

CLEE HILL PARTNERSHIP

MONDAY 11 March 2014 7.30pm CLEE HILL VILLAGE HALL

MINUTES

Present:

Henry Chance	Bitterley Parish Council Chairman (Clee Hill Partnership Chairman)
Mark Gatehouse	Clee Hill Commoners Association
Andy Chapman	Clee Hill Commoners Association
George Cummings	Friends of Clee Hill Village Forum Chairman
Garth Ridgers	Friends of Clee Hill Village Forum
John Shew	Friends of Clee Hill Village Forum
Cllr Richard Huffer	Shropshire Council, Clee Division
Phil Holden	Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership Manager
Clare Fildes	Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership Development Officer
Glynn Barratt	Titterstone Clee Heritage Trust
Alf Jenkins	Titterstone Clee Heritage Trust
Sue Dawes	Clee Hill Community Wildlife Group Chair
Carl Pickup	Shropshire Wildlife Trust Reserves Manager
Richard Rallings	Natural England
Peter Cuthbert	Hopton Wafers Parish Council
George Williams	Caynham Parish Council Chairman
Theresa Mackrow	Coreley Parish Council
Jane Thomas	Coreley Parish Council

1. Welcome and apologies

The following apologies had been received:

Mark Wiggin	Landowner, Downton Estate
Jenny Marriott	English Heritage
Chris Woodward	Landowner, Hopton Court
Chris Neal	Clee Hill Commoners Association
Alan Barrell	Clee Hill Commoners Association
Roddy Yapp	Clee Hill Commoners Association

2. Minutes of last meeting 11 February 2013 and matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as an accurate record. It was noted that though the Partnership itself had not met for over a year, the project development group had met five or six times during this period.

3. Heritage Lottery Fund project grant bid – update on progress

Clare Fildes gave a presentation on the draft bid, which it was hoped would be submitted by 17 March. This was a stage 1 bid, for 15 months of development funding. The Commoners' had expressed their opposition to uses of the old buildings over and above stabilisation, and this was discussed. Natural England had also expressed reservations about further uses. It was clarified that the Commoners Association were content to write a letter of support for the project, but it would state this proviso.

The proposed arrangement of a 25 year lease of the sites to TCHT was discussed. This was because Shropshire Council would not take on the lease, and meant that the Council and TCHT needed to be joint applicants, since TCHT did not have the resources to bankroll the whole project and be the sole applicant. It was clarified that the landowners were in support. The budget had been revised down slightly, and possible need for contingency was discussed, along with match funding requirements. The importance of the biodiversity features at Benson's Brook was raised, in relation to the proposed WREN funding (Landfill tax), which was the main element of match. The value

of cash match funding contributions from partners was stressed, however small these may be. It was suggested to simplify the wording of the draft Partnership agreement.

4. Final approval of bid documents

The Partnership voted to support the bid documents, and then a further discussion followed regarding the concerns held by the Commoners regarding new uses of the buildings. It was agreed that a feasibility study regarding sustainable future uses of all of the heritage within the project was still important, but if the wording regarding this was changed to exclude looking at redevelopment of the buildings, the Commoners could support the project without reservations. Some other organisations were disappointed with dropping this aspiration, but it was generally agreed that all partners had to be happy with project elements put forward. The Chairman thanked Clare for the time and hard work she had put into the bid and others who had helped on the Development Group. Henry said he was pleased and proud at how well so many disparate groups had come together for the common good.

5. Updates from partners on current activity

a. Clee Hill Community Wildlife Group

Sue reported that several survey groups had run last year and in the coming year it was hoped to add mammals and moths. On 25th there were presentations planned, with the aim of involving new people and fundraising.

b. Litter group

George reported that an average of 11 people attended most sessions, with a total over the last year of 272 volunteer hours worked, and 168 bags of rubbish collected.

c. Clee Hill Commoners Association

The Commoners had had a busy year, and the AGM was coming up, to which Partnership members were invited. They hoped to have some maps on display to raise awareness of some of the local places. Some bracken control had been done, but the weather had hampered gorse burning, with some still to do before the season ended. There had been some fly tipping. New signs were being made about control of dogs.

d. Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership

Phil reported that the AONB Management Plan had been approved, and that plans were being drawn up for the next round of LEADER funding, which would bring opportunities.

e. Clee Hill Wardens

George reported that about 12 people were involved with patrolling and talking to visitors about dogs, etc. A meeting had been held with Roddy from the Commoners.

f. Titterstone Clee Heritage Trust

Alf reported that work at the Novers continued, and much input had been made to the HLF bid. The website had been redesigned and events were planned. A recent talk at Bitterley had been well attended.

g. Shropshire Wildlife Trust

Carl said that volunteers were doing some tasks on Catherton Common.

h. Natural England

Richard reported that the Upland Entry Level Scheme on the common was going well.

i. **Other.** The road closures through Caynham were mentioned.

6. Any other Business - None raised.

7. Date of next meeting - Tuesday 24 June.