



Annual Parish Meeting of Clapham

**At Clapham and Patching Village Hall, Long Furlong, BN13 3UT
Held On Thursday 26 May 2022 at 7 p.m.**

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Councillor Bird as Chair of the Parish Council welcomed those assembled, which numbered 9 including Councillor Bird and the Parish Clerk.

The Trustees of the Recreation Ground were unable to attend in person on this occasion and apologies had been sent by PCSO Ronia Rateiwa as she was attending a serious incident, but only picked up after the meeting. Copies of the Chair's Report were distributed.

2. Approval of the minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting 28th March 2019

Councillor Bird signed as a true record of the meeting.

3. Public Participation (for those on the Electoral Register)

Parishioners spoke on a number of matters:

i. Locating their copy of Paul Clayden's Arnold-Baker on Local Council Administration although the Clerk could shed no light on this and held just the copy bought when she was appointed to the role in 2019.

ii. Securing the future of The Junction.

A resident spoke of securing the future of The Junction and others felt that it could only continue with both the commitment of volunteers to run it on a shift basis and sufficient patronage. It was suggested that it might be possible to take inspiration from similar operations locally. However, there were doubts that it could operate as an economically viable business given its size and further the operation must be consistent with the charitable objectives of the Trust. It was pointed out that if The Junction ceased to operate there was a requirement to remove the building, which it was emphasised is the 'Asset of Community Value' not its operation. Another resident pointed out that those who had invested in it were likely to oppose its removal.

It was suggested that a meeting might be arranged between the owner, The Trustees and any parishioners interested in securing its future and how this might work.

Yvette Fisher, owner of The Junction had provided a report to the meeting that "The Junction - continues to operate. It is pared down to Saturday Coffee Morning and pre

booked Walking Groups only. We are continuing to look for a village group or villager to take over ownership and running.”

iii. Cherry Trees on the Recreation Ground

There was continued interest in the planting of cherry trees on the Recreation Ground notwithstanding the Trustees’ opposition and there was general consensus that more trees should be planted particularly as the Parish Council had needed to fell two trees.

The Trustees had asked the Clerk to share their reasons which were lifted from an email dated 16.12.21 as follows -

1. Planting trees on the North boundary with the road.
 - a. We do not think that trees should be planted here.
 - b. They would obstruct the view into the recreation ground. (Safety & security).
 - c. They would add to the maintenance requirements.

The Clerk was asked whether this matter could be raised again but this had now been refused on two occasions and this would need to be raised directly if there was sufficient interest amongst residents.

iv. Affordable Housing

The possibility of Affordable Housing for the Travis Perkins site should it be sold was raised. A parishioner spoke about the housing allocation within the Neighbourhood Plan and offered to get some more information on how this might work including a Community Land Trust and of taking guidance from the South Downs National Park Authority.

v. 20 mph Speed Limit for The Street

29 people (out of circa 255 electors) had responded to the survey of which 13 supported it and 16 were against. The Clerk confirmed this would be on the next Parish Council agenda and that the Council had been informed that unless there was strong community support an application was unlikely to be successful.

vi. Parish Design Statement

There had been a slight setback as the South Downs National Park Authority was now required to undertake additional consultation in the Parish and this would take place imminently.

vii. Fencing and Gates

Mention was made of how smart the Recreation Ground looked and the Clerk advised that a new circular seat was on order and two new noticeboards, purchased with a National Lottery Community Award.

viii. Replacement Seat

A member of the public who volunteers with the South Downs National Park offered to ask the local ranger whether they might replace a seat in the woods which had

fallen into disrepair. It had been dedicated to the memory of a couple who had a special love of the area.

ix. Recreation Ground

Some concerns had been received about the path surface and the Council would review the matter at its next meeting as there was the possibility of applying for lottery funding to improve accessibility.

Residents were very appreciative of the tree guard made by the South Downs National Park Volunteer group.

The Clerk had no knowledge of changes to a pedestrian access point to the Clapham and Patching Village Hall field to improve accessibility and it was suggested the residents approach the Hall Trustees or West Sussex County Council.

x. Clapham Lodge

A member of the public said how much the flowers and other contributions had been appreciated during periods of lockdown.

The Clerk undertook to highlight the minutes of the Parish Meeting in the next newsletter, in addition to which they would be posted to the Parish Council website. The importance of community engagement including working parties to drive forward ideas was emphasised as the Parish Council has just three members and a part-time Clerk.

4. Reports for the Parish including any from Community Groups and Clubs in the Parish.
The Clerk read these – see Annex A

5. Meeting Close.

The meeting ended at 7.55 p.m.

Tony Bird

Councillor Tony Bird, Chair of Clapham Parish Council

May 26th 2022

Annex A

The Friends of Clapham and Patching Churches

- have managed to stay active throughout the current pandemic with our usual bi-annual Church and Churchyard working parties ensuring that all is respectable both inside and out. Since we have been allowed more freedom, we held a bluebell walk in Clapham whereby we were allowed on private land to see woodland covered in bluebells. Our next fund-raising event is a flower festival at Clapham Church on July 2nd and 3rd.

Further events will follow see: focpc.org.uk.

Monies raised have recently contributed towards the refurbishment of Patching organ and repairs to stonework at Clapham. The next costly project will be repairing Clapham Church roof.

The Indoor Bowls Club

This meets on a Tuesday evening at 7.30pm and Thursday afternoon at 2.30pm. Both sessions are at Clapham and Patching Village Hall. They would welcome new members. Just turn up or, for more details contact: Marjorie Rainford on 01903 871132.

An Update from Clapham and Patching CofE Primary School

Growing up in Walberton I know first-hand how important a village school is to the local community and since taking up my post as Head of School at Clapham and Patching I have been keen to develop links between school the villages it serves.

It is an absolute pleasure to lead Clapham and Patching CofE Primary School and to be part of such a committed community. I am aware that over the years the school has not been as active or visible in the surrounding villages as it could have been, and I am working to rebuild these relationships.

Some examples of this are: -

- We gave an outside performance at Christmas to local residents
- We held an open morning to which everyone was welcome
- School is hosting the July resident's coffee morning in the village hall
- We hold our regular end of term celebration assemblies in either St Mary's or St John's
- We are out and about walking our wild mile at least once a week saying hello to local residents
- School is taking part in the flower festival
- We are developing a bee and butterfly garden to be part of the Arundel Bee Project
- We have joined the village horticultural society
- We donated over 1000 masks to Clapham Lodge
- We have signed a partnership covenant with Reverend Helena Buque to deepen the relationship between school and the parish
- We are working with the WI to create a new school banner
- We have applied to join the Clapham and Patching horticultural society
- We are holding our summer fayre on June 26th at school rather than in the village hall so that it more of a whole village event.