

CLAY CROSS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Clay Cross Parish Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber at Clay Cross Social Centre on Tuesday 28 June 2022 at 7PM

Present: Councillor G Morley Chair
Councillor B Wright Vice Chair

Councillor Mrs M Jones	Councillor Ms K Rouse
Councillor E Mansbridge	Councillor A Rouse
Councillor Mrs T Reader	Councillor D Skinner
Councillor A Reader	

Also Present: Dawn Kershaw, Parish Clerk
Andrew Mott, Administration Assistant
Councillor Charlotte Cupit, DCC Clay Cross South

Public Participation

There were no members of the public was present.

County Councillor/District Councillor Matters

Parish Clerk reported that due to other commitments, Councillor Kevin Gillott was unable to attend the meeting. Councillor Cupit confirmed that there were no specific County Council matters to report.

With regard to the District Council. Councillor Wright reported that the proposed new leisure centre and community facility on the Sharley Park site was finally being progress; it was confirmed that a planning application has been received for the first phase including partial demolition of the existing Leisure Centre.

PART I – PUBLIC BUSINESS

Members were reminded to declare an interest as appropriate.

3231/22 Apologies for Absence

To receive and approve Apologies for Absence and reasons given. Councillor G Skinner (Illness). **Resolved That: these Apologies and the reason given are approved.**

3232/22 Exclusion of Public

To determine which items, if any, from Part I of the Agenda should be taken with the public excluded. **Resolved That: no matters be taken in exclusion.**

3233/22 Minutes of Last Meeting

To receive Minutes and, subject to any changes necessary, to approve the Minutes of the meeting as a correct record. ***Resolved That: the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 24 May 2022 be approved as a correct record.***

Work In Progress

Parish Clerk and Administrative Assistant reported that there was no Work In Progress.

3234/22 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

There were no Reports from Representative on Outside Bodies.

3235/22 Planning & Environmental Matters

Councillor Mrs Jones and Councillor Ms Rouse declared an interest as they serve on the District Council Planning Committee.

(a) to consider planning applications/appeals received from the Planning Authority and to submit comments where appropriate.

Application Number: 22/00403/FL
Proposal: Proposed conversion and refurbishment of rear annex into one two bedroom duplex apartment (Class C3) (Conservation Area) (Amended Title) (Amended Plans)

Address: 5A Market Street, Clay Cross, Chesterfield S45 9JE

Application Number: 22/00582/FL
Proposal: Section 73 application to vary condition 2 (approved plans) pursuant of planning approval 21/01143/FL to amend the approved units (Major Development)

Address: Winfield Court, Clay Cross

Application Number: 22/00608/FL
Proposal: Partial demolition of existing Sharley Park Leisure Centre, development of new leisure and community facility complex with external 3G floodlit pitch, landscaping, and parking (Major Development) (Part Conservation Area) (Affecting Public Right of Way)

Address: Market Street, Clay Cross, Chesterfield

Application Number: 22/00593/FL
Proposal: Sales and stockroom extension at rear of property, together with accommodation over sales for shop manager (Conservation Area)

Address: 41-43 Market Street, Clay Cross, Chesterfield S45 9JE

Application Number: 22/00609/FL
Proposal: Section 73 application to vary conditions 5 (site levels), 7 (landscaping scheme) and 13 (foul and surface drainage water) pursuant of 21/01035/FL
Address: 114 Clay Lane, Clay Cross, Chesterfield S45 9AW

Application Number: 22/00633/FLH
Proposal: Proposed new first floor and rear extension to existing bungalow, new entrance porch and a new garage
Address: 195 Thanet Street, Clay Cross, Chesterfield S45 9JU

Resolved That: the planning applications are received, and no comments/objections are submitted

(b) to receive verbal report from Councillor Mansbridge following his recent site visit/meeting with Clay Cross Angling Association to discuss their issues with Canada Geese at Meadow Farm Fishing Pond within Kenning Park:

Waterfowl have become and are an important feature of many lakes and ponds throughout the UK. It is essential to determine the causes of any perceived problems before targeting management of individual species or groups of species noting that the ecology of differing species and their abundance will have different impacts.

