

CLEE HILL PARTNERSHIP
MEETING TUESDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2011
7.30PM CLEE HILL VILLAGE HALL

MINUTES

Present:

Henry Chance	Bitterley Parish Council Chairman (Clee Hill Partnership Chairman)
Richard Osborne	Bitterley Parish Council
Jane Thomas	Coreley Parish Council
Chris Neal	Clee Hill Commoners Association Chairman
Roddy Yapp	Clee Hill Commoners Association
Phil Edwards	Clee Hill Commoners Association
Valerie Clifford	Commoner and landowner representative
Andy Chapman	Commoner & landowner representative
George Cummings	Friends of Clee Hill Village Forum Chairman
Garth Ridgers	Friends of Clee Hill Village Forum
David Jamieson	Hanson Aggregates Clee Hill Quarry Manager
Peter Cuthbert	Hopton Wafers Parish Council
Richard Rallings	Natural England
Cllr Richard Huffer	Shropshire Council, Clee Division
Tracy Johnson	Shropshire Council, Community Working
Phil Holden	Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership Manager
Carl Pickup	Shropshire Wildlife Trust Reserves Manager
Brian Norgrove	Stoke St Milborough Parish Council
Glynn Barratt	Titterstone Clee Heritage Trust
Sue Dawes	Titterstone Clee Heritage Trust (for Chairman Alf Jenkins)
Shaun Cullis	West Mercia Police

1. Welcome and apologies

Henry Chance from the Chair welcomed those present to the meeting, and reminded members of the role of the Partnership as a non decision-making forum. The following apologies had been received:

Cllr Gwilym Butler	Shropshire Council, Cleobury Mortimer Division
Cllr Madge Shineton	Shropshire Council, Cleobury Mortimer Division
Colin Preston	Shropshire Wildlife Trust, Director
Alf Jenkins	Titterstone Clee Heritage Trust, Chairman
Jenny Marriott	English Heritage
Mark Wiggin	Landowner, Downton Hall
Patrick Creasey	Individual
Heidi Steele	Shropshire Council, Streetscene
George Williams	Caynham Parish Council
Chris Woodward	Landowner, Hopton Court
Tim Lee	Shropshire Peregrine Group

2. Minutes of last meeting 9 August 2011 and matters arising

George Cummings said that the first litter pick had been attended by 15 people not 9. The children's involvement in posters about speeding was in the vicinity of schools. Sue Dawes said that TCHT had purchased the Novers woodland but not the limekiln. Subject to these changes, the minutes of the last meeting were accepted as an accurate record.

All actions had been completed except for - other Parish Councils were requested to provide information to George Cummings on their situation regarding insurance for litter picking. This information would still be helpful – Action.

The only matter not covered elsewhere on the agenda was the Jubilee Beacon. Henry had written to a few people about this and had received ideas but so far no-one was offering to lead on it. Glynn reiterated the archaeological sensitivity of the site and after discussion it was agreed that the large post-war concrete hardstand area would be the best location. Glynn offered to organise obtaining Scheduled Monument Consent.

3. Potential Heritage Lottery Fund project grant bid

Henry said that there had been some disquiet at the last meeting about the proposed bid by the Shropshire Wildlife Trust. Since then he, Phil Holden and George Cummings had met with Colin Preston informally. It had been agreed that the Trust would drop the previous bid proposal, and that working with the Partnership, a new bid should be drawn up which would incorporate ideas from a range of partners. He proposed that members of the Partnership should put forward their ideas or 'wish list', in line with guidance on HLF's eligibility and priorities, Phil to circulate with request for ideas – Action.

Glynn said that a bid would need thinking through carefully, and highlighted the relevant information available in an earlier Management Plan for the hill, which was mostly focussed on heritage, but covered other aspects too. There was some discussion about how conversations and meetings had taken place recently. It was accepted that while partners would need to communicate between particular organisations and individuals outside of Partnership meetings, there was a need to consider who else might need to be informed or involved. Henry felt that due to capacity limitations at the AONB Partnership and cash flow limitations for TCHT, the Wildlife Trust were still the best organisation to be the applicant for a bid, and we should be grateful to them for being willing to take on this role. Phil felt that a bid could include practical action which would encourage partners that there was value in working together, but that an element of longer term thinking and planning for the future would also be valuable. A joint bid would need to be coherent and not just a collection of ideas, but hopefully the backing of the Partnership would strengthen it.

A timetable of mid-January for submission of ideas was agreed, and a number of people volunteered to be part of a smaller group to look at these before the next Partnership meeting – Henry, Phil, someone from SWT, Glynn, Chris Neal, George Cummings and Richard Huffer. Phil would co-ordinate this group before the next Partnership meeting – Action.

