

CLEE ST. MARGARET PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting on Monday 21st November 2022

Attendance: Cllrs Helen Robinson (Chair) John Heighway, Ken Jackson, Richard Morgan, Tamsin Osler and Scarlett Penn. Heather Coonick (Clerk/RFO).

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr Ian Heighway (accepted) and Cllr Cecilia Motley (Shropshire Unitary Authority)
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
3. **MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on 10th October 2022:** Approved and signed by the Chair.
4. **PUBLIC SESSION:** No members of the public were in attendance.
5. **GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS**
 - 5.1. **SmartWater Roll Out and Signage:** A further eleven kits need to be registered for the police to install the signs.
 - 5.2. **Parish Plan:** This will be an agenda item on the Parish Meeting in April 2023
 - 5.3. **Carbon Literacy Project:** Allan Wilson, from Save our Shropshire will do a presentation on 'Ambitions Towards a Net-Zero Future' at a future meeting.
 - 5.4. **Donations:** The Clerk reported that Ludlow Youth Forum appear to no longer be functioning.
RESOLVED: To donate £150 each to Midlands Air Ambulance and Oak Farm, Ditton Priors.
 - 5.5. **Organising a First Aid Course:** The Parish Council supports a First Aid Course being organised but is not able to do this at present.
RESOLVED: Cllr John Heighway will discuss this with the Village Hall Committee to decide if it is something they are able to provide.
6. **REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES**
 - 6.1. **Shropshire Council – Cllr Cecilia Motley** had sent a report. She is now responsible for Communities, Adult Social Care, Public Health and Integrated Care Services. The Local Government Boundary Commission For England (LGBCE) have responded to Shropshire regarding the Divisional Boundaries and do not accept the request to increase to seventy-six seats, but to remain at 74. She is concerned that as they require 3,500 residents per division the Corvedale may be carved up to boost another divisions numbers or be enlarged itself. The worst possible outcome would be to split Corvedale and Apedale with the Corvedale joining Craven Arms. The LGBCE are sending out a survey so please respond to this.
 - 6.2. **Village Hall – Election of New Representative:**
RESOLVED: Cllr John Heighway was elected as the Village Hall representative.
He reported that there is a Christmas Games Night on the 3rd December and a New Year's Eve Party to which everyone is welcome. The bonfire night was very well attended and raised approximately £500.
 - 6.3. **Commoners Association – Cllr John Heighway reported on behalf of Cllr Ian Heighway:**
Farmers can register interest in the Sustainable Farming Incentive. Mr Dan Robinson is the new treasurer.
 - 6.4. **Our Upland Commons – Cllr John Heighway reported on behalf of Cllr Ian Heighway.** A public meeting is being held on the 28th November 2022 at Clee St Margaret Village Hall to present the proposal for the habitat management of Clee Liberty Common.
7. **THE COMMON**
 - 7.1. **Update on the New Maintenance Plan –** both 7.1.1 and 2 will feed into the New Maintenance Plan
 - 7.1.1. **Stiperstone Visit:** Cllr Robinson reported that this had been a successful visit looking at the management of rushes and how quickly new species had populated rewetted areas.
 - 7.1.2. **2nd Hill Meeting:** This had been to specifically look at rewetting areas with advise from Luke Neal (Shropshire Wildlife Trust).

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- 7.2. Public Meeting Arrangements:** This will be chaired by Cllr Robinson with presentations by Renee Wallace (Our Upland Commons Project Officer), Leo Smith (OUC bird contractor) and Jenny Joy (OUC Lepidoptera contractor). The Clerk will take notes.
- 7.3. Stone Road Gate Padlock:** A new padlock has been installed and thirteen keys distributed. Mr David Massey has requested a second key
RESOLVED: The Clerk to purchase new key at cost to Mr Massey.
- 7.4. Contact Telephone Number Notices:**
RESOLVED: The Clerk to purchase a new sign for the Stone Road gate with the telephone numbers of four contacts in an emergency for up to £15.
- 7.5. Action Regarding Trees on the Boundaries of The Common:** The Clerk reported that Cllr Heighway has discussed this with the landowner concerned.

8. FINANCE

- 8.1. Accounts, Expenditure Against Budget and Bank Reconciliation Report.** Up to the 14th November 2022 income is £5839.75 and expenditure is £9991.45. As of the 20th October 2022 the Treasurers Account holds £695.29 and the Savings Account holds £20,131.81. Forecast income for the remainder of the financial year is £11,312.50 and expenditure is £6,742.49
RESOLVED: Approved.
- 8.2. Investment Advisory Group:** Cllr Jackson reported that £16,500 of gilts had now been purchased by the Parish Council in two tranches. They will provide a small regular income with a good return when they mature.
- 8.3. Investment Policy:** An Investment Policy is required by the Local Government Act 2003
RESOLVED: To adopt the Investment Policy to be reviewed annually and placed on the website for public inspection.
- 8.4. National Salary Award 2022-23 and an increase of one day to annual leave entitlement from 1/4/23 (The Clerk left the meeting for item 8.4)**
RESOLVED: The Clerk's contract specifies that the salary should be based on the National Joint Council so the 2022-2023 salary award will be backdated to April 2022.
- 8.5. Draft Budget for 2023-2024:** The proposed expenditure is higher than the expected income so items of non-essential expenditure will be reviewed before the next meeting. The adoption of the budget may be delayed until costings for the New Common Maintenance plan are agreed.
RESOLVED: Consider the draft budget at the meeting on the 9th January 2023.
- 8.6. Payments – CSM Commoners Association Loss of Grazing £267.62, H Coonick (Salary Oct-Dec), Defibrillator Pad Replacements £50.77, Numbers Plus (Defibrillator Ring Round) £118.80:**
RESOLVED: Payments Authorised.

9. ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE INCLUSION IN THE NEXT MEETING at 7.30pm 9th January 2023: a. New Maintenance Plan b. Budget.

Signed by the Chair:

Date: