

Cheddleton Parish Council

MINUTES OF CHEDDLETON PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN CHEDDLETON COMMUNITY CENTRE, MAIN HALL, HOLLOW LANE, CHEDDLETON ON TUESDAY 22nd. JUNE 2021

ATTENDANCE Councillors - M.T. Bowen, I. Dakin, H.R. Jennings, Mrs. L.M. Salt, G.W. Salt and M.P. Worthington.

Member - Mr. R. Beresford

Clerk - Ms. L. J. Eyre, Councillor - S. Scalise and two members of the public.

- 1 **APOLOGIES** - There were no apologies as 100% attendance.
- 2 **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN** - Councillor Dakin, proposed by Councillor Mrs. Salt and was seconded by Councillor Bowen. All agreed so Councillor Dakin was duly elected for the next two years, so he continued to chair the meeting.
- 3 **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN** - Councillor Worthington, proposed by Councillor Dakin and was seconded by Councillor Mrs. Salt. All agreed so Councillor Worthington was duly elected for the next two years.
- 4 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 12th. JANUARY 2021** - It was resolved to accept these as a true record.
- 5 **MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM** - There were no matters raised.
- 6 **CORRESPONDENCE:** - There was no correspondence received.
- 7 **WILDFLOWER VERGES** - Councillor Dakin explained that this had been raised by several residents and was due to be discussed at the Footpath & Countryside Committee which is not currently quorum so are unable to meet. Councillor Worthington stated that he fully endorses the County Councils proposal to not cut in May as part of the No mow May. Councillor Dakin proposed that we ask the County Council to adopt Plantlife grass verge management standards and is a nationally recognized standard to increase biodiversity. Councillor Bowen stated that he had been approached by residents asking to spread wildflower seeds on verges. Councillor Mrs. Salt suggested a volunteer group to work together to monitor and look after the sowing on areas where we are allowed to do this, so it is coordinated. Councillor Jennings agreed and stated that some verges still must be cut for safety reasons. Councillor Dakin then proposed that we can endorse the County Council with No Mow May, we can try to get a volunteer group together which will aid making sure that the type of seeds is native to us and where they can be spread and sourced through Staffordshire Wildlife. Are we also happy to write to SCC to propose the Plantlife Management standard? Councillor Bowen also said that we would need to have permission from SCC for which areas we would be allowed to spread the seeds. Councillors need to know more about the Plantlife Management before a decision can be made. A resident added that there is a lot of interest in the community to help and donate towards this. The Plantlife Management Standard has already been adopted by several Councils across the country and SCC will be aware of it. On Cheddleton Chat the main area being suggested is the large area by the lay-by which was planted with Daffodils by the Women's Institute some years ago. Local businesses got involved and donated bulbs for this so it could be a way of involving the whole community and including schools. SCC Highways have been working with Leek Town Council, so it is something that they are already starting to do with other Councils in the District.

- 8 **NEW MOWER FOR CUTTING BOWLING GREEN** - The Clerk reported that we need a replacement. Mr. Beresford stated that it is 15 years old, and it is still working but it has been rebuilt but not the best. Councillor Worthington proposed that we support the volunteers and Councillor Bowen seconded that we get prices to replace it to be ratified.
- 9 **GENERAL CONDITION OF THE FIELD** - The Clerk reported that there is still an issue with the ruts on the Football Pitch which was not resolved. Councillor Bowen stated that he has had plenty of time to come back so we get it done and charge him for the repairs. Councillor Dakin asked about what the way is forward. The Clerk suggested we need a bulk bag of topsoil. Councillor Jennings suggested box of grass seed. Mr. Beresford suggested Jacksons up Shaffalong and Oakley's Farm. The Clerk will get quotes and come back. Councillor Worthington stated he have 14 days' notice before we move on it.
- 10 **USE OF THE FOOTBALL PITCH/FUNDING FOR IMPROVEMENTS** - The Clerk reported that the football pitch needs to be fixed. The spare posts need to be erected on the middle pitch so handyman will require help. Councillor Dakin has started to make enquiries about other activities on the field such as Park Fit and will bring ideas back to the Committee. The main issue is Dog Fouling and Councillor Dakin stated that there are some on Ipstones supplied by SMDC. Councillor Bowen will follow this up with David Smith at SMDC.
- 11 **ANY WORKS REQUIRED/VOLUNTEERS** - The Clerk reported that the volunteers had been in touch and there has been evidence of a fire in the woods. Councillor Dakin stated that there has been another incident of trying to set fire to a fallen tree. The Clerk also reported that other volunteers had reported a group playing loud music until midnight but as she was about to report it to the Police it stopped. Also, the steps going down onto the main road need to be cleared so the Clerk will ask the handyman to do this. The Clerk stated that the waste pipe which was running onto the playing field is still there but that the end has been taken of it which was directing the water towards the gate. The Clerk also mentioned the request for a skatepark that had been received. Councillor Dakin reported that they would like a concrete one which would cost more than £200k. Councillor Bowen stated that he has some experience as he was involved in the one in Brough Park and is not feasible to spend 3 years precept on one project. Councillor Jennings stated that the Tennis Court is used during the summer and its not just the outlay initially it is the continued maintenance costs and the responsibility of people getting hurt. Councillor Worthington stated there is a metal one at Pointon park which is rarely used. Mr. Beresford in the past did a door-to-door survey on the residents in Moorlands Road and no one wanted it at the back of their properties. The Clerk also mentioned that Fields in Trust would have to be approached as owners of the land. Councillor Dakin stated that it not really feasible then. The Clerk raised the issue of the damage which had been caused to the piece of equipment caused by children climbing on the roof and jumping off onto the rope bridge. On speaking to other Clerk's suggestions were removal of the roof, anti-climbing paint with warning notices or spikes. The Clerk suggested the best option is the paint which is about £18 a litre and notices stating it has been done. Councillor Jennings proposed and seconded by Councillor Dakin to go ahead.
- 12 **GRANGE POND** - The Clerk reported that a resident has contacted to encourage wildlife. Councillor Dakin reported that there have been great crested newts confirmed so he would like to investigate enhancements. Also, look at recycled plastic boardwalks with pond dipping stations so that school children could visit and look at the wildlife. He reported that the dipping station cost is around £800 and look to raise funds this would improve access to the area.

- 12 **GRANGE POND (Cont'd...)** - Councillor Bowen suggested that contact with Staffordshire Wildlife be made for further information. Councillor Dakin reported that Mark Preece the resident works for SMDC as his job so would also advise.
- 13 **BRIDGE EYE** - The Clerk reported that there is a family of ducks taken up residence and that she has sent an email through to Lands Charity with regards to the flooding and awaiting a response. Councillor Worthington stated they have held no meetings. There is a blockage which needs resolving. Councillor Jennings went onto report that where the bus shelter is on the main road the wall is missing making it dangerous which needs to be addressed by some construction of maybe railings made with scaffolding tubes. He also, reported that there were some people playing football on there which was lovely to see. Councillor Worthington stated that it is not owned by the Parish Council so should Lands Charity again be approached. Councillor Jennings suggested we come up with a solution to get them to help fund it.
- 14 **FORWARD AGENDA ITEMS**
No items were raised.

Chairman
9th. November 2021.