

DRAFT REPORT OF THE PARISH ASSEMBLY 2017

Friday 12th May 2017 Cliddesden Village Hall 7 for 7.30pm

Present

Parish Councillors Alan Tyler (AT)(Chair), Hazel Metz (HM), Lynda Plenty (LP)

Simon Barker (SB); Mark Gifford (MG)

Clerk Susan Turner; Guests PC Reid, Ward Cllr Mark Ruffell

Approximately 20 residents.

Apologies County Cllr Anna McNair-Scott, Pat and Ken Rampton

Apologies Lynda Plenty for later arrival due to commute from Oxford.

MEETING OPENED 7.30PM

1 WELCOME

Chairman Alan Tyler welcomed residents, guests and parish councillors to the meeting. He introduced himself and the new Clerk, and thanked Ron Darley, Clerk for many years (since 1999) and now returned to Yorkshire.

Alan is a retired architect and heads up the Parish Council on planning matters – and also liaises with the Newsletter, Community SpeedWatch (CSW) and Neighbourhood Watch (NW). He invited other members of the Parish Council to introduce themselves and outline their roles.

Hazel Metz (with Lynda) has served longest on the Parish Councillor. Her area of PC responsibility is for the Village Pond and 'village upkeep', and liaison with the Village Hall. She is retired and regularly out-and-about walking her dog. Hazel asked residents to please keep in touch with any feedback or information.

Simon Barker is a Warrant Office in the British Army. He joined the Parish Council in March 2017 and has the PC role for Highways and Rights of Way.

Mark Gifford has recently joined the Parish Council. He lives just outside the Parish, plans to move back in the near future, and wishes to contribute to the community. Mark works for bio-Merieux UK Ltd (a French owned medical diagnostic company) with their UK office Basingstoke.

Lynda Plenty (currently absent) lectures at Oxford Business College with a daily commute and so will join the Assembly as soon as she can. Lynda liaises on behalf of the Parish Council with the school and the church.

2. **WARD CLLR UPDATE** The Chairman thanked our Ward Councillor (Upton Grey & the Candovers) Mark Ruffell for attending and invited him to make a brief presentation.

1. Cllr Ruffell's role in BDBC is Cabinet Member for Planning & Infrastructure. He inherited the Local Plan process and has been responsible for seeing it through.
2. A big challenge is to ensure the build-rate maintains the 5-year land supply. At present the build rate is 50% too low and BDBC is working through this.
3. BDBC is developing a new Green Infrastructure Strategy.
4. BDBC also has responsibilities for the Transport Strategy – and capacity increase in association with development – but with the majority responsibility lying with Hampshire Highways and Highways England.
5. The Cycling Strategy was Cllr Ruffell's initiative and he recognises the need to address dangers of cycling through villages and from vehicles.

For signature

6. He recognises a need to improve access for Cliddesden commuters to Basingstoke Station.
7. Neighbourhood Plans
Mark mentioned the initiative taken at his suggestion by Upton Grey Parish Council to promote a joint 'South of the M3 Neighbourhood Plan' (though this had received little support from other Parishes). Mark isn't saying that a Neighbourhood Plan is a solution but that it is worth considering, and considering a number of Parishes coming together and allocating 50 houses over the next 15 years.
He noted that the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) allocation from developments is 25% for Parishes with a NP and only 10-15% for those without [but minimum number of houses in development to qualify is +4 ??].
A Neighbourhood Plan allows control of development rather than being vulnerable to speculative development – but Mark acknowledges this won't apply if BDBC fails to maintain its five-year land supply.
'How best can we protect the Candovers from significant development?'
'Communities need small scale growth and change. How do we provide for the sons and daughters, then parents and young families within our villages?'
'Ward Councillors looked to the Parish Councils to represent their communities on how to cater for community dynamics.'
8. Mark's role involves overseeing Development Control. Planning & Development is very visible – a 'shop window' to the public – and officers hired for their technical expertise are expected to conduct their own PR. The Planning Team is under review in pursuing excellence and has achieved considerable change in the last two years.
9. Motorway service station applications:
J7 Note this is an Irish-based chain with novelty appeal.
Mark said the Parish Council needs to oppose strongly; needs to be factually correct in its representation; provide evidence to show traffic hazard, and demonstrate the proposals don't comply with road safety. Also consider light pollution and noise.
The J6 application is speculative. But many reasons to oppose including Highways issues. J6 not designed to turn left, the proposals make the junction unmanageable and huge funds required to address this.
- 10 Southlea Meadow.
Case officer Lucy Page has received a further request for extension from Thakeham Homes, this time until 23rd June. Apparently further information is required from HCC regarding the width of access for Highways requirements. The Case Officer has said this is a final extension but has to be very careful not to give ground for appeal for not allowing all information.
This has the hallmark of an application prepared for Appeal.
Factors in favour of opposition
1. BDBC has an Adopted Local Plan.
2. An application in Sherfield – due to Appeal on basis of challenging the Local Plan – has just been withdrawn.
IF / WHEN THE SOUTHLEA MEADOW APPLICATION GOES TO APPEAL – this is a legal issue, Mark wishes to be engaged and discuss how to defend the Appeal collectively.

Key issues he sees are

1. Flooding
2. Increase in Village size
3. Importance to the Village of the perspective of landscape rolling away.

Note Southlea Meadow is in the Conservation Areas and outside the Settlement Policy Boundary.

But the importance of these factors is relative and the pressure for new housing is strong. Building materials can be made appropriate for development within a Conservation Area.

Resident's comment that Southlea Meadow is affected by flooding from the pond and from the road. The applicant's Flood Risk Assessment is incomplete and inaccurate.

11 **Village Design Statement and potential for Neighbourhood Plan**

Residents' Comments

1. A key element of the Village Design Statement was the importance of preserving 'green fingers' of land within the village.
2. Updating the Village Design Statement would evidence residents' current interest, views and engagement with the Planning Process.
3. Village Design Statements have been superseded by Neighbourhood Plans. It was suggested to the previous Parish Council and would petition the current Parish Council to become involved with Neighbourhood Planning.

Parish Council comments

Village Design statements do still hold some weight and are referred to in the Landscape Policy EM1 Paragraph 6.1:

'The [Borough] council has in place a strategy and action plan for dealing with landscape and biodiversity issues set out in the document Living Landscapes (2010). Other relevant documents include community produced Village Design Statements, Neighbourhood Plans and Orders, Countryside Design Summary...'

ACTION: Clerk to enquire with BDBC how much weight Planning Officers will afford the VDS and what benefit there would be in updating this.

The Chairman said that any decisions on Neighbourhood Planning would depend on what came out of this meeting...

1. A Neighbourhood Plan involves a serious amount of work likely to take eight to 10 people 18 months to complete.
2. If eight to 10 people come forward that makes it a possibility, but the Parish Council can't be expected to do this by themselves.

Resident's comment that the Village Design Statement took a year and that had more than eight to 10 people.

3. The Parish Council could lead the project.

Cllr Ruffell comments...

The Borough Council could help with finance but the process is expensive. One benefit of joining with other Parishes is to share the cost.

The Neighbourhood Plan carries equal weight to the Policies of the Local Plan.

For signature

3 POLICING REPORT FROM PC REID See Appendix I

PC Reid thanked the Community and Parish Council for their support; Mark Susans for publishing Policing Updates in the Newsletter; Tony Trown for the Neighbourhood Watch, and the Community SpeedWatch Group.

He said the Speed Camera Van still does come out whenever possible.

Question & Answer...

1. Could Traffic Calming Measures be considered?

Andy said traffic calming was a Highways not a Policing issue.

Simon Barker said he had made enquiries about speed humps, but these have to be accompanied by street lights.

2. Speed Limit Reminder Signs / Speed Indicator Devices suggested. Could the Parish Council purchase? Possibly in conjunction with Ellisfield and Farleigh Wallop?

