

Cheddleton Parish Council

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN WETLEY
ROCKS VILLAGE HALL, MILL LANE, WETLEY ROCKS ON
TUESDAY, 21st. JUNE 2022**

ATTENDANCE Chairman - H.R. Jennings.

Councillor - M. Ahmad, M.T. Bowen, Mrs. D.A. Hartley, D. Kari, Mrs. C.A. Lovatt,
S. Scalise, Mrs. L. Shaw, H.J. Tunna & M.P. Worthington.

Clerk - Ms. L. J. Eyre.

40. **APOLOGIES** - Councillors Mrs. L.M. Salt, I. Dakin, R.J. Hartley, Mrs. J. Parkes, and G.W. Salt. M.P. Worthington arrived late because of another meeting, and it was resolved to accept these.
41. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - Councillors Scalise planning application correspondence q. Councillor Mrs. Shaw agenda item 74c.
42. **MEMBERS' SEC. 33 DISPENSATION REQUESTS** - No written requests for dispensation were received.
43. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** - The Chairman announced that there is 2 planning applications/ 1 Enforcement for Planning Members at the end of the meeting. The Clerk announced that there were no applicants for the Councillor vacancy and that the other vacancy is now also available for co-option as SMDC have confirmed there is no need for an election. These two vacancies for Cheddleton Ward will be advertised for next Full Council for co-option. The Chairman stated that there is an event at St. Edwards Academy to open the new Community Orchard should anyone wish to attend you have to contact the school details can be provided but he stated he will be attending. The Clerk mentioned 90th. Birthday for Brian Forrester who was a previous Councillor to send a card and gift from the Council.
44. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** - No members of the public were present.
45. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING 17th. MAY 2022** - It was resolved to accept these as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
46. **MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM** -
Re. Min. 32. Green Space bottom of Grange Road, Cheddleton - The Clerk reported that she had not received any response from SMDC, and Councillor Scalise stated he would again investigate this as he had made enquiries.
47. **INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT ACCOUNTS 2021/2022** - The Clerk circulated the report from the internal auditor prior to the meeting. The recommendations from 2020/21 were all explained and details of what has been done to review his recommendations and comply with them. The Clerk read out the full report for 2021/22 and details of the generous level of General Reserves and Budget Process for setting of the Precept.

47. **INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT ACCOUNTS 2021/2022 (Cont'd...)** - The Auditor mentioned two complaints in respect of the setting of the Precept for 2022/23 an omission of predicted free funds available from 2021/22. His advice is to train the Clerk and Councillors on the budgeting process for the coming year. Although there were errors in the budget process the precept was completed via a properly conducted vote by the Council and pointed out that the Ear Marked Reserves were not accurate at that time. The Auditor will pay particular attention to next years budget process in his interim audit. Councillor Ahmad stated that we all should understand the process. Councillor Scalise proposed that everyone be trained as recommended by the Auditor. Seconded by Councillor Kari. Agreed.
48. **END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS 2021/2022 - STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE** - The Clerk supplied details to all Councillors prior to the meeting. The Chairman read out the statements and recommended answering yes to all except 9. which is Not Applicable and accompanies the Audit and will be displayed on the Councils website. The questions relating to the Statement were duly considered, agreed, and appropriately filled in by the Chairman and signed by him and the Clerk.
49. **END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS 2021/2022 - ANNUAL RETURN** - The Clerk supplied a copy of the AGAR to all Councillors prior to the meeting and explained the details of page 5. and that it compares the previous year ending 31st. March 2021 and year ending 31st. March 2022 which has been internally audited and be submitted for external audit. Following discussions, it was resolved: - to authorise the Chairman and the Clerk to sign the Annual Return for submission.
- 49a. **END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS 2021/2022 - LETTER PROPOSING STEPS FROM RECOMMENDATIONS FROM INTERNAL AUDITOR** - The Clerk explained that a letter to accompany the AGAR explaining what the Council will do to rectify the budgeting process for the coming year. As it has been agreed that training be carried out this will form part of the letter. It was proposed by Councillor Bowen that this should be done, seconded by Councillor Ahmad all agreed. This will be sent to external audit along with the return.
50. **GROUNDS MAINTENANCE ISSUES/HANDYMAN WORKS/BUILDING WORKS** - Councillor Mrs. Hartley mentioned that the sundial hedge be trimmed at Wetley Rocks. The Clerk suggested asking James Barber to do it. Councillor Bowen reported that the donated Christmas tree has died at the Community Centre so the Clerk will speak to Jacksons Nursery about it. The Clerk reported on issues with mowing which she is disappointed in the quality from Jim Gibson, and he has been spoken to as the strimming is being done after the mowing. Councillor Scalise stated that if an increase is necessary to get the quality, then he should be approached. The Clerk reported that he should be mowing areas twice a month. Councillor Bowen stated that Cheddleton Lawn Cemetery has not been cut twice this month. Councillor Jennings stated that the Asylum Burial Grounds needs attention and needs to be sorted out and he could approach someone to quote to tidy it up and possibly remove this off Jim's contract. Councillor Bowen suggested we need to get a decent job done and re-evaluate if it is going to cost more. Councillor Ahmad stated strimming should be done prior to mowing and trees protected. Councillor Scalise defer any action to find out a price for the Asylum Burial Grounds. Councillor Bowen stated perhaps ask Jim to submit a new pricing scheme if it will improve the quality as costs of fuel have gone up.

