

CLEE ST. MARGARET PARISH COUNCIL

ACTIVITY BETWEEN the JANUARY 2021 Meeting and the MARCH 1st 2021 (non) Meeting Date

1. Because of the **CORONAVIRUS** crisis the March 2021 meeting was cancelled.

2. CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS

- i) SALC has continued to send details from the government as the Covid 19 crisis developed.
- ii) There had been a query from a parishioner about the lack of parish council meetings. The clerk had informed him that it was hoped a meeting could be held in April as most councillors would have received their vaccinations by then.
- iii) Material about the forthcoming local elections in May 2021 had arrived from County.
- iv) Concerns had been raised about the number of cars seen at Yeld gate during lockdown and people taking exercise on the common. District Councillor Motley had been informed.

3. FINANCE

- i) Current financial position.

Current account £ 1,870

Savings account £17,452

Further expenditure this financial year should only be one quarterly clerk's salary, tax, a cheque for £60 to Shropshire Wildlife trust which remained to be cashed. The NATS payment of £6,691 was due before the end of March. The capital value of the Hargreaves Lansdown investments remained at about £125,000 and income from that looked like being very close to the £4,500 anticipated. In common with many other investors, the council had lost money due to the closure of the LF Equity Fund run by Neil Woodford. There had, in some quarters, been suggestions that legal action could be taken to recover some of these monies but it was thought that pursuing this route could result in legal costs which exceeded the benefit of any settlement achieved.

£15 had been sent to each of the parishioners (Summerdale, Steps Cottage and Tana Leas) who allow trickle electricity to run from their properties to the nearby defibrillators.

Permission had been given to Councillor Pearson to buy new pads for the three defibrillators in the village and these had been bought at a cost of £43.20.

Easement invoices had been sent to the owners of Laburnum Cottage and Bryn Tirion. Both had paid by BACS.

4. VILLAGE

- i) The clerk had written a number of times to the County to ask that, amongst other things, a road sweeper come to the village to remove the excess stones that had been brought down into the village during recent heavy rains. This had been done.

- ii) Two telephone numbers had been sent from Shropshire County for people to use to report empty sand/salt bins, hazards on the roads or potholes. These were: -

Daytime: 01743 257 808

Out of Office Hours: 07990 086 261

5. THE COMMON

- i) Two parishioners, Mr. G. Cholmeley and Mr. R. Woods had started to remove the gorse from the steep sides of Nordy Bank in response to a request from Historic England. They had asked if the cut gorse could be burnt on the common as the sheep had been brought down for lambing.

They had made an assurance that, if they were allowed to burn the gorse, every step would be taken to ensure the fire didn't get out of control.

ii) Trees from The Woodland trust had been planted in a number of areas. It was hoped the rest would have been planted before the onset of spring.

iii) Councillors heard that the lock from the upper gate on the stone road had disappeared. Councillor Heighway said he had it as the bar had been bent and he was intending to straighten it. This had now been done and the gate was once more secure.

iv) A part of the fence at the lower end of the stone road had broken and Mr. Paul Massey had been asked to replace some of the posts and the wire to make sure sheep could no longer escape from the common.

v) Concerns had been expressed about the state of the track that leads to The Sands and on to the gateway leading to Thornwell which had become very muddy (almost impassable) due to the recent heavy rain. The council had spoken to Mr. Jonathan Maddocks, the owner of Thornwell, to ask that the track way be mended. He had agreed that the work would be done as soon as possible but might be delayed as he needed to get the relevant permission from The Inspectorate. A letter had been sent to him and a copy to Mr. Banbury giving him the relevant information to allow him to proceed.

6. PLANNING

i) The owner of Patch Cottage, Mr. S. Allen, had claimed ownership (by adverse possession) at the Land Registry of an area of land in between the front of his house and the road. It had been fenced and used to park his car for an appropriate number of years. The land in question amounted to around 50 square metres of which about half was currently registered as being within the ownership of the Parish Council. The boundaries of the Common were not particularly exact so it was not clear whether this part of the land was actually part of the Common, and advice had been sought from Shropshire Council, who were the custodians of the definitive map of the Common. Councillors had been consulted and there was no objection to Mr. Allen claiming the part of land which was not within its ownership. Further consultation would take place before the Council made its response to the Land Registry.

ii) The planning application for Brookbank Farm had been modified and resubmitted. There were no objections from councillors for this new application.

iii) The owners of Steps Cottage (Mr. and Mrs. S. Evry) had applied for permission to trim trees that overhang the road in the centre of the village. No objections had been received.

7. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

It is intended to hold the next meeting on 12th April 2021 in the large room at the village hall at 7.30 pm. The accounts for the current financial year will be available at that meeting.

Joan Palmer
Clerk
2nd March 2021