It was agreed that there would need to be consultation back with the main Partnership, possibly more than once before a bid was submitted. Roddy said that there was general agreement that the common was too rough and needed gorse and bracken control to get it back more to how it used to be. There was some discussion about how big a bid might be, and it was felt that this might be determined partly by what ideas came forward.

4. Discussion item – provision for visitors (sharing of opinions and ideas on current situation re. information & interpretation, walks, promotion, events, etc)

Henry said that visitor provision would very likely form part of a project bid as envisaged in the previous item, but reminded members of the Partnership's role as a forum for

sharing ideas, and said that this item had been put forward to allow some general discussion on the topic. Glynn felt that visitor provision had impacts on other aspects relating to the hill. TCHT did low-level walks and talks and ran a website. He thought there was a need for a new guide booklet to the hill. George Cummings had brought copies of earlier guide booklets. He said more could be made of the Visitor Information Point at the shop, e.g. by signage. He said the hill wardens could be given information sheets to hand out and there should be information plates on the old mine buildings. He had met Mark Wiggin and David Jamieson about improving the summit car park which was very rough. Glynn pointed out that there were the remains of old tub lines and other features in this area which had not been recorded and could be damaged. Roddy pointed out that this was common land and work would therefore need permission.

Richard Osborne said that the Bitterley Parish Plan and perhaps others could provide evidence or guidance on what steps to take. He said it was clear from the Plan process in Bitterley that people wanted to know more and have more information in order to be able to respect what was there. He said we should not be afraid to be ambitious. It was clarified that Hopton Wafers were in the process of preparing a Parish Plan, Stoke St Milborough & Hopton Cangeford had just started, and Coreley had no plans at present to do one.

Phil mentioned the work on information and promotion for visitors done by the AONB Partnership with others. He distributed copies of the 2011 Shropshire Hills Events & Guide which has a section on the Clee Hills and Corvedale. He also mentioned Shropshire Hills Tourism and the brochure they produce, and the Sustainable Tourism Strategy for the wider Shropshire Hills area which has been produced. Any actions carried out locally should fit with this broader approach, but can benefit from the contacts, structure, etc which exists. It was established that the Events & Guide booklet had not been distributed from Clee Hill this year and this would be an easy thing to address.

Henry thanked members for their contributions and said that ideas on this topic should be developed further as part of the project bid development.

5. Speeding on roads on the Common

Phil had received a reply to his letter from Glyn Shaw at Shropshire Council, saying that the Council may be able to assist with a limited amount of warning signage and road markings, and offering to meet on site. The offer was put to members to be involved in a site meeting and Roddy Yapp, Phil Edwards, Shaun Cullis, Peter Cuthbert and Garth Ridgers volunteered. Richard Huffer would like to be kept informed. Phil would get back to Glyn Shaw on this and try to co-ordinate a date – Action.

Roddy said a meeting had been held with the Council about two years ago but they felt then that there was nothing they could do. Some residents had recently written about road safety on Stockall Lane. George Cummings had the letter and would forward it to Phil to see if they wanted to be included in the site meeting – Action.

6. Update from Litter group

The Litter group meets on the first Sunday of the month. So far, common land up to and including the Titterstone Clee car park had been picked. Heidi Steele of Streetscene had clarified that the Council clear litter along the main road, but only up to 1 metre either side. Six people were regularly involved in litter picks, but they were aiming at 12. Risk

Assessments and disclaimers were in use. Henry had written a letter of thanks on behalf of the Partnership.

7. Update from Titterstone Clee Heritage Trust

The project on the Novers Woodland funded by Natural Assets (Advantage West Midlands funding administered by Natural England) was nearing completion. There had been lots of short courses on skills. Two small bids had been made – to the Rural Challenge and to LEADER. Some ideas on skills development for young people were being developed which would suit an HLF bid. Members were reminded that the TCHT website and Facebook page have a lot of information on the Trust's activities.

8. Update from Clee Hill Commoners Association meeting

Chris reported that the Fire Brigade were still reporting regular unauthorised burning of gorse. A fire Officer attended the last Commoners meeting and Deana was following up about the training which was offered. There was another meeting of the Association in a few days.

9. Other updates from partners

- Natural England

Richard Rallings had taken over from Wayne Davies in this area and had met with Phil Holden, with Carl and Jan McKelvey from the Wildlife Trust and with Chris Neal and Phil Edwards. He had attended the last Commoners meeting to discuss grazing and supplementary feeding and would be at the next to discuss different options for agreements under Environmental Stewardship such as Higher Level Scheme or Upland Entry Level Scheme.

- Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership

Phil Holden circulated the 2010-11 Annual Review of the AONB Partnership, recently published.

10. Any other Business

Richard Huffer mentioned that the Olympic torch was passing through Clee Hill on 24 May. Alvis and Judith were thanked for making the tea and coffee.

11. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was set for 28 February 2012 at 7.30pm, venue to be confirmed.