

A meeting of Croydon Parish Council was held on Wednesday 17 June 2015 in the Reading Room at 8.00pm.

Apologies: Cllr Kindersley - another meeting

Present: Mr Martin, Mr Wheeler, Mr Sole, Mrs Slator, one member of public and the Clerk.

Minutes: of the May meeting, previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

Declarations of Interest: None received. Mrs Slator has agreed to accept the office of Vice Chairman.

Cllr Smith gave a report:-

Locality Manager: Clare Gibbons is the new Locality Manager for SCDC. She was a driving force behind the Bike Bus and is now working tirelessly on community issues. She investigated Council's question regarding the Government funding of the Transparency Code. The original £500 per annum for SCDC to set up and maintain the page for the village seems to have reduced to £100 per annum. She thinks that our village website is good enough for displaying the minutes however, this is currently maintained voluntarily and Council was hoping to secure funding to pay for a webmaster. Council is trying to abide by this new Government edict and it should be the responsibility of the Department for Communities and Local Government to get their end organised and provide the funding required.

Local Plan: As predicted, this has been disastrous and SCDC is now bringing in outside support to tackle the problem with speculative developers. It may be 2-3 years before the Local Plan is resolved.

Barrington: The planning application for 300 houses at Barrington has been approved and the village is very unhappy. It will completely change the character of the village.

Bin Men: There has been an ongoing problem with food poisoning in the workforce.

Madingley Road: Problems with congestion on Madingley Road, and the suggested answer is to put in a guided busway! This would use up sections of the Green Belt, which can never be replaced.

Matters Arising and Village Issues:

Queen Adelaide: Building work continues, and starts around 7.30am on weekdays. There were no complaints about weekends.

CLP: The Committee has obtained costings from various companies to print the final brochure and SCDC is the best, at around £300-00. It was proposed by the Chairman that Council should fund the printing cost of the CLP. All in favour. There will be one more meeting to launch the final documentation.

Solar Farm: Push Energy asked for an invoice from Council for the first year's Community Benefit payment. Clerk had prepared one for Council's approval and will send it to Push. The installation generates 16.45 Mw at £300 per Mw, making a total of £4935-00, and this will be paid annually for the first 5 years. The access road is approved, but there is still a dispute with CCC Highways. The new road is not up to standard, the ditch needs to be reconstructed, a gate needs to be added 5m from the highway, and a hedge planted all the way up the side of the road.

SCDC- response time: Clerk has recently been in communication with SCDC and on both occasions has not received a reply for up to 4 weeks. Cllr Smith explained that unfortunately, one of the officers was indisposed and directed me to another, who has since handled the query.

Larkins Road: A lovely job - perfect for speeding down! Clerk to write to Highways at Whittlesford to compliment their workmen.

Port-a-loos: As part of their responsibility to the village, it was suggested that Council might pay for the toilets for the forthcoming village show. This was discussed and it was resolved that Council would fund £178-00 + VAT for the two toilets, which had already been paid out by parishioners. All in favour. Cheques were signed for Mrs D Walters for £153-00 and Mrs Z Martin for £51-00.

Councillor: The Local Government Act 1972 states that when a Council Member fails to attend any meeting for six consecutive months from the date of his last attendance, he ceases to be a member of the Council. As Mr Hunter has not attended a meeting since December 2014, he is automatically removed from office - Clerk will send a letter to this effect.

Correspondence:

Flood Risk Strategy: Not likely to flood in Croydon

AON Insurance: Confirmation of insurance renewal.

Electronic Correspondence: All circulated - nothing raised.

Planning:

Clopton Farm: Permission to demolish an old barn and make 2 gardens for live/work units received.

Valley Farm: First floor extension for existing tenants who wish to expand their premises. There were no objections to this proposal - Clerk to action.

Dr Gareth Burr: Dr Burr has not complied with the enforcement notice that was issued to him, so legal action is now to be taken.

Finance:

Bank Statement: Current account balance is £3102-60

Churchyard Grant: This was omitted from the AGM agenda, so raised here. After discussion, it was agreed that the grant would be increased to £400 this year, as there is more land to look after/grass to cut with the addition of the extension.

Items for the next agenda: Community Benefit Fund.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 15 July 2015 in the Reading Room, starting at 8.00pm.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 8.57pm.

Signed

Date