Branta Canadensis (Canada Geese)

Introduced primarily from North America in 1665 with their numbers being concentrated within parklands with their numbers remaining low until the 1950's. From the 50's onwards the UK population of Canada Geese have risen rapidly and is still increasing.

Canada Geese are largely herbivorous and spend a lot of time grazing on grassland or in water. Parks can be an ideal habitat for the species which can lead to problems with feeding damage or trampling of vegetation and accumulations of droppings. Canada Geese can live up to 30 years and will commence breeding when they reach 2 to 3 years of age. Females lay between 4 to 9 eggs in March or April and will nest singly or in groups. The species has differing requirements throughout the year. During the breeding season the geese will require water bodies with islands or other undisturbed areas which will ensure safe nesting sites. Following breeding in June to July the adults moult and are flightless, spending most of their time on or very close to water to avoid predators. During autumn and winter, they will select sites with good grazing areas.

Many Canada Geese are extremely tame and will come to be fed, consequently they are often very popular with visitors. On some sites control measures may well become a contentious issue.

Types of Damage

Vegetation Damage, Droppings, Physical Damage and Aggression

Extent of Damage

Damage made by Canada Geese must be viewed in context of the number on site compared with the use and extent of the site.

Before any control measures are considered it is important that the population is monitored throughout the year to determine when and the extent of usage throughout the year. If geese are not present all year round, then monitoring should be carried out in other local areas they use as control measures ought to be coordinated with other landowners to ensure they are effective.

Management Options

The body of research suggests that control techniques used in isolation are unlikely to be effective and that control measures will only work if an integrated programme of management techniques is carried out.

All potential control measures are aimed at stabilising or reducing the number of geese rather than completely excluding geese from the site as this is almost impossible to achieve.

Control measures can be divided up into site-based and population-based techniques.

Site Based Management

Exclusion from Islands

Fencing islands in ponds used for breeding can discourage geese from nesting. A 1 metre chicken wire fence with a 10-centimetre gap between the ground and the bottom of the fence will allow other waterfowl to use the island. This technique is most likely to be successful if islands are well vegetated as this discourages geese from flying over the fence.

Access to Grazing Areas

Fencing around sensitive areas can be effective and help to redirect geese to other less sensitive areas.

Management of 'park cut' areas by external contractors especially around ponds and areas frequented by Canada Geese by allowing breeding season grass growth and cutting only 1 to 2 metre paths through heavily populated geese frequenting areas.

Reduce Visibility of Water Bodies

Geese prefer to graze close to a water body which provide them with a safe retreat. By obscuring the views between feeding and grazing areas, geese will be discouraged from using them, however, this may be difficult to achieve in historic landscapes and where the pond is sighted significantly below the grazing area.

Controlling Public Access

Fencing of water bodies can also be used to influence visitors by restricting opportunities for feeding geese.

Interpretation

Many people visiting sites value the waterfowl populations and consequently control measures may be controversial and should not be attempted without interpretation explaining the reason for and benefits of control measures. For example, explaining that there are nature conservation benefits in reducing the geese population. Interpretation can also be used to discourage feeding of the birds and inform people about aquatic ecology.

Other Methods

Bird scaring – is widely used in farmland but not in enclosed aquatic habitats.

Chemical repellents – used in North America with limited effectiveness but not approved for use in the UK.

Population Based Management

Translocation

This method has been used in the past but is no longer encouraged as it simply transfers a problem to a different site. It is also an offence to release Canada Geese into the wild without a licence.

Egg-pricking, Oiling or Boiling

These are effective ways of preventing hatching as birds are very loyal to their nesting site, but the longevity of geese mean that a long term programme of this population management would be necessary in order to significantly reduce a population. A licence is required to carry out any of these operations and permission from the landowner. Eggs that are treated are usually left in situ or replaced with pot eggs as removal would only promote the female to lay more.

Culling

Culling requires a Licence if it's to be carried out during the close season. Outside the close season Canada Geese can be shot by an authorised person providing those certain provisions are adhered to including, permission being granted by the landowner, local bye laws, regulations concerning firearms are followed, capture methods are agreed and adhered to and the fact that culling of geese can become a highly emotive issue especially in a community and multi user area.

Licensing of Control Operations Involving Canada Geese

All wild birds including Canada Geese are protected under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. It is an offence to take, damage or destroy their nests or eggs without a licence. It is also an offence to release them into the wild without a licence.

Licences for culling in the close season, egg pricking, or translocation of Canada Geese can be issued for several reasons:

- To prevent serious damage or disease
- To conserve and protect wild birds

- To conserve flora and fauna
- To preserve public health or safety
- To prevent serious damage to livestock, crops, forestry, or fisheries
- For the purposes of air safety

With reference to the above statement issued to the Parish Council the members agreed that it should form a working document that the Council would note and use, including the site based and population-based management options.

It was noted that due to Covid19, population monitoring had not been carried out since 2019 although it was known that the breeding colony had operated without much disturbance and had not increased exponentially.

Complaints regarding the population of Canada Geese have been voiced by the Fishing Club suggesting that the number of droppings especially on the western bank have caused problems, in that, the Club have had to clear the droppings prior to fishing matches.

Damage caused by the Canada Geese has been relatively small with little vegetation, physical damage and aggression being noted although their dropping have raised some concerns especially during breeding and rearing season.

It is viewed that a management plan should be agreed by the Parish Council, including the views of Kenning Park stakeholders of control techniques within an integrated programme that will better manage the Canada Geese population and create a more acceptable environment for all concerned. These will include both site and population-based management control measures.

It is also noted that the Parish Council supported the fishing club in their acquisition of a licence to manage the perceived enhanced population of Canada Geese by means of egg-pricking/oiling or boiling and acknowledge that this is an isolated technique and will not necessarily be effective on its own.

Clay Cross Parish Council operate using the local bye-laws on Kenning Park and Meadow Farm Fishing Pond and would not sanction the use of firearms if culling were considered. Translocation of the birds would also not be approved as it is an offence to release Canada Geese into the wild without a Licence.

Clay Cross Parish Council, as landowners believe that Kenning Park and Meadow Farm Pond are used as an asset for all members of the community, protecting wildlife and enhancing environment diversity.

Resolved That: a meeting to be arranged between all stakeholders (Kenning Park Community Group, Clay Cross Angling Association, Kenning Park Forest School & Clay Cross Parish Council) to discuss the action(s) to be taken going forward.

(c) to receive verbal report from Councillor Ms Rouse regarding damage to the dosher/weir at Kenning Park (circulated). It was agreed to investigate the damage further with a view to making the necessary repairs with help from the community/Kenning Park Forest School.

(d) to discuss letter received from John Villas from the County Council Flood Risk Management regarding Coupe Lane Flood Investigation & Riber Crescent Watercourse Relocation Proposal (circulated). ***Resolved That: the Parish Council contribute £1,000 towards the cost of the work to relocate the watercourse***

Work In Progress

Parish Clerk and Administrative Assistant reported that there was no Work In Progress.

3236/22 Street Scene Matters

Work In Progress

Further to minute no **3194/22(b)** regarding trees on North Street playing field. The meeting discussed further response received from a local resident (circulated). It was agreed to reiterate what work was agreed at the full Parish Council meeting held on the 24 May 2022 and confirm that regarding the culvert, investigation are ongoing with the County Council Flood Risk Management.

3237/22 Climate Change Matters

There were no Climate Change Matters to report to the meeting.

3238/22 Cemetery Matters

To receive the Minutes of the Cemetery Working Group meeting held on the 10 June 2022 and to receive recommendations for resolution.

Resolved That:

- 1. the District Council carry out work to remove several branches from the Nothofagus tree at the perimeter of the Cemetery at the estimated cost of £172 plus vat***
- 2. the Minutes of the Cemetery Working Group meeting held on the 10 June 2022 are received***

Work In Progress

Further to minute no **3226/22** regarding the purchase of watering cans for visitors to use. Parish Clerk reported that 6 x metal galvanised watering can have been purchased from Clay Cross Do-It-Yourself at a cost of £96 including VAT.

