

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF CLYMPING

Minutes of the **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** held on
Tuesday 23rd May 2022 at 6.30pm at the Church Hall, Clymping

PRESENT: Councillors Colin Humphris (Chairman), Henry Burrell & David Miranda
Eleven members of the public. Nadine Phibbs (Clerk).

1. **WELCOME** - The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting of the Parish of Clymping and explained the safety procedures.
2. **APOLOGIES** – Apologies were received from Councillors Christine Gillott & Ann Findlay. District Councillor Amanda Horne.
3. **MINUTES** - The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 5th May 2021 were received and signed as a true record
4. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT** - The Chairman reported on 2021 – 2022 (1st April – 31st March) as follows:

Introduction

Welcome to this Annual Report for 2021/22.

I would like to thank all our councillors who contributed to the Parish work through the year, the residents who contributed to our Working Groups, the residents who turned out to help with projects around the village including the wildflower meadow, Lisa Eyre our award-winning editor of Clymping Village News and our District Councillors and County Councillor who have supported us.

As Covid restrictions eased it was good to get back to public meetings in the Church Hall and thank you to the residents who came and supported these meetings. The Workgroups continued to meet virtually via Zoom.

Councillors

At the start of the year the Council comprised 5 councillors of our complement of 7: Cllrs Ann Findlay, Christine Gillott, Colin Humphris, Harry Ward, Stuart Weatherley. During the year Stuart Weatherley and Harry Ward moved away from Clymping and I would like to thank them for their service to the community. We welcomed David Miranda to Council and the return of Henry Burrell. We therefore end the year still with 2 vacancies open for co-option.

Meetings

The Parish Council held 7 full meetings. Our Transport Working Group, Environment Working Group and the Planning Working Group of the Parish Council also met to prepare recommendations for Council to consider. Details are available in the Council Minutes.

Planning

The Council considered 52 Planning Applications through the year objecting to 22. The plans for Ford (1500 houses and changes to Ford market) came forward again and were initially deferred however these were finally approved recently. Council is working with the Ford project team to consider options to mitigate the impact on Clymping especially traffic along Horsemere Green Lane.

The second application for an incinerator at Ford was refused. It is unclear how the Grundon site will now be developed especially given the Ford housing approval.

The final details for the Foreman Homes Development have emerged following discussion with the Council and we hope these will be on public display shortly.

A lot of Council attention has been focussed on developments on the site of the former Farm Shop. This followed a number of enforcement actions relating to developments that required formal planning approval. Council objected strongly to the proposal for a fast food drive through but this was approved by the District Council. Unfortunately our worst fears have been realised and this is proving quite unsuitable for the rural setting and neighbouring property.

Generally, we objected to applications that we felt contravened our Neighbourhood Plan, would cause excessive traffic impact on our overstretched roads, had capacity to create noise and disturbance to residents or failed to achieve a good design to protect the character of Clymping. In these regards we remain concerned about the piecemeal housing developments underway along Horsemere Green Lane.

Finance (pre-audit)

For the year the Council raised £16760 through our Precept which is collected as part of your Council tax payments. Total income was £17,605 due to additional income from Village News advertising, VAT recovery and bank interest (minimal!). Total expenditure was £17,842. Our main expenditure items (pre-audit) were: to run the Council £6921, up on previous years due to the purchase of a laptop for the new clerk and the launch of the new website. Grants were made to village organisations £1200, ground works on Horsemere Green £1783, general planting £864, Trees for the Platinum Jubilee £1003, Horsemere Green Pond reed over growth clearance, restocking of native water plants and safety signage £2855, purchase of Speed Watch radar gun £480, a new fingerpost bracket £ 593, and Village News production £1364. At the end of the year the bank account stood at £44,380 including a General Fund of £31690, plus reserve funds held to be used on specific projects including work on planning the village future, drainage and flooding, improving our village appearance, possible future elections, winter management and resilience.

Other Activities

1. New Housing and Facilities

Council have been working with Foreman Homes on the design of the 300 home development and we feel that they have listened and responded to many of our concerns about the layout and impact on the existing homes. They have also had to adjust to the restrictions of archaeological finds across the site. Final approval is expected in the coming

months. The specific use of the community facilities remains an open question and is likely to be highly dependent on the lease costs for the finished buildings. Clymping is working with Yapton and Ford to consider community facilities across the three villages.

2. Clymping Beach

The erosion of the beach continues to be a serious concern. The damage to sea defences and groyne has become unsightly and raises safety concerns for visitors unfamiliar with the area. A working group chaired by our MP Nick Gibb has considered options for more sustainable ways of managing the coastline. So far the only workable solution appears to be the managed retreat of the shingle bank behind the beach.

3. Rampion 2 Offshore Windfarm

Council made its concerns for the environment and the impact of bringing power ashore at Clymping clear to the Rampion 2 project. Council will look carefully at the eventual planning application, particularly the construction plan.

4. Highways

The Highways workgroup has been active through the year with Horsemere Green Lane a particular concern given current rat running and all the proposed development in the area. The response to our consultation on the future of the lane was excellent and has provided the evidence of community support essential for change. This is being used in consultation with Arun and West Sussex as we explore what might be possible. Funding is always the issue. The current focus is speeding with the active Speed Watch Groups and the deployment of our Speed Indicator Device. We are also investigating how we might bring forward proposals for a pavement along the entire length of the lane. More radical change to lane use will be dependant on the implementation of proposals for the A259 junctions especially at the Oystercatcher.

