

CLEE ST. MARGARET PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Clee St Margaret Parish Council Meeting on Monday 26th June 2023.

Present: Cllrs Helen Robinson (Chair), Ian Heighway, John Heighway, Ken Jackson, Tamsin Osler and Scarlett Penn. **In Attendance:** Cllr Cecilia Motley (Shropshire Council), H Coonick (Clerk)

1. **RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr Richard Morgan
2. **TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr John Heighway re: item 6.1
3. **TO APPROVE the MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on 22nd May 2023.**
RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the meeting on the 22nd May 2023 with an alteration to item 10.5 which should read 'Cllr Osler reported that the event had been convened with Parish Councils in mind. PCs can play an important role in highlighting the urgent need for nature recovery. They should be mindful of nature recovery in their discussions and when taking decisions. They can encourage 'no mow' verges, community orchards and wildlife-friendly gardening. The Shropshire Environmental Network (SEN) has produced a map showing areas of high biodiversity value that act as 'connective corridors' or 'steppingstones'. Brown Clee is featured on this map'.
4. **PUBLIC SESSION:** No members of the public were present.
5. **REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES**
 - 5.1. **Shropshire Council** – Cllr Cecilia Motley reported that Philip Dunne MP has announced that he is standing down so there is a level of electioneering going on. The Council is nearly ready to respond to the Boundary Commission suggestion on changes to the divisional boundaries which included the addition of Cardington to the Corvedale Division. She encourages the public to respond to this consultation.
 - 5.2. **Village Hall** – Cllr John Heighway reported that a new boiler had been installed.
 - 5.3. **Commoners Association** – Cllr Ian Heighway referred to item 6.1 below.
 - 5.4. **Our Upland Commons** – Cllr Ian Heighway reported that the last meeting had been mainly about The Long Mynd.
6. **THE COMMON**
 - 6.1. **Proposed 2023 Maintenance from The Commoners' Committee Including Gorse and Bracken Management and Asulox and Commoners' Contribution to Bracken Management.**
The chair, Cllr Robinson, with the agreement of the rest of the councillors, asked Cllr John Heighway to remain in the meeting to provide information but not to vote on decisions. The cost of the proposed plan is £4,050. Asulox has been approved in England, but the approval conditions do not allow its use on Clee Liberty. The council has budgeted £4,500 for the maintenance of the common for this year, but the commoners may not give their full contribution to bracken and gorse control. As Asulox spraying is not authorised the costs will be reduced to £3,000. Bracken topping will need to be extended/adjusted to cover the areas not sprayed. Councillor I Heighway reported that the proposed gorse management would be in line with the RSPB protocol and that this might involve a group of volunteers. The Parish Council thinks that it would be great to encourage community involvement and to get volunteers to help as was done with the trial the rush cutting. Councillor I Heighway will put together a risk assessment for any working party that takes place. Thistles do not require topping this year. The clearing of rights of ways and footpaths will be considered at the next meeting.
RESOLVED: To allocate £3,000 to the proposed maintenance and to give the those carrying out work on bracken topping, in consultation with Councillor I Heighway, the flexibility to adjust the exact areas that are topped and crushed as long as the overall cost of works remains within the £3000. The crushing and bracken topping will not be put out to tender this year as the present contractors are familiar with the terrain. Asulox use is not authorised. Thistles will not be topped this year.
 - 6.2. **Update on the Countryside Stewardship Scheme and the Sustainable Farming Incentive Moorland Scheme Applications:** No update at present.
 - 6.3. **Consider Quotes for Repairs and Replacements to Fencing and Repairs to Crusher:** As fencing is included in the schemes in 6.2 the decision to carry out repairs to the fencing will be deferred until the outcome to the scheme applications is known. The repairs to the bracken crusher were due to be carried out by Cllr J Heighway on a voluntary basis but they have already been completed. Urgent repairs to a gate had been authorised by the Chair and Clerk on the 31st May 2023.

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RESOLVED: Defer to the next meeting.

6.4. Review the Wayleaves and Access Agreements:

RESOLVED: Letters to be written to the owners of properties renewing permission for access and clarifying what the permission includes and that parking on the common and damage to the common is not permitted. A letter will be written to owners without permission or right of way to inform them that they need to seek permission from the Parish Council for vehicle access over the common.

6.5. Request for Personal Vehicle Access to the Common:

RESOLVED: Permission given on a one-off basis.

6.6. Consider Providing a Key to the Stone Road Gate to Ms Amanda Knobbs:

RESOLVED: Permission denied as Upper Hill House already has access to three keys. Each property will have a limit of 3 keys to the Stone Road gate.

7. GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS

7.1. Update on Repairs to the Ford: The surface of the ford was repaired in early June but there is still erosion to the sides of the ford. Shropshire Council are liaising with the conservation team about the appropriate materials.

RESOLVED: This to be followed up with Shropshire Council

7.2. Consider Duties to Conserve and Enhance Biodiversity (Environment Act 2021):

RESOLVED: Defer to the next meeting.

7.3. Environmental Maintenance Contractor Update:

RESOLVED: Deferred to the next meeting.

7.4. Communication with the Public and Google Groups:

RESOLVED: Continue to publicise the google group.

7.5. Review the Risk Assessment including Wildfires on the Common:

RESOLVED: Defer to the next meeting.

7.6. Consider Replacement of the Bench in the Village: Mr David Palmer has done an excellent repair and the bench is now stable.

RESOLVED: To consider the addition a new bench when preparing the budget for 2024-25.

7.7. Consider Items for Inclusion in the Place Plan:

RESOLVED: Defer to the next meeting.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1. Bruno Peak, Pageant Master re D-Day 80 Celebrations:

RESOLVED: Defer to the next meeting.

9. PLANNING

9.1. Update on The Mill Planning Appeal: There is no report on the outcome of the appeal yet.

9.2. [23/02518/TCA](#) Church House, Clee St Margaret, SY7 9DT Fell 1no Silver Birch & 1no Larch within Clee St. Margaret Conservation Ares

RESOLVED: To support the application.

10. FINANCE

10.1. Authorise Payments – H Coonick, Clerk (Reimbursement for Microsoft 365 and Stationery) £38.03, Mr P Massey, (Repairs to Gate) £275.34, Craven Design and Print (outstanding invoice from 2022) £17.

RESOLVED: Above payments authorised.

10.2. Changes to Signatories on the Investment Platform:

RESOLVED: To remove all present signatories and add Cllrs Helen Robinson, Ken Jackson and Tamsin Osler with the Clerk as correspondence contact.

11. ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE INCLUSION IN THE NEXT MEETING AT 7.30PM 17TH JULY 2023: All deferred items.

Signed

Date: