

CLITHEROE TOWN WELLS CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN



HEALD.WELL.....



STOCK.WELL.....



ST MARY'S.WELL.....

...To secure a meaningful and lasting future for all three of Clitheroe's Ancient former Public Town Wells"

Draft Minutes of CTWCC General Committee Meeting: 11.00 am 17th Jan. 2025

Venue: Clitheroe Town Council (CTC) Chambers, Church Street, Clitheroe

1.0 Present

1.1 Members: Steve Burke (SB), Shirley Penman (SP), Tersea Taylor (TT)

1.2 Clitheroe Town Councillor Observers: Cllr I Brown

1.3 Apologies: Steve Ragnall, Len Middleton, Mark Jackson.

2.0 Minutes of Last Meeting for Comment/Amendment/Approval: Approved my members prior to this meeting.

3.0 Continued engagement with Local Councillors and Officers

3.1 Clitheroe Town Council. Support from CTC continues, notably from Cllrs. Brown and Cllr Holden (though not on CTC for some reason BH is the representative for St Mary's Ward, the location of St Mary's Well). As last year's overture to RVBC Dept Community Services by CTC on behalf of CTWCC did not result in any significant change of attitude, it was agreed that alternative approaches will now be required, referred to in S3.2 below.

3.2 Ribble Valley Borough Council: Breaking the impasse

3.3.1 SB restated the need for representatives of this Campaign to meet with the Chair and Director of RVBC Community Services. IB agreed to try facilitate this and will also attend on behalf of CTC. This was agreed and IB will make this approach. **Action: IB**

3.3.2 IB also reported that the Director of CS had recorded that two other groups are now – or possibly have been for some time without CTWCC knowledge - pursuing this matter. These are Clitheroe Civic Society, who have previously indicated their support for this Campaign and the un-constituted Town Team. SB believed that three organisations pursuing a similar aim could be counterproductive and quite likely grounds for further procrastination by RVBC to accept their ownership responsibility for all three wells.

3.3.3 SB will approach CCS to see what common ground can be established between them. **Action: SB**

3.3.4 IB noted that he and BH were listed as Campaign Members on the Minutes of the last meeting. Though he had no issues with this he wondered if this may prevent him or any Councillors who support the Campaign's aims might prevent them from taking part in any future votes relating to Campaign in RVBC agenda items. SB noted this and it was agreed that RVBC Councillors (which includes CTC members) would be regarded as 'Observers' at these meetings with no voting rights.

3.3 Unitary Authority Status implications.

3.3.1 The recent press report (CAT) on this indicates that RVBC is likely to be merged into some larger Unitary Authority within the next two years to comply with previous, and current, Govt. policy to create larger population Municipal Authorities. Apparently, this is about to generate "an ambitious fast tracked capital programme" to expend existing Capital Reserves prior to the future abolition of RVBC. It remains to be seen if this proves to be the case as no details of this programme or terms of reference are available.

3.3.2 This could be advantageous to the Campaign if the present administration can be convinced of the need and benefit for allocating of nominal funds to Register the Heald & St Mary's Wells and make some contributions to a joint Community/Municipal based Grant Aided Project for all three sites. More details awaited. **Action IB**

4.0 Advice and Support from Stakeholders/Supporters

4.1 UCLan: The Survey and Research Work being undertaken by UCLan Post Grad Building Conservation Surveyor for CTWCC remains Work in Progress. UCLan Undergraduate Students may also be visiting as part of their Coursework studies.

4.2 Manchester University: Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies: Review of Legal Issues. No further advice or guidance is required for the time being following one of Dr. Ashley Hanney (MU Dept. of Property Law) advice to CTWCC.

4.3 Outreach to other potential Stakeholders/Supporters: Ongoing.

5.0 Campaign Development, Promotion and Publicity

5.1 Public Meeting and Presentation: Moot Hall 11.00 25th Jan 2025. **SB** to liaise with Library Staff and **SR** on this.

5.2 Castle View: Front Page article and poster in 11th Jan 2025 edition

5.3 Other Media and Press: Editorial piece in Clitheroe Advertiser and Times 16th Jan 2025

5.4 Website: Now open to all but still being developed by **BH & SB**

5.5 Local/Regional Radio: SB was informed that the Campaign had recently featured on a Ribble FM programme. SB has not been able to access this to date, but will be contacting them for some form of further coverage. **Action SB**

5.6 Financing Promotion & Publicity: SB reported he has made 'overtures' to local Community Groups and Commercial Co's for small funding to assist with out-of-pocket expenses to assist with the promotion of the Campaign. To date this has all be made direct by members of the original Steering Group.

SB also suggested that a donations box be put out at the Moot Hall Meeting on 25th Jan. All were in favour of this. Action: **SB on the day.**

5.7 Recruitment of New Members: The recently launched website and Press Releases are now attracting interests and enquiries about being a member of this group. SB is keeping a confidential list of those who have expressed interest and will keep all informed of relevant matter. **Action: Ongoing**

6.0 Future Meetings: TBC

7.0 AOB: None

Clitheroe Town Wells Conservation Campaign

Chairman: Steve Ragnall

Secretary: Steve Burke Dip.Arch (Oxf'd)

Tel: 01200 425528 M: 07975 518113 Email: sbcaltd@outlook.com

Website www.clitheroe3wells.com