

CLEE ST. MARGARET PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting on Monday 23rd October 2023

Attendance: Cllrs Ken Jackson (Vice Chair), Ian Heighway, John Heighway, Tamsin Osler, Richard Morgan and Scarlett Penn. Cllr Cecilia Motley (Shropshire Council) and H Coonick (Clerk/RFO).

THE COUNCIL WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HELPED THE COMMUNITY DURING STORM BABEL.

- 1. RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr Helen Robinson
- 2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
- 3. MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on 11th September 2023:**
RESOLVED: to accept as a correct record. Signed by the Vice Chair.
- 4. PUBLIC SESSION:** A member of the public asked about what the Sustainable Farming Incentive proposals were. This will be discussed later in the meeting. He also reported that the appeal for The Mill planning had been decided – see item 6.
- 5. CONFIRM ELIGIBILITY FOR GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE:**
RESOLVED: As the Clerk has attained the Certificate in Local Council Administration and the majority of councillors are elected rather than coopted the criteria has been reached.
RESOLVED: To confirm that the council has the General Power of Competence.
- 6. PLANNING: Appeal A Ref: APP/L3245/W/23/3316833 The Mill, Clee St Margaret, SY7 9DT –** The appeal was dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate on the 23rd October 2023
- 7. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES**
 - 7.1. Shropshire Council –** Cllr Cecilia Motley reported that the Boundary Commission had accepted most of the proposals made by Shropshire Council, but Cardington will be included in the Corvedale Division. The changes have yet to be ratified by parliament. The legal teams will now work on the polling districts and the Community Governance Review can now continue to work on the parish boundaries. The Government has now agreed to fund the completion of the Shrewsbury North-West Relief Road. There is funding available for community buildings from the Rural Prosperity Fund and a Shropshire crowdfunding scheme.
 - 7.2. Village Hall –** Cllr John Heighway reported that there is a bonfire night event on the 4th November and there are discussions about revamping the kitchen.
 - 7.3. Commoners Association –** Cllr Ian Heighway reported that they are planning more Robocutter training for volunteers.
- 8. THE COMMON**
 - 8.1. Update on the Sustainable Farming Incentive Moorland Scheme:** Mrs Peake (Commoners Association) had sent the following report - The Sustainable Farming Incentive agreement was signed on 1st July and will run until 30th June 2026. The mapping points have been done thanks to the support of Mr M Steer. The next step is to identify 'public goods'. The Committee have sent out letters to the commoners regarding the scheme. There may be some opportunities for volunteers later in the scheme.
 - 8.2. Update on the Countryside Stewardship Scheme:** The Commoners Association have reported that 'The Countryside Stewardship application is ongoing, and talks are taking place with the two main graziers. A final decision will take place shortly.'
 - 8.3. Repairs to the Tank on the Quarry:** Deferred to the next meeting.
 - 8.4. Vehicle Access Policy:** Deferred to the next meeting.
 - 8.5. Consider Connecting to the Slow Ways National Walking Network:** There were concerns about an increase in visitors to the common especially as there is not sufficient car parking at present in busy times.
RESOLVED: to not connect to the Slow Ways Network.
 - 8.6. Update on the Wildfire Risk Assessment:** Mr Martin Steer and the Clerk are working together on this matter.

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- 8.7. Update on Pole Gutter Cottage:** The Clerk has reported the matter to the owner who planned to urgently arrange for the fences to be repaired and signs put in place. It has also been reported to Shropshire Council Building Control Team. Cllr Ian Heighway will visit the site to check if the changes have been made by the owners.
- 8.8. Middle Marches Town and Parish Council Nature Recovery Conference:** No-one wished to attend the conference.
- 8.9. Consider the Community Tree Planting Scheme:** This could be advertised on the notice boards.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

- 9.1. Natasha Leigh-Willetts – War Memorial Information –** There is no interest in a hard copy, but an electronic copy could be placed on the website.
- 9.2. Shropshire Council - Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places:** The poster notifying of the review to be placed on notice boards.

10. GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS

- 10.1. Update on repairs to the Ford:** The Clerk is contacting the Highways Agency and the divisional councillor at least monthly. There has been no response from Highways.
- 10.2. Consider Duties to Conserve and Enhance Biodiversity (Environment Act 2021):** Deferred to the next meeting.
- 10.3. Update on a Request for a Grant from Brown Cleve Medical Practice Community Initiative:** The Clerk to ask for a presentation on the plans for the initiative.
- 10.4. Update on Access to Work Application:** The Clerk has been assessed for equipment to assist with a hearing loss. Equipment will be provided free of charge by the government scheme but is not available for public use.
- 10.5. Consider Emergency Planning Training:** It was considered that this training was too in-depth for the needs of the Parish Council.

11. FINANCE

- 11.1. Investment Advisory Group Report:** There is presently £116,121 in the investment account and £509.88 in the cash account with Hargreaves Lansdown. There has been a steady income this financial year of approximately £500 per month.
- 11.2. Review the Finance Report, Budget and Bank Reconciliation:** The bank reconciliation was agreed, and the savings account held £23,756.09 as of the 11th September 2023 and the current account held £1357.79 as of the 19th September 2023. Expenditure up until the 15th October 2023 was £5967.48 and income was £5655.09. There are no concerns regarding the budget at this point but there is unlikely to be a contribution from the Commoners Association this year so there will be an overspend in the region of £1000 for the year. This will be mitigated next year by some of the costs of maintaining the common being covered by the Countryside Stewardship Scheme if the application is successful.
- RESOLVED:** to accept the finance and budget report and the bank reconciliation as correct.
- 11.3. Update on Investment Signatory Changes:** The required forms and evidence has been provided to Hargreaves Lansdown.
- 11.4. Consider the Options for the Website:** The Clerk will send links to the various options for consideration at the next meeting.
- 11.5. Authorise Payments:** C Rowe (Environmental Maintenance) £90, Hugo Fox website £11.99, Numbers Plus (£118.80), Mr Chomeley, Mr Every and Mr Boxold (Defibrillator Electricity) £15 each.
- 11.6. Consider Items to be Included in the Draft Budget for 2024-25:** Clerk asked for proposals before the next meeting.

- 12. ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE INCLUSION IN THE NEXT MEETING at 7.30pm 27th November 2023:** a. draft budget, b. Update on the Countryside Stewardship Scheme, c. Repairs to the Tank on the Quarry, d. Vehicle Access Policy, e. Consider Duties to Conserve and Enhance Biodiversity (Environment Act 2021), f. Request for a Grant from Brown Cleve Medical Practice Community Initiative, g. Website options

Signed by the Chair:

Date: