

Present	<p>Cllr Diana Tanner, Cllr Frank Spencer, Cllr Natasha Thiebaut, Cllr Joseph Hodges, Cllr James Clarke, Cllr Brian Drinkwater. District Cllr John Chilver. Parishoners: Kate Smith, David Smith, Frank Mahon, Paul Hammond, Gerry Haley, Elaine Wootton – Haley, Chris Tanner, Lorna Piper, June Thompson, Ian Thompson, Michael Mazillius, Monica Spencer, Sue Parry, Linda O'Dell, Tonia Vincent</p>
Apologies	<p>Cllr Simon Townsend, Cllr Doreen Weingart. Cllr Firth was unable to attend at last minute and could not therefore send apologies.</p>
Declaration of interest	<p>Nil</p>
Minutes of last meeting 2015/01	<p>The Clerk explained that as the minutes had been circulated it was possible for the Chair to sign off in view of the change of Councillors. The minutes of the last Parish Assembly were read and confirmed as a true record of the meeting. Proposed Cllr Hodges, seconded Cllr Chilver.</p>
Chair 2015/02	<p>It was announced that the meeting would be audio tape recorded. The Chair reported as follows: Welcome to our Annual Parish Council Assembly. Let me begin, by introducing your newly elected Councillors, James Clarke, Brian Drinkwater, Joseph Hodges, Frank Spencer, Natasha Thiebaut, and myself Diana Tanner, Doreen Weingart and Simon Townsend are unable to be with us and we are expecting Paul Firth to join us. We wish to extend our thanks to outgoing and re-elected Parish Councillors for their service and dedication to improving village life over the past 12 months. We appreciate and thank Angela MacPherson, and John Chilver, County and District Councillors for their continued support. I also wish to thank our Parish Clerk, Village Hall caretakers, Library and Recreation Ground Staff</p>

for their work during the past 12 months. Our gratitude goes out to all who volunteer as part of groups or individually, contributing to improving the quality of our environment and surroundings. Since our last Parish Assembly, the Civic Pride Volunteer group has been formed. Working with Claydon Churches Together, the purpose of the group is to improve our village environment by litter picking, and carrying out gardening tasks in and around village community spaces. As you will be aware Steeple Claydon has been entered into the Buckinghamshire Best Kept Village Competition with judging in June and results announced during July 2015. The Parish Council look forward to working with Civic Pride Volunteers now and in the future.

Steeple Claydon Parish Council has been granted permission by Aylesbury Vale District Council to develop a Neighbourhood Plan. Parishioners' contribution is essential to the development of this plan. Please share with your family, friends and neighbours the importance of future development in our village. This is each person's opportunity to contribute towards shaping the future of our village.

There are many ongoing issues such as Devolved Services, HS2, East-West Rail and new legislative requirements to name but a few. Communication has been identified as an area for improvement has been prioritised as a matter of urgency.

We will continue to act in the best interest of Parishioners in respect of the impending HS2 Select Committee visit. At the time of writing, we are awaiting confirmation of a visit date due to the original date being postponed as a result of the General Election. The new date will be publicised on our website as soon as it is known.

It is important to reaffirm that whilst there has been significant changes to your Parish Council personnel, Councillors come from varied business backgrounds with a wealth of transferable skills and expertise which will allow the smooth running of day-to-day business. Forward thinking and

