

CLIVE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES 15 JUNE 2023

Minutes of the Clive Parish Council meeting, held in Clive Village Hall on Thurs 15th June 2023, at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs Carly Bushill, Rob Dennis, Ian Donoghue, Sandy Goldwyn (Vice Chairman), Peter Walters (Chairman, arrived: 7.45)

In attendance: Lydia Bardsley (Proper Officer), Flt Lt Aaron Morris (RAF Shawbury), guest speaker: Janet Cobb, Restoring Shropshire's Verges, Public: 3
Meeting started at 7.32pm

22/23: CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

As the Chairman Peter Walters was attending an RAF Shawbury event on behalf of the Council it was **NOTED** that he may arrive a little late to the Council meeting. The Vice Chairman Sandy Goldwyn took the Chair, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

23/23: TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from the following councillors: Cllr Peter Slark (other commitments). It was **RESOLVED** to note these. It was **NOTED** that Cllr Walters may arrive a little late due to an engagement at RAF Shawbury.

24/23: DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS & DISPENSATION REQUESTS

None received.

25/23: RESTORING SHROPSHIRE'S VERGES PROJECT, talk by Janet Cobb

Janet Cobb from the Restoring Shropshire's Verges Project gave a talk which covered the importance of wildflowers for insects. Lawned areas are effectively green deserts, with no food for insects at all. Wildflower verges are helping with the COP target of restoring 30% of wildlife habitats. Over the last 60yrs the UK has lost over 90% of wildflower meadows due to changes in farming methods, and verges are being managed too aggressively. Linear meadows on verges create wildlife corridors, as there are currently pockets of wildlife e.g. dormice, that are not connected to each other.

Cutting verges can be done late summer (it is disastrous to cut in May) and a 1m cut is sufficient for visibility on roadsides. This also saves money on highways maintenance cutting costs, e.g. Dorset has saved just under £4m in just over 5yrs and not all verges have been adopted. SC and Keir are very keen on this. The money saved on less frequent cuts could be put towards pothole repairs and restoration instead. In other RSVP areas volunteers can manage overgrown hogweed, brambles, nettles, and other issues by hand and with scythes in around 30mins. This is free of charge, but would cost £100s for SC in labour, as well as the lead time to organise and schedule the work. Some work has to be done by contractors on certain roads, as it can't be done safely by volunteers.

Janet explained the history of RSVP and they have a long list of allies, e.g. Caring for God's Acre, National Trust, Shropshire Wildlife Trust, etc.

RSVP are making a financial case to SC for their approach to be adopted as part of Highways contract, which would include the late summer 1m cut to verges, but also collecting the cuttings, and doing some of the restoration work. This should appease contractors who worry they will make less money by cutting verges less frequently.

Janet showed various short videos and slides which included the following points:

- Yellow rattle is a really useful plant; it suppresses grass growth, which helps delay cuts until later in the year, and helps other flowers to thrive. Ox-eye daisies are also really easy to grow.
- When verges are cut at the wrong time and cuttings are not removed, it allows other tall plants to take over e.g. hogweed, nettles, etc.
- Nettles can be pulled out by hand, but they are actually a source of food for certain species of butterflies.

- Wildflower seeds can be obtained from local nurseries, church yards, and other meadows to seed the wildflower verges.
- Use seeds for plants native to Shropshire. Imported seeds are unsustainable and often impregnated with neonicotinoids which are harmful to insects.
- In Edgton village, volunteers “adopted” lengths of verges in front of their homes to restore during the Covid pandemic, and discovered 3 types of orchids. Creating a “show verge” like this can help inspire others.
- Can see an immediate difference in just one year of meadow maintenance.
- Ludlow mini meadow had unforeseen benefits, e.g. less litter and dog fouling.
- Can “frame” the verges by cutting just the edge to show it is being actively managed.

Janet explained that SC’s Environmental Maintenance Grant could be used for wildflower verge projects if the PC sets aside some match-funding (has to be match-funded up to £1500), and Place Plans could include verges projects.

Neighbouring parishes could join forces and could hire a “Lengthsman” between them, i.e. someone local to help manage lengths of verges, but also clear out ditches, act as snow warden etc. There are other pots of money outside of SC as well, e.g. AONB grants.

Parishes don’t have to restrict themselves to roadside verges, they could also manage a border of wildflowers around edge of playing field. If working near roads, ideally you need verges with pavements, but otherwise choose very quiet country lanes. Use common sense, and don’t work on busy main roads.

