



DRAFT

**Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting
Held on Thursday 21st January 2021 at 7.30p.m via Zoom.**

Present: Chairman: Mark Sugden
Councillors, Geoff Herbert, Janet Swift, Michelle Woodward, Brian Rawson, Jo Lesser, Jo Collon
Co-opted Committee Members: Mark Tymieniecki

In Attendance: Parish Clerk & RFO Sally Harman, 2 members of the public

134/1 To accept apologies for absence.

Cllr Wang and Cllr Marques were absent. No apologies were received in advance of the meeting.

135/2 To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

None

136/3 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th January 2020.

The minutes of the meeting of the 14th January 2021 had been circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

AP117 Chairman to sign minutes and drop to Clerk.

137/4 To agree the Council levy a precept of £49,073 for the financial year 2021/22 holding the Band D rate at £14.15 flat for the sixth consecutive financial year.

Cllr Swift proposed an amendment to the proposed Band D rate of £14.15. She proposed to reduce the Band D rate by 10% to £12.74 given the unprecedented times Claygate residents were facing and that the Parish Council should look to cut costs and pass on to residents. She proposed this cost saving could come from areas such as planning, village hall hire and the Chairman's allowance (a payment used for the purchase of the CPC Poppy Wreath and refreshments at the Annual Village Meeting). She also proposed that CPC should aim to not accept the discretionary grant from EBC and CPC carry out a value for money review.

Cllr Lessor noted her concern at taking money from the Planning budget as it is so important to residents of Claygate. Cllr Rawson noted that in real terms the CPC precept figure had fallen substantially in the last 17 years. Cllr Sugden noted that the Clerk salary savings a number of years ago had offset the need to increase the precept over the last 6 years. He noted that he was against the proposed reduction on the basis that the CPC have only increased the precept twice in 17 years, that CPC were only 0.7% of a Claygate residents Band D households council tax bill and that a 10% reduction would only save each household £1.415 p.a. or £0.027 per week. SCC, EBC and the Surrey Police have all signaled an increase amounting to a total of over £50 p.a. Finally, he stated that a Regulation 19 representation was expected this year in May/June along with a public enquiry following the Draft Local plan publication from EBC in March and CPC would need expert advice as Cllrs didn't have the expertise. 12 Greenbelt sites surround Claygate and could be under threat. Protection of the Greenbelt was the biggest issue for most residents in Claygate and residents will want CPC to defend it as best they can.

Cllr Lessor proposed that it made more sense to freeze the pre-cept and protect the planning budget which was going to be needed in the coming year.

Cllr Sugden noted that in the proposed budget more money had been allocated into the grant and public projects cost centers so CPC could increase its support to the local community in this difficult time.

Cllr Swift's proposed amendment of a 10% reduction in the Band D rate and pre-cept was not seconded and the motion fell.

A recorded vote was then taken on the original proposal. Cllr Sugden, Cllr Herbert, Cllr Woodward, Cllr Lessor, Cllr Rawson and Cllr Collen voted in favour of holding the band D rate flat at £14.15. Cllr Swift voted against. It was therefore **agreed in a majority** decision that the precept should remain flat at £14.15.

AP118 Clerk to notify EBC of approved precept.

138/5 To approve a budget of £51,878 for the financial year 2021/22 funded by a precept of £49,073, a discretionary Council tax support grant from EBC of £2,730 and £75 of bank interest.

The Chairman had circulated the proposed budget in advance of the meeting.

A recorded vote was taken. Cllr Sugden, Cllr Herbert, Cllr Woodward, Cllr Lessor, Cllr Rawson and Cllr Collen voted in favour of the proposed budget. Cllr Swift voted against. It was **agreed in a majority** decision to approve the proposed budget.

AP119 Clerk to update accounts and accounting software for 21/22 to reflect the new approved budget.

139/6 To agree a response to the Government's Supporting Housing Delivery and Public Service Consultation (end date 28th).

The Clerk had circulated Cllr Herbert's proposed responses ahead of the meeting which he clarified were very much a local village based perspective. It was noted that there were 3 key things the consultation focuses on: -

1/ New change of use Commercial and business to residential.

2/ Support public services infrastructure through planning system including time period for consultation.

3/ Consultation and simplification of permitted development rights.

It was **unanimously agreed** that Cllr Herbert, Chairman of the Planning Committee, could finalise the submission of the CPC response to the Government's Supporting Housing Delivery and Public Service Consultation on behalf of CPC.

AP120 Cllrs to send any additional comments to Cllr Herbert. Cllr Herbert to collate and then send final submission to the Clerk who will upload to Government website.

140/7 To adopt the revised NALC standing orders (June 2020) subject to any proposed amendments.

It was **unanimously agreed** to delay the adoption of the revised NALC standing orders (June 2020) until the 11th March CPC meeting.

141/8 Matters for information purposes only.

It was noted that the latest guidance from NALC was to continue remote meetings until May 2021 and that future meeting locations would be added to 11th March CPC agenda.

The Chairman confirmed a response to the CPS Nursery consultation had been submitted that day.

It had been announced that Draft Local Plan papers were being published by EBC on the 1st March and would go to EBC full Council on the 15th March.

Cllrs noted that a number of posters were appearing around the village citing messages against CPC. Cllrs were asked to take a photo and remove if they deemed safe to do so.

Meeting ended at 20h25

**To confirm that the next meeting of the Claygate Parish Council is planned to be held on
11th March 2021 at 7.30 pm**

Website: www.claygateparishcouncil.gov.uk