

## **CLEE ST MARGARET PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on MONDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**

#### **at 7.30pm in the VILLAGE HALL**

**Present:** Councillors: Mike Hardingham, Tamsin Osler, John Heighway, Ken Jackson, Shalynn Pearson, Scarlett Penn, Helen Robinson

**Clerk:** Catherine Evry

**IN ATTENDANCE:** District Councillor Cecilia Motley, four members of the parish.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None

**2. OFFICIAL APPROVAL of the MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June and MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes were approved unanimously and there were no matters arising that were not already on the agenda.

**3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Having reviewed the agenda Councillors were of the opinion that there were no anticipated conflicts of interest.

**4. CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS**

**i] NALC guidance following lifting of lock down restrictions**

From 19<sup>th</sup> July there are no longer limits on gatherings inside and outside, this means there are no limits, subject to building capacity, on members of the public attending parish council meetings. There is no mandatory requirement to wear face coverings in places where they were previously required. In line with the Government's expectation that people should continue to wear masks in crowded places, councils can ask, but not compel, councillors and the public to wear masks. Where councils hire halls from others, they may have a contractual obligation to comply with requests e.g. requiring masks to be worn on the premises subject to specific exemptions.

**ii] Projected dates for Parish Council meetings**

At each meeting the date of the next meeting is agreed and confirmed. Ideally the meeting will be held on either the second or fourth Monday of the relevant month.

**iii] How the PC communicates with parishioners a] in general and b] with regard to the management of the community asset Liberty Common.**

Information is distributed before and at the Annual Parish Meeting. Councillor Motley knew of other parishes that had an information only email subscription service. The output was controlled and moderated by the clerk.

*ACTION: Clerk to investigate information only email subscription service that parishioners can opt into.*

#### **iv] Sheep scrapes concerns from Polly Bolton**

The concern raised was the apparent removal of stones from sheep scrapes on the unvallate ramparts of the iron age hill fort of Nordy Bank. It appears that the stones are being gradually removed from the sheep scrapes nearby and made into a pile on the ramparts, which impedes walking.

It is the opinion of the Parish Council that the most likely explanation is that the stones have been moved by children

The sheep scrapes have been there for many years, the council all agree it is important to complete the outstanding action to fix them. A meeting, on the hill, with Renee Wallace (Project Officer Shropshire Hills OCC; Janine Young archaeologist contractor for OCC and Councillors Hardingham and Pearson to discuss sheep scrape repairs in particular and plans for the historic environment strand of OCC in general, to be held on 26<sup>th</sup> August.

*v] Report from District Councillor Cecilia Motley, Cabinet Member for Communities, Place, Tourism and Transport.*

- *Boundaries. Looking at anomalies (Parish Council discussed this at June meeting)*
- *Gigabit – Government policy of extending superfast broadband. SWS customers are aware but BT have brought fibre into the village.*
- *Increased investment in highways so should see an improvement in the amount and quality of work on roads. The clearing of drains and ditches is being addressed.*

## **5. FINANCE**

### **i] Current financial position**

The current account stands at £4473, the savings account stands at £18,644. A transfer to the current account has been made because of pending invoices. There are three outstanding invoices which require council approval totaling £2035. Once these have been paid the hill control expenditure will be significantly over budget.

The Hargreaves Lansdown Fund stands at £131,000 and income up to and including the July payment is £1973. Several companies are now paying dividends again so there should be an overall increase in income at the end of the financial year.

Of the outstanding invoices:

£300 for G. Ellis-Jones in respect of spraying the hill was approved.

Await credit note and revised invoice in respect of Asulox and Blaster Pro

It is anticipated that the outstanding due payments will be within the budget for hill control expenditure.

In general, the clerk can authorise payments that are within budget, otherwise they are taken to the meeting for the Parish Council to agree.

### **ii] Training budget**

It was unanimously agreed to include £800 pa in the budget for training and courses.

### **iii] Clerk's salary**

It was unanimously agreed to revise the annual amount to £2600 which is calculated by pro-rata reference to the standard working week of all local government staff. This is based on 5 hours per week and equates to the minimum hourly rate for a clerk of £10.04

*ACTION: Clerk to prepare and distribute revised budget to councillors.*

#### **iv] Insurance**

The Parish Council has a Local Council Policy covering: public and employers' liability, personal accident, legal expenses, money, libel and slander.