Andy said this is what had been done in the Candovers.

3. Community SpeedWatch in Woods Lane.

Residents suggested there could be safe places to put the Speedwatch indicator sign, or it could possibly be put in a driveway.

Andy said the Police assessment was that Woods Lane was too dangerous for SpeedWatch. And that if it was made one way it would turn into a race track.

PC Reid and Mark Ruffell left the meeting with the thanks of the Assembly

4 NEWSLETTER

Mark Susans said he was no longer able to edit the Newsletter. `

It is a commitment every month but only takes one to two hours collating information supplied. It could be compiled in Word and emailed to the Printers.

It is interesting to do and a good way of keeping in touch.

The Chairman thanked Mark for his time as editor and his daughters for their patience that evening.

1. Advertising

The editor vacancy has been advertised prominently in the Newsletter. It was commented that those who didn't read it were unlikely to want to edit it.

Posters and email shots around the Village were also suggested.

2. Residents' suggestions

i. Discontinue the Newsletter for a few months to see if it was missed and if that would encourage someone to come forward.

ii. Find a core group of people who could take it in turns – maybe once a quarter.

3. The Chairman welcomed the latter suggestion and said that Mark should pass the role to the Parish Council if no-one came forward.

ACTION A flyer would be devised seeking a small group of people to 'job share'.

4. Residents' suggestion to set up a Facebook site – again volunteers needed.

5 COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

The Chairman reported for CSW. He said there was a noticeable reduction in speeds in Farleigh Road when CSW was in operation on a regular basis.

For signature

Date.....

There are Police requirements for operating CSW. At the moment this is three volunteers with the sign. PC Reid has suggested a dictaphone could be used.

Would this mean two operators with a dictaphone?

A minimum of two is needed for road safety and for support with possibly irate drivers.

Police require a 'record of operation & location' for insurance purposes.

Residents made various suggestion regarding how the system could be made more flexible and user friendly.

ACTION Chairman to investigate possibilities.

6 PLANNING

The Clerk summarised planning applications over the last year, April 16 - April 17.

Twenty one planning applications submitted, the majority for extensions but including six newbuilds.

The Parish Council had not objected to any applications for extensions.

None of the 21 applications had been refused by BDBC:

Fifteen were approved, one withdrawn and five still pending.

New houses x 5 approved as follows. One new house application is pending decision.

16/04116/FUL (Granted 24th March 17 (DC)) Cruenta Carus, Station Road. Erection of a detached dwelling, triple garage and associated parking and landscaping following demolition of the existing commercial buildings and removal of hardstanding and B8 storage use of the site.

16/04529/RES (Granted 8th Feb 17) Langdale, Woods Lane. Reserved matters for the scale and appearance of two detached dwellings with garages (pursuant to application 15/03545/OUT approved in March 2016). (Note: Outline planning given in March 2016, so strictly speaking these two from last year.)

16/02227/FUL (granted 30th Aug 16) Land Adjoining Faraway, Hackwood Lane, Cliddesden. Erection of detached two bedroom bungalow with attached garage following demolition of garage.

16/00985/FUL (granted 8th June 16) Barn At Church Lane, Cliddesden. Partial demolition of agricultural barn and conversion of an agricultural building into one three bedroom dwelling with single storey side extension, associated parking and landscaping.

Note the Local Plan was adopted in May 2016, but this Plan Period is from 2011 so the newbuild count needs to go back to 2011?

The Parish Council opposes newbuild which in its opinion contravenes Local Plan Policies, and is not in keeping with principles of the Conservation Area appraisal and the Village Design Statement.

Residents commented that a Woods Lane property which had two new houses approved in the rear garden is now for sale and with a separate building plot.

Chairman's comment: 'We know that the Village doesn't want a development of 40 houses but we have to make some decisions about what we actually do want.'

'The Parish Council's present position is that the Village should grow naturally, with appropriate and sympathetic small scale development, to meet the requirement of the Local Plan.'