The Council thanked Janet for the excellent talk. Janet and 2 members of the public left the meeting at 20.12.

26/23: OPEN FORUM

A period set aside to allow the public the opportunity to speak on an agenda item (maximum 3 minutes per person). **Public participation is only permitted during this session and is at the chairman’s discretion.**

No comments.

Cllr Walters took the opportunity to thank RAF Shawbury for their excellent organisation of local events, and how well the Station is being run. This was echoed by Cllr Goldwyn who had also attended an event at RAF Shawbury recently.

27/23: MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the [Annual Council meeting minutes dated 18 May 2023](#) as an accurate record.

It was **AGREED** to bring forward item 29/23c: RAF Shawbury report

29/23: REPORTS

c) RAF Shawbury – Consider a report

The Chairman welcomed Flt Lt Aaron Morris to the meeting as the new liaison officer from RAF Shawbury.

Flt Lt Morris gave the following update:

- Night flying due to finish 13th July, he thanked the community for their patience and understanding. Please address complaints to SHY-LowFlying@mod.gov.uk (01939 251712) with details of time and location of the problem.
- Hi-viz for horse riders – RAF Shawbury are currently working through the reserve list, once this is complete they will carry out a stock check prior to potentially accepting any further requests.
- Drone use – please avoid flying drones in areas where RAF Shawbury operate. Check CAA and Shawbury social media for guidance.
- Aries Magazine -Spring edition now available. It is easiest to read online, and the publisher prints fewer hardcopies, so they do not have as many to distribute.
- Projects in village requiring volunteers – Please speak to Flt Lt Morris or DCERO Adrian Vine. PC/community group would just need to provide equipment and tools.
- Cllr Walters asked a question about the possibility of night flying being extended to 03.00am. Flt Lt Morris will check and get back to us.

The Chairman thanked Flt Lt Morris and he left the meeting.

28/23: CASUAL VACANCIES

Council to receive update from Shropshire Council and agree next steps

It was **NOTED** that no by-elections had been called for the two vacancies occasioned by the resignations of Cllr Matt Alexander and Cllr Emma Good, so the Council is able to co-opt to fill these two empty seats.

It was **AGREED** to set a deadline of Thurs 20th July for receiving applications from candidates, and the Clerk would arrange the necessary notices and promotion. It was **NOTED** that there had been some expressions of interest so Clerk will contact those parties directly.

29/23: REPORTS

a) Police report – Consider an update from Wem Safer Neighbourhood Team

It was **NOTED** that according to police records no incidents had been reported in Clive for last 60 days.

b) Sansaw Estates – Consider a report from Sansaw Estate

It was **NOTED** that a job has been raised for sorting the branches on Sandy Lane/Hillside, and Adam Osbaldiston will follow up with maintenance team for a timeframe on when the work will be done.

c) RAF Shawbury

Covered earlier in the meeting (after item 27/23: Minutes)

d) Shropshire Councillor's Report – Consider a report from SC Cllr Simon Jones

No report received.

e) Reports from meetings/training – Consider reports from Cllrs/Clerk on training/meetings attended

Nothing to report

f) AED management – Receive reports from latest AED inspections and agree actions

Council to agree to order replacement AED pads before expiry (August 2023)

It was **NOTED** that AED checks had been completed on 18.05.2023, and 31.05.2023, and 14.06.2023 and everything is in order. These checks were logged for PC records.

The Clerk reminded the PC that the 2 sets of AED pads are due to expire in August, and cost approx. £70 each incl. VAT to replace. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will order 2 x sets of replacement pads. It was **AGREED** that any unused and expired pads will be donated to Wrexham Rural First Responders to use in training.

g) Community Speed Watch – Consider an update and agree actions

Clerk read out the following update from the Coordinator:

The CSW is still running sessions when and where volunteers are available. They have caught a few speeders on the Wem Road and also near to Hebron Close. The Wem SNT has paid the group a visit when running a recent session and volunteers told them about where speeding regularly occurs and some of the peak times.

h) Clerk's report – Consider matters arising since the last Council meeting

Clerk read out the following report, which was **NOTED**:

