



WEST CLANDON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Mr Terence Patrick , Stoney Royd, Woodstock, West Clandon, Guildford, GU4 7UJ

Clerk: Mr John Stone, Hunters End, Lime Grove, West Clandon, Guildford GU4 7UT
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Minutes of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held 8.00pm Wed 8th July 2015 at the Village Hall

Present: Terence Patrick, Stephen Meredith, Christopher Dean and Rob MacDonald

Councillors Jenny Wicks and David Reeve were in attendance with 50 residents

1. Presentation by Alex Bush, General Manager, Clandon Park

The Chairman introduced Alex Bush and welcomed her to the meeting.

Alex told us that the fire on the 29th April had been the biggest emergency that Surrey Fire Service had had to attend with 80 fire service personnel involved at one point. The Fire Service working with National Trust Staff had tried to salvage what they could.

The building was profoundly damaged and we are left with a tale of two halves. On the right hand side there has been complete devastation. All the floors have collapsed although interior walls are still standing. The fire went across the ceiling and down the left hand side where there is a more mixed picture. The Speaker's Parlour, one of the most important rooms, is almost unscathed.

On the afternoon and over night NT staff worked with the Fire Brigade using a recently rehearsed plan coordinated by the House Manager to salvage as much as possible. Over 4000 items were saved including a lot of paintings. Salvaged items were stored in Clandon School where a special thank you assembly was held a week later. Much of what has been salvaged is undamaged although a few paintings had to be cut from their frames but they are now being reunited.

The first few days were about assessing the damage. The external structure is in very good condition. There is a mixed picture internally. The marble has stood up well and most of it is unscathed. As yet it is not clear how much else has survived. The last couple of months have been about stabilising the building. A lot of metalwork has collapsed and a large number of timbers and beams are dangling down making it unsafe to work and restricting access. These are currently being removed with a crane.

The Speaker's Parlour is in good condition some in situ work has been done but the room above it has collapsed. They were able to work with

Surrey Fire and Rescue to salvage more items and now 450 items have come out of the building with more set to be rescued over the coming months. During the course of the investigation a few interesting discoveries have been made about the building revealing some hidden doorways and niches.

NT have worked with English Heritage who have undertaken a geophysical survey of the site which revealed the layout of an earlier Tudor garden.

One of the main questions is, "How did the fire start?" As yet the investigation has not yet been able to get into the building – the first big beam came out only yesterday. Contractors are picking out loose material to make it safe for the investigation team to get in. This will take 5/6 weeks.

This is forensic archaeology looking at everything that comes out of the site. A large container has been set up to receive and process the salvage. The total time needed for this work is unknown but 6 months has been allowed but this might change if there are unstable elements. The hope is to complete this work by Christmas. Everything which comes out will be looked at including whole items but everything will be identified and where possible restored.

NT are starting to look at what the future may hold. The building has been assessed and it looks hopeful that the building will be rebuilt in some form. The nature of this rebuild however is still up in the air and depends on what is found over the next few months.

There are a huge number of options. At Uppark House the building was completely restored but there are a myriad of other options. Everyone hopes there will be a decision made within the next 6 months and there will be a lot of consultation about how it will look. There are many fantastic advisors involved including the Director of the National Portrait Gallery.

Questions were then invited from the audience.

Is there a plan to put a roof on?

Yes within 6 weeks free standing scaffolding with a tin roof which could last up to 5 years will be put on. NT are also looking at the option of installing a visitor route for tours. They are looking at opening the site in the next few months – an opportunity to see a major salvage operation and cutting edge work by the National Trust but likely to be open only to small groups at this stage.

What will happen to the Maori House?

A visiting delegation from New Zealand came over a few weeks ago looking at a major bid to restore the house. The needs are as great as ever and the NT will be working with people in New Zealand to restore it in parallel with the House. It will stay on site – the parallels with its role in

surviving a volcanic eruption have not been lost.

How do you stand with regard to insurance?

NT do not self insure and have standard insurance. We are working with the loss adjusters as they move forward. A fundraising drive has been launched as we expect there to be a gap between insurance and aspiration. Tens of thousands have been raised which are currently in a holding account.

Do you know where the fire started?

No but we know it was first detected in the basement by smoke alarms.

How much of the marble hall is still there?

The ceiling is now on the floor. Directly under the hall is the restaurant which is vaulted and therefore the floor is intact. The ceiling is now on the floor and it is hoped that much including cornicing has survived. Restoration should be achievable.

How much of the military memorabilia was lost?

Steve Johnston of the Queen's Royal Surrey Museum responded. "We don't know what we will do until we see what we get out. The Fire Service rescued 4 of the regimental colours in a brave action. 800 medals have been retrieved. Hopefully there will be non-combustible items under the rubble."

The GM of Uppark said, "Prepare for some nice surprises". Very detailed folders of what was in was each room are available which is helping the archaeologists.

A resident of West Clandon commented, "Many people feel an emotional attachment to Clandon Park as they embraced us as villagers and invited us in. It would be very nice if there are scaffolding tours that villagers were invited and informed."

Alex Bush responded that she will continue to use the email system to inform villages and we might need some volunteers too. They are looking at blogs, video diaries etc.. It would be good to maintain the sense of engagement.

Will you be looking for volunteers?

The archaeological investigations have been contracted out. There is conservation by the house team but NT are looking at how more people could be involved. There is a real opportunity for professional development for conservators. Depending on the volume of work we may look for volunteers.

<p>What are the range of options for re-build?</p> <p>Some are Museums. Galleries, Hotels. The guiding principles are we are charged with looking after heritage.</p> <p>What about residential options?</p> <p>This may not be a great use of the building but all options are being considered.</p> <p>Do you have detailed photos of the original building?</p> <p>We have very detailed shots. This was one of the lessons of Uppark. We also have fragments of material in the V&A to aid restoration.</p> <p>Will disability access be a consideration when it is rebuilt?</p> <p>Yes definitely. With the building as it is we have the opportunity to do things that cannot normally be done with a grade 1 building. English Heritage have told us they work within current building regulations.</p> <p>Will the NT learn from this eg install a sprinkler system?</p> <p>Yes but these would have been very difficult to retrofit. The Fire Service said sprinklers would have been unlikely to suppress the fire in this case because of the voids and other features of the building. There are other fire supressing systems which might be appropriate. When we see the fire investigation report we will be in a better option to judge.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Alex for her presentation.</p> <p>There was a short break before the Parish Council meeting resumed. 11 residents remained in attendance.</p>	
<p>2. Apologies for Absence:</p>	
<p>Apologies were received from Jonathan Murphy Councillor Matthew Sarti was unable to be in attendance.</p>	
<p>3. Declaration of Interests.</p>	
<p>Christopher Dean declared that he was Chairman of the Clandon Society.</p>	
<p>4. Confirmation of the Minutes of the June meeting.</p>	
<p>These were accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.</p>	
<p>5. Matters arising from those minutes.</p>	
<p>4. Speeding on the Street The Chairman reported that he had referred the complaint about speeding motorbikes in the village to the Police Community Safety Officer.</p> <p>10. Footpath 67. Rob MacDonald reported that a temporary arrangement for the electric fence had been installed. A resident commented that two plastic sacks around the wire doesn't seem very safe for dogs or children. Rob MacDonald agreed to look into this to see if a better solution could be found.</p>	<p>RMD</p>

