

**Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Clare Parish Council held in The Old School Community Centre at  
7.00 p.m.  
on Monday 7 November 2011**

Present: Cllrs. Keith Haisman (Chair), Leslie Warmington, Phil Gryce, Alan Parsley, Peter Phillips, Derek Blake  
Margaret Godwin, and Gayle Mallows  
Parish Clerk, Melanie Butcher  
PCSO Patricia Sinclair  
and twenty three members of the public

**1 Apologies for absence – Cllr. Keith Mison**

**2 Register of members' interest – None**

*Section of the meeting open to the public:*

**3 Parishioners' question time**

**In summary the following points were made by Parishioners and the Parish Council:**

- The meeting was apprised of the long history of parking needs in Clare and commitments in a number of St Edmundsbury Borough Council plan documents to locate, fund and deliver a significant increase in parking. These commitments have never been met.
- Clare Parish Council has pursued a strategic approach to parking based on the 2010 Car Parking Survey report including the attempt to justify the development of a large car park ahead of the next phase of house building in Clare.
- A parish councillor had reviewed the petition in Endeavour House and found further signatures which might be deemed questionable. Nevertheless he considered that there are in excess of 850 valid signatures.
- A police representative confirmed that, following a reduction in officers in the Clare Safer Neighbourhood Team, it is simply not possible for officers to monitor a two hour limit and monitoring the one hour limit cannot be guaranteed.
- Since the Parking Survey was undertaken in summer 2009, the economy has worsened placing pressure on local businesses, according to local business owners.
- Clare has encouraged residents to “shop locally” and has encouraged tourism. These efforts may have resulted in more shopping in Clare and more pressure on parking.
- Despite the improved charging structure in the Country Park Car Park, much concern was expressed about the poor lighting, lack of a pavement down Malting Lane and an unsuitable carriageway to push shopping trolleys from the town centre to the car park.
- There is a growing level of disregard for parking restrictions in Clare including parking on double yellow lines at all times of day.
- The Parish Council has serious concerns for public safety on our roads in Clare with parking now being totally uncontrolled and restrictions disregarded.

- The Parish Council sought and achieved a consensus between business representatives and residents to join with the Parish Council and create a new working group. This group will work to identify options for solutions to parking in Clare and, as a united group, present them to St Edmundsbury and Suffolk County Councils for development. Unused Section 106 funding due to Clare may be available for this.

*End of public section of the meeting*

**4 To approve minutes of previous meeting held on 20 October 2011**

Approval of the minutes was carried over until the next meeting.

**5 To review the proposed reduction in parking time on Market Hill in light of the petition outline received by Clare Parish Council from Suffolk County Council on 1 November 2011**

Cllr Phillips proposed – **“in the light of a discussion which has led to members of the community joining the Parish Council in a working party to consider options for parking in Clare it is proposed that the Parish Council withdraw its proposal for the reduction in parking hours on Market Hill”**  
Seconded Cllr Blake.

A working party to be formed will consist of the following members:

Frank Harris  
Peggy Smith  
Peter Phillips  
Julie Davidge  
Carry ann Stone  
Mrs Salter  
M. Kender  
Judith Neal  
Mr Bishop

Cllr Gryce proposed **“to investigate the possibility of the Parish Council employing their own traffic warden”** Seconded Cllr Godwin.

**6 To receive agenda items for next meeting**  
None