*ACTION: Check insurance status of shared equipment for injury and theft.*

### **6. THE COMMON**

#### **i] Historic England and management of gorse**

On Nurdy Bank the Parish Council seeks the advice of Historic England on the best way to manage the necessary control of the gorse, but the work is decided and approved by the Parish Council. Mechanical means alone to control the gorse are not feasible, but the aim is to use keep chemical use to a minimum. This includes spot spraying the gorse stumps in the centre of the ring, taking care to protect surrounding vegetation. A vote was taken on the proposal to allow spraying of gorse regrowth on the Nurdy Bank Monument: 5 in favour; 1 against; 1 abstention

#### **ii] Gorse management on Clee Liberty Common**

If the gorse is not controlled then the common will be overrun, threatening the shared objectives of the Owner and Commoners. Initial surveys of butterfly and bird projects are being undertaken.

A vote was taken to trial the use of the Robo cutter on the gorse tumps east of Nurdy Bank near the stone road covering approximately one acre in the first instance: 6 in favour; 1 against.

**iii] Update on bracken management equipment [Flail Topper/Weed Wiper] for Clee Liberty**  
Covered in preceding discussion.

#### **iv] Update on the track at The Sands**

Question was raised about the durability of the track particularly going into the winter. At April's meeting the Parish Council supported Mr. Maddock's application to the Planning Inspectorate to put in stones to avoid damage, but the Parish Council is not directly involved.

### **7. THE VILLAGE**

#### **i] Tree planting to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022**

It was agreed that 70 trees would be an appropriate amount to plant.

*ACTION Clerk to seek advice and suggestions for suitable varieties*

#### **ii] Procedure for inviting comments from members of the parish attending meetings**

It was suggested that a ten minute slot to hear comments from members of the public attending the Parish Council meeting to be included as a regular agenda item before the main business of the meeting. Issues and concerns would then be included in the agenda of future meetings as necessary. There was unanimous support to trial this starting with the next meeting.

#### **iii] Maintenance of defibrillators**

All three defibrillators have been checked recently and in working order. There is provision in the budget to replace batteries as necessary.

#### **ii] CPR refresher training**

The importance of effective CPR was emphasized. Face to face training will resume as soon as it is feasible to do so. In the meantime, although not ideal, online refresher tutorials are available

**iii] Need for more responders (now only 2)**

Len Matthews has been added to the list of responders, bringing the total to three.

*ACTION: When information is sent out to parishioners, include call for first responder volunteers, clarifying the need for regular refresher training.*

**iv] DBS status clarification.**

DBS status has been updated as necessary.

**v] Continued subscription to ring round WMAS**

There was support to keep this in place.

**vii] Date of Annual Parish Meeting tbc when step 3 measures have been lifted.**

To be confirmed.

**viii] Agenda items for Annual Parish Meeting:**

- **Climate change**
- **Gorse control on common**  
Canvas opinion on lighting beacons for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

**ix] Replacement of salt bins, as necessary**

Councillor Pearson has contacted highways but has only received an automatic reply.

*ACTION: Councillor Motley asked for details of the enquiry to be forwarded to her.*

**8. PLANNING**

**i] Patch Cottage update.** TP1 signed and returned to solicitor

**ii] The Yeld update.** Conversion of garage to self-contained ancillary accommodation. Erection of double garage and 3 bay stable. **Permission granted**

**iii] Proposed tree works at Church House.** The result of the vote taken: 4 in support of the proposed tree works 3 abstentions.

**iv] New House Farm update.** Agricultural building (manure store). **Permission granted**

**9. REVIEW OF DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors reviewed proceedings and agreed that, to the best of their knowledge, the Council had acted in accordance with procedure.

**10. POSSIBLE ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA**

i] Online and broadcast parish council meetings

ii] Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 a] possibility of beacons (opinions to be canvassed at Annual Parish Meeting b] tree planting

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

**Clerk: C.Evry, Steps Cottage, Clee St Margaret, Craven Arms, Shropshire SY7 9DT**

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