- **Audit and Transparency** – All audit and finance and transparency docs published on website. Notice of period of electors' rights published on website.
- **Insurance** – Council insurance renewed and premium paid.
- **Bank mandate** – Completed mandate submission form sent to Unity Trust to remove former Cllrs from mandate.
- **Wall outside Church (private)** – Cllr Walters is going to speak with property owner when an appropriate moment arises.
- **Wall outside Church gate** – Clerk has contacted the Vicar who is aware of the issue. He will remove loose top stones but considered it fairly low risk. It was **AGREED** that Cllrs will take picture to check both parties are talking about same section of wall. PC is concerned that if it collapses, it could be very serious, as children do pass by that area very often. There is also duty of care as it is a listed building, so should not be left to deteriorate. If there are concerns about cost, the Church's insurance may include cover for boundary walls.
- **Road markings (bottom of Glatt)** – In Programme of works but no further update on timeframes.
- **Yorton bridge signs** – Triangle sign on approach to bridge from Yorton is still missing. Updated FMS report 28.04.2023, no update rec'd. Clerk to chase again.
- **Sign for Village Hall bottom of Drawwell** – Cllrs confirmed this has now been replaced.
- **Brown sign for Corbet Wood** – SC raised a job 20.01.2023 with Keir but no timeframe given for work to be completed. No further updates.

- **Directional signage** – Sansaw Heath broken sign, reported in January by someone else. Clerk added photo and asked for update in April 2023. SC say it is in Programme of Works and have closed report.
- **Toposcope** – Cllr Goldwyn made a third visit 23.05.2023 to remove the graffiti. It was **AGREED** that no further action needed. The Council thanked Cllr Goldwyn for doing this work.
- **Post Office** – Opening hours have been reduced to Weds only 2pm-3.30pm. It was **AGREED** Cllrs will monitor to check staff are attending on new timetable.
- **Website** – Clerk had written news articles re. School history talk, RSVP talk, and Aug road closures (latter not live yet).
- **Hillside/Sandy Lane** – Clerk had sent an email sent to resident re. concerns about wording on new blue signage. After discussion it was **AGREED** that the PC considers it has taken appropriate action, but will monitor the situation. It was **AGREED** the clerk will reply to the resident. It was **FURTHER NOTED** that since the changes to Google maps, 80,000 people have viewed the change and have not used it as a route as a result. The name of road is still not showing as Hillside, despite Google saying the change has been accepted, and Cllr Goldwyn is continuing to liaise with Google about this. He will send instructions to the Council and Clerk on how report it to Google.

30/23: POLICIES TO APPROVE

It was **AGREED** to defer the following policy until the July meeting as further guidance was needed.

- a) Document Retention and Records Management Policy

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and adopt the following policies and Terms of reference:

- b) Privacy Policy
- c) Defibrillator Operation and Management Policy
- d) Staffing Committee and Sub-Committee Terms of Reference

31/23: PARISH MATTERS – Council to discuss and agree actions

- a) Highways concerns – Council to receive updates on concerns (incl. Wem Rd speeding) and agree further actions

It was **NOTED** that Cllrs had had conversations with Church about strimming in churchyard. Vicar had also asked whether it would make sense to trim the other side of road outside Ivy House (which has wildflowers growing), as apparently drivers think that nettles will damage their cars. Given recent talk on wildflower verges it was **AGREED** the PC would not encourage strimming this other side of the verge.

Wem Road - It was **AGREED** that the PC will ask Highways to contact residents and ask what the best method is for reducing speeding and protecting homes from damage.

Pot holes – Nothing to report. It was **NOTED** that there are many potholes marked out on Sherwood Bank but this was only resurfaced last year, so the PC is not very impressed with how the surface has lasted. A member of the public had mentioned a pot hole to Cllr Bushill but gave no specific location, so Cllr Bushill will follow this up.

- b) 511 bus service timetable changes - Council to receive update and agree actions

The response form Arriva dated 30th May was **NOTED**.

Cllrs reported that there had been complaints about some timetable and service abnormalities on the village Facebook page. Drivers are apparently telling passengers that they are not going through Clive even though this contradicted information published on the app. Cllrs also reported that the Arriva 'Plan my Journey' feature does not appear to have updated with the correct information. Passengers, including young girls, had been stranded as a result of this confusion and inconsistency. Cllr Bushill will send a screenshot of the app and Cllr Goldwyn will send a summary of Facebook comments about the poor service. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk will write again to Arriva about the accuracy of app information and timetables, and include comments from passengers.

The Clerk will ensure Helen Morgan MP is copied in to the correspondence as the latter had asked about progress today.

It was **NOTED** that the Clerk had submitted a Freedom of Information request to Traffic Commissioner for West Midlands about punctuality complaints. A response is awaited, which is usually a month.

