CLAYDON AND WHITTON PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE CLAYDON AND WHITTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, 24 October 2022, 7.30PM held at Claydon and Barham Village Hall, 8 Norwich Road, Claydon

Present: Cllr Studd (Chair), Cllr Avis, Cllr Cutler, Cllr Price, Cllr Reach, Cllr Wells, Cllr Whitehead

In attendance: County Cllr Chambers

 District Cllr Whitehead

 4 members of the public

 Mrs S Frankis, locum clerk

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Studd

22-10-01 OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE CHAIR

 Cllr Studd welcomed Mrs S Frankis.

22-10-02 APOLOGIES: to RECEIVE and APPROVE apologies for absence

None received.

22-10-03 DISPENSATIONS:

i. to RECEIVE Declarations of Interest

None received.

ii. to RECEIVE and APPROVE Dispensation Requests

None received.

22-10-04 PUBLIC FORUM:

i. to CONSIDER comments from residents of the Parish on current agenda items

Two residents of Old Norwich Road spoke of traffic issues, centred around the bus route and the lack of and condition of signage. Having met with County Cllr Chambers, funding appears to be an issue for Suffolk County Council Highways (Highways). They asked for a channel of communication with Highways as they themselves have been unable to secure one.

19:40 County Cllr Chambers arrived at the meeting.

County Cllr Chambers advised there has been a re-structure of the Highways dept. He considered the best way forward to address the issues raised would be for him to organise a remote meeting, with the Highways officer, himself and parishioners, to go through some of the problems and to then follow this up with a site meeting to seek solutions. It may mean that the Parish Council would need to fund some of the non-statutory solutions, which it said it would be willing to do.

Cllr Chambers asked that those wishing to attend the meeting to let him know of their availability within the next seven days.

Cllr Reach asked about the white-line painting on Station Road which remains incomplete. Cllr Chambers advised that he has been assured the outstanding works are on the Highways work schedule; the road will need to be closed to undertake the works.

Cllr Reach advised Cllr Chambers that the bollards on Station Road now need cleaning and replacing.

A member of the public called for police action to address repeat traffic offenders along the Old Norwich Road. Cllr Avis suggested that reports are logged on the anti-social section on the police website.

Cllr Wells asked Cllr Chambers for an update on the ANPR cameras; no sound updates were available.

Cllr Wells proposed writing a letter of complaint to Suffolk Police regarding the lack of police action against traffic offenders along the Old Norwich Road.

 A member of the public complained about a lack of police presence in Claydon.

A member of the public asked if someone could address the faulty clock on the front of the Village Hall. He raised concerns about the number of Hall keys having been distributed and asked that any excess keys held by the Parish Council be returned.

ii. to RECEIVE the reports from the County and District Councillors

County Cllr Chambers presented his report.

Cllr Avis advised that the construction road installed when the extension of the school was developed is still in place; the area needs to be restated, as per the planning permission granted.

20:19 2 members of the public left the meeting.

District Cllr Whitehead presented his report.

22-10-05 To RECEIVE and CONFIRM the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 22 August 2022

Cllr Cutler challenged the tone reflected in minute number 22-08-05 and advised she would not be willing to approve them as an accurate record of the meeting.

Cllr Wells considered minute number 22-08-05 was grossly inaccurate and presented his explanations as to why. During pursuing exchanges between Cllr Wells and fellow councillors, Cllr Wells responded to Cllr Avis, with a threat of legal action against him and the Council. Following a caution made to Cllr Wells by the Clerk, that his statement was a direct threat, Cllr Wells withdrew the threat, confirming that his response was reactive and incorrect; Cllr Wells apologised to the Council.

The Council agreed to amend the minutes by removing the wording objected to by Cllr Wells

and to then confirm them as a record of the meeting. The locum clerk is to re-draft the minutes and to circulate them to the Council; the Chair will then sign the minutes.

22-10-06 To CONSIDER matters arising from the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 22 August 2022

There were no other matters arising.

22-10-07 STAFF VACANACY

Cllr Studd advised that the Clerk, Mrs Greenan had resigned from her position; her last day of employment will be 4 November 2022.

The Council expressed sincere thanks to her for her time as clerk to the Parish Council.

The vacancy is to be advertised on the SALC website.

22-10-08 To Elect the Parish Council Vice-Chair

 Cllr Cutler was duly elected as Vice-Chair to Claydon and Whitton Parish Council.

22-10-09 To CONFIRM the date and time of the next Parish Council meeting

 The next meeting of the Parish Council is scheduled for 16 January 2023.

22-10-10 To CONSIDER matters raised by members, including items for the next meeting

Cllr Cutler advised she had been contacted by the community centre who have asked about the money they were promised by the Parish Council. Cllr Whitehead is to investigate as to if / why they haven’t received it.

The Council delegated the power to Cllr Cutler to designate councillor roles and responsibilities before the next meeting; the appointments will be ratified and recorded at the next Parish Council meeting.

The locum clerk was asked for her observations and recommendations regarding the running of the Parish Council; Mrs Frankis agreed to write a report for the Council to consider.

Cllr Reach advised that the bus stop sign on Station Road is broken and laying on the grass verge. Cllr Chambers is to look into this.

The Council agreed to include an agenda item to consider co-option of a new councillor at the next meeting.

Cllr Reach had observed two new 30mph speed limit signs had been installed along Paper Mill Lane yet similar signs are still needed in Claydon. Cllr Chambers has already raised this matter with Highways.

Cllr Whitehead advised that a Finance Committee meeting will need to be held shortly to consider the 2023/24 budget and precept.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 21: 20