

CLEE HILL PARTNERSHIP

MONDAY 17 AUGUST 2015 7.30pm CLEE HILL VILLAGE HALL

MINUTES

Present:

Henry Chance	Bitterley Parish Council Chairman (& Clee Hill Partnership Chairman)
Andy Chapman	Clee Hill Commoners Association & landowner
Peter Cuthbert	Hopton Wafers Parish Council
Sue Dawes	Clee Hill Community Wildlife Group Chair
Phil Holden	Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership Manager
Cllr Richard Huffer	Shropshire Council
Cath Landles	Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership, Community & Landscape Officer
Ian Loman-Brown	Caynham Parish Council
Theresa Mackrow	Coreley Parish Council
Garth Ridgers	Friends of Clee Hill Village Forum
Jane Thomas	Coreley Parish Council
George Williams	Caynham Parish Council

1. Welcome and apologies

The following apologies had been received:

George Cummings	Friends of Clee Hill Village Forum Chairman
Jenny Marriott	English Heritage
Carl Pickup	Shropshire Wildlife Trust
John Shew	Friends of Clee Hill Village Forum/ Caynham PC
Chris Woodward	Landowner, Hopton Court
Roddy Yapp	Clee Hill Commoners Association

2. Minutes of last meeting 23 September 2014 and matters arising

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

There was no progress to report on the issue of speeding at Doddington.

Regarding the problems with the proposed heritage project, Phil had spoken to Laura Birkett at HLF in November about their rules for leases, etc under different grant programmes. These were not quite the same, and a lease as such may not always be required, but some means of signing in the landowner to ensure public benefit from the grant was always needed. Alternative grant programmes were either smaller, or larger (such as a Landscape Partnership Scheme). It was not felt that capacity existed at the current time in any organisation which could act as the applicant body, to rework the proposals into one of these other HLF programmes. It was agreed therefore reluctantly that the position of the bid proposal being dropped still stood. Some of the work which had been done could potentially be revived in future if the circumstances changed.

3. Updates from partners on current activity

a. Clee Hill Community Wildlife Group

Sue reported that the committee was losing a few people, and new people are being sought for 2016. Surveys on moths, butterflies and wildflowers had been done. An update was given on the peregrines, that one bird had been found poisoned, and both the Police and the RSPB were involved. The AGM was to be moved to the spring. A query was raised about observed decline in frogs. There was no group looking at amphibians and reptiles as there was no-one to lead it.

b. Litter group

Garth reported that the monthly group is still going. An average of 8-10 bin bags were collected every month

c. Clee Hill Wardens

The wardens had reduced in numbers a bit, but were also still going. The Police had been involved in one incident of off-roading. The leaflet about the hill was valued by visitors.

d. Clee Hill Commoners Association

Further spraying of bracken had been done. More work was needed on gorse control, as burning had been difficult in recent years. There had been no reports of arson this year. Roddy was now Chair of the Association, and Richard Rallings was Secretary.

e. Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership

Phil reported that major projects in other parts of the AONB included the Stiperstones and Corndon Landscape Partnership Scheme, and the River Clun Recovery Project. The LEADER funding programme had been taken on by Shropshire Council. The new AONB Conservation Fund had given a number of grants. Cath had been doing work on the John Muir Award with schools and an event for the Friends of the AONB. A potential new project on upland commons was mentioned. Following a pilot last year involving the Long Mynd, the Foundation for Common Land were offering involvement for three commons in the Shropshire Hills AONB in a project bid to HLF, along with four other upland areas of England. The focus was helping to build relationships in order to maintain active commoning and deliver the best public benefits from upland commons. Cath was in first discussions about this with Roddy and Richard from the Clee Hill Commoners Association, and with people from other commons. For the pilot report, see <http://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/aonb-partnership/recent-projects/better-outcomes-on-upland-commons/>

f. Titterstone Clee Heritage Trust

Sue reported that there was activity most weekends at the Novers, doing path maintenance, etc. From September, the woodland management work would start again. Events had been held with South Shropshire Youth Forum's Youth Rangers (funded by the AONB Conservation Fund). A charcoal event had been held in the spring, and some walks, and an open event was planned for the autumn.

g. Coreley Parish Council

The bus shelter had been damaged again.

h. Caynham Parish Council

The Council maintained the public toilets. Concern was being expressed about closure of local pubs, with applications for status of assets of community value. The pedestrian crossing had been changed.

i. Bitterley Parish Council

There was a new bus shelter at the bottom of Bedlam Bank. A solar farm application had been refused.

j. Shropshire Council

Richard reported that there had been a good deal of discussion at a recent LJC meeting about the 292 bus. He also mentioned the concern about pubs closing. Planning pressures were mentioned, though some applications were being turned down.

4. Future of the Partnership

The question was asked whether the Partnership was valuable and if people wanted it to continue. It was agreed that it was, and that three meetings a year should be the aim.

5. Any other Business

Henry reported that a proposal for a 'Dhustone Way', a walk from Ludlow to Clee Hill summit using the old railway line, had effectively been dropped, since Shropshire Council had advised that with the Shropshire Way already linking these points by another route, this would not be a priority.

George Cummings was progressing a proposed sign on Dhustone Lane for visitors, about which there had been considerable discussion. Phil and others requested to have some input into content of the sign.

6. Date of next meeting – Monday 23rd November 2015.