

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
OF
CLEEVE PRIOR**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD
AT 7:00 ON WEDNESDAY 10 MAY 2017**

- 01 Chairman: Mrs Sue Robinson**
- 02 Present:** S Arble (Clerk), WCC Cllr Adams and 14 members of the public
- 03 Apologies:** WDC Cllr Lasota & H Stewart-Davies
- 04 Minutes of the 11 May 2016 Annual Parish Meeting were approved.**
- 05 Chairman of the Parish Council Report by Sue Robinson:**

We are glad to report that this has been quite a productive year for the Parish Council, and we have made good progress with a number of projects. Early on in the year Councillor Turner resigned, and we thank him for his contribution to the council, and the Cleeve Prior Website for a number of years. We have since welcomed onto the Parish Council Councillor Mary Smith and more recently Councillor Peter Wilson who have been co-opted and currently there are 6 Councillors on the Council.

As Chairman of the Parish Council I would like to report the following:

Finances:

The Clerk reports the precept received in 2016 was £21,840.00 (a 3.8% increase over 2016) and the total income received was £37,799.00. The balance of funds carried forward to 2017-18 is a healthy £57,343.00. It is anticipated that reserves will continue to be accumulated in the coming years to offset replacement costs for street lights and parish improvement projects.

The accounts are currently being internally audited by Mr Richard Fletcher. An external audit will take place after a consultation period starting in June in which the public has the right to inspect the accounts. Any parishioner wishing to examine the accounts is invited to make an appointment with the Clerk.

Council Grants:

The Council donated £4104.81 to parish groups, the bulk of which was £3000 to repaint the church clock. £2400.00 was budgeted for 2017-18 and all parish groups are welcome to apply for grants.

Launch of the new Parish Council Website:

www.cleevepriorparishcouncil.co.uk

As the council has no access to the Cleeve Prior Website, and we have been advised by Wychavon Legal department that the Parish Council website must be controlled by the Parish Clerk, as the Proper Officer, or be a member of the Parish Council, and therefore we have found it necessary to establish an independent domain. As a result all up to date Parish Council news and information can be found on www.cleevepriorparishcouncil.co.uk. We wish to thank both Matt Langmead and Sean Arble for their efforts in setting up this informative website. We would also like it to be known that the former

Parish Council website www.cleeveprior.org.uk has nothing to do with the Parish Council, although it is still registered in the name of the Parish Council.

NDP – Following several consultations, both of parishioners and other agencies, many of which were mandatory, I am delighted to say that the NDP has finally been completed and submitted. Huge thanks must go to Tom Carr (Chairman of the working party) for his tireless efforts, attention to detail and persistence, as well as to all those members of the NDP working party, past and present who gave up so much of their time. The NDP now has to follow a 6 week consultation period and during this time all Parishioners are encouraged to respond to WDC on the form that has been sent. All the details for the NDP and the final submission documents and maps can be found on [Cleeve Prior Parish Website](#) under [WDC Consultation!](#) It is hoped that we will be able to hold the NDP referendum before the end of the year, but we would like to make it clear that from this point on we have no control over the time that it will take.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

The last year has seen the continuation of the successful interagency ASB initiative started in July 2015 by Councillor Stewart-Davies. The aims of this group are to improve understanding of what constitutes Anti-Social Behaviour and what systems are in place to support parishioners.

The Working Party has continued to meet on a regular basis at the Cleeve Prior Memorial Hall and is attended by the Police, and Multi Agency representatives.

The Cleeve Prior ASB leaflet was launched and distributed in July 2016. Parishioners were asked to report ASB incidents to the relevant agency as outlined in the ASB leaflet and also complete an Incident Monitoring Form to enable the local monitoring of incidents of ASB. Letterboxes have been provided at four locations in the village. We would still like to encourage members of the public to report incidents. I am very grateful for the work of the ASB working party which is so ably led by Councillor Stewart-Davies and has made great inroads into developing a wider picture of the issues of ASB, improving our understanding and support for those in the community most affected. We would also like to express our thanks to the Police, and Wychavon and Worcester County Councils for their ongoing help and support. Close collaboration between the Council, Agencies, Police and individuals has resulted in a number of successful measures being implemented. Concrete barriers have proven to be effective in restricting vehicular access along the bridle way at the top of Mill Lane and on other footpaths. Reporting via the 101 service has assisted in appropriate arrests, but it is important that parishioners continue to take an active role in reporting incidents.