6. Vacancy for Parish Councillor.	
The Clerk reported that a vacancy notice had been supplied by the Borough and was displayed on Parish Council notice boards until 13 th July. If no response had been received the Council would be free to co-opt.	
7. Local and Neighbourhood Plans.	
It was noted that there had been no significant developments concerning the Local Plan since the last meeting. As regards the Neighbourhood Plan it had been agreed that Christopher Dean would draw up a brief outline of an insert to be placed in the Parish Magazine and web site. This has been amended in the light of comments made. If agreed this could go into the October magazine with a public meeting called for that month to get feedback from people about how they felt. If the reception was lukewarm we should not proceed as there would have to be a degree of enthusiasm and volunteers to help. It was reported that Send, Lovelace, Effingham, West and East Horsley, Burpham and Puttenham have all worked up proposals. The Council agreed to proceed as proposed.	CD
8. Planning Matters (JM)	
In the absence of Jonathan Murphy the Clerk read a note from him on planning applications concerning Pound cottage, Clandon Station, Wayside, the Old Telephone Exchange, Windrush. Treetops and Tyrella. The Council agreed with the recommendation that no comment should be made.	
9. Grant Aided Projects.	
The Clerk reported that the grant for a contribution for urgent maintenance work at the Playground had been received. It had also been confirmed that the Council's application for Section 106 funding support for additional equipment had been successful. The Council authorised the Clerk to proceed with the purchase. The Council had also been informed that the remaining section 106 funding available was insufficient to cover the cost of the estimates provided by the Council for the extension of the Village Hall Car Park. The Council agreed that since the shortfall was less than £1000 we should proceed with the bid. The Clerk reported that he had written to the West Clandon Club of the Royal British Legion and the Village Hall Committee to consult with them over this development and that so far no comments had been received. A pre-planning application had also be lodged with the Planning Department. It was noted that Guildford Borough Council had been in contact to alert us to the imminent call for bids for grant aided projects for 2016/17. The Council re-iterated its support for a bid to renew fencing at the Recreation Ground. The Clerk reported that the Surrey County Council work team detailed to undertake maintenance work in the village later in the year would not be able to undertake the requested work to repair the gate to the Village Pound. Councillors agreed that no further action need be taken on this at	

present.

The Clerk also reported that invitations to bid for the Community Improvements Fund and the Community Buildings Grant Scheme had been received. Councillors agreed that in view of the timescales and the Council contribution required no bid would be made.

10. Note Council Correspondence sent and received.

The correspondence schedule included in the papers for the meeting was noted.

Councillor David Reeves outlined his proposal for a meeting with Surrey Highways later in the week in which he aimed to get more information on project prioritisation. The Chairman highlighted continuing problems in Lime Grove and the proposed resurfacing at Clandon Cross Roads scheduled to start on 5th August.

11. Footpaths (RMD)

Rob MacDonald reported on a meeting with Alan Brown, Countryside Access Officer at Surrey County Council. They had discussed the broken style on footpath 67. It was usually the landowner or parish council's responsibility to repair styles but Surrey County Council had gates available and would approach the Guildford ramblers to see if volunteers were willing to undertake the installation work.

12. Financial matters and signing of cheques.

The following cheque has been signed since the last meeting of the Council.

Date	Payee	Chq No	Ref	£
22/06/2015	Norris & Gardiner	1775	15.11	243.42

The following cheques were signed at the meeting.

04/07/2015	Cormak Tree Care	1776	15.14	576
04/07/2015	1st Surface	1778	15.15	450
08/07/2015	MJStone	1779	15.16	873.05
08/07/2015	HMRC	1780	15.17	649.8

13. Any Other Business.

A resident drew attention to problems with disabled access at the Onslow Arms and the Bull. The Chairman offered to take this up with the management.

It was noted that a decision on the proposed development at the Drift Golf Club was expected in 1st week of September.

It was reported that during the village tennis tournament cars were being driven on the recreation ground without permission. The Clerk was asked to take this up with the organisers.

The Clerk was asked to put a report on Alex Bush's presentation on

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<p>Clandon Park on the village website. It was reported that the allocation of housing in the Meadowlands extension was continuing. A preliminary sift had been made and a shortlist drawn up. This was being followed by interviews but no final decision had been made as yet.</p>	
<p>14. Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 9th September 2015</p>	