and maintenance costs associated with the pavilion, playing fields and street lighting.

Having started the year with funds available of £17.8k, we have finished the year with a bank balance of around £22.7k. However this does not take into account the cost of the work to re-site and improve the football pitch and legal expenses incurred during the process of marketing the land on which the air raid shelter in Church Street currently stands; which the Parish Council has yet to be invoiced for and we expect to incur a total of approximately £1,300.

6. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

15/252 Clifton Garden Club Report for 2015 by Doug Hall (read by Lynn Jones)

Clifton Garden Club continued to be very active in the village and had a very successful year in 2015.

1. The year included nine meetings with speakers, a visit to Ravensthorpe Show Gardens and Nursery and a visit to RHS Gardens Wisley. The 2015 long weekend was enjoyed visiting gardens in Suffolk and Norfolk at the end of June. A visit to gardens in London is planned for 2016. The year ended with a Christmas dinner in late November.
2. This year the garden club will host seven speakers with a quiz in January. Last year we had a very successful plant and produce show for members only, which incorporated an identification quiz. A similar show is scheduled for this year.
3. The Clifton Garden Club annual plant sale took place in late May 2015. This is an important event for the club as the proceeds from the sale are used to fund club speakers. A record amount was made and a big thanks must go to all those who helped to organise this event and to members of the public for their support. The 2016 plant sale is scheduled to take place on Saturday morning June 4th.

Clifton Garden Club is also involved in :-

- the planting of winter and summer flowers in the large tubs outside the Clifton shops. Flowers are donated by garden club members.

- the maintenance of the Millennium Garden on the corner of Main Street and South Road.

Clifton Garden Club meets on the third Thursday of each month upstairs in the Townsend Memorial Hall, Clifton upon Dunsmore at 7.30 p.m. Refreshments are provided after meetings. From time to time visiting speakers bring plants for sale. Subscriptions are £10 per year for membership and £3 per meeting for visitors. Each member receives a membership card listing club activities.

I would like to pay tribute to the Clifton Garden Club committee for their hard work and to club members for their enthusiastic and constant support during 2015. A very interesting season of speakers, visits and events is planned for 2016 including an away trip and a visit to three gardens in Clifton upon Dunsmore.

Church Report 2015 by Dorothy Bancroft

Throughout the year the work of the church has continued led by our vicar, the Reverend Tim Davis. Weekly services have been held with special services at Easter and Christmas. There have been Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms and services of Thanksgiving for the birth of a Child. A special "Thank You" service was held in February 2016 for the considerable number of people who help in any way with the work of The churches of St Mary's and the Good Shepherd. Clifton Primary School children came to church at Easter and during Advent. These services were mainly conducted by the children and were most impressive.

Much needed fund raising has continued. A Stewardship campaign was held in 2015 which resulted in one off donations of £5,800 and £3,543 in regular donations over a 12 month period. Two people did sponsored bike rides which made £219. An enjoyable Coffee Morning and Grand Draw were held at Christmas at Manor Farm which produced a profit of £1,159 and in February 2016 the visit of "Anne Boleyn" yielded £1,200. Our thanks go to all those who organised these events.

General church maintenance continues now in the capable hands of David Smith and David Mclean who have taken over this work from Ray Willis. Ray has retired after many years of valuable service to our church. The church quinquennial inspection was done recently and the two Davids hope to carry out all the necessary work stated in the report before the next inspection. The major repair project has been the work done on the outside North wall, the North West corner walls and the Vestry walls. These walls were all covered in old cement render which had cracked allowing damp to get in which was causing problems on the internal walls. In October all of this render was removed and the North and North West walls were re pointed with lime mortar and a considerable number of damaged stones replaced with suitable stones. A time capsule was put into the North wall by Clifton school children. This wall is thought to date back to the twelfth century. The vestry which was built of brick in 1893 had to be re rendered with lime render since the bricks were too damaged to be left.

Thus thanks to everyone involved in the project we can now see a lovely old wall on the North side of our church instead of drab concrete and hopefully the problem of damp has been solved.

The Reverend Diane Bussey, our Associate Minister, is now leaving us since she has been appointed to lead the worship at Long Lawford. We are grateful to her for all she has done for us and we shall miss her but we wish her well in her new work.

A Vestry Meeting is to held on 26 April, in order to elect Church Wardens. Any resident of the parish may attend the meeting and vote if they choose.

