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East Clandon Parish Council - for the AGM ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2023-2024

HIGHLIGHTS: We welcome our new Councillor John Mairs, who travelling and not able to be here today. As ever, another eventful year has passed. Our Neighbourhood Plan is moving to the 2nd stage, we hosted a wonderful Coronation Picnic in the Park celebrating King Charles III accession, and the revival of the popular Village Fete for 2024.

FINANCES

Our thanks go to the Parish Clerk, Linda Koszo, who reigns over our finances with a smooth transition into the role. The Parish's finances are healthy with a reserve of £17,285 unaudited at March 31st 2024.

Our income over 2023-24 was £13,055 - with main items shown below.

GBC Precept £9,702

GBC Defibrillator fund £1,500

VAT refunds £449

Tennis court income £495

Various income Coronation Picnic – redistribute to 3 village charities £782

Outgoings total £14,877

Ben Robertson Gardening and Parish Clerk admin fees

Tree works, pond clean, tennis court surface clean

Neighbourhood plan

Coronation bench and Coronation Picnic Party expenses

Tunmore sign post

Deposit for Village Fete garden shed

Further - we now have a Reserve Account for £10,000 with forecast income of 3% interest. Further, 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.

VILLAGE ACTIVITIES AND HIGHLIGHTS

East Clandon continues as a village with a great spirit of togetherness and many thanks to all get stuck in and who contribute.

Village Open Spaces, Playground – The Rec - and Tennis Court.

Our open spaces have been a boon to all. Fresh air, picnics and recreation and much tennis. To keep it like this, our thanks go to Cllr James Eves for leading and doing so much to ensure it is all superb with active aid of our village garden team, Ben Robertson-Clandon Gardens.

The Rec has a new life as a village hub becoming for the first time the venue for the 'Coronation Picnic in the Park' and due to host the village fete too. The tennis court facilities provides much fun and thank you again to the team, James Eves and particularly Chris Ross for running tennis subscriptions and maintenance schedule.

The Common has benefited from a new mowing regime to encourage flowers.

King Charles III. The Coronation Picnic in the Park – great success.

Led by a team of village ladies, Monika Mundy, Francesca Lamont, Holly Masson, Hazel Corstin and Gill Beaton, Mike and Carol Cook i.a. with Clare Goodall and her team hanging miles of bunting around the village. Then on the day more villagers helped construct, clear and enable. Brilliant! Bravo to the weather gods, the day was warm and wonderful! Thank you to all for this marvellous party, pizzas, music and Tug o' War and innovative Best King & Queen fancy dress contest too.



The Village Fete

Thanks to the generosity of Bug and Neil Robertson over the last 20 years, the village fete made a great impact on the village community. But now this wonderful event which has raised many thousands for our village charities – the Church Parochial Council, the Village Hall and Cherry Trees – goes on to a new life and will for the first time be held on the Rec.

The new fete team led by Julie Eves and Sarah Dudgeon have the huge task of re-locating and all the logistics that goes with making this happen. Thank you to all involved. But the greatest thank you today goes to the generous Robertson family and the fete teams over the years.

There will be a new garden shed placed on the Rec alongside the tennis court. This will be constructed in June and will provide storage for many items for the continuation of this popular village event. We thank Surrey County Council and in particular Cllr Dennis Booth for the donation of £8,500 to make this possible.

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 helped the PC and as a result we have moved ahead to complete 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. This has teased out villagers' opinions on what they see as important to our village character in planning terms to protect the character of East Clandon and which might help protect it from unwanted developments. 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.



The AONB Question. Further, the AONB extension questionnaire provided an overwhelming positive answer to 'yes, the villagers of East Clandon supports the extension over and to include the village'. This was asked 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 AONB Board (now renamed the National Landscape Board) to complete the necessary approvals.

New Email Host and Internet Service Provision for the ECPC

Peter Smart who has run the village IT and ISP for over 22 years, is retiring and has helped identify the move to a new email address for the ECPC and web hosting ISP. Thank you Peter for your help over the years, for being so farsighted to have such a facility in place since the year 2000.

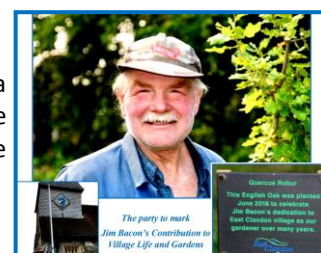
Thank you to Cllr Greg Ganjou to spear-head this new host and domain which is being implemented now. The new email domain for the ECPC will be xxxx@eastclandon-pc.gov.uk.

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 and the team of villagers who made this possible. The final stages of the project is being completed with Tunmore North Field getting a sign and a little 'bridge'.

Generosity of Jim Bacon's Will.

Jim Bacon a life-long resident of East Clandon and former village gardener, has left a very generous bequest to village organisations in his will. The beneficiaries were FROST, Village Hall Trust and Cherry Trees charity. This makes the futures of these wonderful organisations so much more secure. Thank you Jim for your legacy.



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, summer concert and 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 community.

The Village Welcome Pack

Onwards with the march of technology! The Welcome Pack organised by Peter Smart is given to each and every new person arriving in the village in digital format. Thank you Peter. It reaches out when people feel 'so new'. It helps them to integrate. It helps them get answers to questions and provides village history.

NEW COUNCILLORS 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. Lucy Matuszynski stepped down and congratulations on the birth of your daughter. She has been replaced by John Mairs who has taken on the Trees and Highways portfolio.

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 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

PLANNING

The rate of planning applications has grown steadily. The backlog occasioned by GBC Planning is improving from the previous unacceptable level. Most applications are still over the 8 week period for decision. Our GBC Councillors continue to relay our frustration at the delays.

The GBC Local Plan had been adopted against great opposition. Outcomes will have an impact on our amenity, traffic and threat to the Green Belt and Surrey Hills National Landscape. 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 /NL Boundary Review has recommended for East Clandon village, together with the AGLV (Area of Great Landscape Value) to be included in the boundary revision. This will add further strength to protect the village from unsuitable/unwanted developments. This is currently in consultation.

PARISH COUNCIL - MEETING ATTENDANCE & COUNCILLORS

The ECPC has met regularly with good attendance.

THANK YOU

Parish Clerk. Our special thanks go to Linda Koszo for her zeal and commitment.

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

- Bug and Neil Robertson for their role in the village fete's continuation.
- 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 Dennis Booth for his support on the pothole issue and grant for the village fete shed
- GBC Councillors, Catherine Young, Ruth Bothwell and Dawn Bennett for their active advice and care.

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

Sibylla Tindale

Chair: East Clandon Parish Council

8th May 2024