- 50. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE ISSUES/HANDYMAN WORKS/BUILDING WORKS (Cont'd...)** - Councillor Scalise stated maybe wait to see what the quote is for the Asylum Burial Ground then Jim can quote for that separately. The Clerk stated if he does quote separately, she will go ahead and ask him.
Councillor Bowen proposed we go ahead with getting a quote and asking Jim to revise his. Seconded by Councillor Tunna.
The Clerk reported that the bench on footpath 38 has been installed by Steve as paid for by Pat Day in memory of her husband with which she is extremely pleased. The new Noticeboard has arrived for Park Lane to be installed and Steve will be organising the topsoil on the playing fields. Councillor Shaw has reported that the steps coming up from the main road need to be cleared which Steve has been asked to clear.
- 51. UPDATE ON RENOVATIONS CRAFT CENTRE/BEAUTY ROOM** - The Clerk reported that the three companies will be looking to supply tenders for the works required. The windows have been measured and order and should arrive in the next 4-5 weeks. The works require Building Control Inspection prior to the being carried out. A quote has been submitted from Active Building Control for this of £450, they conducted the previous one. This was proposed to go ahead with by Councillor Ahmad and seconded by Councillor Tunna. All agreed as this needs to be done as soon as possible.
- 52. UPDATE BASFORD BRIDGE LANE BRIDGES/CCTV** - The Chairman reported that the temporary barriers have been removed and double yellow lines have been put down over two bridges. The Clerk circulated the Leek Post for Councillors to read the article written by Leslie Jackson after attending the last meeting. Councillor Bowen stated that the Churnet Bridge has been repaired and he would like to know what the cost was for the repairs. Councillor Scalise asked why the item was discussed at P&A Committee Meeting rather than Full Council. The Chairman stated that it was the next available meeting, and your point of view is noted. The Clerk reported that the meeting did take place and although it was discussed nothing was really resolved. The Clerk read out details from C&RT about the number of incidents and costs incurred by them for repairs. Councillor Worthington stated that they do not seem serious about pushing to get something done even though they are having to spend all this money. Councillor Bowen stated that a structural survey needs to be done. The meeting was a waste of time as they are the experts not the Parish Council. Councillor Jennings suggested that C&RT conduct a full structural survey on the bridge and the Clerk to ask for it. Councillor Scalise asked how many convictions have there been? The Clerk reported that the Police at the meeting had no information. After lengthy discussion it was agreed again that the Parish Council has done what it can to keep incidents reported to everyone but have no authority or expertise to advise the best course of action going forward. Councillor Scalise & Councillor Worthington suggest a costing for restrictions to present to them. Firstly C&RT to be asked to conduct a structural survey.
- 53. UPDATE ON RESIDENTS WALL DAMAGE/SIGNAGE ON PARK LANE, CHEDDLETON** - The Clerk reported that Longsdon Parish Council has a meeting on Thursday to discuss contributing to the costs for a feasibility study on the signage. Councillor Worthington stated await to see what Longsdon PC decide as SCC asking for 50% contribution to £1,500 for the study. The width of the lane is always going to be an issue. Councillor Jennings stated this will be a future agenda item. Councillor Bowen again stated they need to speak to the residents and understand the frequency of the incidents and what does the study actually consist of?