Parish Wharf

Two years ago the Council embarked on a project to restore The Parish Wharf with the intention of creating a Tranquil Green Space for the community.

Initially progress was good; unfortunately by December 2016 we had encountered a set back after our Picnic Bench and Life Preserver were stolen. In view of this the Council successfully gained a grant from W.C.C. to replace all the items.

Shortly 2 Picnic Tables and a Life Preserver will be in position and with the Wharf already rebuilt last summer; our village asset will be back on track.

In recent months a new connection with the Birmingham Angling Association has been established. A good relationship with them is vital for the progression of our long term project. It is our intention to clear the land adjoining the Wharf revealing the historic remnants that are important to our local history.

Many residents have now visited and enjoyed the area. Their feedback has been very encouraging. I would personally like to thank Councillor Rhodes for all her hard work with this project and also Tom Carr and his team (Philip Garnett Clark and Ian Robinson) for doing such an excellent job on the Wharf!

Parish Infrastructure:

Two Street Lights have been rediscovered from under their foliage and repaired. There has been ongoing maintenance to the fittings. The Parish Council is aware that many of these Streetlights are going to need replacing in time and are looking at the cost implications. It may be necessary to consult with the village prior to taking a decision, as to whether the benefit of street lighting justifies the cost.

The footpath on the Evesham Road has now been completed, and there are plans to resurface the road and pavements along Main Street later this year.

Mill Lane Road to the Wharf has been patched and access improved.

Concrete posts have been put in to try to stop the use of the Bridal way at the end of Mill Lane for vehicular access.

The bin, opposite the King's Arms, has been relocated and there are plans to widen the parking area so as to provide additional residential parking.

Perkins Educational Trust:

There were fewer students applying for grants from the Perkins Trust this year, but the 7 students who did apply all qualified for their grants. Also the Perkins Trust has decided to allow First Schools in the designated areas to apply for grants. As the Cleeve Prior representative on the Perkins Trust I will keep CP First School informed as and when the applications and criteria are available.

Fly tipping and the CPO land:

The fly tipping burnt out cars and general appearance of the land by the Gypsy Traveller site, continue to cause many issues for the Parish Council. We are very aware that it is often unsightly, and have throughout the year been taking steps to improve the situation. Arrangements were made to remove the car, once it was partially on CPO land. Currently we are working with WCC and WDC to clear up the fly tipping on the CPO land. It is estimated that since the compulsory purchase of the land the Parish Council has spent in excess of £12,000.00 in "tidying up" the area. WCC have done a Health and Safety check on the CPO land and it has been reported that there is no hazardous waste, or anything to cause health and safety issues. Please be aware that a good proportion of the land that can be seen from the road is privately owned land.

Parishioner questions & comments:

- A. In response to a query about how the wharf is progressing: The Council is in contact with the Birmingham Anglers and hopes to invite representatives to the wharf for an onsite inspection.
- B. A parishioner was surprised by the lack of support at Parish Meeting considering the NDP situation.
- C. In response to a query about the fields next to the CPO land: The final NDP and lack of consultation prior to its adoption by the Council: The draft NDP cannot be altered during the WDC consultation period. There was an ample amount of consultation prior to adoption. The plan was developed by consultation and WDC was impressed by the level of consultation.
- D. In response to a query about two fields adjacent to CPO land: The two fields are designated Local Green Space in the NDP.

06 Mr I Robinson, Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee:

The hall is now being used by a wider spectrum of villagers & village organisations than in previous years, especially since the use of the tea shop has been made available to village organisations free of charge and we now have a flourishing garden club and the hall has been used for the Music Hall rehearsals.

In 2016 the Committee has given permission for the chroniclers to use the tea shop as a permanent exhibition area for village history, & they are in attendance every Tea Shop opening to share their findings with & to talk to villagers to gain greater knowledge.

Hall Fabric

The start of the year was blighted by the failure of the heating system. We were fortunate to be allocated a grant by Wychavon to replace the system, which was completed by the summer.