3239/22 Internal Auditor Report 2021/22

Following an Audit undertaken, the final audit report for the year ended 31 March 2022 has been received from John King, Chartered Certified Accountants with no matters arising. ***Resolved That: the final audit report for the year ended 31 March 2022 from John King, Chartered Certified Accountants, with no matters arising, is noted and received.***

3240/22 Annual Governance Statement 2021/22 Section 1

Consideration was given to the Annual Governance Statement Section 1 of the Annual Return 2021/22 and approval for resolution for signature by the Chair and Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer. ***Resolved That: the Annual Governance Statement Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2021/22 is approved for signature by the Chair and Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer.***

3241/22 Accounting Statements 2021/22 Section 2

Consideration was given to the Accounting Statements Section 2 of the Annual Return 2021/22 and approval for resolution for signature by the Chair and Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer. ***Resolved That: the Accounting Statements Section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2021/22 is approved for signature by the Chair and Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer.***

3242/22 Social Centre & Events Matters

At this point, Councillor Morley thanked Councillor Cupit for her donation toward the Parish Council Jubilee Celebrations events. To receive the Minutes of the Social Centre & Events Working Group meeting held on the 22 June 2022 and to receive recommendations for resolution. ***Resolved That: the Minutes of the Social Centre & Events Working Group meeting held on the 22 June 2022 are received***

Work In Progress

Parish Clerk and Administrative Assistant reported that there was no Work In Progress.

3243/22 Finance Matters

To receive the Minutes of the Finance Sub-Committee meeting held on the 22 June 2022 and to receive recommendations for resolution. ***Resolved That:***

- 1. the Minutes of the Finance Sub-Committee meeting held on the 22 June 2022 are received***
- 2. BACS payments authorised by designated signatories are confirmed***

STAFF WAGES: TAX MONTH 3/WEEK 10	£4,667.58
TV LICENCE REFUNDS: 18 APPLICATIONS @ £25 PER PERSON	£450.00
DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL: PENSIONS FOR MAY 2022	£586.83
HMRC CUMBERNAULD: NI & TAX FOR MAY 2022	£878.33
HUTTON WHOLESALE DRINKS: BAR SUPPLIES FOR MAY 2022	£895.77
CROWN GAS & POWER: SOCIAL CENTRE GAS 30.4.22 TO 31.5.22	£252.08
PAULINE STRINGFELLOW: DANCES FOR JUNE 2022 (x 4)	£140.00
WATER PLUS: SOCIAL CENTRE WATER SUPPLY SERVICES 16.2.22 TO 18.5.22	£178.02
WATER PLUS: NORTH STREET WATER SUPPLY SERVICES 8.3.22 TO 30.5.22	£76.36
BOOKER CASH & CARRY: LUNCH CLUB & REFRESHMENT SUPPLIES FOR MAY 2022	£421.01
CARLTON HOUSE: SOCIAL CENTRE BAR STOCK CHECK 1.4.22	£95.00
SOUND DYNAMICS: UPGRADE OF SOCIAL CENTRE SOUND SYSTEM	£474.98
VOICE MAGAZINE: SOCIAL CENTRE ADVERTISING SEPT - DEC 2022	£712.68
TOTAL:	£9,828.64
3. the following Income is noted:	
SOCIAL CENTRE HIRE	£420.00
SOCIAL CENTRE BAR TAKINGS 1.6.22, 3.6.22, 4.6.22, 8.6.22, 15.6.22, 17.6.22, 18.6.22	£2,335.35
TUESDAY LUNCH CLUB: 7.6.22, 21.6.22	£357.00
THURSDAY DANCE: 26.5.22, 9.6.22, 16.6.22	£316.50
CEMETERY LODGE RENT	£368.00
PUBLIC SECTOR DEPOSIT FUND DIVIDEND PAYMENT	£24.36
TOTAL:	£3,821.21

Work In Progress

Parish Clerk and Administrative Assistant reported that there was no Work In Progress.

3244/22 Items for Decision & Information

There are no Items for Decision & Information this month.

3245/22 Date of Next Meeting

Resolved That: the next Parish Council meeting will be held in the Parish Council office on Tuesday 26 July 2022.