

# CLITHEROE TOWN WELLS CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN



HEILD 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'*

**CTWCC General Committee Meeting: 11.00am April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

## Draft Minutes

### Venue: Clitheroe Town Council Chamber

#### 1.0 Present

1.1 **Members:** Steve Ragnall (SR). Steve Burke (SB), Shirley Penman (SP), Teresa Taylor (TT), John Flanagan (JF)

1.2 **As Public Observers/Representatives of other 'Interested Parties':** Cllr. I. Brown. (IB)

1.3 **Apologies for Absence:** Len Middleton (LM – comments on agenda sent by email)

2.0 **Minutes of Last Meeting for Comment/Amendment/Approval:** Considered today and approved.

#### 3.0 Continued liaison with our CTC Councillor 'Observers':

3.1 Cllr Ian Brown believed that most Councillors were now supportive, although caution must be continued re: the attitude of the legal department of RVBC. He was '*quietly confident*' that enough councillors would vote " For ".

3.2 SB welcomed this review, but recommended CTWCC should do all possible to encourage all Councillors in the run up the eventual Full Council motion which will determine the future of all three wells. This, as recorded below.

#### 4.0 Contact with all RVBC Councillors canvassing them for their support at 'the vote'.

4.1 Assuming Full Council meeting will be early in July, it was suggested that "short trickle information " should be sent out in May regarding the school visit to the wells as part of community involvement and any other relevant information. **Action SB**

4.2 Specific canvassing of Councillors who's support on the night will be critical, based their voting record 6 on the re-use of the old Auction Mart Setts.

4.3 Note item 3.1& 3.2 above.

4.4 Agreed to prep bullet-pointed details of the need to and benefits of adopting all three wells along with an invitation to meet with any and all regarding the importance of their vote. This to be done early in July to all Councillors when the date of the Full Council Meeting will be know and the inclusion of a motion to make valid First Registration Title Applications to HMLR. **Action SB.**

4.4 SB Noted that details of the wording of the wording of 'the motion' to Full Council still had to be agreed and this should be given due consideration by all week in advance of the Full Council Meeting. It was confirmed that CTWCC wish eventual the vote on this to be formally recorded'. Draft to be prepared by SB for comment by all. **Action all.**

#### 5.0 Publicity & Promotion including:

5.1 **Change.Org petition:** JF thought this was progressing well. At the time of this meeting 320 had signed (*currently stands at 343*). SB admitted to both lack of time and ability to promoting the Petition but will do what he could as the eventual outcome prior to the Full Council Vote will be of assistance. **Action SB.**

5.2 **Website:** JF continues to monitor, develop & update the site. SB to prep new Campaign Progress Report. **Action JF & SB.**

5.3 **Traditional & Social Media:**

- 5.3.1** JF agreed to reach out to Clitheroe Gossip. **Action JF**
- 5.3.2** SB will enquire about advertising costs in Castle View (only commercial and community event advertising now) and the Regional Press. There seems to be minimal interest in this from this source though with rarely even an acknowledgement from them to enquiries or copy. **Action SB.**
- 5.3.3** SR agreed to contact BBC Radio Lancashire inviting a follow up interview at the same time as Councillors are contacted for their support at the Full Council vote. **Action SR.**
- 5.4 On Street Publicity:**
- 5.4.1** SB will distribute the Posters and Flyers - kindly provided FOC by JF - in Town Centre Shops & Pubs. SP & TT to distribute poster to all Churches following SB's notification to all about this, and an invitation to speak to them. **Action SB, SP & TT.**
- 5.4.2** SB to collect and fix the A2 'Our Wells Need You' aluminium site sign boards at Heild and St. Mary's Wells which have QR Code links to the Petition. **Action SB.**
- 5.4.3** Market Stall Promotion: Stall to be hired on Clitheroe Market 24<sup>th</sup> May (Late May B?/H Weekend). Manning rote tbc once stall hire costs known. **Action SB.**
- 5.5 School Presentation to St. James C&E School. Action SB.**
- 5.5.1** This is now confirmed to take place on 7<sup>th</sup> May with three separate in-school presentations to Years 3 & 4. This will include a short version of SR's Water from the Well video and a Quiz prepared by Steve and his Partner, Jill. There will be Q&A's to conclude to 60min presentations and copies of the Wells Self-Guided Tour will be available for children to take home so they can take Mom & Dad on a Guided Tour of the wells.
- 6.0 UCLan Studies.**
- 6.1** Further updates on these required. SB to follow up **a) Physical & Dimension Surveys by MAJ** and **b) Review of Significance and Heritage Assessment by AMS.** **Action: SB, MAJ & AMS**
- 7.0 Progress Report on Freedom of Information Enquiry. Action SB.**
- 7.1** SB reviewed the confusingly referenced and assembled responses from RVBC to CTWCC's precise questions to RVBC during the course of this year. They fail to meet aspects of their own Constitution and FOI & ICO Guidelines on responding to request for information for the following reasons:
1. **Failure to provide requested information** – We believe that the authority holds more information than has been disclosed.
  2. **Misapplication of exemptions** – If exemptions were applied, we request a reassessment of their validity and disclosure.
  3. **Lack of adherence to public interest considerations** – If exemptions were applied, the public interest test should be reassessed and disclosed.
- 7.2** *A formal request for 'Internal Review' (as FOI Act & ICO Guidance) was made on 22<sup>nd</sup> April. To date (250501). Neither response nor acknowledgement has been received from RVBC's FOI Team to date..*
- 8.0 Finances.**
- 8.1** Current finances circulated with agenda and attached to these minutes
- 8.2** SB pursuing additional sources of finance from Local Community Organisations and Private Companies. This to support the Publicity and Promotion activities up to the anticipated July Full Council Vote.
- 9.0 AOB** None

**Next Meeting TBC**

Clitheroe Town Wells Conservation Campaign

Chairman: Steve Ragnall

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

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