We were also asked by the Garden club for a projector screen, to improve their presentations, and we have installed a 3.00 m electric screen at the front of the stage.

We had two elections this year and the returning officer condemned the disabled access to the hall. It was therefore felt necessary to provide something more suitable. Using spare funding within the Wychavon grant, the committee has installed a disabled stair lift, which was installed for & used in earnest at the senior's lunch.

Finally through a grant from Rooftop Housing we have installed Wi-Fi Broadband & have the funds for the line costs for the next 12 months. Rooftop are also providing computer lessons for the village free of charge & the first 6 week course started in April this year.

Finances

The Finances are healthy with a yearend balance of £8,987 after grants are received & bills paid. This is only a £1000 down on last year, even though we have carried out the extensive improvements to the hall.

Events

We have had a variety of entertainment & events, throughout the year, starting with the Spanish Andalus Band in March, & Kevin Grenfell in May. We then saw the Village Memorial Cricket Match in July & two Chroniclers talks in the autumn. Throughout the year we had several quiz events alongside those in the Pub. This March we were treated to the magnificent Music hall, put on by the players & the village.

Fund raising was also supported by a successful Boden sale, a bring & Buy, & a well-supported "Cleeve Prior Prepares for Christmas" Event
The committee thanks the Parish Council & the Parishioners for their continued support throughout the year.

07 There was a vote of thanks to Mr I Robinson for his hard work this past year.

08 Mr A Adams, County Councillor:

Thank you for everyone that voted for me on 4th May, and I confirm I was duly elected with 1991 votes (63%). So I am your County Councillor for another 4 years, and I promise to continue to work hard to represent the interest of all 8 villages in the Littleton Division, and to make sure our voices are heard in County Hall.

Another year flown by!

At the APM, it is good to look back over the last 12 months and review the improvements to Cleeve Prior and the surrounding area carried out with the help of Worcestershire County Council. Here is a reminder of some of the things that have happened over the last 12 months;-

- A. Advisory 20mph speed limit in front of Cleeve Prior School along Main Street. – all working.
- B. New signs erected directing HGV's to avoid weight restricted roads and weak bridges. Installed by Worcestershire and Warwickshire County Councils. Also Unipart re-enforce the Lorry Advisory Map to all their hauliers and erected new signs and printed new literature.
- C. Patching and road repairs - There have already been a lot of road improvements around the area- re-surfacing and patching in most villages and along the main routes such as Buckle Street & B4035. Mill Lane was repaired on the stretch to the Wharf with about 10 tonnes of binder. Major works planned for Main Street in the next few months including new kerbs and pavements.
- D. Long stretch of Pavement in Cleeve Prior re-tarmacked along Evesham Road B4085.
- E. Cleeve Road Ditch clearance & Culvert on Manor Marlcliff side of The Manor.
- F. Speed checks are continuing to be done by PC Jamie lee and the 2 CSO Bradley & Elliot around the area.
- G. Mobile Speed cameras in the area - The good news, (or maybe the bad news if you get a ticket!) is West Mercia Safer Road have now added 2 sites to their Mobile Speed Enforcement cameras in the area from July 2016.
- H. Offenham Rd/Elm Road roundabout – we eventually got agreement after 3 years of pushing! Work started in November, and it is now all finished – Feedback from residents that use it during rush hour say it is a big improvement.
- I. Footpath behind the Travellers site – Worcestershire County Council is organising a litter by the Community payback team of offenders.
- J. Pot Hole/Collapsed drain Hoden Lane – repaired.
- K. Skip at the end of the bridle path, Mill Lane – this has been removed and a new entrance to the Bridleway erected by WCC Countryside Services.

Other more County-wide improvements

- A. Surfacing dressing– Spring is the start of road patching and surface dressing and many roads around the area were improved
- B. Recycling Reminder - There are lots of things you should NOT put in your Green bin such as batteries, black plastics, aluminium foil, old flower pots, electrical appliances, old saucepans, shoes, cloths, etc. And unfortunately if you do put these things in, they you are wasting them! Many of these items can be recycled in the right place –either at certain recycling sites at various shops, or at the Household Recycling Centres.

So please help the environment and only put into the Green bin the items as specified on the top of your green bin or as per the website

<http://www.severnwaste.com/envirosort/what-can-i-recycle/>

- C. WCC Driving Home Highways programme - An extra £12m is being spent on rural roads over 2 years. I have identified several roads in my Division requiring attention.
- D. Worcestershire has one of the fastest growing economies in the UK, and the Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership have ambitious plans to further boost the economy by £2.9billion, and create 25,000 new jobs by 2025.

The County Council has put the economy as one of their key priorities, and have made significant investment in achieving the following:-

- Nearly 100,000 properties & Businesses connected to Superfast Broadband in the last 4 years, and more to be achieved by Summer 2017
 - Building a new business park near junction 6 of the M5 called “Worcester Six” which will eventually create 5,000 jobs
 - Expanding Vale Park in Evesham & Malvern Hills Science Park
 - 16,000 new apprentices starts between 2012 & 2015
 - New £24m Bromsgrove railway station – opened in July 2016
 - A major new regional interchange station is being built near Worcester which will link the Worcester to London, and Birmingham to Bristol railways – to be called Worcestershire Parkway. So you will soon be able to catch a train at Honeybourne and travel to Bristol! It is planned to open by the end of 2017.
- E. The new Energy-from-Waste plant in Hartlebury is now fully operational – April 2017. This means all the waste in the black wheelie bins that used to go to land fill will now generate electricity instead. It will treat up to 200,000 tonnes of waste, producing 15.5 MW of electricity for export to the grid – enough to power all the homes in Kidderminster.

County Council Gypsy Site update

The County Council run site sits alongside a larger privately run Gypsy site on Evesham Road. The site WCC manages is leased to Council (by 5 different owners) and the lease runs out in May 2018. The County Council have decided they will not be renewing the lease on the site and are aware that at least one of the owners would not wish to renew a lease agreement anyway.

There are several vacant plots on the County Council site as a result of tenants leaving but the Council does not intend to accept any new residents at Cleeve Prior due to the short length of time left on the lease.

Councillor's Divisional Fund

1. Cleeve Prior Pre School- grant paid for tables and mats
2. Cleeve prior Short Mat Bowls Club wanted some help with a new mat. The existing one is 30 years old - grant paid

3. Cleeve Prior Chroniclers wanted a document display stand to hold all the historical information on the village - grant paid
4. Cleeve Prior Wharf – grant requested for life buoy, table and sign – grant paid
5. Cleeve Prior Heritage have applied for a partial grant for a new toilet block – grant paid

Your County Councillor, Alastair Adams can be contacted on adams.pebworth@gmail.com or mobile 07725 979 277 or www.alastairadams.org

9. Mr R Lasota offered his apologies

10. Mr B Taylor, Chairman of the Cleeve Prior Heritage Trust and the Millennium Green Trust:

The Trust has enjoyed an excellent year in which considerable progress has been made in improvements to the infrastructure, staging successful community events, and consolidating the working of the management team and volunteers.

The Trustees were Brian Taylor [Chairman], Merlin Mather, Keith Richards and David Davenport. The Treasurer, Tony Bourne and Projects and Grants leader John Arkell. The Volunteer team is now well established and we normally muster 12-15 most weeks, come rain or shine, and there never seems to be enough time to do what we want to finish.

The Trust continues to manage some 27 acres of Traditional orchards, woodland open spaces and several ponds. Orchard management has changed somewhat in that the grass is left long, where possible, to encourage the wildlife, using the tractor and flail to cut before the fruit is picked. We are accumulating wood chip so we can mulch round the base of trees and so reduce the use of herbicides, the new front mounted loader for the tractor will be ideal for the moving of woodchip.

The finances are stable and better than expected with funding from DEFRA via the Basic Payments Scheme and Natural England [they administer the Stewardship Schemes.] totalling some £5,000pa. Fundraising events brought in some £3,000 and sale of logs and Apple Juice £500.

We are indebted to our own parish council, Worcs CC, “Welcome to our Future” through the Severn Waste environmental Fund, The NFU, The Marsh Christian Society, Tesco and a number of local people who have donated so generously to our cause. Without all this help we could not afford to attempt all the improvements, or purchase the machinery we need to look after what is technically a small farm.

