

CLIFFORD PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Councillors are summoned to a Meeting of the Parish Council on
Thursday 10th September 2020 at 7.00pm via Zoom

In attendance: David Jones, Billie Cooper, Margaret Davies, Candia Compton.

Also present: John Neville, Richard Mighall, Emma Noble (clerk), Bill Bloxsome (Data Orchard) and Fiona Goodwin.

Agenda

1. To receive apologies for absence – David Morgan, Will Bullough, Martin Preece, Matthew Lloyd,
2. To receive declarations of interest & written requests for dispensation – none received.
3. To approve minutes of last meeting (Extra Ordinary Meeting 21st August) – These were agreed to be a true reflection of the meeting and ADOPTED.
4. Open Session
 - 4.1 To receive a verbal report from West Mercia Police. – not present.
 - 4.2 To receive a verbal report from the Ward Councillor – not present
 - 4.3 To receive a verbal report from the Council's Open Spaces Adviser

Priory Wood Common

Application for Ownership. A recent letter from the Land Registry stated that, because of the pandemic restrictions, the objection to Council's application for ownership of selected plots of Priory Wood Common would not be submitted to Tribunal until 1 October at the earliest. In response, the Open Spaces Adviser repeated an earlier suggestion made to the Land Registry that referral of the application to Tribunal should be dropped as the objector had, over the last 6 months, failed to respond to repeated written and verbal communications from the Chairman to discuss the matter.

Complaint. In response to a written complaint from a local resident about dog-fouling and overnight parking on the Common, the Council agreed, firstly, to install appropriate notices about dog-fouling on Chapel, Barn and Orchard Commons and, secondly, to remind all Priory Wood residents that, in accordance with Herefordshire Council's Scheme of Regulation for Priory Wood Common, it was not permissible to park any vehicle on the Common overnight. **ACTION: CLERK & RM**

Fallen Apple Tree. It was noted that a recently fallen apple tree on Orchard Common could possibly be up-righted and saved by securing it to a supporting stake. It was agreed that, once the fruit and foliage had fallen, further consideration would be given to this course of action.

- 4.4 To receive a verbal report from the Council's Footpath Officer

Clearing of undergrowth on paths and round stiles.

CL 80 (below Westbrook) Replaced cross step on stile.

CL 88 (Merbach Hill) Cut through tree branches to clear path and landowner has now chain sawed tree.

CL 88 (lower end near lime kilns) Path has been falling away down the bank and is extremely dangerous now. I met Paul Norris 2 years ago at this site and he proposed building up the bank with timber to stabilise the path. This still hasn't been done so I have notified him of the risk this path poses.

The proposed upgrading of the WVV at the approach to the former golf course is currently on hold. Balfour Beatty sent an invoice to the clerk for the two wide self-closing gates, but they didn't include the extra plank bridge I asked for. After many frustrating attempts to contact someone at Balfour to enlighten me on why they hadn't included the extra bridge materials I eventually was able to talk to Susan White who, to cut a long story short said that the team who went out to inspect this site said that a wider plank bridge wouldn't meet the regulations for a wheelchair and a 6 metre long footbridge with ramps at either end and handrails would be required. However, they wouldn't approve the financing of this and as it would cost the Parish up to £10,000 this is obviously not going to happen. In my view a bridge of this sort is completely over the top as it is only going over a small ditch. Susan did say she would send the team out there again to see if perhaps the footpath could be diverted to go over an existing culvert in the adjacent field. However, that would mean a serious diversion and I doubt whether the landowners would agree to this. Having spoken to Josie Pearson this morning who would be quite happy with a wider plank bridge I have again contacted Susan and suggested that we could purchase the materials and install an extra plank bridge as long as the landowner agrees and there is no legal reason why this can't be done. I also suggested having a culvert installed on the existing line of the path and doing away with bridge altogether. Susan has

agreed to have the team look at this possibility, but if approved it would have to be financed by the Council.

I have to say I am finding it more difficult to deal with Balfour Beatty at the moment. As an example I have asked Paul Norris (the Locality Steward) twice now to send me a waymark post so that I could replace a rotten one, but have received no response. ROW problems I notify them about via the Herefordshire Council website are not being attended to whereas previously they would have been. Possibly it's due to the current situation we live in now. I also notified Hereford Council about fly tipping at Hardwicke Turn car park. No action was taken so I cleared up the mess myself and took it to the tip.

- 4.5 To receive views on parish matters from local residents. – BC mentioned that the bridleway by Whitney that leads to the river where the ferry used to cross is impassable due to fallen tree. JN will take a look at this. **ACTION: JN**

5. **To co-opt Parish Councillor** – Fiona Goodwin was welcomed to the meeting by the Chair and Parish Councillors. Fiona proceeded to introduce herself and is a resident of Clifford and has been for a number of years. David Jones proposed that Fiona be co-opted to the Parish Council and Candia Compton seconded. It was unanimously agreed by all those present by a show of hands that Fiona is co-opted onto Clifford Parish Council. Fiona signed the declaration witnessed by those present and the clerk also signed and held the paper to confirm it to those present. All necessary paperwork will be emailed to FG and sent to Elections Office at Herefordshire Council.
6. **To approve resolution for NDP and associated documents (SEA and HRA)** – This was emailed to Parish Councillors prior to the meeting. Bill Bloxsome is the consultant working with the NDP and updated the Parish council on where we are currently in regard to Section 14. DJ asked how long this may take and BB confirmed that the PC are probably around 4/5 months away from referendum. RM asked about green spaces and it was confirmed that BB will look at the wording and consult RM as necessary. All present APPROVED the resolution for NDP and associated documents.

7. Finance

- 7.1 To adopt the Financial Regulation Document – The document was circulated and all those present showed hands to ADOPT the Financial regulation as recommend by internal audit.
- 7.2 To approve SiLCA invoice for £350 clerk training – This was APPROVED
- 7.3 Update on bank mandate – CC has been looking at the bank mandate. It was APPROVED that the Authorised Signatories in the current mandate, for the Bank accounts for Clifford Parish Council, be updated to delete ex councillors and to add David Jones as a new signatory. The authorised signatories would then be Candia Compton, Margaret Davies, David Jones and David Morgan with any two to sign.

8. HALC Training for Parish Councillors

8.1 Courses available for Parish Councillors. – HALC run workshops for Parish Councillors. Cost is £175.00. This can be done in Clifford Community Hall subject to COVID guidelines or Zoom. It was agreed that as the hall requires facemasks this would not be practical. It was felt by all those present that Zoom may not be accessed by everyone and after consideration it was RESOLVED that the parish council waits until such time. It was AGREED by all those present that a course would be beneficial and this will be looked at when COVID restrictions are lifted.

8. **Any other Business** – BC reported that at 6.30 am on 26th August two BB vans turned up to erect a sharp bend sign by Castlefields. The sign is leaning in to the road. The clerk asked BC to send any pictures she may have of it so she can report this to BB. **ACTION: CLERK and BC**
- Also the road that leads to the toll bridge has no warning sign that a sharp bend is approaching on a 60mph road. This will be reported to Paul Norris and the clerk will organise a parish drive to look at these issues. FG would like to participate if free and also CC would like to be informed of proposed date. **ACTION: CLERK**

9. Date of next meeting November 12th at 7pm unless a planning application comes in.

Meeting closed at 8.27pm

Emma Noble ... Parish Clerk and RFO
07954 [706182](tel:706182) email: clerk@cliffordparishcouncil.co.uk