'A starting point would be to update the Village Design Statement with an Addendum on the Parish Council position.'

'Regarding the Neighbourhood Plan we need to consider whether the Parish has the resources to undertake this.'

The Chairman suggested liaising with Winslade as a starting point; Winslade has strong concerns about the proposed service stations (notably J6 from their perspective) and the threat of encroaching development south of the M3.

Resident's comment that 'small scale' needs to be defined. This means different things to different people.

Resident's suggestion to update the VDS by reinforcing key statements that could be used in opposing unwanted development in the Parish.

The Village Design Statement focussed on 'linear' pattern of development.

Resident's comment that we are not Nimbies – we recognise some development is needed otherwise we wouldn't have the houses we are living in.

Updating the VDS says that villagers are proactive and interested in shaping the future development of the Parish.

ACTION POINTS Update the Village Design Statement
 Agree Parish Council Addendum to VDS
 Reach out to other Parishes.

7 LENGTHMAN SCHEME

The Clerk described the Parish 'Lengthsman' Scheme, the name deriving from the historical role of those employed to walk the Length of the Parish to keep roads passible.

The present-day Lengthsman is self employed, but trained and insured for undertaking local 'highways' tasks which Hampshire Highways – subject to cuts and relying on contractors – are obliged to make low priority.

The Lengthsman can clear ditches, grips, soakaways, strim verges, clear rights of way, cut back vegetation overhanging the Highway or obstructing signs - where he judges it safe do so. He can lay out warning bollards to effect partial road closure on minor roads – again where safe to do so. He is not insured to work or excavate on the 'live' Highway, or mend potholes.

The Lengthsman also has a reporting role for issues requiring Highways' attention – the Local Highways Engineer can then log with the Contractor. This is where from the PC point of view the system appears to sometimes not deliver. The Contractors make larger jobs priority and Highways seem not to be in touch with their scheduling.

Hampshire Highway are changing contractor in August with Skanska replacing Amey.

The Local Highways Engineer advises that the gullies and culverts receiving surface water run-off in Farleigh Road are scheduled to be cleared three times per year with a tanker and suction pipe (same process as emptying septic tanks).

The Parish Council requests any information from residents as to if and when this is happening.

By contrast the gullies and culverts in Church Lane are only scheduled to be cleared once every three years. Most pipes to the pond are blocked and / or suspected collapsed. A priority is to improve this system to help prevent silt reaching the Pond.

Lengthman Jason Ebury spent several days clearing out the Pond silt traps – and inspection pits in Church Lane – which has had a positive effect.

The Parish receives a Grant of £1,000 worth of Lengthsman-hours per annum (75% funded by Hampshire Highways and 25% funded by HCC Countryside Services).

ACTION The Chairman invited residents to contact the Parish Council if they could suggest where work needs doing.

For signature

8 VILLAGE POND & SURROUNDS

Hazel Metz said that the Parish Council's remit for maintaining the Village Pond was in line with the Village Design statement, ie to keep as natural as possible as appropriate for a rural village.

The suggestion was for Village working groups to keep it tidy and maintained in keeping with the intention of the VDS.

Village Design Statement page 10

'... the village pond provides a valuable open space with its natural flora, fauna and wildlife, such as rushes, moorhens and itinerant mallard. The pond also marks the focal point of the village and, so long as further urbanising developments such as kerbing and municipal landscaping are minimised, continues to be a firm statement of Cliddesden's rural character.'

Resident's comment

The pond historically a puddled clay lining. In 1995 BDBC installed a blue plastic liner - with clay over the top.

The pond was cleared out some years ago [October 2011] but the liner was left in situ allowing no means for water to soak away. Overflow from the pond causes flooding in the village and SE of Farleigh Road.

Could the pond be cleared again and the liner removed?

Resident's comment: last time it was cleared with machinery provided by a local landowner who didn't charge to take the silt.

Disposing of the silt from the pond must be done lawfully (deemed contaminated waste as taking run-off from the roads).

