

Operation London Bridge – Clerk’s Report

Earlier in 2022, the Clerk commenced preparations for Operation London Bridge. This included the purchasing of a new Union flag; a book of condolence; an official photograph of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II; a white tablecloth; black ribbons and armbands. A local independent florist was sourced to provide flowers as required.

When news of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II’s ill health broke shortly after midday on Thursday 8 September 2022, the Clerk referred to prior research and documentation for Operation London Bridge, in case the Council’s pre-planning needed to be made operational.

Within an hour of the announcement that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II had passed away, the Clerk placed a new Union flag on the flagpole at the front of Clipstone Welfare. In line with protocol, the flag was raised fully, paused, and then lowered to half-mast. Several members of the public attended.

Clipstone Parish Council Website home page was updated to a black page with a portrait of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

A condolence message prepared by the Chairman and Clerk was updated onto the Clipstone Parish Council website and on the Parish Council’s Facebook page.

An update was provided to Councillors on the afternoon of Friday 9 September.

The Chairman was invited to attend the district Proclamation of King Charles III at Castle House, Newark on Sunday 11 September 2022. Details of this event were shared to the Parish Council Facebook page.

Clipstone Parish Council’s book of condolence was opened on the first official working day following Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II’s passing. Chairman Claire Wigman opened the book of condolence and then on behalf of the Council placed a floral tribute at the flowering cherry tree in the grounds of the village hall. The flowering cherry tree was planted in March 2022 to commemorate Her Majesty, The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee year. Residents were welcome to lay their floral tributes at the flowering cherry tree and invited to sign the book of condolence between 10am and 12noon, and 7pm to 8pm from Monday 12 September 2022 through until Friday 16 September 2022.

A message went out to the community, to those who wished to sign the book of condolence but were unable to get to the village hall (due to lack of mobility or personal reasons etc) that arrangements could be made to take the book of condolence to their home. The Clerk visited several members of the community. The book of condolence was taken to Clipstone Hall and Lodge care home for residents to sign.

The Community Hub Committee meeting planned for Wednesday 14 September was postponed. Section 243 of the Local Government Act 1972 excludes days of mourning from the clear days' notice required for a Council meeting, and therefore the meeting cannot go ahead.

All employees were granted the bank holiday for the funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Hall bookings for the day of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II funeral were cancelled or changed to a different day, with invoices adjusted accordingly.

On the morning following Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's funeral the Union Flag at Clipstone Welfare was raised to full, and floral tributes laid were taken to be composted for use next spring.

A minute's silence for personal reflection to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was held at the Council meeting on Wednesday 28 September 2022.

The Clerk has written to the Public Information Officer at Buckingham Palace, to express condolences on behalf of the Clipstone community and to seek advice on the book of condolence. Buckingham Palace has responded with a letter of thank-you and to confirm the book of condolence should be placed at the county archives. This will be arranged.

