

CLIFFORD PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Clifford Parish Council on
Thursday 14th January 2021 at 6.00pm via Zoom

In attendance: David Jones, Candia Compton, Billie Cooper, Margaret Davies, David Morgan, Will Bullough, Matthew Davies, Martin Preece Also Emma Noble (clerk) and two members of the public

1. **To receive apologies for absence - Golden Valley Police**
2. **To receive declarations of interest & written requests for dispensation – none received**
3. **To approve minutes of last meeting – These minutes were agreed to be a true account of the meeting and ADOPTED**

4. Open Session

4.1 To receive a verbal report from West Mercia Police – Apologies received and newsletter emailed.

4.2 To receive a verbal report from the Ward Councillor – JH not in attendance

4.3 To receive a verbal report from the Council's Open Spaces Adviser including updates on:

Ownership of selected plots of Priory Wood Common – Priory Wood Common Ownership. RM summarised the history of the Council's application for ownership of various plots of Priory Wood Common. Particular reference was made to the one objection received to the application which could not be resolved and which had been passed by the Land Registry to HM Courts and Tribunal Service for First-tier Tribunal. RM then explained that the current position with the Tribunal was that he, acting at the request of, and on behalf of, the Parish Council, was required to present a Statement of Case justifying the application. However, unexpected and important developments concerning a charity with which he was associated had come to the fore, and he would no longer be able to devote his time to what could be a protracted Tribunal issue. DJ suggested that as no one present was willing to take on the preparation of The statement of Case that the Parish Council would need to withdraw its application. All those present were in agreement with this. WB suggested that as the PC was withdrawing we would need to confirm with solicitors that were previously involved in drawing up a contract for that the status of the common has reverted to 'no known owner' as the commons as the application will be withdrawn, thus enabling access and electricity cables under the common. (they could indemnify themselves if a owner turned up). RM was not sure this is the case but WB thought it needed clarifying. WB and RM to look at this further as RM may have the letter but the solicitor who now works from Builth Wells would have it if not. WB thinks there may be a time limit on letting Ann Davies know, and the limit is 2 weeks. RM will look to see if he has the copy of the letter and confirm with WB. RM and the clerk would advise the Tribunal and the Land Registry accordingly. The OSA wished to place on record his appreciation for the excellent encouragement and support he had been given by the Chairman over this issue.

4.3.2 Priory Wood Common Management Plan. A management plan for 2021 for Priory Wood Common

was

discussed and agreed; a copy is attached, and another will be placed on Chapel Common Notice Board.

4.3.3. Bake Lane. Following the heavy rain in late December, it was noted that the path at the Northern end of Bake Lane had become difficult to negotiate with flowing water creating steep and narrow gullies. Councillors agreed that notices should be placed at either end of the Lane warning walkers that the path could be hazardous and to take care. **ACTION JN**

4.4 To comment on report from the Council's Footpath Officer which includes quotes in regard to Wye Valley Walk. – The quotes were considered by the Parish Council. It was unanimously agreed that as even if the Parish Council paid for improvements it would only allow disabled access to the end of the golf course and not all the way along the Wye Valley Walk. With this in mind it was agreed that this would not be taken any further. It was agreed that the culvert would not be funded and the plank bridge would stay as it is, therefore the gates would not be needed. The landowners may decide to change and fund the stiles being changed to gates if they so wished. JN will contact Josie Pearson re the gates and culvert and also the landowners.

BC questioned the footpath closed off by Castleton and was informed that the bridge is in need of repair and that notices are on the gate to inform people. It has been 12 months and now there is a 9 month extension.

4.5 To receive views on parish matters from local residents – none in attendance

5. **To consider Bridleway Modification Order from Balfour Beatty CL93** – The Parish Council did not object to this.
6. **To consider Pre order consultation Highway Act** – proposed diversion order footpath CL76 and CL79 (part) – No objections and the Parish Council welcomed the diversion.
7. **Toll Bridge** – Emergency vehicles procedure update – Due to number recognition the clerk will email the Toll Bridge to ask what the procedure is for emergency vehicles. **ACTION: CLERK**
8. **Planning** –
To comment on Planning Consultation 204232 Westbrook Manor – variation of condition 2 of planning permission to allow stair to be removed. – The Parish Council did not object to the application.
Under clerks delegated powers the clerk mentioned that a planning amendment had come in since the agenda (High House) and Parish Cllrs will email their comments to the clerk. **ACTION: ALL**

9. Finance

- 9.1 To consider clerk payroll – This was resolved
- 9.2 To consider invoice from SKA Littlejohn AGAR Amin £48.00 – This was resolved
- 9.3 To consider invoice from Autela Payroll Services £51.25 – this was resolved
- 9.4 To consider bank reconciliation against payments made with budget – this was noted
- 9.5 To consider the clerk obtaining a quote from H Vaughan, Bulth Wells in relation to Priory Wood Common for legal advice as and when needed – the quote was NOTED– RM queried why HALC do not offer legal advice as RM's understanding is that HALC have access to legal representatives. The Clerk will check this further and report back. **ACTION: CLERK**
- 9.6 To consider £40 Audit Clerk update with HALC for clerk.- To be split with BPC and RESOLVED
- 9.7 To set budget for 21/22 – The budget was discussed and as the PC has no lengthsman scheme in place it was agreed to increase the budget for £500 to allow for work needed for drains etc. mowing commons needs to be £500 and PROW work £500. Some of these costs will be covered by reserves.
- 9.8 To set Precept for 21/22 – Due to the increase in the budget for maintenance costs the precept was proposed by DJ to increase it by 5% so it will now be £5800. CC seconded this. All agreed and RESOLVED. Clerk to speak with Natwest re Reserve Account Statements as none received since mandate changed. **ACTION: CLERK**

10. Correspondence

Please see CIS – all noted

WB had received a comment from a local resident re website issues as he is not receiving notifications – Clerk will email resident and also Eyelid Productions to see why notifications are not being received.

ACTION: CLERK

11. Items for next agenda – none raised
12. Date of next meeting March 11^h at 7pm

Signed.....Chairperson Date.....