	<p>innovation are key to finding creative ways to resolve challenging issues.  We cannot do this alone and ask for the continued support from all Parishioners, Community groups and local businesses.</p>
<p>Clerk to the Parish Council - report 2015/03</p>	<p>The Parish Clerk reported as follows:  Good evening. 2014-2015 was another active year for the Parish Council.  <b>A few headline figures to start with</b>  Total spend for the year was £78343 against Total income was £92607.  <b>Expenditure – some headlines</b></p> <p>In very round figures total expenditure under the following headings Recreation Ground £7,200, Village hall and Cottage £16,000, Children’s Corner £895, Library £4.3k (this will rise by £2k because of poor/ late billing by AVDC), street lights £7.6k, vat £5.8k, Wages £20.4k. ( Caretaker1 caretaker 2 litter picker, clerk, library asst.  Miscellaneous includes the annual insurance premium £5,716, various council membership fees, purchase of fireworks £3380 ( v income £2068) external audit fee £400, accountant fees £525, AED Purchase £ 1345 (our share).  <b>Income</b>  Income was £92,607 less precept and grant £81013 = other income £11,594. Village hall income £8637 and rec ground income £696. With the village hall we have kept our hourly rate very competitive and we see regular bookings throughout the week. If you are interested in dance, badminton, yoga, karate, aerobics you need look no further and we weekly still have age uk / bucks care using our hall, providing such a worthwhile service to our community).  The British Economy seems to be improving but funding is being cut back everywhere and as I say every year we could still see capping or reduction in funding to the Parishes and we, like everyone else must continue to be prudent and evaluate</p>

our expenditure. I have said this every year I have done this job.

A very thorough review of figures by the whole Parish Council enabled the precept for 2015-16 to be set at £ 78940 with an expectation of grant supplement income £3290 . As previously this income is split between precept and Grant, the latter reducing year on year.. We still have a healthy balance at the Bank at financial year end but we cannot be complacent as we have large costs ahead including street light changes, possible repairs to tennis court / multi purpose area looming in the near future.

Under the guidance of Councillor Gerry Haley we have again analysed our figures to ensure accurate budgeting takes place. We have accurately run to budget this year and all wage payments have been made after deduction of tax and NI where appropriate and in line with current legislation.

The audit last year was completed with no adverse comment from the external auditors Mazars and we were able to post our figures on our website for all to see.

I am pleased to confirm that I have presented Part1 – The Accounting statement to the Parish Council already this year and this has been signed off. The internal audit was completed on our 2014-15 figures by Alan Lambourne who is Treasurer of The Society for Local Council Clerks and who himself has been a Clerk to 4 different Parishes. This audit is in accordance with accounts and audit regulations 2003-2006.

I will be presenting the Annual governance statement to The Parish Council at the next meeting ( tomorrow night) in time for the paperwork to be submitted to the external auditors

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I would like to thank Shaun and Sarah Carroll our Caretakers. Sarah in particular has a very good relationship with our hall hirers. She is actively

involved in the booking process and has had to deal with all manner of changes to bookings which she does with good humour and efficiency. I have regular meetings with her to review records, prepare quarterly billing and look ahead to upcoming events.

I have been more active with the library this year and try and visit every week

I mention the website – a conscious decision made to ensure it was not commercial but it does give further details about the library, the recreation ground and the village hall. Also there is a newsflash and noticeboard section so I commend it to you. I readily accept this site has not kept up with the times and an update and review is overdue. I am sure under the new Council this will happen. I went on a course to learn how to set this up, such was my skill set ( or lack of). Nowadays everyone seems a lot more gifted.

We are adapting to new ways but the Parish Council way of the Clerk being the official signatory of all correspondence is somewhat contrary to ideas of free expression and immediate reflection which can be seen on the internet. We must be careful as we embrace greater openness.

May I thank all the Parish Councillors for their support over the last 12 months and for the guidance received. Thank you to Ged Marshall, Chair of the Planning Application sub committee who always responds quickly to any correspondence. I would also like to thank Doug Bennion who does a good job keeping our recreation ground clean and David Griffiths in the Summer months, our ground is a great asset for the village. It is looking particularly nice at this time of year. I am particularly indebted to the outgoing Chair Doreen Weingart who has been a great point of reference and a willing recipient of challenging e mails that need the benefit of her

