

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Aston Clinton Parish Council held on
8th May 2019 at 6.00pm
at Aston Clinton Parish Meeting Room

Present:

Councillors: -

L Tubb (Chairman)

P Wyatt

L Ronson

A Watton

A Duffield

C Read

S Howard

M Mason

C Judge

C Simpson

Clerks: G Merry (recording) and E Barry

20 Members of Public

In attendance: Cllrs C Paternoster and B Chapple (AVDC/BCC)

I. Welcome:

Cllr Tubb introduced the meeting as an opportunity for the Parish Council to report on its activities and for village groups to talk about their achievements throughout the year.

II. Chairman's Report:

Good evening – and thank you all for coming.

We are now at the end of our fourth year and have for once a full council – with 11 parish councillors. Only 3 of us have served the full 4 years – me, Colin and Peter. We would normally be re-elected on our fourth year but as AVDC and other local authorities are being replaced by Bucks Unitary Authority, elections will not be held until 2020 – so you have us all for another year!

We have as usual had a busy year.

Our biggest success is that in August the village voted decisively in favour of our NHP. This is now what is known as a made plan and must be adhered to when planning decisions are made by AVDC (and the new planning department of the unitary authority) – it has already prevented the Gingers Farm development and we hope it will be successful preventing many more large developments.

We now also (subject to approval tonight) have a new and much easier to use website – which complies with things like the Transparency Code – something we must comply with due to the level of our pre-cept. This means invoices above £500 and tender and contract documents will be on the website along with the usual minutes and other documents.

The CC is now well under way. We received an NHB grant of £650,000 and will over the build programme receive s106 monies from 5 developments (that of course we didn't want – but at least we can use the money for the community). Planning was submitted in early January and we hope to hear soon that it is successful. In the meantime, we have moved on to the design phase, and are looking at details like lighting flooring etc. The build has to start by 26th October 2019 as this is a condition of the NHB. We are also looking at temporary accommodation for the café and football club – this obviously has to be place before we knock down the current building!

We also widened and resurfaced the drive – which makes the entrance to the park look so much better and easier to negotiate.

After 5 years of campaigning we now have a fence on Stablebridge Road – and have more plans for that area.

Finally, we installed a bus shelter by the Mela which in a week was knocked over by a bus. We have the insurance monies from the bus company and are installing another shelter – a little further back – hopefully it will stay up longer than a week!

Astonbury last August was again a huge hit – and so we are holding it again this year – please keep 17th August free! It is not in its third year.

Santa's float was as usual a success – we walk a bigger route now as the village is larger and the weather was terrible, but we still raised £1300. Thanks to all who helped on this (and we have a smarter float – thank you Mark Taylor for the signwriting)

Sadly, our clerk Gill is leaving for newer pastures. I would like to thank her for all her hard work and dedication over the last 4 plus years and wish her every success in her new role. She will be missed. Elaine, our planning and projects clerk is going to take over as Parish Clerk – and we will be discussing a potential new structure tonight at our meeting.

Eamon our park keeper retired in December and has been replaced by our new parkkeeper/care taker – Darren Rose.

Finally, I would like to thank several people

Gill and Elaine, our fab clerks who do so much to ensure that all runs smoothly, all our councillors, including those who left us this year, and in particular John Eggesfield who had to resign on the ground of ill health. We hope he continues to make good progress.

Chris Ronson for all he has done on the allotments and working in the park for free - he has also now stepped down.

John Disbury for maintaining the war memorial, Trudi Wallis for looking after the Moilque –Aubrey Trough, Richard Nicolls for looking after the jubilee clock, and Carole Paternoster for all the support she gives this council and others that I am sure to have forgotten.

III. The following groups gave presentations – reports appended:

- i. Aston Clinton Cubs
- ii. Aston Clinton Rainbows
- iii. Aston Clinton Youth Club
- iv. Aston Clinton Tennis Club
- v. Aston Clinton Bowls Club
- vi. Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp W.I.
- vii. Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp Royal British Legion.
- viii. Aston Clinton Lunch Club

IV. Issues raised by the public

- A representative of the Youth Club stated that no longer having a public toilet in the Park, creates problems in the Churchill Hall, with people coming in to use their toilets. It was enquired whether the new community centre would have open access public toilets. It was

confirmed that it would not, however, evening opening hours and accessibility to the public were yet to be discussed with the managers. Cllr Tubb advised that cleaning, maintenance and attendance costs were significant, as was vandalism and resultant insurance claims.

- A member of the public stated they would like to have public toilets in the Park. Cllr Tubb restated as above and the difficulty of recruiting someone to attend every day, twice a day, to open and unlock.
- It was asked why the developer at Brook St/College Road South has not installed a hedge around the LEAP, as the noise from the play area is intrusive. Cllr Tubb responded that this is for safeguarding reasons but that the PC does not own or manage the LEAP. Cllr Read added that the PC has no enforcement powers and can only bring limited influence with developers. The decisions were long in the making and well-documented. He offered to contact the developer and ask if they would be able to do anything as goodwill gesture.
- The issue of toilets in the Park was revisited and Cllr Tubb reiterated that preliminary discussions over opening hours for the new centre have not yet been held. There may be a possibility of access to temporary toilets during the build, via a key-code system and this would be advised in due course.

The meeting closed at 6.55pm

APPENDIX – Reports from Groups:

ASTON CLINTON CUBS

As representatives for 1st Aston Clinton Scout Group, we have had a busy year. We have averaged 26 Cubs per term and have very long waiting lists.

During the year we have been away on Camp twice, hiked, cycled, swam and orienteered! We have enjoyed taking part in Community events, Remembrance Parade, Santa Float, Christmas tree recycling and Christingle. You will see us at the Village Market on Sunday. Throughout the year the Cubs work towards their Chief Scouts Silver Award. They have to earn 6 activity badges and 7 Challenge Badges. Duncan Oglesby and Max Billington are here to tell you what they have enjoyed through the year at Cubs and having achieved their Silver award, what they are looking forward to at Scouts.

Clare Simmonds

ASTON CLINTON BOWLS CLUB

The 2019 bowls season started on the 1st May and we have already played several friendly games. Members can Roll Up on a Tuesday evening or come for practice on other days providing the Green is free.

We had an open day on May Day Bank Holiday and welcomed quite a few prospective new bowlers to try out our facilities. Hopefully as some of these join we will have a membership in the low 40's. Anyone wishing to try their hand at Lawn Bowls are welcome to turn up on a Tuesday from 6.00pm and have a go!

Our green is looking superb thanks to the commitment of our Green keeper Michael Stratfull and our contractor Bicester Turf Care. We have a committed team who turn up on Monday mornings summer and winter alike to keep the surrounds, buildings and fences in good order.

Apart from a full list of Friendly games throughout the season we will also be playing club competitions, County competitions such as the Bucks Cup for men and the Burnham Plate for ladies. We will host several games for other organisations including Bucks County. During the season we will be holding a Ladies Gala Day with teams from around the county taking part and at the end of the season we will hold our Presidents Day with all money received that day going to the NSPCC.

Lawn Bowls is a sport suited to all ages although it is fair to say that a lot of people take it up in later life as it provides good exercise in a friendly environment. Young people who play the sport can be very competitive but are usually drawn to clubs where there are a lot of younger persons playing bowls.

There is always a warm welcome at Aston Clinton Bowls Club to anyone who would like to try their hand at this gentle sport.

Tony Gibbs (Chairman)

ASTON CLINTON AND DISTRICT RBL

The Aston Clinton branch, of the Royal British Legion, was founded in 1938.

We are now in our 81st year of serving the Village.

In August last year I carried the Standard, along with nearly 1200 other Standard Bearers and wreath layers, to represent this Branch on the 'Great Pilgrimage 90'.

This culminated in a parade through the centre of Ypres, (the town being closed off) up to the Menin Gate and through the other side. There we formed ranks of twelve abreast, and a service of Remembrance was held. At the end of which the wreaths were laid, under the arch of the Gate. We then marched, in ranks of four, back under the Arch and through the town. Many thousands of people gave us all a wonderful welcome, and a great outpouring of thanks.

In September this year, as in the past, we will be taking a coach to Westminster Abbey, for the RAF Battle of Britain Service. Some spaces will be available which will be in our report in Village Life.

We thank the Parish Council for their continued support, and also the people of the village. Many hundreds of whom 'turn out' each year for our services of Remembrance.

We have also Affiliated Aston Clinton School into our Branch, and have an excellent working relationship with the teachers and pupils.

George Mills

Vice Chairman and Standard Bearer

ASTON CLINTON, DRAYTON BEAUCHAMP AND BUCKLAND WI

The WI meets once a month in the Anthony Hall. We have around 40 members and we enjoy a wide variety of talks each month. Various groups operate within the WI, including a walking group, a lunch club and a craft group.

Theatre trips are arranged as are trips to local places of interest notably St Tiggywinkles and the Greatmoor Waste Facility.

We are keen to increase our membership especially among the younger age group. To facilitate this we completed a leaflet drop at the beginning of the year around the newly occupied properties. Any help to increase our membership will be greatly appreciated.

Lin Mitchell on behalf of the Aston Clinton, Drayton Beauchamp and Buckland WI.

ASTON CLINTON YOUTH CLUB

The youth club celebrated it's second birthday in January this year. We currently have 50 members on the books. We average 24-28 young people each week at our junior youth club aged 7-11 years.

We attempted to run the senior group 11-16 year olds in the autumn term, but due to extremely low numbers, we decided to close and review at a later date.

However, two of our senior members took part in a national young leaders award scheme and received their silver awards at the Big Night Out at the waterside theatre in September.

Thankyou to the support of the Parish Council we applied for community funding and received a grant for new equipment at the youth club. This included two new table tennis tables, an ice hockey table and we are currently in the process of organising a projector for movie nights and game nights (not gambling nights!!)

Juniors enjoy a wide range of activities ranging from tabletop games, arts and crafts, games consoles and spending their pocket money at the tuckshop, weather permitting. We are fortunate to be able to use the facilities of the park.

We had a successful Chinese new year tasting event where some of our members tasted foods they had not experienced before.

Last day of the summer term, we hired sumo suits, which proved popular especially with our new appointed Rector, Sally.

We feel that our junior youth club is firmly established now as part of the local community.

Thanks must go to our volunteers and the Parish Council for their ongoing support.

New members and volunteers are always welcome.

Thank you

Teresa Smith
Chair lady of Aston Clinton Youth Club at The Churchill Hall

Reports were also presented by The Aston Clinton Rainbows, Aston Clinton Tennis Club and the Churchill Hall Lunch Club.