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East Clandon Parish Council - for the AGM ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2022-2023

This report covers the year from April 2022 – 2023.

Before we move on, let us welcome our new Councillor David Elson and Parish Clerk, Linda Koszo.

Another eventful year: preliminary work to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan, hosting a wonderful Platinum Jubilee Street Party in honour of the Queen's 70th year on the throne and the Neighbourhood Plan Project.

FINANCES

Our thanks go to the Parish Clerk, Diana Thornhill, who reigned over our finances until November 2022, and then helped in the smooth handover of the finance function to our new Parish Clerk, Linda Koszo. The Parish's finances are healthy with a reserve of £23,451.26 unaudited at March 31st 2023.

Our income over the year 2022-23 was £16,052 arising from four on-going sources and a donation.

- from GBC precept of £8,765
- GBC concurrent functions grant of £108;
- Vat refunds of £655
- Tennis Court income £1,210 and Tunmore Fields income £1,400;
- Income of £768 – a refund and payment towards Back Lane ditch clearance by Ryde Farm/Savills
- Income from ticket sales for the Queen's Jubilee Street Party £1,734.

Our outgoings for the year total £19,565. Expended as follows

- The village gardeners (Ben Robertson Clandon Gardens), keeping our open spaces in tip-top shape;
- Stipend for the Parish Clerk
- Improvement to the village playground, tree removal/ clearing;
- Tennis Court surface clean
- Replacement swings for the Rec
- Tree removal and surgery with rewilding of Tunmore North field
- Queen's Jubilee Street Party expenses, partly funded by the Devils' Advocate filming income of £700.

Reserves have built up over the years mainly due to successful fundraising and donations received for our major village projects. It is useful to have a good reserve to cover the unforeseen expenses such as trees needing expensive tree surgery arising from storm damage i.a.

VILLAGE ACTIVITIES AND HIGHLIGHTS

East Clandon continues as a village with a great spirit of togetherness. Thank you to all who contribute.

Village Open Spaces, Playground and Tennis Court.

Our open spaces have been a boon to all. Families could enjoy fresh air, picnics and recreation, and much tennis. Thanks go to Cllr James Eves for leading this on our behalves, and doing so much to ensure it is all superb and in conjunction with our village garden team, Ben Robertson-Clandon Gardens.

The improved tennis court facilities provides much fun for our families and thank you again to the team, James Eves, and in particular Chris Ross for running the tennis subscriptions and maintenance schedule.

The village Common will hopefully benefit from a new mowing regime to encourage flowers and less grass. This will be monitored since adopting this regime last autumn.



The Queens Platinum Jubilee

Led by Clare Goodall and a team of villagers to celebrate this historic 70th anniversary of the Queen's accession, this was an immense success despite the weather threatening up to 10am on the day. Bravo to the weather gods! Thank you to all for this marvellous Street Party and with music, hog-roast and a children's magician. This was preceded by a show in the Church with village children performing organised by the fabulous Francesca Lamont. Thank you Clare and your team. Wonderful result.



Our Rector, Barnaby, held a special church service on 22nd May which was followed by a tree planting ceremony on Tunmore Triangle with a commemorative plaque unveiled by Jane Thorold. A Catalpa bignonioides was planted.

The Village Welcome Pack

Onwards with the march of technology! The Welcome Pack has been digitised by Peter Smart though each and every new person arriving in the village will be given an actual Welcome Card with links to the on-line information previously distributed in the paper pack. It reaches out at a time when people feel 'so new'. It helps them to integrate. It helps them get answers to questions, it provides village history. Thank you Peter.

The Village Fete

Thanks to the generosity and huge experience of Bug and Neil Robertson over the last 20 or so years, the village fete made a comeback after lockdowns. A wonderful event which raised many thousands for our village charities – the Church Parochial Council, the Village Hall and Cherry Trees.

Greening East Clandon

This initiative of villager Adrian Thompson is about adding to our trees and hedgerow stock, and to preserve those already there. Its aims are to reduce pollution, add carbon-capturing green planting and help combat climate change damage and best of all, to add to the fresh air we all love to breathe. Thanks Adrian for the leadership.

After extensive consultation led by the steering group of Mike Cook, Gayle and John Leader, Chris Manning, Peter Smart and Matt Pitt, Alder trees have been planted on Tunmore North Field. Additionally, villagers have been encouraged to plant hedgerows and trees where possible for them.

We now also welcome our new Tree Warden, John Mairs who has recently moved to the village. Thank you.

Friends of St Thomas of Canterbury (FROST) Activities

FROST continue to add to the richness of village life with a wonderful Quiz Night, a Bingo Night and the Safari Supper. Led by the redoubtable and imaginative Dudgeons, these events raise valuable funds to protect and enhance the fabric of our beautiful 10th C church and is more glue for our active community. Bravo.