	<p>experience.</p> <p>We have a new council with 6 new councillors including a new chair and change of this size is always daunting for a Clerk. At times like these you are glad you know a bit about most things even if you have not necessarily been present at all previous working group meetings.</p> <p>I think we have made a good start but we all face a big challenge. The demands as such will mean the new councillors will need to be very” hands on”. In my opinion we need even more clearly defined objectives and timescales for the future with personal accountability and not just group delegation. I would like please even more help to function effectively and Diana and I are already talking about this</p> <p>I have really enjoyed working with the old Council and as we reflect on 2014-15 I would like to publicly thank them all for their support, guidance and, at times, much needed good humour. I would like to congratulate Diana on her appointment as Chair and I look forward to working with her and the new team. She already has some fresh ideas and as you have heard she is very enthusiastic about her new role.</p> <p>The job of Parish Clerk remains challenging yet rewarding and there will continue to be many subjects to tax our brainpower in the future.</p>
<p>Thames Valley Police Authority - report 2015/04</p>	<p>Unfortunately there was no Police report this year. Unfortunately PCSO Samantha Calvert was leaving the village to go to the Aylesbury Area and we understand not being replaced.</p>
<p>County Councillor’s Report 2015/05</p>	<p>Unfortunately County Councillor Angela Macpherson was unable to attend but she provided a prepared report , a copy of which was available to the attendees. Report covers the work done with adult social care, HS2, Greatmore</p>

	<p>Energy from Waste programme, Transport for Bucks, Tri County Partnership, broadband, secondary school allocation, country parks and working in the community. Angela sends her apologies.</p>
<p>District Councillor's report 2015/06</p>	<p>District Councillor John Chilver said it had been a great honour to serve our area as District Councillor and to have been re-elected. All Parishioners welcome to contact him on any concerns. John paid tribute to Parish Council and all the hard work they had done last year. Talked about his responsibilities which including planning. He had opposed the Gladman's application for 80 houses which they had appealed the decision and had put in new application for 60 houses on the same site., Also a new development from Manor Oak Homes of 97 properties on the Buckingham Road and there is an open day at the village hall on 15<sup>th</sup> June. John supported the Neighbourhood Plan initiative and encouraged as many as possible to get involved. Has been chairing quarterly community liaison meetings with FCC who are the company involved with the energy from waste project at Calvert and can raise issues direct. Delighted that the Brackley Lane entrance had been closed. Budget for roads has again been increased for the 4<sup>th</sup> year running to £25m plus a further £3 m for unclassified roads so hopefully we will get a portion here. Main priorities for District Council in coming year are Continuing to progress the Vale Of Aylesbury Plan to completion, target date late 2016. Improvement in waste recycling rate from 25% which now is over 50%, improving superfast broadband particularly in remote rural areas. 2 cabinets delivering internet have been upgraded in the village ][so hopefully we are already getting faster broadband speeds. Also of course HS2 discussions and maximising mitigation.</p> <p>John congratulated new Parish Councillors and looked forward to working with them in the coming year.</p>

<p>Upkeep of churchyard 2015/07</p>	<p>Clerk explained St Michael's Church was always considered at this time of year. Cllr Hodges proposed that a donation of £350 be made to the church for the intention of keeping grass under control. An extended discussion may take place at the next Parish Council meeting. Seconded by Cllr Frank Spencer.</p>
<p>Public Forum inc representatives from Community Groups 2015/08</p>	<p>Cllr Natasha Thiebaut spoke on behalf of the football clubs. It was announced that the junior and senior football clubs would officially merge. Will be called Steeple Claydon FC. Approved by both clubs and the FA and will be officially ratified at the AGM week of the 20th June. Thanks to the PC for their support and Cllr Paul Firth and they look forward to progressing plans for the all weather pitch. The Club holding football fun day and prize giving on Saturday 20th June. On the Rec. Club keen to support the Civic Pride Group. Parishoner Frank Mahon gave details of his efforts to resurrect the cricket club. Had potentially 6-8 members already and Robin Taylor who was prepared to look after wicket. Equipment still in shed badly needs to be serviced and the pitch would not be playable until next year. Wanted permission to use the Rec as a cricket pitch also if granted could they have a key to the cricket shed? Would like to hold a cricket fun day in August. Cllr Spencer thought a good idea. He said he ran Princes Risborough cricket club and he would be happy to come on board as well. To be discussed at monthly meeting but Chair response had been very positive. Mr Mahon congratulated John Chilver on his re-election and Mr Chilver congratulated him on an excellent campaign. Mr Mahon says he has some sponsors for the cricket who would not sign up until permission to use rec was agreed. Parishoner Paul Hammond spoke in support of a new cricket club. Michael Mazillius thanked previous Parish Council for support of Civic Pride. Whilst the Parish Council had done a lot there were others in the community</p>

who would be prepared to help. Civic pride had been reasonably successful and Michael listed achievements. Had asked for list of jobs from Previous PC but none forthcoming. He accepted he had perhaps been too ambitious and was disappointed that volunteers had not always turned when asked to do things. Letting new Parish Council settle in and when plans had been formulated would be pleased to discuss how Parishoners could help.

