

CLEE ST MARGARET PARISH COUNCIL

From: The Clerk, Clee St Margaret P.C., The Old Post Office, Clee St Margaret, Craven Arms SY7 9DT.

Chair's Report 2018

Please come to the Annual Parish Meeting on 14 May 2018 if you can. You will be able to discuss any of the issues raised below.

The Parish Council

During 2016/17 the members of the Parish Council were

Mr. Mike Hardingham (Chair)	Mrs. Tamsin Osler (Vice Chair)	
Mr. John Heighway	Mr. David Palmer	Mr. Bob Day
Mrs. Vicky Matthews	Mrs. Shalynn Pearson	

Mrs. Joan Palmer is Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. Many thanks to Jon Kail who is our internal auditor.

Official communications to the Council, or request for items to be discussed by the Council, should be made to the Clerk by e-mail or post. Members of the Parish are always welcome to contact councillors if they wish to have matters raised in the Council on their behalf. The Parish Council meets at least six times a year, and all members of the Parish are legally entitled (and welcome) to attend to observe our proceedings. Minutes are posted on the main notice board in the centre of the village, and are published on the Community Website (www.clee.org.uk).

If you are one of the few people for whom we do not have e-mail contact details, please email us at clee.org.uk@gmail.com, so that we can keep you updated with developments.

I must express gratitude on behalf of the Council to our Shropshire Councillor, Cecilia Motley, who frequently attends Parish Council meetings, provides assistance to us whenever necessary, and lobbies on our behalf within Shropshire Council when requested.

Finance

Details of the 2017/18 accounts will be available at the Annual Parish Meeting. Our income was £41,186, which included some exceptional items (principally the Thornwell easement and legal fees, SWS rebates and a highways grant) but it was otherwise not dissimilar to the income for the previous year (£13,377). Expenditure was £39,198, again including an exceptional item of £30,000 invested in Hargreaves Lansdown, but otherwise not dissimilar to the regular expenditure from the previous year (£19,640 of which approximately £10,000 was the exceptional SWS investment).

Cash at the bank at the year-end was £23,788 and our Long Term Assets have a year-end value of £242,620, including our £130,000 investment portfolio in Hargreaves Lansdown, which fluctuates in value (£131,370 at the year-end). During the year the portfolio yielded over 4% income.

We are unlikely to ask for a Parish Precept (the local component of council tax) in the foreseeable future. Suggestions will be invited at the meeting for local charities which should receive support from the Council this year.

**Clerk: Mrs. Joan Palmer, The Old Post Office, Clee St Margaret, Craven Arms, SY7 9DT.
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Other Parish Council Business – main points

- Village Roads:** We continue to press Shropshire Council Roads Department to fill potholes and clear blocked road drains. We have received an “Environmental Maintenance Grant” of around £1500 with a view to fixing the broken drain at Church House corner; this work was scheduled in February but delayed due to the snow.
- Hill Forum:** We held a Hill Forum meeting in February. Subjects covered included the Shropshire Wildlife Trust “Slow the Flow” project, Hunting, and weed control.
- Bracken:** The Parish Council, with the Commoners Association, have continued the recent policy of bracken-crushing and will continue to do so in 2018, together with some limited spraying. Natural England have visited to see what we are doing and are broadly supportive of our bracken control programme. There will be no harvesting this year, since the company that made log burner briquettes has gone into administration, and the company hoping to use it for BioEthanol has not yet attracted funding for the project.
- Thornwell:** The Thornwell settlement has now been finalised. We have issued an easement and all due monies have been paid to the Council.
- Defibrillators:** There have been two training sessions in the last few months. An emergency telephone contact system is being set up so that the ambulance service can despatch a trained defibrillator volunteer to a cardiac arrest patient.
- Planning:** There have been several applications in the last year. Details can be found on the “Planning Tracker” section of the Council Website (www.clee.org.uk).
- Website:** Thanks are due to Karen Slater, our volunteer website manager, for maintaining the Council website (www.clee.org.uk). Thanks also to Ruby Reseigh for the Clee Pigeon Parish Newsletter (from the website or rubyreseigh@gmail.com).
- NATS:** The old lease for the mast on Clee Burf had expired and a new lease is being organised at present, with the same terms and conditions as the old one.
- Rights of Way:** For the record: we last renewed our Statutory Declaration regarding Public Rights of Way across the Common in late 2015, and we will need to do it again before the end of 2025. In 2017 we changed the lock on the stone road gate and issued keys, with usage permissions, to owners of the Hill Houses. We also issued permissions to Pole Gutter and Pilgrims Cottages to use the common for access.

Mike Hardingham, Chairman, April 2018

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