

**Minutes of Clungunford Parish Council
Meeting 9th March 2022**

Clerk: Jeanine Honour, Gardeners Cottage, Clungunford, Craven Arms, Shropshire SY7 0PN (Tel: 07555429675: email: clungunfordparishcouncil@gmail.com)

Chairman: Councillor Jonathan Roberts, Clungunford House, Clungunford, Craven Arms, Shropshire SY7 0QL (Tel: 01588 660673: email: Jonathan.roberts@morgeodestates.com)

Present: Cllr Keith Arbery, Cllr Mary Bason, Cllr Elizabeth Lyster, Cllr Tricia McHaffie, Cllr Rob Rees, Cllr Jonathan Roberts, Cllr Mike Tucker.

The Chairman welcomed everyone

Business of the meeting:

57. Declarations of interest

None

58. Apologies

Christine Tinker.

59. Minutes of last meeting

12th January and Planning committee meeting February 7th 2022. Noted

60. Matters arising from previous minutes-

It was suggested that in future it would be better to adopt a policy whereby potholes were reported as people found them, this was thought to be a more efficient and quicker process and can be simply reported online.

Keith mentioned flooding outside Gardeners Cottage, and wondered if anything would be done about the flooding outside Gardeners Cottage. This was apparently due to leaves blocking the drainage.

61. Letter from parishioner re: flooding -

A letter was received from Mrs Black of Broadward Cottage.

The Chairman felt that there ought to be a discussion about the point she is making, namely regarding fallen trees in the river, and their damning effect with the consequential flooding problem at their property. She asked that this put to the Parish Council to see what can be done. The Chairman said there is a fair amount of history to this, as below Broadward Bridge there is an area of special conservation, which is the highest area of protection possible. The Environment Agency ("EA") is very sensitive about people interfering with river bed.

Riparian owners in our parish at various times have made attempts to get fallen trees out of river, but have been threatened with prosecution, because of the EA obvious intent to slow the river down as much as possible to protect the pearl mussel bed. The EA does not appear concerned where the water goes as long as it does not go over the pearl mussel bed.

Cllr McHaffie recalled friends who had been threatened with huge fine, if messed around with river in future. They were told that they were not allowed to take trees out of a river!! She mentioned problems with lack of dredging around the countryside as a whole.

It was mentioned that other properties locally had built up banks around their own properties, and surely this was permitted on your own property. Chairman commented that he did not think this was entirely possible in this case.

This provoked a conversation about other experiences people had suffered with regards to flooding in their homes and the damage that occurred.

The question was raised as to why people were not allowed to remove trees from the river? Chairman commented that he thought the theory behind this is that the EA want the river to connect with the old flood plain to keep the silt off pearl mussel bed. EA extremely sensitive about this issue.

Our response? The Parish Council has no powers to do anything. Chairman commented that the owners above bridge would be in favour of taking trees out. Therefore, we could say that all owners were in favour, subject to Environment Agency consent, which has previously been refused. EA would need to employ contractors to remove the trees.

Councillors raised the question as to whether there be any value in writing to the Environment Agency on behalf of the Blacks? Chairman commented that we can do, and we can write to support clearance in our Parish. Chairman would also mention to the Blacks that there are grants available in Shropshire for flooding and asked if they accessed any of these? It was not known if they had done so. Chairman will contact the EA.

62. Planning matters -

Dealt with Clungunford Farm. Also as agreed, the Parish Council has drawn to the attention of Shropshire Council a potential planning breach in Chapel Court adjacent to the boundary of Clungunford Farm

63. To Approve payments to Church Clock :

Invoice of £262.60 from Smiths of Derby. Practice in previous years has been to pay for half of it, plus VAT and send St. Cuthbert's a bill for other half. The maintenance of the Church Clock is part responsibility of the Parish Council.

The Chairman raised a problem with the stipend of the Parish Clerk, which would mean a request to raise to the clerk's stipend to a gross figure of £1800.00. This was agreed and supported by comments that the original amount was quite low. This was agreed.

64. Planting of the Jubilee Tree.

It was discussed that this is the perfect timing for planting a tree. Cllr McHaffie has purchased a tree in a tub to increase the chance of successful growing. She asked for the wording that is required to go onto brass plaque. The size of the plaque was discussed: it was agreed on an A5 size.

The following wording was suggested: "This tree was planted by the residents of Clungunford to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II in 2022....." Cllr McHaffie to seek confirmation for wording from all. "

Tree is to be planted along road-side of the playing field, between road and Brian Taylor's garden, at the end of March.

65. Jubilee celebration arrangements.

Cllr Rees has summoned a meeting for tomorrow at 19.30 to discuss whether anyone wants to do anything more elaborate than the Village Hall have already suggested. If anyone wants to organise anything beyond this, this will be up to them to do so.

This raised several discussions and ideas!!!

66. Litter Pick - 25th March - advertised in The Gazette.

67. To discuss audit arrangements :

Cllr Tucker stated that we had previously had the scrutiny of an internal audit committee for this, to discuss the over view of the arrangements and what was available in terms of the accounts. We have not been able to do this. He raised the question as to whether we actually still needed the internal audit, a group of people as a sub-committee to oversee that the procedures are going correctly. Chairman suggested that he get something organised with Mike for next week? The Chairman reported that £500 was paid to Carl for the website, leaving £4000 in one account and £4900 in another.

The only recurring items were the website payments.

Chairman is expecting some sort of communication from the Council, with regards to an external audit. However, it is thought that external audit is no longer needed.

Chairman suggested Geoff Oliver as an auditor as he has previously completed the Church Accounts. Simon would also be asked if he would be willing to take on the role.

68. Correspondence received :

An email had been sent to Cllr Lyster from John Allen, who is believed to be the Chairman of Parish Meeting in Hopton Castle. He commented about various visa schemes for Ukrainian refugees. One of the schemes involves some form of sponsorship. Mr Allen wishes to encourage support to sponsor individuals for a visa. The Chairman doubted if we have the power to do it, if it involves payments: however it would be open for individuals to act.

Cllr Rees has held a coffee morning to raise funds.

Cllr Lyster was not sure what is required and how this would work? So we would need to know what the Scheme is. Chairman agreed, but said cash is always useful.

Cllr McHaffie brought up the subject of scams and that we all needed to be very careful who we give money to.

Cllr Rees is going through DEC, to raise money for Ukraine. He said that Shropshire Council will be responsible for co-ordinating anything. If residents want to offer support for refugees by offering accommodation, then they would need support from other local people, by way of clothes and food etc This was obviously a fluid situation.

Other Parish Matters -

Nothing else to report, apart from pothole on corner outside Gardeners Cottage: the Parish Clerk to have a look and report.

Cllr Bason reported another pothole.

Cllr Gledhill asked if the footpath opposite the Shelderton Lane could be extended for safety reasons due to the traffic. The Chairman thought that unfortunately the road was not wide enough to put a pathway down there.

The next meeting of Clungunford Parish Council will be held on 11th May 2022, when the APM will be held also, 6pm for PC Meeting and 7.00 for the APM, in Clungunford Village Hall, Members of the public and press are welcome to attend.