



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 RECORD OF CTWCC General Committee Meeting: 11.00 am 6th March 2025

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

1.0 Present:

1.1 Members: Steve Burke (SB), Leonard Middleton (LM), Teresa Taylor (TT), Shirley Penman (SP).

1.2 As Public Observers/Representatives of other 'Interested Parties': Cllrs: Ian Brown (IB), Tony Austin (TA), Michael Graveston (MG), Ryan Corney (RC). Messrs. Mark Jackson- UCLan Post Grad (MJ), John Flanagan – Webmaster (JF), David Berryman (DB)

1.3 Apologies for Absence: S Ragnall (SR), Anthony Shaw; Post Grad UCLan (AS)

2.0 Minutes of Last Meeting for Comment/Amendment/Approval: Noted and approved.

3.0 Continued engagement with Local Councillors and Officers

3.1 Clitheroe Town Council (CTC): A cross-party agreement to the application for registering and adopting the remaining two wells i.e. St. Mary's Well and Heild Well to be brought before full council on 29th April 2025. This to be prepared by Cllr's RC and MG who will liaise with SB on wording. Motion to be proposed by Cllr. TA and seconded by Cllr IB thus presenting the cross-[arty support for the motion and campaign. **Action: RC, MG, TA, IB, TA & SB**

3.1.1 Steps to be taken to promote the eventual motion to RVBC: Cllrs. Present to network and lobby other Councillors based on CTWCC's the substantial evidence supporting RVBC's de-facto ownership of all three town wells and the absence – to date – of evidence **Action: RC, MG, IB & TA**

3.1.2 Implication of signing Change.Org petition (see below): This to be circulated to Clitheroe & Ribble Valley residents as widely as possible, including Social Media. SB requested assistance with this by anyone with the skills to do so. **Action: TBC**

3.1.3 It was agreed that the Petition should **not** be circulated to any Clitheroe and/or RVBC Councillors so as not to compromise any eventual Full Council vote.

3.1.4 DB raised concerns about the effect of the May Local Elections impacting on this matter being included onto the Agenda. MG, RC, IB & TA said they would consider this possibility but, if presented in the near future and with reference to Standing Orders this will, hopefully, not be the case.

3.2 Ribble Valley Borough Council:

3.2.1 FOI Compliant: SB reported this had been submitted on 2nd March. This, as **a)** no response to repeated requests throughout this Campaign for sight of RVBC's claimed 'External Advice' that to make further applications to HMLR for Heald & St Mary's Ewells would be '**illegal, unlawful and deceitful**' and, **b)** no response to queries and comments submitted on 6th Feb. to Cllr. Stuart Hirst and copied to Officers present following CTWCC's meeting with them on 3rd Feb 2025. **Action: SB**

3.2.2 Continued Engagement: SB will still make overtures to SH for the requested information. If received the FOI Compliant would be withdrawn. **Action: SB**

3.2.3 Implications of RVBC decision on Replacement/Reuse of Market Bullring sets: This could be a useful reference to who may support/object to the 'Wells Motion' and who needs to be lobbied for there continued or new support.

4.0 Review Advice and Support from other Supporters/Interested Parties

4.1 Clitheroe Town Team/CTWCC: 250226 Meeting Report/Record:

4.1.1 Steve Ragnall and Shirley Penman attended this meeting. TT confirmed their interested in the future of the wells but not to be actively involved with this Campaign project for their adoption, investigation and conservation. They were concentrating on more immediate effects with which the wells could be used to encourage tourists and promote an increase in trade.

4.1.2 SB read the review of CTWCC's attendance at the Town Team Meeting on 27th Feb. based on SR & SP attendance. TT's support's CTWCC aims in principle they will focus on their use and promotion at stage. It was agreed these aims need not mutually exclusive and CTWCC's will do what it can to support TT's aims.

4.2 UCLan Support Progress Reports

4.2.1 MJ gave a **review** of his work to date. 2 & 3 Dimensional Surveys and Physical Condition assessments are complete and written up. Schedules of work are being prepared and this should all be complete later this month. MJ also showed the 3D models developed for each site based on his photogrammetric work. He also explained how this information is essential for any grant aid submission and submission for the necessary Listed Building Consent which will be required to undertake any work or signage at these Listed Grade Two sites.