Chair wanted Michael to be reassured that we will work together. Discussion re dog fouling which would be difficult to eliminate. Michael thought the village was quite tidy. Lorna Piper thanked everybody who had taken part on the day of action . Next meeting date for CP to be agreed in early July. Action was noticed by many and received a lot of thanks. CP plaques are being made and will be positioned after discussion with PC. Lorna is acting as liaison with head of local school and NT said the beavers and cubs were very keen to be involved. Michael complimented everybody arranging fun days etc and said this was what the village was about. Tonia Vincent said she did not consider the village a 'non vitalised place' and was amused by the recent Gladmans planning Application which said "we need their 60 houses to revitalise Steeple Claydon". Tonia mentioned about the neighbourhood plan group of which she was a member. The website was well advanced and would be linked to the Parish Council website. Tonia presumed that the Parish Council would take a robust stance on these large developments until the Neighbourhood Plan had been created and they had consulted widely. Do we want large developments in this village and secondly where we want them to be. Tonia considered there must be a bit of a conflict here as these large developers do offer all sorts of incentives to improve the village infrastructure and she took it that the Parish Council would support the Neighbourhood Plan by rejecting these proposals until after they have done the NP. There was a discussion about

putting infrastructure changes in place before the developments took place.

Paul Hammond spoke passionately about keeping Steeple Claydon a village.

The Chair reminded everyone that the Parish Council was only a consultee not a decision maker.

Gerry Haley remarked on good things happening here with people getting involved. Made reference to HS2 where there had been, in his experience , as a previous Parish councillor, little interest in the earlier days from the public.

Paul Hammond agreed and made reference to neighbouring villages where they had stood up to developers with some success. John Chilver advised again Aylesbury Vale plan likely to be delivered late 2016. He agreed there had been success against planners and commented that a robust neighbourhood plan had been in place.

Tonia Vincent advised that all of the NP figures would be included after consultation with the Vale and the development of their 5 year plan.

Discussion about benefits of people power with example of the saved post office. Then, general discussion on best ways to communicate in Parish.

Tonia Vincent reminded everyone there was only until 19<sup>th</sup> June to respond to the Gladman's application re comments. Michael Mazillius asked what the link was to the Church with the newsletter. Should it be a shared responsibility with the Parish Council?

Gerry Haley took the opportunity to ask about comments made by Steeple Claydon Residents Group comments on facebook which he considered inappropriate. Chair said this was not the meeting to discuss this. Mr Haley said the Parish Council had to be careful especially as he understood all the new Councillors came from that group. The response was that this was incorrect. Mr Haley did have an issue with the situation as he wanted the Parish Council to have appropriate methods of communication and also if Steeple Claydon Residents Group had members on the

Parish Council he would like to make sure that they declare an interest as this would restrict the things that they can vote on. Mr Haley said there was not a published list of members of SCRG and he urged the Parish Council to be very careful what they published. Kate Smith explained the Churches involvement with the newsletter and the associated costs and donations. Michael Mazillius still believed a shared cost with the Parish Council would support this very good form of communication. Chair highlighted areas of responsibility for both the Church and the Parish Council, not forgetting the newsletter covered a bigger area than just Steeple Claydon. It was advised that a new editor for the newsletter would very soon be needed. Discussion regarding car vandalism on Meadoway. More things reported and more PCSO cover would be given. Chair mentioned policing in rural areas – a survey on the website to be completed. Question if there was a lot of problems could someone collate the information. Perhaps better for individual reporting.

Meeting closed by the Chair 8:38pm.