Townsend Memorial Hall Committee Report for year ending 31st December 2015 by Doug Hall (read by Cris Palmer)

At the first meeting of the Townsend Memorial Hall 2015 Management Committee Julia Garratt replaced Sarah Palmer as Treasurer of the committee and Julia Boyd replaced

Daphne Allan as Secretary. A big thank you to Sarah and Daphne for their previous hard work and contribution.

The ground floor kitchen/side hall refurbishment has been the main concern of the TMH Management Committee for the last year, culminating in the welcome news that Wren Environmental Ltd has awarded a grant to carry out the project. The kitchen will be a complete refurbishment to include a new floor, ceiling, re-plastering, cupboards and a range of suitable appliances to bring the present kitchen up to date.

New double glazed windows have been fitted in the large upstairs room with sealed replacement glass sections fitted to the upper kitchen windows. This has made a big improvement in lessening the outside noise and increasing heat retention.

The upstairs kitchen ceiling has been repaired and redecorated. A new water heater has been fitted in the kitchen.

Thanks to a donation from Leigh Hunt from her Advertiser reporting a new substantial metal strip ladder was purchased for use in the hall.

Two old pictures of the Townsend Memorial Hall, one found and one kindly donated, have been reframed, thanks to a donation from Mary and Ray Willis. They are now hung just inside the door of the lower hall area.

The cottage tenants ended their tenancy in the middle of the year but were immediately replaced avoiding a period without rent. Although the cottage was left in an excellent condition various repairs/improvements continue to be needed. Good liaison with the agent keeps the property up to a reasonable standard and proper safety requirements are implemented as the committee is mindful of its responsibility as landlord.

TMH hiring charges have been maintained at previous levels and bookings for the hall have reached record levels. This has much to do with our caretaker Sandra who is so very helpful and obliging to all who use the hall. Appreciation for her help and support must be recorded along with an appreciation for and the assistance and support of husband Malcolm in making the hall the success that it is.

The Townsend Memorial Hall Committee as a whole should be complimented for the successful contribution it makes in accommodating such a wide variety of user groups that have a need for village hall facilities.

Appreciation must be recorded for the work done in 2015 by the TMH secretary Julia Boyd and by the treasurer Julie Garratt. And thanks must go to the users of the hall for their support without which we would of course we would not be viable.

WI report by Lynn Jones

Clifton-Upon-Dunsmore WI continues to flourish, we have maintained our membership numbers; sadly we have lost several members, including Mary Barker, our immediate Past President, but have also welcomed new recruits. We have 46 members.

Once again Julie has managed to relieve HMRC of another £300 worth of Gift Aid, which still swells our training and development fund. Kitty has completed her first year as our Treasurer and continues to maintain a strong financial footing for us going forward.

Throughout this year we have enjoyed some interesting and varied speakers arranged for us by Chrissie and June, including:

- Female Genital Mutilation, whilst not an easy topic, was very well presented by Alison Byrne and remains very topical in the news.
- Richard III was a deep and thought provoking insight into the dig for his remains.
- Polly Feely bought lots of familiar props when she spoke of music and memories from

her childhood.

- We were all enthralled when Georgie Hale described her unfortunate experience of being 'Shipwrecked in Antarctica'
- Ginny Davis took us To the Fringe and Beyond, which gave us a fascinating insight into how plays get to go to the Edinburgh Festival and how much promotion the authors do.
- We have had two speakers about wildlife, we were sorry not to meet a rescued hedgehog in January but still learnt something about these endangered creatures. Sadly some of our native Garden birds are also under threat.
- Several members purchased some of Louise Grey's jewellery, once she had told us of her career change.

We have, once again done more than just attend our monthly meetings, we have:

- Enjoyed our Christmas social meeting, even if we were taxed by some of Claire's quiz questions! We presented Denise with a very generous donation of items for the Rugby foodbank.
- In January we also supported another local hostelry 'The Bell' in Hillmorton for our traditional "Christmas meal". 32 members enjoyed a very lively evening, with lots of lovely food and we were glad to support another local company.
- Members have again made visits to Rugby Theatre on several occasions, thanks to Jayne Pang for organising these trips.
- Three committee members including Claire, our President, once again enjoyed the WFWI Annual Meeting at Chesford Grange in March, we were thoroughly entertained, especially by the mother of Demelza in Poldark.
- Once again members joined in the County Quiz and still forgot the candelabra!
- Pat Walters kindly hosted our August social event, once again we had to eat our fish and chips inside due to the poor weather but a good evening was still enjoyed.
- Kitty again organised us into playing games at The Bell in Hillmorton, members played darts, dominoes and skittles before partaking of more excellent food!
- Fundraising this year has once again been very successful, our cake sale raised a good contribution to our Training & Development fund and our appeal for Claire's presidential charity, which this year has focused on the Diamond Jubilee Appeal at St Cross, raised £138 we look forward to presenting them with the cheque shortly.
- 14 members took advantage of our T&D funded course when we enjoyed a Caribbean cookery demonstration and tasting.
- Angela Pearson has worked hard to update our Clifton WI Facebook Page. We need to carry on sending Angela photographs of our activities.

Our Craft Group has continued to meet, once again enjoying both home grown and external tutors. The ceramic sessions were very popular and several members have new Christmas decorations for their trees.

Jayne Pang has continued to organise both successful theatre trips and enjoyable walks, with a very varied programme, including a new venture into shorter walks for those not so into a long walk! Thank you Jayne.

WI Group activities this year have been organised by Bilton WI. We enjoyed learning more about Stilton cheese, as well as tasting some. Group also organised a very successful Centenary Tea in September and our annual Christmas Carol service on the 7th December. Clifton WI has taken over leadership of the Group activities for 2016.

Clifton Tennis Club report by Steve Woodford (read by James Waghorn)

I would like to start by reminding everyone that Clifton Tennis Club is our village tennis club, not just a tennis club in a village. Our chairman lives in Clifton, our treasurer lives in Clifton and our Secretary lives in Clifton. In fact 5 of our 6 committee members live in Clifton and our constitution clearly states that it is intended primarily for villagers.

We are desperate to increase our membership and if we can do this from within the village so much the better. It does not matter what age people are from 6 years upwards. The Club

will welcome beginners, league players and anyone in-between, those that are at school, in the prime of their life and those that are enjoying retirement.
2015 was quite a good year for the Club:

The Men's First team finished in first place in their division and we intend continuing this performance into 2016.

Last year we were able to engage two local LTA coaches and provided coaching to around 30 juniors, mostly from Clifton School. This year we have already had discussions with the School and anticipate an informal partnership to encourage the children at the School to enjoy playing tennis.

We offer great value membership. With family membership you could enjoy playing with the whole family, and the courts are available 365 days of the year with no need to book. Of course adult members can join in with Tuesday and Thursday evening club nights where help is on hand to arrange games with people of a similar standard, beginner to expert, and provide guidance and advice if required. The Club's teams are always interested in attracting new league standard players to provide greater depth to the teams. Junior membership is only £15, adult £45 and Family just £80; some of the best value in Warwickshire.

We really do want to increase membership of the Club and the Club looks forward to a great 2016, with increased membership particularly from people within the village. If you would like to know more please let me know.

Remember, it is our village tennis club.
Steve Woodford 01788 561996
stevepenny.woodford@btopenworld.com

Monday Art Group Report by June Deacon (read by Christine Lord)

The Monday Art Group has now been offering the chance for anyone interested in drawing and painting to get away from everyday problems and chores for over twelve years. I it's often remarked how quickly the two hours pass.

We have had several workshops this year, run by members of the group and these have been a great help to us all. They have included using scrunched up tissue paper, salt and other everyday objects to add texture to water colour paintings, turning acrylic dribbles into woodland scenes and how to create tonal values only using black and white medium. Nice comments have been made about the members paintings hanging in the hall and this has resulted in several sales and commissions. It is hoped that the children from the village school will have some their work on show after the next change over.

The group meets from 1pm to 3pm on Mondays and is open to anyone whatever their skill level.

Neighbourhood Watch report by David Glover and Graham Hill

Clifton NHW has not had the best of years over the last year, it has struggled with declining participation at meetings due to reluctance of residents being prepared to support it and take on organizational roles.

In 2014 we had a new secretary and chair who tried to keep the group moving but despite their best efforts this failed to materialise. The secretary unfortunately then left the village and the chair was taken seriously ill and was forced to take a step backwards so the group was almost forced to close.

In the Autumn of 2015 following an article in the parish magazine David Glover came forward to offer his services and has since spent a considerable amount of time liaising with Graham Hill (previous Chair) , local police authorities , local and national NHW groups and

formulating ways to resurrect Clifton NHW.

Since the “last” poorly attended meeting which caused decisions to be taken there has a lot of things that have been happening in the background that may provide a way forward for a NHW group in Clifton under David’s guidance. These include –

- 1) The parish council has created an excellent web site which NHW now forward information to via parish clerk, these include items from police, national NHW, Action Fraud and Warwickshire Rural Watch.
- 2) Under guidance from National NHW and police David has registered himself with all relevant organisations to ensure he is the first point of contact on all NHW matters.
- 3) We have maintained regular contact with our PCSO and the area policing team to ensure that we are abreast of local policing matters, whilst they also provide the Parish council with crime update, which have been consistently low and in most months are at zero.
- 4) As part of our drive to re-form the group David has produced a strategy which is felt that could be a way forward, part of this was detailed in the parish magazine.
- 5) However there have been significant changes to National NHW and also with the up and coming elections for Police and Crime commissioner we don’t know how things will move forward until end of May.
- 6) We recently attended the “Connecting Clifton” Event which gave valuable feedback on any “New” form of NHW, in that it should probably rely on a different format rather than rely on “meetings” by moving more to an electronic/social media format – which actually goes against what the original concept of NHW was set up for. However there was a feeling that “Specific theme meetings” might be well received.
- 7) Graham Hill has now regained his health sufficiently enough to be able to now give support to David and any others who are muchly needed to assist in getting any form of NHW back up and running within our community
- 8) At this time the future of Clifton Community NHW is not clear however both Graham and David firmly believe that there is a necessity for a Community Neighbourhood group so as to help the village move forward in both good and more difficult times.

If you feel that you also agree with us that there is a future in Clifton for such a group then please do not hesitate to discuss any concerns / thoughts / suggestions you may have with us as we cannot do it on our own , we need YOUR assistance so as to make this a truly COMMUNITY effort

Thank you for your time. Graham and David are available for any questions

Allotment Report by Lesley Edwards

There are 3 half plots and 3 full plots vacant over the 3 sites at present; with Newall Close being full. An income of £1,090 has been generated via the allotments this year to date.

As a result of problems to adjoining plot holders caused by Bees kept on one of the plots, a review of the tenancy agreement has taken place. The result of the review being that no livestock is allowed on the allotment sites.

Burial Committee Report by Cris Palmer (read by Alastair Robinson)

As most people will be aware, the Cemetery on the Newton Road is jointly managed and financed by Clifton-upon-Dunsmore and Newton & Biggin Parish Councils on behalf of our community.

The Committee has had to address several key issues which face any burial committee; one is the cost of maintenance, which is partly determined by layout and ease of maintenance, another principle issue is health and safety.

The burial committee, constituted from the last Parish Council decided some time ago, to install concrete beams for headstones or memorials to be secured to, on the basis that it would make maintenance easier, and they felt the memorials less likely to suffer from subsidence. However, to undertake this work would require substantial capital expenditure

and there would be an environmental impact.

Your Parish Council felt that this approach should be explored a little further, partly because of the nature of a country churchyard, partly because of the potential environmental impact and also responding to positive feedback received over the years from relatives and visitors alike about the appearance of the cemetery and its high standard of maintenance. Here one should add that the committee is fortunate in having an excellent grounds man to look after the cemetery site.

In order to understand and be informed by these matters in greater detail, a report was researched and compiled to examine different methods of installing headstones or memorials. The report is available for anyone to view on the Parish Council website and comments or thoughts are welcome.

One of the challenges anticipated a long time ago by the Burial Committee was the limited capacity of the current site for interments. Planning ahead, an additional parcel of land was acquired some years ago to prepare it ready for use when the existing area ran out of space. In the last two or three years the focus has been on that day, together with the preparations to move into and start using the new area.

At the last Joint Burial Committee meeting it was reported that there are now only four plots remaining within the boundaries of the current burial area. It is therefore anticipated we shall in due course be bringing into use the new area, which is already consecrated in preparation.

However, it was agreed by the Committee at its most recent meeting that the four remaining plots will use a different method for installing headstones as a trial to gauge its effectiveness, safety and appearance in preparation for using the new site.

The working agreement between the two Parish Councils was formed in 1942; both Parish Councils representatives on the Burial Committee have agreed to a working party to look at the governance of the committee to ensure latest standards are met in respect of the agreement in terms of accountable management.

Despite the challenges faced by any burial authority at this time, we are fortunate to have and be able to offer an attractive, peaceful and pleasant environment in our local cemetery. The support of the respective Parish Councils and the work of the Burial Committee, its members and contractors are fundamental to the success of this valuable asset to our local community.

Clifton Local History Group by Dorothy Bancroft

The Local History Group meets on the first Thursday each month and has a programme of speakers on various subjects. This year's meetings have included presentations on the history of the Panama Canal, World War One, Shakespeare's father and Cannons Ashby House.