4.2.2 AS's has had other unavoidable services to attend to since the turn of the year. This will commence later this month. On completion it will provide a more up to date Heritage Assessments and Statements of Significance – based on the extensive recent research undertaken by CTWCC and Andy Bowes (author of '*Reflections on the Water*'). This in turn will **a)** support any future Grant Sid applications, **b)** any applications for Listed Building Consent and **c)** assist possible applications to upgrade the Listed Status of these sites and/or obtain Scheduled Monument status for them. **Action: SB will continue to liaise with AS.**

4.2.3 Legal Advice from UCLan's Deputy Associate Dean School of Law and Policing. The Dpt. Head confirms her previous advice re. the legality of RVBC making further applications to HMLR.

4.3 Manchester University: Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies

Prof Ashley Hanney's (LLB) comments made to CTWCC in Oct. 2024 still stand: *"I'm very grateful for your including all of the previous advice and evidence, both historical and legal that you've obtained. In fact, you've answered what my first question was going to be, that being whether there was any evidence of ownership/responsibility for the wells. I had thought to look at the records of the Honour of Clitheroe, to see if there was reference to the wells in any of the original grants, **but the Leet Court (and more recent) records appear to do the trick of demonstrating the local authority taking responsibility. Certainly, to a standard that I believe the land registry would be happy with (as demonstrated by them registering one of the three wells already)**".*

4.4 Others: Clitheroe Lions: An encouraging reception at 250227 Presentation, from Clitheroe Lions and Speakers fee will contribute towards Campaign expenses.

5.0 Website Development:

5.1 JF reported on the development of CTWCC's Website which had been commenced by Cllr. Bill Holden. He confirmed this will be added to and amended as required as the campaign progresses. This had only just been completed and all who have seen it were impressed. **Action: JF**

5.2 MJ agreed to JF's request for links to his 3D images for uploading to the Website. **Action MJ**

5.3 John was thanked for picking up where Bill left off and the speed and attention to detail in doing so.

6.0 Campaign Promotion, Publicity & Development

6.1 Review of Moot Hall Public Meeting: Outcomes and Follow up action: SB to develop Confidential list of Email address left by most who attended this well received, 'Full House', Presentation. **Action: SB**

6.2 Castle View: Sadly Castle View's last edition will be his week. SB will contact to thank them for past support. **Action: SB**

6.3 Clitheroe Advertiser & Times. SB to continue to try get consistent support for CTWCC from CAT.

6.4 Local/Regional Radio: SR follow up his with Radio Lancs live broadcast in due course. SB wondered how to crack Ribble FM.MG who has/had a weekly afternoon show will provide contact details. He noted though that as a volunteer run station which concentrates mainly on music over Local News and has recently taken over a Community Station in Burnley this may prove difficult. **Action: MG**

6.5 Recruitment of New Supporters: the general opinion on this was this is best done via Social Media. SB has limited abilities with this ad less for those who head up most of these sites. Any assistance with this from Members or Supporters will be appreciated. **Action: TBC**

7.0 Campaign Funding & Finances.

7.1 The Bowland Foundation Trust have donated a modest but very valuable grant to assist CTWCC's aims. SB will keep BFT updated with Campaign Progress and a Finance Balance sheet. Funds are now adequate for the time being without having to rely on Committee Member donations for the time being.

7.2 TT has been approached to take on the role of Bookkeeper. Following this meeting she has agreed to do so. Duties will only relate to recording day-to-day costs of stationary, postage, advertising and venue hire costs.

Action: SB&TT

8.0 Next Meeting: It was agreed that the next General Meeting should take place after the motion for further applications to HLMR has been decided in Full Council. MG, RC, IB & TA are working towards this being on 29th April. If this date is confirmed then our next General Meeting is proposed to take place on Thursday 1st May at CTC Chamber @ 11.00am. **Action: Meet 11.0am 250429** (subject to date of Motion to Full Council on 29th April).

FIN

Clitheroe Town Wells Conservation Campaign

Chairman: Steve Ragnall

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