

# CLOPTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes** of the Annual Parish Meeting held at 7.00pm  
on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025 at Clopton Village Hall

**Present:**

Cllr Tiley-Nunn, Chair

**In Attendance:**

Cllr Bright, Cllr Raffell, Cllr Blois (previously Lye), Cllr Pitt, Cllr Elia; D Gooch (Clerk), and 8 members of the public

**CPC APM 001/25: Apologies for absence** – CC Bryce, DC Clery, DC Hedgley, and Cllr Ashard.

**CPC APM 002/25: To Approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

The minutes had previously been circulated via Clopton News and also displayed on the noticeboards. They were approved and signed as a true record. Proposer Cllr Blois, Seconder Cllr Raffell.

**CPC APM 003/25: Matters Arising**

None.

**CPC APM 004/25: Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council**

Cllr Tiley-Nunn read his report, saying that as the new Chairman of Clopton Parish Council it was first annual report and annual meeting, so please be forgiving rather than critical if had omitted anyone or anything! He highlighted:

- Councillor changes in the Parish Council (PC), noting current and future vacancies;
- The PC's six regular meetings, plus five additional meetings to discuss planning applications (17 in total for the year), all held in person in the Village Hall;
- A summary of the PC's accounts (that have also been approved by the internal auditor);
- The Housing Need Survey which concluded that there was a requirement for affordable housing within Clopton (results on the PC website [here](#));
- Road Safety/Highways, where the PC had successfully lobbied to get various improvements made, although a decision on the proposed B1078 40mph speed limit covering the Manor Road / Shop Road junctions was awaited. He also encouraged residents to keep reporting issues e.g. potholes on the Suffolk County Council Website;
- His thanks to all the members of the Village Hall management committee who relieve the PC of a great deal of work on the running and upkeep of this excellent village asset. He also thanked the PC's County and District Councillors, communications officer Della Hughes, the 'Off the Bus' club volunteers, and the Clerk for his support.

See full report: [Chairman's Report for 2024/25](#)

**CPC APM 005/25: Summary of [Parish Council Accounts 2024-2025](#)**

See above link for full details. There were no questions about the accounts.

**CPC APM 006/25**

**Report from Suffolk County Council/East Suffolk Council**

**County Councillor's Report:** [CC Bryce's Annual Town & Parish Newsletter 2025](#);

**District Councillor's Report:** [DC Clery's April 2025](#) Parish Report, and

[DC Hedgley's Report to Clopton APM and APC May 2025](#).

**CPC APM 007/25: Reports from Organisations** (see also links below)

**- Communications, website and hobby group**

Della Hughes reported that there was no report as little has changed with the web site since last year, and similarly the Clopton News email.

**- [Clopton Village Hall report 2025](#)**

John Dawson highlighted some key points from the report:

- The financial position was healthy with a surplus over reserves that allowed some improvements to be made including to fire alarms, and also planned broadband internet access in the hall. Cllr Pitt agreed to look at possible costs of a field side terrace, possibly as a joint project.

- John noted his thanks to Adrian Yallop for maintaining/cutting the grass on the playing field area, and other volunteers and helpers maintaining the shrubs, hedges, and daffodils which provided a splendid display.
- The management committee has only six members (and can have up to 15). The committee meet every 3 months, and would welcome new people to help with the work and to bring new ideas. Residents were invited to come along to meetings, see what we do and perhaps decide to join.

#### **- WJ Steel and Poors Charity**

Cllr Tiley-Nunn read the following statement:

"On 18th June 2024, the Charity Commission confirmed that the charity has been removed from the Central register of Charities. The remaining funds of £225.90 were donated to the Suffolk Giving Fund administered by the Suffolk Community Foundation.

The charity's report for YE 31st Dec 2023, had stated "The Charity's fund is now very small, and there have been no applications for assistance from it for many years. Its original purpose is therefore no longer relevant, and it was decided that steps should be taken to close the Charity."

#### **- 2025 Annual Report of PCC St. Mary the Virgin, Clopton**

Jenny Schurr read out the report linked above, highlighting:

- The church organ restoration, with a £10,000 contribution from The Williams' Church Music Trust;
- The refounding of a village church choir; and the setting up of the "Off the Bus" village youth group, providing after school activities in the Village Hall;
- Remembrance of the village men who fell in the Great War, and the young men from US Air Force, stationed at Clopton and Debach Airfield, who lost their lives in the 2nd World War;
- A return to fresh flower arrangements for the altar, with thanks to volunteers 'giving' to the church;
- Jenny became a Lay Elder and now leading a service on the second Sunday of the month, to help maintain regular church services in the parish. Sadly, after many years of dedicated service as churchwarden and member of the church, Doris Main is moving away. Doris is owed a huge debt of gratitude for the many projects that she oversaw, in particular the mending of the church tower and the rehanging of the bells;
- The church has two teams of bellringers, who have also been successful in competitions;
- Over the year, there have been two interments, two funerals and a christening in the church.

Jenny also provided a comprehensive review of church activities over the past year.

#### **CPC APM 008/25: Matters raised by Parishioners**

i) A resident said they'd been upset by comments made in the March PC meeting about memorial trees that could be removed to ease access to the field area behind the Village Hall. The resident said that the trees had been positioned so a lorry could get past, and as a memorial for her son, would not be moved. In reply Cllr Tiley-Nunn said he wasn't aware these were memorial trees. Cllr Pitt added that the issue was a trailer which caused problems as the area was very boggy due to a cloud burst, and the concern was possible damage to a tree. Cllr Raffell added that the PC was only looking at options with the aim of the Village Hall asset being used to its best extent; he hoped that the context was now better understood, and thanked the resident for their comments which be taken into account. Cllr Tiley-Nunn apologised saying that the PC hadn't intended to upset any resident and that there would be consultation with those residents before anything was finally decided and the residents agreed they were happy with this.

*(Clerk note: The Minutes of the March 2025 PC meeting stated "Cllr Pitt commented on problems that prevented access onto the Village Hall's field. At present there are trees that block access, although these could possibly be moved to provide an access track. Cllr Raffell agreed to flag this to the Village Hall committee".)*

ii) A resident asked if Shop Road could have a 20mph speed limit, as vehicles including those driven by residents living in the road, were driving too fast. Cllrs agreed with the risks, but noted the difficulty and unlikelihood of getting Suffolk Highways to take any action. However, it was noted that residents are allowed to erect a sign within their curtilage for example to warn people that children play in the area.

iii) A resident flagged an issue with bees on the footpath north of the Village Hall. A bee was very persistent and had got in the lady's hair – she hadn't seen a bee that angry before, and was concerned that someone, possibly with an allergy, could be stung. After discussion it was suggested that the landowner is contacted by residents, then possibly escalate to the council for help.

**Meeting closed at 7.57pm.**

Chairman: ..... Date: .....

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