

CLEE ST MARGARET PARISH COUNCIL

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

Chairman's Report 2017

Please come to the Annual Parish Meeting on 8 May 2017 if you can. You will be able to discuss any of the issues raised below. Can I please draw your attention particularly to the following:

1. 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.
2. Ruby Reseigh has volunteered to manage the village defibrillators, and to co-ordinate training in their use (and first aid training in general). A date for a training session will be announced soon. Ruby will also be co-ordinating the emergency telephone system, by which the ambulance service will ring round to find an available volunteer in the event of a defibrillator being needed. If you are interested in either training or being a volunteer, please make sure that Ruby (rubyreseigh@gmail.com) knows of your interest. Note that being a volunteer involves specifying the times of day (and days of the week) where you might be contacted (but does not commit you to being available at those times).
3. SWS broadband has now been up and running for about 4 months and approximately 20 people have connected. Subscribers generally report being extremely satisfied. The centre of the village is still scheduled for a broadband upgrade as part of Connecting Shropshire Phase 2a, probably within the next 12 months.

The Parish Council

During 2016/17 the members of the Parish Council were

Mr. Mike Hardingham (Chairman)	Mrs. Nesta Heighway (recently resigned)	
Mr. John Heighway	Mr. David Palmer	Mr. Bob Day
Mrs. Vicky Matthews	Mrs. Tamsin Osler	Mrs. Shalynn Pearson

Mrs. Joan Palmer is Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. 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).

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

You may have observed notices of the impending elections for Parish and County Councillors. My understanding is that all current members of the council are standing for re-election. If there are no additional candidates then they will be elected without a poll taking place, otherwise a poll will take place on 4 May at the same time as the County Council elections.

**Clerk: Mrs. Joan Palmer, The Old Post Office, Clee St Margaret, Craven Arms, SY7 9DT.
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Finance

Details of the 2016/17 accounts will be available at the Annual Parish Meeting. The main figures are that our income was £13,377 (up from £9,451 in 2016), and our expenditure was £19,640 (up from £8,092). These figures include net payments to SWS of £9,835. Our cash balance therefore declined over the year by £6,263 to £21,801. Our Long Term Assets appreciated by £8,090 to £219,056, due to stock market movements. 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.

Other Parish Council Business – main points

- Hill Forum:** It has been hard to find enough people to serve on the Hill Forum, and its format has appeared to exacerbate the problems that it was initially formed to solve. We have therefore resolved that the current committee format will cease, to be replaced by two open Hill Forum meetings every year. Neither will constitute a formal Parish Council meeting and there will be no voted-upon resolutions. One annual meeting will be organised by the Commoners' Association and will plan the control of bracken (and thistle and gorse) for the forthcoming summer. The Commoners' Committee and Parish Councillors (and any further interested parties as determined by the Commoners Association) will be invited to attend the meeting if they wish and it will probably take place on the common. The other meeting will be organised, chaired and minuted by the Parish Council, and all members of the Parish and Commoners' Association will be invited to attend, by email and by public notice. The Parish Council, prior to publicising the meeting, will determine the agenda, and potential attendees will be invited to suggest discussion topics well in advance. Informal votes can be held if the chair so wishes. Any decisions made will be advisory and require later ratification by the Parish Council.
- Bracken:** The Parish Council, with the Commoners Association, have continued the recent policy of bracken-crushing and will continue to do so in 2017, together with some limited spraying. It is possible that some harvesting may also take place, either for making brickettes for domestic log burners, or for producing BioEthanol.
- Planning:** There have been no major applications in the last year.
- Website:** Thanks are due to Karen Slater, our volunteer website manager, for setting up the new Council website (www.clee.org.uk). Thanks also to Ruby Reseigh for the Clee Pigeon Parish Newsletter (from the website or rubyreseigh@gmail.com)
- 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. We have changed the lock on the stone road gate and issued keys, with usage permissions, to owners of the Hill Houses. We have also issued permissions to Pole Gutter and Pilgrims Cottages to use the common for access.

Mike Hardingham, Chairman, April 2017

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