The group is led by the Chair Lynda Palmer with David Swan as Secretary. The annual subscription is £10 per year or £18 per couple. Guests are welcomed at £2 per occasion. This fees includes refreshments at the meeting, which includes cakes.

A major project to be undertaken this year is a display of the archives of Clifton upon Dunsmore, which will take place in the Church.

Rugby Borough Councillor's Report 2016 by Leigh Hunt (read by Alastair Robinson)

Rugby Borough Council, unlike many local authorities, is in a strong financial position. However, we do need to look to the future, and are aware that Government grants to local authorities are likely to reduce still further. We have a tradition of looking forward and have set a target to become self-sufficient by 2020. To this end we must look to effect savings now.

It is some years since we last restructured and now is the time to look again at our structure

and the management of the organisation. In February Full Council agreed that we should reduce our head count from two Executive Directors to one, and from six Heads of Service to four. This will enable us to make substantial savings whilst protecting front-line services. Services will be realigned under the four Heads of Service, and Portfolio Holders will also be reduced from six to four, giving clearer lines of accountability and oversight.

As reported at the last parish council meeting, Rugby Borough Council is still considering its options with regard to joining the West Midland Combined Authority, or any other Combined Authority, and once the direction of travel for these organisations is clearer and we can see what's in it for us the matter will be brought back to Full Council, probably later this year. Closer to home, it has been a year of real progress in Clifton. In November I organised a meeting between residents of the Manor Estate and Orbit Housing. There were issues around grounds maintenance and trees, although everyone agreed that Leo does a great job in the time he is allowed. It also transpired that Orbit have been charging for items that should not have been included, and over-charging for some other costs. As a result, revised bills have been sent out which more accurately reflect the true position. Sadly there have been problems with some of the trees, and these have had to be felled. Although replacements have been planted it will take some years for these to reach maturity. There are still issue over trees in the Manor grounds, and the Rugby Borough Council tree officers have been involved in trying to resolve these.

As has been widely reported, I have been working closely with the developers of Radio Station Rugby and DIRFT III, together with Warwickshire County Council, to bring forward a traffic calming scheme with a 20Mph zone and weight limit running right through the village. Things are progressing well and I'll bring more updates to the next parish council meeting. I have been in contact with Mrs. Bernhard at Clifton School and we shall be doing some work with the children on traffic and travel, and we will run a competition for the children to design plaques to go under the 20Mph signs at the four entrances to the village. The traffic calming should be in by the end of the year.

I would like to thank the members of Clifton Parish Council. In all the years that I have been a member of or involved with the parish council I have never known things to run so smoothly or so professionally, and with no friction or conflict. It has been a real pleasure to work with you all. Thanks must also go to Clifton's very able Clerk, Christine, who always sends out full reports in good time for the meetings, so that we are all now working together as a team.

I am looking forward to the next 12-months when some of the projects that have been worked on will start to bear fruit.

County Councillors report by Cllr Phillip Morris-Jones

£280,000 has been allocated to fund the proposed Traffic Calming scheme by the County Council via a legal agreement with the developers of the Rugby Radio Station site and Prologis. The scheme is likely to commence in September 2016.

The development of the Radio Station site and DIRFT will inevitably bring more traffic, and so the County Council is working with multiple agencies to encourage traffic to use the main trunk roads rather than travel through the surrounding villages.

7. OPEN FORUM

15/253

Lynn Jones expressed her concerns over the condition of a number of old garden walls, which she felt were part of the character of the village; and asked whether they were protected in any way.

In response the Chair of the meeting, requested that Mrs Jones should contact the Clerk by email, in order for the question to be put to the Borough Council, which is responsible for building control and environmental health.

Dorothy Bancroft expressed her concerns over the possible lack of candidates at the forthcoming Parish Councils elections.

Lynn Jones recognised that, as had been commented on this evening, almost all voluntary groups and organisations had problems recruiting people to act as officer and committee members, as there is a general reluctance to get involved; and that this did not just apply to the Parish Council.

Lesley Edwards commented that the present Parish Councillors, who were all volunteers, had a strong commitment to serve the community, and would continue to do so if re-elected.

Graham Hill suggested that a Community Defibrillator which could help save lives in the case of a Cardiac Arrest; could be purchased for the village, remarking that there were a number of options to obtain one.

In response the Chair of the meeting suggested that Mr Hill should contact the Clerk by email, in order for the suggestion to be considered as part of the next Parish Council meeting.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

15/254 None

The Chair of the meeting thanked all who had attended for their participation.

15/255 Meeting closed 8.30 pm

Minutes approved and accepted as correct

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Chair

Dated