The Chairman said there would be no cheap options.

9 PHONE BOX

Hazel asked the Assembly if anyone used the books in the phone box. The majority were in bad condition from damp and insect attack.

One resident has recently taken out a book

AGREED The Assembly agreed unanimously to the existing books being cleared out and the phone box cleaned, which would also enable clear access to the defibrillator.

ACTION Hazel will approach Rachel who originally devised the scheme to ask if she wishes the project to continue.

10 DEFIBRILLATOR

The Parish Council was asked if it was aware of maintenance requirements for the Defibrillator – which it was not. It transpired that Ron had previously taken care of the defibrillator.

ACTION Angie Fewster will email original documentation to the Clerk .

11 BUS SHELTER

The bus shelter and environs have been cleaned and cleared by the Lengthsman.

The roof is slate over a timber 'ceiling'. Shrubs are growing into the roofspace and to remove them will require dismantling and rebuilding the roof.

Resident asked for confirmation the roof was safe as the bus stop was used by the school bus. The Chairman said the roof was presently secure and seemed watertight.

12 COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS**12.1 Conservation**

Alison Mosson spoke for Cliddesden Community Conservation Group (3CG).

C3G became a registered charity in 2004 to 'Conserve, Enhance, Regenerate, and Create a thriving natural environment.'

In 2004 C3G planted 200 trees along the field boundaries of the M3, then a further 1,400 more trees, hedgerows; plus native daffodils and bluebells.

Ongoing projects are the Parish Conservation Plan, Cleresden Wildflower Meadow and installing nest boxes.

Additional help and support is always very welcome. <http://www.3cg.info/>

12.2 Cliddesden & Farleigh Wallop Educational Trust

The Chairman said the Educational Trust is an important resource for Cliddesden and should be more widely publicised. Alison said it was set up 400 years ago by the Wallop family and exists to assist children and young people living in the parishes of Cliddesden and Farleigh Wallop to further their academic, musical and physical education. The Trust can make grants to organisations and individuals.

For further information contact Alison Mosson.

12.3 Village Hall

Greg Mendelsohn said the proposed new storage building is needed to replace the container which houses everything and where the Player's have to search for their props among garden machinery. A planning application is lodged with BDBC.

Village Hall income is in the region of £4-5,000 per annum which generally covers costs. The estimated costs of the Storage Building is £75,000 which illustrates the importance of grants and, particularly, fundraising by the Cliddesden Players.

Grey also urged everyone to regularly buy at least one ticket for the 100 Club.

Installation of a wireless Broadband connection is also in the offing.

12.4 Cliddesden Players

Angie Fewster spoke for Cliddesden Players and their forthcoming production *Par for the Course* on 16th and 17th June. Please contact Angie for tickets; extra people are always most welcome particularly to help set up the weekend before the play.

12.5 Horticultural Society

Stephen Bowcut spoke for the Cliddesden, Farleigh Wallop and Ellisfield Horticultural Society. He said this means your local gardening club and anyone who isn't a member is encouraged to join. The 'club' hosts various events during the year, including presentations (generally not about gardening) to which non-members are very welcome – and Spring and Summer Shows including plant sales, and this year a visit to RHS Wisley which is free to members of the society.

Thursday evening meetings are held in Cliddesden Village Hall – on this Thursday 25th May there will be a presentation by the Owl Academy (accompanied by owl). Those interested should contact Marilyn Smith on 462584.

The event wasn't included in the Newsletter so the Chairman asked for posters to be sent to him and he will arrange distribution via the 'Newsletter mail'.

12.6 Cliddesden WI

Pat Doel kindly stepped in to talk about the WI which she said exists to promote friendship and bring enjoyment to all and help people improve their quality of life. The WI is lucky to have the Village Hall as a venue which everyone enjoys visiting and new members are always most welcome.

Residents asked for notes from the meeting, and from Parish Council meetings, to be included in the Newsletter. The Chairman closed the meeting, thanking all speakers, and thanking residents for attending.

For signature Date