

CLEE ST. MARGARET PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES

**HELD ON MONDAY 28TH MARCH 2022 AT 7PM
IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT:

Councillors: Mike Hardingham (Chair), Tamsin Osler (Vice Chair), Scarlett Penn, Ian Heighway, Helen Robinson and Ken Jackson

Other Parishioners:

Jasper Bagshaw, Polly Bolton, Guy Cholmeley, Edward Cole, Deborah Cole, Camilla Fiddian-Green, Nicky Fisher, Jonathan Godrich, Rose Godrich, Barbara Hardingham, Doug Heighway, Nesta Heighway, Liz Heighway Liz Jackson, Judi Major, Manda Massey, Rhonda Massey, Kevin Nobbs, David Palmer, Joan Palmer, Ruby Reseigh, Karen Slater, Philip Stapley, John Thirlwell, Lesley Thirlwell, Lucy Wells, Rob Woods

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

4 members of the public gave their apologies. Cllr John Heighway, Unitary Councillor Motley and H Coonick (Locum Clerk) also apologised.

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 13TH MAY 2019

It was agreed that as this was now 3 years ago it would be inappropriate to accept them as accurate but to formally receive them.

3. CHAIR'S REPORT:

The full report had been circulated to all parishioners along with the invitation to the Annual Parish Meeting. Cllr Hardingham briefly covered the main points of the report. The Parish Council holds approximately £125,000 in investments. The Upland Commons Project is providing various pieces of equipment to help the Parish Council maintain The Common

A member of the public raised the issue that the budgeted Clerk's salary for the coming year is now three times what it was a year ago and the total expenditure is more than the expected income. Cllr Hardingham agreed that this would be considered at future Parish Council meetings when the income and expenditure were being considered in relation to the budget.

4. PLANTING TREES FOR THE JUBILEE:

The Parish Council has purchased 70 trees to plant on The Common in agreement with the Commoners Association as part of the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations. Volunteers are requested to help with planting.

5. MANAGEMENT OF CLEE LIBERTY:

Cllr Ian Heighway has been elected as the Parish Council's Hill Manager. The Parish Council wished to hear the views of Parishioners regarding the management of bracken and gorse before it finalised its plans. The map needs correcting before the next meeting.

Member of Public (MofP): requested that the Parish Council should look more forensically at the biodiversity of the common rather than just maintaining the status quo

MofP: stated that the grassland on the common is being impoverished by high levels of grazing. They suggested fencing off an area to survey the results of not grazing for a period.

MofP: stated that the Secretary of state – wished to improve biodiversity

MofP: Recognises that there are competing interests and there needs to be a mechanism to recognise the wishes of both groups.

Cllr Hardingham reported that the Parish Council has to consider the needs of the graziers as some people's livelihoods do depend on The Common. Although the Parish Council owns The Common it is not able to impose restrictions on the graziers as they have a right to graze.

MofP: Suggested that the discussion should be about the planet rather than money and graziers' rights.

MofP: The Parish Council needs to navigate a more diverse route.

MofP: Asked what graziers are exercising their rights at the moment. Could the views of all graziers be sought and a percentage of the common be fenced off depending upon their view of the management.

Cllr Hardingham reported that every grazier has the right to graze the whole common. He considered the idea of fencing off a proportion almost certainly impossible legally.

A vote was held about whether more than 10% of the common should be fenced to prevent grazing. 13 of the people present supported this. (This vote is for information purposes and does not require the Parish Council to follow this decision)

Methods of bracken control was discussed. Weed wiping is a better method of controlling the bracken than spraying as half the amount of chemical is used.

MofP: Asked if the chemical remains on The Common after spraying/weed wiping.

MofP: was concerned about the effects of chemicals on the water supply, insects and the food chain.

Cllr Hardingham suggested that if anyone had specialist knowledge about the effects of Asulox on biodiversity and the food chain, they should communicate the relevant research to the Parish Council before the next meeting.

A vote was held about whether limited weed wiping should occur this year. 12 people supported this. (This vote is for information purposes and does not require the Parish Council to follow this decision).

MofP: Asked if there is any management of the grazing.

Cllr Hardingham stated that there would have to be an agreement with the graziers to restrict their rights to graze and that the major graziers do consider the impact of their actions on the ecology of the common.

MofP: Supplementary feeding was raised. Ecologists do not support this practise, but the meeting did not wish it to be stopped.

6. STREAMING/RECORDING PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS:

12 members of the public were interested in the streaming /recording of Parish Council meetings.

7. PARISH COUNCIL EMAIL COMMUNICATION:

MofP: objected to the invitations to this meeting being addressed to the 'parishioner'.

MofP: reported that some Parish Council information is not posted on all 6 notice boards.

It was agreed that those who do not join a google group mailing list should continue to receive Parish Council information by post.

8. VOLUNTEERS FOR DEFIBRILLATOR RAPID RESPONSE:

Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Sue Kail.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

MofP: Could the Parish Council organise the lighting of the beacon, so the event is covered by the Parish Council insurance.

Cllr Hardingham agreed to place this on the next Parish Council meeting agenda.

MofP: Asked if the Parish Plan could be revised. As this is a community-based action it will be dependent upon members of the Parish coming forward to be involved.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.30PM