

CLEE ST. MARGARET PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES

HELD ON MONDAY 17TH APRIL 2023
IN THE VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT:

Councillors: Helen Robinson (Chair), Tamsin Osler (Vice Chair), Scarlett Penn, Ian Heighway and Richard Morgan. Heather Coonick (Clerk)

Parishioners: Karen Slater, Guy Cholmeley, Ruby Reseigh, Rob Woods, Doug Heighway, John and Lesley Thirlwell, Clive Fisher, Elizabeth Heighway.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Joan and David Palmer, Jonny Godrich, Cllrs John Heighway and Ken Jackson. Cllr Cecilia Motley (Unitary Councillor)

1. CHAIR'S REPORT:

Cllr Robinson reported that in future the notice of the Parish Meeting will only be available in paper format to those who request it of the Parish Clerk. Otherwise, it will be available from the website, notice boards and the google group.

The full Chairs Annual Report will be available on the Parish Council website. It covered items on Council Meetings and Communication, Finance, Planning, Policing and Security, Defibrillators and Rapid Response, Our Uplands Common Project, Clee Liberty Common, Donations, Policies and Risk Assessment.

Cllr Robinson gave thanks to her predecessor, Mike Hardingham for his time and work during the decades he acted as chair.

3. CLEE LIBERTY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Cllr Robinson reported that a working group had produced a draft discussion document which had been circulated to Councillors and the Commoners Committee. It is intended that a shorter document will be sent out to those with commoner's rights and made available to community more generally later in the process. Clive Fisher, who is heading up the working group, is talking to lots of people about their views of the management of the common. The aim is to encourage a range of habitat, try to incorporate climate change in decision-making, respect the archaeology and maintain it as a working common.

The draft plan contains tiers of management with bracken control, gorse management, rewetting of the wet flushes being included in the first tier, and potentially some addition tree planting. The suggestion will be that gorse will be managed in line with RSPB protocols. The public meeting held earlier in the year was supportive rewetting areas of the common but not the use of plastic to block the channels, so other materials will be suggested for use. Some trial areas have been blocked using rushes from recent cutting.

The next tier of management will be a long-term strategy and potentially include other ideas for encouraging further biodiversity and for climate change mitigation.

4. PARISH PLAN:

Cllr Motley was encouraging all parishes to update their Parish Plans. The last plan was started in 2012 and had a small working group who consulted members of the public in various ways before producing the plan. Karen Slater who was very involved reported that it was not clear at the time how the Action Plan would be costed and who would act upon it.

If anyone is interested in forming a working group to develop a new Parish Plan, please let the Parish Clerk know.

The Parish Council will come up with a briefing for what to include in the plan. It was noted the importance of it being a practical and useful plan, so just a document to ‘tick a box and then put on a shelf’.

5. CLIMATE CHANGE:

As Clee St Margaret is a very rural parish there are few services that can be changed to accommodate climate change. The Council is looking into a public electric car charger and is minimising the use of paper. It will consider how to ensure that all council resolutions are viewed through the lens of Climate Change. They will also look at how other very rural parishes have made changes and consider a car share scheme and a shopping collection point.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

A member of the public (MotP) reported that stiles on footpaths and over the common were in poor condition. Shropshire Council has responsibility for those on footpaths and sometimes liaise with local volunteers to arrange repairs. The Parish Council will be reviewing the fencing on the common at the next meeting.

A MotP enquired about the role of the Parish Council. The Clerk explained the wide variety of powers that allow the council to provide services etc, and these can be extended once she has attained the CiLCA qualification for Clerks.

A MotP reported that the Common Management Plan had been a good example of collaboration within the Parish.

Members of the Public wished to thank the Council and the Clerk for their work over the last year.

Signed by the Chair of the Parish Council:

Date: