

Minutes of the 21st, Claygate Village Meeting
7.30pm, on Thursday 17th March 2022 at Claygate Village Hall

Present:

Parish Councillors: Geoff Herbert (Chairman), Gil Bray, Mark Sugden, Xingang Wang, Michelle Woodward

Parish Clerk & RFO: Sally Harman

Surrey County Councillor: Mark Sugden

Members of the Public: 12

Apologies: Brian Rawson, Jo Collon, Michael Collon, Caroline Stevenson, Mark Tymieniecki

Item 1. Welcome from the Chairman of Claygate Parish Council (CPC)

The Chairman welcomed attendees to the Village meeting and called a 1 minute silence in support of residents of the Ukraine.

Item 2 Minutes of the last Meeting

The minutes of the last Annual Village Meeting held on Thursday 21st May 2021 had been distributed to attendees prior to the meeting starting and were available on the Parish Council website. It was agreed that the Chairman could sign the minutes, witnessed by the Clerk, as a correct record of the meeting.

Item 3. Update from the Parish Council

The Chairman updated attendees on the efforts of the Highways, Transport and Environment Committee (HT&E) in dealing with the aftermath of Storm Eunice in February working with SCC and thanked SCC Cllr Mark Sugden for his support in getting footpaths and roads cleared quickly. He noted that the HT&E Committee continued to work on ensuring the 13 Highway Garden Sites that the Parish Council looked after were well maintained. He noted that the Committee were focusing on the environment going forward and what they can do to improve it. The Chairman then briefed the meeting on what the Planning Committee had been concentrating on. He noted that last night Elmbridge Borough Council (EBC) had approved the Draft Local Plan. The Planning Committee would be looking to hold a public meeting at some point after the May EBC Elections to detail what the Draft Local Plan means for Claygate and any action to be taken. The other focus of the Planning Committee was the introduction of 5G masts into the village. The Planning Committee were trying to engage with 5G mast providers to secure sensible placement of these masts.

Item 4. Speakers

Pippa Cramer - A talk on her extraordinary efforts to support our local elderly residents in the Covid Pandemic as well as setting up the Daily Hope free phone line which has provided hope and support to seniors all over the country resulting in an MBE.

Pippa Cramer's talk commenced with a bit on her background. She noted that she has lived in Claygate for 18 years and has worked at Holy Trinity Church Claygate for the last 12 years. In her current role as Pastoral Care and Seniors Minister she offers pastoral care to all ages with the help of her team. She has always had a love for the elderly following her strong childhood relationship with her own Grandparents. In March 2020 the Covid pandemic commenced and she quickly realised that they wouldn't be able to physically host the 106 guests that regularly attended her Connections Tuesday mornings sessions at the Church. As such she set up the Cascade of Care where her and her team assigned volunteers to phone guests or action doorstep visits to over 160 local residents in need. She also set-up the Daily Hope line with the Archbishop of Welby knowing that 2.5m older people were not connected by the internet in the UK and would potentially be in need of comfort from the isolation that Covid-19 lockdowns brought. The Daily Hope call line meant those in need could call 24/7 for words of comfort or hope. It launched on the 26th April 2020 and so far has taken 600,000 calls and 8m minutes of call time. Her and her team have received lots of feedback that the call line proved a lifeline for those in need during the pandemic. Even with restrictions for Covid-19 now easing it continues to give hope and comfort. Pippa went on to say she has felt honoured to have received the Brian Rhodes Community Cup last year, the Alphege Award for Evangelism and Witness and an MBE. She said it was extraordinary to receive the MBE but was glad

that such awards hopefully helped raise the profile of older people and help fight loneliness, isolation and agism. She noted that each of her awards were as much for her teams as they were for her.

Brian Howells - CO-CHAIR OF GOVERNERS CLAYGATE PRIMARY SCHOOL (CPS). An update on the eagerly anticipated local Community Swimming Pool.

Brian Howells noted that the current swimming pool at CPS had been opened in 1976 as a result of fundraising and hard graft by local residents and that the Parents Association (PA) had been supporting the pool's upkeep since. As an open air pool its use has been limited to hrs in the day and weeks in the year, lacked changing facilities and had significant energy consumption. In 2019 it was decided a new pool was required and a group of parents embarked on a vision to 'Enhance Claygate Primary School's swimming pool to create an indoor facility that would no longer be exclusive to the school but open to the whole community all year round'. The new pool design focused on green credentials, would be enclosed to help reduce heat and water loss, have single sex changing rooms, a kitchen area for the building and allow cooking lessons for pupils and a multipurpose common room among other things. The green measures included ground source heat pumps, solar panels and efficient construction materials. Walking and cycling to the facility would be encouraged with bike parking. The support from the community and community organisations had been staggering and included the Girl Guides, Scouts, Capelfield Surgery, BUPA at Wingham Court, Claygate Parish Council, Elmbridge Borough Council and CPS and its parents. There have been lots of challenges with the project such as delays and significant cost increases post Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic but they are hoping for a launch this Autumn 2022. Brian went on to thank the numerous financial contributors including but not limited to Claygate Parish Council, Elmbridge Borough Council, Your Fund Surrey and specifically SCC Cllr Mark Sugden for helping achieve the £363k funding from Your Fund Surrey, the London Marathon Charitable Trust and the PA. Brian noted that there was still a funding gap and further community initiatives would shortly be being launched. One of which was the sponsor a tile project by a local artist. When the pool launches this September membership will be open to all the community. A tender process was under way for a swim school. Brian went on to thank all his Colleagues at the Claygate Community Pool Project team for their phenomenal efforts.

7. Open Forum- Residents of Claygate can express their views and concerns about any aspect of life in Claygate.

Residents gave a huge thank you to Brian and his team for their efforts with the Community Swimming Pool and to Pippa Cramer for her work with the elderly in the community.

Residents then went on to ask the following questions: -

- *Can you define Community when you say Community Pool?* Brian Howells responded. He confirmed that it would be available to the whole of Claygate. It was a pool built by Claygate residents for Claygate residents.
- *Do clients come from outside the Church Community?* Pippa Cramer responded. She noted that at the start of the Covid pandemic the Daily Hope line focused on those contacts Holy Trinity Church had to hand through their Connections Group but it then grew to others outside of this group through word of mouth.
- *What have Claygate Parish Council been doing to assist the elderly in the community over the last 2 years?* The Chairman of the Parish Council responded. He noted that CPC do support local organisations and residents but could always do more.
- *Income disparities within the Claygate Community is going to get wider over the next few years and decent leadership is required.* The Chairman of the Parish Council responded. He noted that everyone needed to play a part. He said that he would add how CPC can help address the lack of funds for people who are struggling on to the next CPC's meeting agenda.
- *Can you clarify the remaining funding gap for the Claygate Community Pool?* Brian Howells responded. He noted that they were in the process of firming this figure up but he could confirm more money was required.
- *Will lifeguards be employed at the new Community Pool?* Brian Howells responded. They had included full day cover in the Swimming school tender and dependent on the outcome of the tender they would decide if more was required.

- *How can we get the message out to help with the school pool communication for funding?* Brian Howells responded. He noted that they were liaising with communication channels such as the Courier and would be ramping up their social media communication.

The Chairman closed the meeting and thanked those residents who had attended.

The meeting closed at 20h28

Signed:



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Howells', written over a horizontal line.

Dated:

2/3/23.