

CLEE ST. MARGARET PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting on Monday 11th September 2023

Members: Cllrs Helen Robinson (Chair), Ian Heighway, Ken Jackson, and Tamsin Osler. In Attendance: H Coonick (Clerk/RFO)

1. **RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllrs John Heighway and Scarlett Penn. Cllr Cecilia Motley (Shropshire Council)
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr Ian Heighway (items 5.1 and 5.2)
3. **MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on 17th July 2023:**
RESOLVED: To accept as correct and were signed by the chair.
4. **PUBLIC SESSION:** a. Mr Claude Bodenham requested vehicle access to the common for Remembrance Day (item 7.1). b. Ms Ruby Reseigh asked if there could be a policy of allowing a certain number of vehicles to access the common over the year to allow those with restricted mobility to make use of the common. It was agreed that this would be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. c. A member of the public raised the danger of Pole Gutter Cottage which is now in a very poor state of repair. The Clerk will inform the owners and Shropshire Council as it a H&S issue.
5. **PLANNING:** Cllr Ian Heighway left the meeting for items 5.1 and 5.2.
 - 5.1. **23/03570/FUL Creation of pond with fenced, gated, boundary and bund, Longview Farm, Cold Weston, SY7 9EA. OS REFERENCE: 355496 – 283311 Mr John Heighway.**
RESOLVED: To support this application as the council is in favour of increasing biodiversity.
 - 5.2. **23/03727/FUL Erection of an affordable home in response to an identified need for a local family and associated works. Proposed Affordable Dwelling To The West Of, Cockshutford, Clee St Margaret, OS REFERENCE: 357459 – 285002 APPLICANT: Mr & Mrs I Heighway**
RESOLVED: To support this application as the eligibility for an affordable dwelling has already been established. It meets a local need and will benefit the parish. It is of modest scale and part of the settlement of Cockshutford.
6. **REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES**
 - 6.1. **Shropshire Council – Cllr Cecilia Motley** had sent apologies, but the Clerk reported on her behalf that Shropshire Council were making good progress with reducing the £51 million deficit. It is acknowledged that the last two quarters will be difficult. Adult Social Care is invested in assisting people to remain at home rather than enter hospital. There is now a combined agreement with Telford and Wrekin and the NHS to manage independent living aids and they are trying to recycle aids wherever possible. No reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) has been found in Shropshire's schools, but they are checking other public buildings. The Local Government Boundary Review are due to report on the 3rd October. Once that is complete the Community Governance Review can be actioned to look at parish boundaries.
 - 6.2. **Village Hall – Cllr John Heighway** has sent apologies. Ms Reseigh reported that there will be a joint Country and Western Dance and Harvest Supper on the 7th October.
 - 6.3. **Commoners Association – Cllr Ian Heighway** had nothing to report.
 - 6.4. **Our Upland Commons – Cllr Ian Heighway** reported that Renée Wallace is leaving Our Uplands Commons Project on the 21st September. She will not be replaced but other members of the team will liaise with the Parish Council and Commoners Committee. Cath Landles (Community & Landscape Officer at the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership) will be the first point of contact going forwards The Parish Council would like to thank Renée for all her work for the Common and will send her a thank you card. The Project itself has been extended to December 2024.
 - 6.5. **South Shropshire Area Committee:** The Clerk reported that the new fee that will be charged by Hugo Fox website provider was discussed.
7. **THE COMMON**
 - 7.1. **Vehicle Access to the War Memorial for Remembrance Day:**
RESOLVED: to give Mr Claude Bodenham access to the common for Remembrance Day.
 - 7.2. **Countryside Stewardship Scheme and the Sustainable Farming Incentive Moorland Scheme Applications:** Cllr Robinson reported that the Sustainable Farming Incentive application had been successful and had started on the 1/7/23. There is no news on the Countryside Stewardship Scheme.

CLEE ST. MARGARET PARISH COUNCIL

- 7.3. Robocutter Repairs:** The Council would like to thank Mr Guy Cholmeley and Mr Rob Woods and Cllr Ian Heighway for many hours of work in extreme heat. They completed the planned work including clearing a footpath from The Sands. Grass and vegetation is already appearing in the cleared areas. Repairs to the tracks of the robocutter were carried out and a log of repairs needs to be maintained by the Parish Council. There needs to be clarity on how the robocutter is managed once the OUC project ends. The SFI scheme will monitor the changes made by the clearances and Cllr Heighway will raise how the community can be involved in the monitoring with the Commoners Association. He is keeping a photographic record of the work.
- 7.4. Repairs and Replacements to Fencing:** There is no urgent fencing repairs required. If the Countryside stewardship application is successful, then it is hoped that this will cover fencing.
- 7.5. Ponds on the Common:** Cllr Heighway is logging and monitoring the ponds including photographs.
- 7.6. Repairs to the Tank on the Quarry:** Cllrs Ian and John Heighway and Mr Cholmeley are looking at options for the repairs.
- 7.7. Consider Fencing Off Areas of the Common to Assess Biodiversity:**
RESOLVED: To defer a discussion and any decisions until the outcome of the Countryside Stewardship Scheme is known.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

- 8.1. Request for a Grant from Brown Clee Medical Practice:** A Community Group has been established to assist with the purchase of buildings to enable the continuance of the practice and are requesting seed funding.
RESOLVED: to request information on the numbers of patients in the parish who use this practice and defer a decision to the next meeting.

9. GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS

- 9.1. Update on repairs to the Ford:** The Clerk reported that she had contacted Andy Keyland (Shropshire Council) three times since the last meeting with no response. Cllr Motley is aware of the situation.
- 9.2. Duty to Conserve and Enhance Biodiversity (Environment Act 2021):**
RESOLVED Cllr Osler will draft a document for consideration at a future meeting.
- 9.3. Consider Passing a Resolution to Aim at Net Zero:**
RESOLVED not to pass this resolution but to consider the environmental impact of all council decision.
- 9.4. Consider Attending the Carbon Literacy Course:**
RESOLVED: Despite the reduction in cost of the course it was decided that it was not necessary for anyone to attend the course.

10. FINANCE

- 10.1. Investment Advisory Group Report:** Cllr Jackson reported that the value of the investments was £117,300 which has increased by approximately £1,000 during the last quarter. The income stream from the investments is very steady with an average of £480 per month.
- 10.2. Investment Signatory Changes:** The Clerk reported that the forms and identity evidence is almost complete and will be sent off to Hargreaves Lansdown.
- 10.3. New Fee for the Website:** Hugo Fox are introducing a fee for the website.
RESOLVED: to pay the fee for the next 3 months to allow the clerk to investigate alternatives.
- 10.4. Authorise Payments –** H Coonick (Clerk's Salary July-Sept £942.24 and HMRC £15.60 and Travel Expenses £33.30), Chris Rowe (Environmental Maintenance Inv 1051 £81.10), Mr Guy Cholmeley (Robocutter Repairs £114.60), and Cllr K Jackson (reimbursement for Stock Exchange fee).
RESOLVED: to authorise the above payments.

- 11. ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE INCLUSION IN THE NEXT MEETING WHICH WILL BE THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AND THE ORDINARY MEETING at 7.30pm 23rd October 2023:** a. vehicle access to the common policy b. future management of the robocutter c. Brown Clee medical practice grant.

Signed by the Chair:

Date:

CLERK/RFO: Heather Coonick, Hopton Gate Cottage, Haytons Bent, Ludlow Shropshire SY8 2BE.

Tel: 07817607355 email: clee.org.uk@gmail.com