- c) Wem Road VAS sign – Council to receive update on police funding application for VAS sign

Clerk gave the following update: The price of the PC's chosen model is above the s.137 spending limit, so PC could choose a cheaper model from the original quotes, or could try to rely on s.101 as the power to purchase. Clerk has

emailed SC Highways for ask for permission to do this. Clerk had started police application but needed to know which model was being purchased to finish the application. It was **AGREED** that PC will make match-funding contribution of £500 towards project cost, and **FURTHER AGREED** that the clerk will put in grant application asap for the original choice (TWM Mini 300). It was **AGREED** Clerk will chase Andy Wilde at SC Highways for a response about powers to purchase VAS signs.

d) Local Plan Review – Council to receive update (if available) and agree any actions

There were still no updates on dates for Stage 2 hearings since last meeting. It was **AGREED** that the Council will continue to monitor carefully for updates.

32/23: CONSULTATIONS – Council to consider and agree response

a) [Shropshire Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan](#) (Deadline: 16.06.2023)

It was **AGREED** no response was required.

b) [Boundary Commission for England, Shropshire Electoral Division Review](#) (Deadline: 10.07.2023)

It was **AGREED** that the Clerk will prepare and submit a short response in support of the draft proposals, in terms of there being no change to the boundary of Clive parish and which division it sits within.

c) Place Plan Engagement – Council to consider priorities and new submissions (Deadline: 07.08.2023)

It was **NOTED** that Clerk had written to Village Hall Committee and Renshaw’s Field Association about infrastructure project suggestions. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk will also contact Clive CofE School and the Hub for suggested infrastructure projects.

The Clerk will contact Place Plan officers to check whether Rights of Way projects can be included, and whether an RSVP meadow is an appropriate project. It was **NOTED** that, in order to put in a submission, the PC will first need to identify suitable sites for wildflower meadows/verges.

33/23: PLANNING APPLICATIONS – Council to agree/ratify responses

No applications received.

34/23: SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL PLANNING DECISIONS

No outstanding planning decisions

35/23: FINANCE – Council to consider and approve

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** and approve the following (a-c).

- a) Receipts and Payments May 2023
- b) Bank Statement May 2023
- c) Bank Reconciliation for May 2023
- d) Internal controls checks

It was **AGREED** to defer the above to the July meeting.

36/23: PAYMENTS

a) Payments to be approved at the meeting

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments:

- Clerk, June staffing costs, £684.45 (no VAT)
- NEST, June pension contributions (emp’ee and emp’er), £47.41 (no VAT), by direct debit.
- ICO, registration fee (direct debit), £35.00 (no VAT)
- Renshaw’s Field Association, maintenance contribution, £250.00 (no VAT)

b) Invoices received after the agenda was set

None

37/23: CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

It was **RESOLVED** to note the following:

- a) Wem area Police monthly newsletter (01.06.2023) – Clerk will send PC meeting dates to police.
- b) Citizens Advice Bureau findings from Shropshire Cost of Living Survey (07.06.2023) – No actions.
- c) SC correspondence re. Casual vacancies (08.06.2023)
- d) RAF Shawbury update re. Cosford Airshow and noise levels (09.06.2023)
- e) Roadworks, Wem Rd, Clive (originally scheduled for 17-21.04.2023, but on hold currently)

- f) Roadworks: High Street Clive, (Severn Trent, 13.08.2023)
- g) Roadworks: Merry Lane, Clive (Network Rail, overnight, 29-30.08.2023).

38/23: FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Councillors are requested to use this opportunity to report minor matters of information not included elsewhere on the agenda and to raise items for future agendas. **Councillors are respectfully reminded that this is not an opportunity for debate or decision making.**

- Casual vacancies
- Verges
- Place Plan
- Local Plan
- VAS sign funding application – It was **AGREED** that Cllr Walters and Donoghue will download data from existing signs.
- Sleep airfield noise
- It was **NOTED** that there is a Helicopter Noise Liaison Group meeting 26.06.2023. Cllr Donoghue will check if the possibility of extending night flying 03.00am is being seriously considered (it currently ends at 02.30). There are no complaints at all currently, but PC would appreciate a right of reply.
- Cllrs asked the Clerk to pass on their sincere thanks to Janet Cobb at RSVP for the fascinating and excellent talk this evening.

39/22: NEXT MEETING – Council to agree

After discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that the next ordinary Council meeting would be held on **Thurs 27th July 2023**, 7.30pm at Clive Village Hall. It was **NOTED** that Cllr Bushill won't finish work until 8pm that day so will be late,

There being no further business, the chairman thanked everyone for their participation and closed the meeting at: 21.29pm.

Confirmed as accurate: _____ Chairman Date: _____