

CLEE HILL PARTNERSHIP

TUESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2014 7.30pm CLEE HILL VILLAGE HALL

MINUTES

Present:

Cllr Gwilym Butler	Shropshire Council
Henry Chance	Bitterley Parish Council Chairman (& Clee Hill Partnership Chairman)
George Cummings	Friends of Clee Hill Village Forum Chairman
Peter Cuthbert	Hopton Wafers Parish Council
Sue Dawes	Clee Hill Community Wildlife Group Chair
Chris Edwards	Shropshire Council
Phil Holden	Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership Manager
Ian Loman-Brown	Caynham Parish Council
Chris Neal	Clee Hill Commoners Association
Richard Osborne	Bitterley Parish Council
Richard Rallings	Natural England
Garth Ridgers	Friends of Clee Hill Village Forum
John Shew	Friends of Clee Hill Village Forum/ Caynham PC

1. Welcome and apologies

The following apologies had been received:

Glynn Barratt	Titterstone Clee Heritage Trust
Clare Fildes	Shropshire Council, Outdoor Partnerships
Jenny Marriott	English Heritage
Linda Monteith	Shropshire Council
Mark Wiggin	Landowner, Downton Estate
George Williams	Caynham Parish Council, Chairman
Chris Woodward	Landowner, Hopton Court

2. Minutes of last meeting 11 March 2014 and matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as an accurate record.

3. Heritage Lottery Fund project grant bid – update on Shropshire Council decision and possible ways ahead

The Chairman thanked Cllr Gwilym Butler and Chris Edwards from the Council for attending. Gwilym outlined the pressure the Council was under to dispose of property as part of financial savings, and the moves to externalise various functions through commissioning. It really was not compatible with this for the Council to take on a new lease for heritage sites linked to the project. He suggested the possibility of a different kind of body such as a CIC being set up to take this on, with some support for Shropshire Council, which was a model being used with other situations. There was discussion on whether Titterstone Clee Heritage Trust was in a position to do this. Issues included available resources (people's time to manage the project), income generation, insurance, liabilities, etc. Phil reminded members that at an earlier stage a joint application between the AONB Partnership (which has Shropshire Council as its accountable body) and TCHT had been considered. This had however been rejected, as in this scenario any default of responsibilities by the Trust would result in liabilities reverting back to the Council. The Trust still felt that they were not in a position to take on such a project.

The actual likely liabilities in respect of the structures were discussed, and these were felt in most part to be small in reality. Funding and possible structures for an organisation were discussed, with some examples and sources of support being cited. It seemed unlikely however that a new social enterprise structure would be formed

focusing on heritage on Clee Hill, when TCHT was already in place for this purpose, as this would result in spreading more thinly such capacity as existed in the community.

An alternative approach of looking for funding with different rules regarding leases was suggested. It was agreed that Phil would speak to HLF about their rules for leases, etc under their different grant programmes – **ACTION – Phil.**

4. Updates from partners on current activity

a. Clee Hill Community Wildlife Group

Sue reported that the survey season had ended, and reports were being prepared. New funding had been obtained from the AONB's Sustainable Development Fund. The Butterfly Group had found Wall Brown, and the Moth Group was active. The peregrines had not successfully raised young this year. The Group's AGM was in November.

b. Titterstone Clee Heritage Trust

Five walks had been held this year, and a falconry display. The Trust had been involved with the John Muir Award with South Shropshire Youth Forum. Coppicing weekends were being planned for next year.

c. Litter group

John reported that the group met on the first Sunday of every month, attendance was down to about 8. 232 volunteer hours had been worked, and 147 bags of rubbish collected.

d. Clee Hill Commoners Association

The Commoners had a meeting coming up. There had been two incidents of off-roading at night recently involving motorbikes and cars. The burning season had finished.

e. Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership

Phil reported that the bid for the next round of LEADER funding had been submitted. The AONB Partnership had objected to a planning application for expansion at Wheathill Touring Park (Three Horseshoes) and to the Whitton solar farm. Cath had been doing work on the John Muir Award with Clee Hill Primary School and discussing development of a Young Rangers group with South Shropshire Youth Forum. A volunteer-led guided walk was visiting Benson's Brook and Downton Hall.

f. Clee Hill Wardens

Garth reported that there were about 10 active wardens involved, and at least 213 volunteer hours had been carried out since February. Work included welcoming visitors, keeping a look out, talking to dog owners, giving out leaflets and collecting rubbish.

g. Friends of Clee Hill Village Forum

The group had been going since 2009. They were planning a clean-up day in the village and looking at signage - some footpath signs were missing and there was no sign from the village to the summit. The Youth Forum had cleared a bridle path and cut grass.

h. Caynham Parish Council

A new noticeboard had been erected by the public toilets. The bus shelters had been funded.

5. Any other Business

Henry reported concern about lorries speeding at Doddington, and also debris coming onto the main road from New Road. There was some controversy about the recognition being given to Hopton Parish Plan.

6. Date of next meeting – A new date was not set.