PROJECTS

This year saw the completion of the frontage renovation with the sowing of a wild flower/grass meadow area, tree pruning round the ponds to let in the light, clearing and regrading the dead area between the front ponds prior to reseeding, and the creation of a viewing area on one of the spoil mounds, with access steps and picnic table.

The road access was dug out; stone edged and tarmaced in the summer [it rained!]

But the big one was the 'WEE PROJECT'- laying on the mains drains and extending/refurbishing the old toilet block to 'Disabled' status. Because of the problems we have had in trying for grants for a complete package it was decided to fund the drains part out of reserves and go for a grant from 'Welcome to our Future' for £10,000 for the Toilet refurbishment, which was successful. Work started in February and a team of volunteers have been hard at it several days a week ever since; that is dedication and we all applaud them. Again our Parish Council have come up trumps recently supporting us with grant of £2,500 to cover unforeseen costs accumulated during the build.

EVENTS

We held two major fund raising events, the Summer Food and Craft Fayre in early June and the Plum Pick with evening function on August bank holiday weekend. Both were very successful, even if hard work, and we benefitted by having warm weather at both.

We challenged the Bowls club to a petanque match in July; the game had to be completed under floodlights!

A morning on willow weaving was arranged for interested people and Peter Howe used our facilities for a bird box making morning. In October we had a successful Apple pressing day, with advice from Jez Taylor on cider production, and subsequently have a trial 30 litre barrel still bubbling slowly at time of writing.

Subsequent to this we decided to apply to Tesco in their 'Bags for Life' scheme, and after many hitches Tesco granted us £1000 to buy Apple Processing machinery, so we can have several days in future.

Our last event was a Moth and Bat hunt in Sept in the orchards which was very instructive.

VISITORS

We continue to have pupils from St Andrew's First School using the orchard off Quarry lane for 'Forest School' on a weekly basis. The pupils from 'The Vale School' also visit regularly using both the Sanctuary and the Community Garden, and they will be pleased to be able to use the new toilets.

Students from Welcome Hills School have been on several occasions, and we hosted the Alcester Grammar School Six Formers on work experience in July.

MILLENIUM GREEN AND SANCTUARY

We continue to manage the Green for the CPMGT and this year the Green was cut for hay. We are concerned that the number of wild flower species has declined and this may be linked to over-vigorous spring growth of the grasses and the increase in rank grass species. A late topping in autumn has been suggested and this year a trial sowing of Yellow Rattle was attempted to see if this would help by lowering the alkalinity. This will take several years.

The general public have been encouraged to help maintain the Green by holding two 'clean up' days, and generally the area is well used by the villagers for dog walking, exercise and a play area for children, the curved mound being especially enjoyed by the very young.

The Sanctuary has now been unlocked for over a year, and the fear of vandalism has not been realised. It is still not used as regularly as we would like, but Peter Howe has made regular observations of the bird life there, has put up more nesting boxes and made the hide more user friendly. We encourage parishioners to visit more often, feed the birds and record what they see on the record sheet in the hide.

We shall be leaving the grass long for the summer, cutting access paths only, having a major cut in August/ September.

VANDALISM

We are still experiencing regular vandalism which is costing the Trust about £1,000 p.a. Sheep worrying, horse fly tipping, damage to gates, fences and a style removed. Sheds damaged and locks broken, large stones removed from the walls of ponds and thrown into the water, trees vandalised for no reason and regular quad bike activity. It should not be forgotten that as an organisation we are exposed more than anyone else to vandalism and constant repetition is hard on the volunteers. The inability of Wychavon to manage the traveller site properly is galling.

FUTURE

We as trustees are convinced that the future of the trust is good in that with the better facilities we will have more interest in using the centre as a summer venue for a wide range of activities. We are hopeful for regular use by special needs children, especially from the Vale School, more use for private functions, and we will explore a wider range of possibilities in the coming months.