5. The Village Environment

Council is grateful for the work of the Environment Work Group and volunteers. Their hard work was richly rewarded by the wildflower display on Horsemere Green last summer and the flowering around the gateway signs. The pond benefitted from professional maintenance by Sussex's own "Pete the Pond" with the reed overgrowth removed and restocking with native water plants.

Work was undertaken associated with housing developments along the lane to restore the drainage efficiency to the west of Langford to ensure freedom from flooding. A new end wall and sump was built at the entrance to the pond. Works are agreed to maintain the drainage to the east of Langford and we also expect to undertake desilting of the pond in 2022.

The restoration of the Clymping Street finger post was virtually completed but the installation of a new bracket for "To the Sea" arm is outstanding.

6. Council Representation

Council was represented on the Grundon (incinerator) and Rampion 2 liaison groups, and the Ford, Yapton and Clymping Advisory Group (re Arun District planning). The county wide area committees have not met this year.

And finally

Please do visit the new Council website that we hope you will find easy to use and informative. Our thanks go to the Nadine Phibbs our Clerk for leading this upgrade.

5. COMMENTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Both County & District Councillors were not in attendance, therefore there was nothing to report.

6. Presentation from the Church Hall & Village Hall

Mr C Morris provided the below presentation on behalf of the St Mary's Church Hall:

St Mary's Church Hall is run as a separate entity from the Church, and is a charitable company limited by guarantee, by the choice of the Church members many years ago. The main reason was the proposed sale of the vicarage, next to the Church. The vicarage would no longer be available to the vicar or church members for groups or meetings. A small group of Church members, most living in Clymping, got together. Land was purchased to the North of the Churchyard and after raising funds, the Hall was subsequently constructed and opened in 1991. It is now over 30 years old. We have the main hall room, a committee room, store, disabled toilet and the usual facilities. There is also a large log cabin to the east of the main hall. It is on each side of this cabin that we have planted the two Jubilee trees you kindly donated recently. We have a defibrillator too - not yet been used in emergency and long may that be the case! We try hard to look after our Hall.

The current Trustees are myself, Colin Morris, Robin Keeling (since 1993), other Trustees being, Chris Keeling, Liz Peart, and Chris King. We run on a voluntary basis, and together we manage the Hall. Chris Keeling deals with the bookings. Various others have been involved from time to time. We have always welcomed additional involvement from the community. There are 'members' of the Church Hall Company and additional members are welcome. Please do contact one of the Trustees.

Our main income comes from letting the hall to outside users. Our letting income has generally been between £7,000 and £9,000 in the last decade but has been substantially reduced in the Covid period. However, we have applied for and been awarded a number of generous grants through Arun, for which we are very thankful. We also have reserves built up over the years with very sound investment in the Church of England CCLA Funds. These funds are identified with specific future needs of the hall, as we are required to do by The Charities Commission. This is a very sound position for a hall run on a voluntary basis. The Church has recently ceased to contribute with a monthly amount due to falling Church member giving' due to Covid limitations on services. We do also receive occasional and welcome grants and donations. Your Parish Council has done so in the past.

As you can imagine, we have the usual maintenance needs. We have had to carry out repairs to the log cabin as the woodwork had deteriorated and other repairs needed. We've had two attempted break-ins. We have also improved the inside and outside lighting with LED lights, which should be more economical and reliable. We will shortly be installing wi-fi and CCTV.

Our regular users continue. Arundel Arts, West Sussex U3A Arts Group, Arundel Pilates, Yoga etc meet weekly. We have also had, prior to Covid, Ataxia monthly, local Rotary and Inner Wheel fund raising functions, Age UK lunches, CB Ministries, Sonshine Group (for those with special needs), Arun in various guises such as Elections, and also others with local and not so local organisations meeting on a periodic basis. Messy Church now has use of the log cabin as do a select band of male low stake Poker players! We have the occasional wedding reception and other anniversary celebrations.

Users are asked to make sure they do take away all their own waste, make sure the hall is secure and turn all lighting off when they leave. Sadly, waste still gets left in bins, lights are left on and doors and our main gate do get left unlocked. We rely on users being responsible when using the Hall, it is very helpful if they are and very disappointing when they are not. We have no caretaker, so the checking of the hall falls on the trustees, who live some 5 miles away.

Our grass and hedge is maintained by our contractors. Our cleaning is done by HESEFA, repairs, plumbing and decoration by Rob Allison. Other maintenance is handled on an ad hoc basis. Our electrician is Transvac. One issue worth commenting upon is the need for signage of some kind in the main road to indicate directions to the Church and the Church Hall. Discussions are currently taking place with the Parish Council.

Our thanks go to the other trustees, without whom the Church Hall would not function. The hall continues to need new and willing helpers, local people are important. Some of us have been involved with the management of the hall for a long time and would welcome further new support. Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, 26th May. The formal AGM meeting starts at 8 pm.

7. Nature Restoration Clyming & surrounding Countryside

Mr J Baird provided a comprehensive presentation regarding the Weald of Waives Project reporting on the progress that has been made and their vision.

8. RESOLUTIONS OF WHICH WRITTEN NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN – none received.

9. PUBLIC Question Time –

There were no questions from the public.

10. CLOSE - The Chairman closed the Annual Meeting of the Parish at 7.30pm

Minutes to be considered at the next Meeting of the Parish and signed as a true record:

Chairman:.....

Date:.....