Other Activities

The village has installed a new all-purpose defibrillator on the Village Hall and has conducted a CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) training which 18 villagers attended. Thank you to Matt Pitt and David Elson and abetted by Linda Koszo, our Parish Clerk. Thank you also to Surrey CC Cllr Colin Cross for the funding.

The ECPC will once again be represented on the Village Hall Committee as required by the VH Trust Deed. Al Mundy has volunteered to be our representative to liaise more closely with the Village Hall. We congratulate the VH Committee for all the improvements they have made to the exterior of the hall.

NEW PEOPLE FOR THE ECPC – PARISH COUNCIL

We continue to seek to refresh our Parish Council which consists of six councillors and the Parish Clerk. We do sincerely wish to see more villagers taking their turn to join the ECPC. Matt Pitt stepped down and has been replaced by David Elson – welcome Dave - who has taken on the Trees and Well-being portfolio. Thank you to Matt for leading the defibrillator, the training and Greening project for the PC.

Having a capable and vibrant Parish Council is essential to our small village being able to punch above its weight at both Guildford Borough Council level and also at SCC level. Importantly, this ensures we have the ability to lobby for extra funds necessary to keep our village in great shape.

Active interested villagers PLEASE apply. There is so much we need to achieve and having extra 'person-power' is a boon to the village. **'PLEASE TALK TO US'.**

LOOKING AHEAD

The Neighbourhood Plan

Greg Ganjou with his Planning portfolio on the PC has led on scoping out the implications of such a plan. A consultant expert presented the case to the PC and as a result we have moved ahead to Stage 1. A Steering Group consisting of Greg with James Culmer, Arthur Hunking, Chris Manning, Lesley Pitt and Jason Robertshaw, have produced a wide encompassing questionnaire to tease out villagers' opinions on what they see as important to our village character in planning terms to protect the character of East Clandon which might help protect it from unwanted developments. This has just been circulated to all homes. There is a website with all the information on www.EastClandonNP.org



Funding from GBC will be provided for incidental costs and running the referendum in due course.

This is an immense project and will require a village-wide involvement over the next few years.

PLANNING

The rate of planning applications has been growing steadily. The backlog occasioned by GBC Planning still is at an unacceptable level. Most applications are well over the 8 week period for decision. We have asked our GBC Councillors to relay our frustration at the delays.

The GBC Local Plan has been adopted against great opposition. Outcomes will have an impact on our amenity, traffic and threat to the Green Belt and Surrey Hills. This is a key reason the ECPC supports producing a Neighbourhood Plan to understand better villagers' opinions and dreams for the future and build them into our plan.

Further on planning: the Natural England AONB Boundary Review has recommended for East Clandon village, together with the AGLV (Area of Great Landscape Value) to be included in the AONB boundary revision because of its unique character. This will add possibly further strength to protect the village from unsuitable/unwanted developments. This is currently in consultation. We also await villagers' views on their attitude to the AONB extension which was asked for as a supplementary question in our scoping Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire. It is felt that this boundary revision will have a small impact on planning for most householders simply because of the protections already provided to c.90% of the village through it being in a Conservation/ AGLV/ AONB/ Green Belt status. We await the villagers' opinion.

PARISH COUNCIL - MEETING ATTENDANCE & COUNCILLORS

The ECPC has met regularly with good attendance.

THANK YOU

Parish Clerk. Our special thanks go to Diana Thornhill who has made a great contribution and into the 21st C with On-line banking but who has stepped down and has made a seamless handover to Linda Koszo.

Further and grateful thanks go to the many villagers who play their roles and those I have forgotten to note.

- Bug Robertson for keeping the village Fete alive and to her and husband Neil for hosting us.
- Ian Peacock and his team for running Village Speed-Watch!
- Chris Ross who runs our village 'tennis club' facility.
- Peter Smart's team for watching over our village website/gaggle group/ social media/Welcome Pack.
- Pix Pickering acting as Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator.
- Julie Eves for acting as our internal auditor.
- The Village Hall Committee for care and attention of this lovely village amenity

Our Surrey and GBC Councillors

- Thanks to SCC Cllr Colin Cross for support and targeted SCC grants.
- GBC Councillors, Tim Anderson, Chris Barrass and Catherine Young for their active advice and care.

Finally, to say a HUGE thank you on your behalves to my ECPC colleagues for their zest, support, advice, all of whom are volunteers - James Eves (Vice Chair and Open Spaces), Greg Ganjou (Planning guru), Al Mundy (IT) Lucy Matuszynski (Highways), David Elson (Wellbeing and Greening).

Sibylla Tindale

Chair: East Clandon Parish Council

10th May 2023