11. T Carr, Chair of the NDP Working Party:

We have come a long way since the resolution to make an NDP was made at a Cleeve Prior Parish Council (CPPC) meeting (chaired by Mr Brian Minto) on 28/5/12. The brave first chairman of the NDP working group was Mr Nick Bury. The process of completing the plan, through to the formal submission of the plan, on 20/4/17 to Wychavon District Council (WDC), was subsequently chaired by Andrew Rooney, Mike Heelis and finally myself.

The NDP process now follows a pattern of consultation, inspection, referendum and final adoption.

There is a 6 week consultation period for comment followed by inspection of the plan by a planning inspector. The consultation will commence 9:00AM on 2 May 2017 and conclude 5:00PM on 14 June 2017. The NDP and comments are then forwarded to a planning inspector; there is no chance for amendment of the submitted plan. The duration of the inspection of the plan is less predictable but is expected to be around 8 to 10 weeks.

As with all elections, a period of 6 weeks notice is provided prior to the referendum date when those registered on the electoral role will be eligible to vote. The forthcoming general election will provide a reminder of the need to be on the register of electors.

The plan requires a simple majority to be passed for adoption by electors before being forwarded to a full WDC council meeting, where a majority vote in favour will lead to formal adoption of the NDP. These full WDC council meetings are held quarterly so given the above list of timings we will be lucky to get the NDP into the October meeting, more likely the December meeting.

It is only at this point of formal adoption by WDC that the NDP carries legal authority to be cited in support or defence of a planning application. Any reference to the NDP in a planning application prior to this date will not attribute the full weight of the NDP to a planning decision but will be taken into account.

As most of you know the NDP working group has responded to the received consultation request to allocate the Gypsy Traveller site for housing development. This action places the NDP at odds with the adopted South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP). The NDP proposes discontinuing a valued Gypsy Traveller site; building in a category 3 village not allocated any housing in the SWDP and the site would normally be considered unsuitable being in open countryside (I.E. not attached to the village building line).

It is a requirement of the NDP to be in general conformance with the SWDP and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The working group have spent the past 7 months seeking advice from legal counsel, from planning experts and working with WDC to ascertain whether the NDP is sufficiently in 'general' conformance with the SWDP. From the advice we have been given on the contents of the plan we believe it is sufficiently in conformance, given the extensive consultation support for the proposal and the stated voluntary relocation of the residents of the gypsy site.

The planning inspector will carefully scrutinise conformance of the NDP with the framework set out by the 2011 Localism Act, which creates the legal status of NDPs. The decision reached will no doubt be quoted as precedents for similar divergences from local plans in other NDP's.

The working group has taken every step carefully to optimise the chance of the plan passing inspection.

12. Residents Association Chairman, Mr D Harvey:

Cleeve Prior Residents Association (CPRA) was born many years ago when there was uncertainty over the future of what is now commonly referred to as the 'CPO Land'. At the time, the association had a pivotal role in supporting the Parish Council in securing the land to prevent possible unwanted development. Once this initial battle was over, the association concentrated on the issues affecting Cleeve Prior on a daily basis.

The CPRA has had a committee of just 3 people over the last few years. While this number is sufficient for the association to operate under its terms of association, it is limited in what activities it can undertake, especially as 2 of the 3 committee members have full time jobs requiring them to spend a significant amount of time away from home. As such, the committee has been largely dormant over recent times and its activities since the development of additional housing in The Close has been restricted to regular attendance as parishioners at Parish Council meetings, and even this has been very limited over the last few months due to work commitments. Requests via this forum in the past for further support have met with no response.

This situation will likely remain for the foreseeable future. However, should anyone feel they can take a leading role in the Residents Association to allow its activities to expand and to provide greater representation of the villagers, please get in touch.

There may be a question as to the need for a residents association in Cleeve Prior, but it does provide the basis of an organisation that can be used to

provide greater focus should any major issue arise in future which requires action by residents. As such, it will remain intact as an organisation albeit with very much a 'watching brief' over issues affecting the village.

- 13. PC J Lee:** Not present, sent a report which can be viewed on the Parish Council site under News
<file:///C:/Users/Sean/Downloads/Cleeve%20Prior%20Crime%20Stats%202016-17.pdf>
- 14.** The meeting closed at 8:20pm.

Minutes prepared by Sean Arble, Clerk to the Council, on 20 May 2017.