



## CLEEVE PARISH COUNCIL

*Here for you.*

**Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 16 April 2024 at 7.00pm in Cleeve Village Hall.**

**Present:**

Cllr Ronnie Morley (Chair)  
Cllr Hilary Burn  
Cllr George Stringer

Cllr Ben Whistance (Vice Chair)  
Cllr Marianne Pitman  
Cllr Colin Knowles

**In attendance:** Andy Warren (Clerk), Maxine Gilman (Village Agent), Alison Howell of Natural England (Speaker) plus 9 members of the public,

**1. Chair's welcome to the public**

Cllr Morley welcomed all those present.

**2. Apologies:**

Cllr Geoff Pritchard and District Cllr Tom Daw.

**3. Minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2023**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2023 were agreed as an accurate record Proposed by Cllr Knowles and seconded by Cllr Whistance.  
Signed by the Chair and handed to Clerk.

**4. Talk "All About Bats"**

Alison Howell of Natural England gave a talk about bats which was very interesting and well received.

**5. Chair's Summary of the Year**

Update provided for period to April 2024 (Appendix 1)

**6. Questions to your Council on Council issues.**

There were no questions from the public for the Council.

Cllr Knowles raised the issue of our vacancy and encouraged anyone who is interested to put themselves forward as a Councillor.

**7. Ideas from electors for improving quality of live for Cleeve residents**

No particular ideas were forthcoming although mention was made of the deterioration in the road surface of Bishops Road. Although we have been told that this is on NSC's list. Clerk will make a renewed request for attention.

**8. Close of Business**

The Chair thanked all attendees and Meeting closed at 20.20

## **CPC chairman's report 2023/24**

### **Your Council**

Sadly, our vice-chair Ben Whistance has resigned, this is in fact his last meeting. He has recently changed jobs and will be relocating to Spain, which I think you'll all agree is a bit far for him to commute! Since joining the PC, he has been the guardian of the defibrillator, he's worked out Cleeve's carbon footprint and been heavily involved in achieving the speed reduction on Cleeve Hill Road, the improvements at the quarry and it's car park and also clearing the former Millennium Garden in readiness for it's transformation into a community orchard.

We are very sorry to be losing him but wish him all the best for the future. We will now have a vacancy so are keen to hear from anyone who is interested in joining the PC.

In the past year the PC has responded to several NSC Consultations, such as it's biodiversity supplementary planning document, local list of planning application requirements & the local plan 2039.

### **Traffic**

We have good news to report... following decades of requests and a successful traffic survey, we have finally secured a 30mph zone along a section of the A370.

Initially, as part of the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) it will start approximately halfway between Warners Close & Bishops Road to just beyond Cleeve Hill Road. However, we are continuing with our negotiations for the desired full length of the A370 through the village to be included in this agreement.

### **Finance**

In January we slightly increased the precept by 3%

We set a precept level of £17,499 which equates to £46.44 per year for a Band D property.

When making this decision we had to take into account increases in costs of PC maintenance contracts and pay rises for our clerk & village orderly, but still keep in mind what is likely to again be a difficult year for many families as a result of the cost of living still rising.

## **Planning**

CPC responded to 17 planning applications last year, covering:

- 2.. new houses
- 12.. extensions/refurbishments to existing houses
- 1.. new outbuilding
- 3.. others e.g advertising & retrospective

We also reported 2 breaches of planning, 1 of these has been resolved.

## **Airport**

A new ongoing issue is the potential abuse of night flight regulations. Between March & October last year, Bristol Airport were allowed to land between 5 & 6 extra flights per night. This is more than double the number of additional nighttime flights recorded at Gatwick!

Councillor Burn & District Councillor Daw are attending meetings with Bristol Airport Action Network ahead of discussions with airport authorities.

## **Community**

This year we awarded grants of the following amounts to local organisations:

- £400 - All About Cleeve magazine
- £50 - Yatton United Charities
- £500 - Court de Wyck PTA

## **Open spaces**

We are grateful to Cleeve Community 2050 action group for highlighting the need for improvements and more care of the Millennium Garden. The PC agreed that this area had sadly become neglected. We decided to develop some of the action groups ideas, but to also think of an incentive for residents to visit this open space more often, hence the idea of creating a Community Orchard. We are hopeful that this resource will encourage residents to visit this lovely site throughout the year.

In January we had a successful working party to complete phase 1, which was pruning & clearing the overgrown site, thank you to all who came to help.

In September wild poppy seeds were scattered around the flagpole on Pound Green, we're hoping they will grow to coincide with the D-Day 80th anniversary in June.

## **Climate emergency**

Flooding is a continuing concern around Cleeve, we hope the recent repairs near Rhodyate Lane has improved some of the drainage problems.

Frustratingly NSC currently has no funding available to address other work needed, but we are committed to appealing to them to prioritise Cleeve before the problems become a safety issue or damage property.

### **The Future**

Alongside the Bus Service Improvement Plans we have also been negotiating improvements to the bus stops within Cleeve. We are hopeful this could involve some new shelters, traffic islands to make crossing safer and electronic timetables with audio options.

When work is finalised for the main road and any bus stop improvements carried out, we will be able to decide if further traffic calming measures are needed.

The next phase planned for the community orchard will include new wheelchair & buggy friendly picnic benches and in the autumn planting fruit trees.

We would love for residents of all abilities to get involved... could you help with tasks including pruning, weeding and harvesting the fruit? Would you like to be part of an orchard committee group? Could you help organise volunteers or plan events? Do you have knowledge of growing fruit you could share? Would you like learning opportunities on growing & caring for fruit?

The orchard will offer lots of opportunities for individuals or groups to use the space... a quiet place to picnic, storytelling, an outdoor classroom, maybe future events such as apple day, wassail, or even using some of the fruit for an apple pie competition!

The possibilities are endless!

If you would like to help, please get in touch.

### **Thanks**

Thank you to all the Councillors and our clerk for their continued hard work on behalf of the community.