

**CLIFTON UPON DUNSMORE PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

Held on 6 June 2016  
At the Townsend Memorial Hall, commencing 7.30 pm

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

Also present: County Councillor P Morris-Jones, Borough Councillor Leigh Hunt, and five residents of Clifton upon Dunsmore.

Clerk: Mrs C M Lord

| MINUTE |  | ACTION                                     |
|--------|--|--|
| 16/22  | <b>1. Apologies for absence</b><br>No apologies were received.   |  |
| 16/23  | <b>2. Declarations of Members Interests and requests for dispensations.</b><br>None received.  |  |
| 16/24  | <b>3. Public Forum – suspension of Standing Orders</b><br>A residents expressed her concern that no-one had applied for co-option to the Parish Council following the unopposed election in May, and questioned why this was.<br><br>In response Councillor Edwards stated that the vacancies had been widely advertised around the parish and a number of people had been approached individually. She remarked that being a Parish Councillor does take a great deal of commitment, and many people who are already active in the village do not have the time to give. She reiterated that the present Parish Council now have the experience, knowledge and professional skills required to undertake their duties, and would continue to do so. |  |
| 16/25  | <b>4. Public Forum closed and Standing Orders resumed at 7.38pm</b>  |  |
| 16/26  | <b>5. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16 May 2016</b><br>The minutes of the meeting were, with the exception of one minor correction, approved and signed by Cllr Marion Nash as a true and accurate record of the meeting.  |  |
| 16/27  | <b>6. Matters Arising and progress against resolutions</b><br><i>15/271 – Conservation Group</i><br>Councillor Edwards presented a written report on the establishment of a Parish Conservation Group. Following its presentation a number of comments and suggestions were provided, and Councillor Edwards agreed to bring the final proposal to the next meeting for approval by the Parish Council.<br><br><i>15/272 Defibrillator</i><br>Councillor Edwards reported that she would raise the possible location of a community defibrillator on the Townsend Memorial Hall at the next Management Committee meeting.  | CLLR<br>EDWARDS<br><br><br>CLLR<br>EDWARDS |
| 16/28  | <b>7. Financial Matters</b><br><i>Payments</i>   |  |

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.

|          |          |  |
|----------|----------|--|
| 16/05/16 | 1,134.99 | Came & Company [PC15/271]                          |
| 16/05/16 | 185.00   | Stephen Lowe – grass cutting                       |
| 16/05/16 | 112.00   | Karl Martin – glass repair at Pavilion             |
| 16/05/16 |          | Christine Lord – Expenses protected under DPA 1998 |
| 10/05/16 | 45.83    | EON - Pavilion                                     |
| 23/05/16 | 253.24   | EON – Street Lighting                              |
| 25/05/16 |          | Christine Lord – Salary protected under DPA 1998   |

16/29 *Financial Statement*

The Members examined and accepted the Statement of Accounts for the period ending 31 May 2016, which was signed by the Chair as a true record.

16/30 **8. Planning matters**

- Planning Application [16/0860](#) Land for the construction of a Primary School –Radio Station Rugby

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

- Planning application [16/1147](#) – change of use of amenity land to include residential curtilage – 19 Hadfield Close

**RESOLVED: The Parish Council wish to express concerns on the loss of shared amenity land to an individual property. They also wish to express concerns that the relocation and erection of a 2m fence may detrimental to the immediate environment, resulting in the obstruction of the view of neighbouring properties.**

- Decision Notice [15/1915](#) 2 Main Street Clifton upon Dunsmore  
**Noted**

16/31 **9. Correspondence**

- RBC letter – grass verge cutting contract

The Members noted the contents of the letter which informed the Parish Council that a new contractor will now be cutting the highway verges 3 times a year on behalf of the County Council. They noted that the verges in Clifton and Dunchurch were cut on an urban cycle (rather than rural) at present, and that the commitment by RBC to provide a ‘top up’ service is under review, and considered it appropriate to monitor the appearance of the verges over the summer; contacting RBC if they should fall below an acceptable standard

**ACTION: All Parish Councillors to monitor condition of highway verges over the summer months and report back.**

- Consultation on proposed 20mph zone, 30 and 40 mph speed limits and 7.5 tonne weight restrictions

16/32 **10. County and Borough Councillors’ reports**

***Borough Councillor Hunt***

Councillor Leigh Hunt took the opportunity during her report to explain the rationale behind the proposed introduction of the 7.5 tonne weight limit over such a wide area surrounding Clifton. She explained that in order to prevent HGVs using the village for access to the A5 and motorway system the exclusion area had to be very extensive. She reminded the meeting however, the HGVs would still be allowed to travel through the village for access to surrounding farms and industrial premises, where there was no alternative route.

She reminded the meeting of the proposals to introduce a 20mph zone for the

CLERK

ALL

majority of the village, whilst the speed limit on Hillmorton Lane/ Lilbourne Road would be lowered to 40mph. The 30mph speed limit on Newton Road would be extended further out towards Newton.

She remarked that as yet there are no plans to improve the St Thomas Cross junction, and suggested that a joint approach for improvements to WCC with Newton Parish Council could be given greater consideration.

She reminded the meeting that the consultation period is open until 24 June, and any comments should be provided to the County Council by that date.

In respect to the proposed traffic calming scheme, the final design is being produced at present (although due to staff changes this may be delayed slightly). She reported that she is visiting the school this month to talk about traffic safety and to look at the design for the gateway signs produced by the children.

To complete her report she advised that RBC were holding a special meeting on Thursday to discuss the option of joining the West Midlands Combined Authority now the WCC have decided to enter as a non-constituent member. There will be a free vote on the issue for Members.

#### **Councillor Phillip Morris-Jones**

Councillor Morris-Jones reported that the big issue at WCC at present was the prospect of becoming a member of the West Midlands Combined Authority. It would seem that Stratford and Nuneaton are keen to join, however there are still concerns about the benefits for Warwickshire.

The new Police and Crime Commissioner has been elected and may now also supervise the Fire and Rescue Service.

He reported that he welcomed the proposed introduction of weight limits and speed restrictions in the village, which should improve the quality of life for residents.

He reported that there have been no new developments with the possible Solar Farm as yet.

### 16/33 **11. Reports from Councillors**

#### **Councillor Edwards – Churchyard improvements**

Councillor Edwards reported that she anticipated that several of the issues raised in the diocese report would be addressed by the proposed conservation group. Some, such as the repair of tombs would be a more challenging and costly task. She reported that she has taken it upon herself to re-paint the edges of the steps in white to improve their safety over the weekend.

CLLR  
EDWARDS

### 16/34 **12. To consider the adoption of the General Power of Competence (Localism Act 2011)**

The Members considered a report on the proposed adoption of the General Power of Competence (GPOC) by the Parish Council.

- The Parish Council is now eligible to use the GPOC as two-thirds of its Members are elected and has a CILCA qualified Clerk. It was noted that:
- Its adoption by an eligible local council means that the Parish Council would no longer need to search and question whether it has a specific power to act; the GPOC gives local authorities, including eligible local councils, “*the power to do anything that individuals generally may do*” as long as they don’t break other laws. It is a ‘power of first resort’; this means that when searching for a power to act, the first question to ask is whether the GPOC can be used.

- The GPOC lasts until it loses its qualified clerk or has insufficient elected councillors. Then it must record its ineligibility at the next 'relevant' annual meeting of the council. Otherwise, the adoption of the GPOC lasts until the day before the next ordinary election.

The Members considered the briefing paper carefully and observed that it will be very important to examine all the risk involved in the use of the GPOC on every occasion.

They also observed that there are a number of circumstances where the GPOC cannot be used; for example when a statutory duty remains in place. In proposing the Parish Council adopts the GPOC Councillor Nash reminded the Members of the importance of studying the briefing paper to familiarise themselves with the uses and restrictions of the GPOC. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Edwards and on a show of hands all Members were in agreement.

16/35 **RESOLVED:**  
**That the Parish Council adopts the use of the General Power of Competence (Localism Act 2011)**

16/36 **13. To consider the purchase of a laptop computer and printer; with associated grant application process; under the Local Government Transparency Act.**

The Members considered a report which advised them that NALC have been able to negotiate another round of funding from Central Government to support small councils in achieving and maintaining their ability to comply with the Transparency Code. They observed that if a council does not have its own computer or Scanner and relies on the equipment owned by the Clerk they are entitled to apply as the Government believes a Council should have long term sustainability, in case of a Clerk leaving their post or having long-term sickness.

Councillor Robinson therefore proposed that the Parish Council should apply for funding totalling £684.89 in respect of the purchase of a laptop and scanner which will be owned by the Parish Council and that in the event that full grant funding is not available, proposed that the balance of the purchase is provided from the general reserve.

It was agreed that either a cloud or a hard drive would need to be included ensure the future security of records.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Palmer and on a show of hands all Members were in agreement

16/37 **RESOLVED:**  
a) **That the Parish Council should apply for funding totalling £684.89 in respect of the purchase of a laptop and scanner which will be owned by the Parish Council**  
b) **That in the event that full grant funding is not available, proposed that the balance of the purchase is provided from the general reserve.**

CLERK

16/38 **14. To consider the Parish Councils involvement in St Marys Flower Festival.**

The Members considered a suggestion from a resident that the Parish Council should contribute to the cost of a floral display in the Church during the weekend of 20/21 August which is being held in celebration of the Queens 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Councillor Palmer suggested that the Parish Council request the residents to donate flowers from their gardens to provide a community display at the event. Once pledges of flowers were received, he would arrange for the collection of

16/39 the flowers and for someone to produce the display, and deliver it to the Church.

CLLR  
PALMER

**ACTION: Councillor Palmer to co-ordinate the production of a community floral display for the Church during the weekend of 20/21 August.**

16/40 **15. To receive Members motions for the next meeting.**

None received.

16/41 **16. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place Monday 4 July 2016 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed 8.15pm

Minutes approved and accepted as correct

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Chair

Dated .....

DRAFT