54. **MOBILE REMOVAL - COMMUNITY CENTRE** - The Clerk reported that it has been discussed at the CCMC and agreed that the only viable quote from Jim Wise we should go with. They can do it in August as recommended by the Committee. Councillor Bowen proposed that we go with Jim Wise. Councillor Ahmad proposed that he may be able to get a team together to remove it for £5,000 so could we delay it until next meeting. Seconded by Councillor Tunna suggested that if Councillor Ahmad's proposal is not an option, we go with Jim Wise. Agreed.
55. **BENCHES/ JUBILEE BENCH/ SITING OF DONATED BENCH CALDON CANAL - CANAL & RIVER TRUST** - The Chairman reported that he had arranged to meet with a representative from the Flint Mill to look at siting the C&RT bench in memory of Jackie by the mill. The Clerk reported that the other benches remaining need to be sited. Cautionary Lands Charity want one to replace the picnic bench and will pay for it if Steve could install it for them. We have two requests for benches at St. Edwards Lawn Cemetery which we need to survey to establish if there is room for them. Another lady has asked about the traditional bench at the cemetery for which she will pay. The other option is Wetley Rocks as there are two benches which are not repairable. So, currently have 6 requests and only 4 benches left. Councillor Mrs. Lovatt had come up with an alternative that we keep the benches and place them and then people sponsor a plaque for a period. After some discussion this was proposed that we allow people to buy the benches as previously agreed. The Bridge Eye bench was agreed to allow Cautionary Lands to purchase and the Chairman to investigate the Flint Mill one, and that the Clerk will along with Councillors Jennings & Mrs. Lovatt look at how many more benches can be allowed at St Edwards Lawn Cemetery by having a site meeting as soon as possible.
56. **UPDATE ON 7, KINGSLEY VIEW, CHEDDLETON - ENFORCEMENT SMDC** - Councillor Bowen reported that a resident had approached him with regards to this as an additional two shepherds' huts have been installed without planning permission and now a shed to each hut as a kitchen and another holiday let of another bedroom in, the property. The Clerk stated that we have reported it previously to SMDC. Councillor Bowen had a response that enforcement will investigate again. Councillor Scalise stated that a number of residents have given details to SMDC previously. The Clerk will follow this up with SMDC via Ben hayward.
57. **PROPOSED TRO - MILL LANE, WETLEY ROCKS** - The Clerk reported that a proposed traffic restriction in front of the school which was circulated to Councillors as proposed by SCC Highways through County Councillor Worthington. After some discussion it was proposed by Councillor Ahmad and seconded by Councillor Bowen to support the proposal. All agreed.
58. **UPDATE ON PARKING ISSUES - MILL LANE, WETLEY ROCKS** - The Clerk reported that a meeting with Your Housing as owners had taken place and agreed that they will take over responsibility for the area and put boulders on it to stop parking and look at cutting the trees and from around the car park which they also own. The Clerk reported she is awaiting confirmation from Dave Lovatt when this will happen, and she has informed Jim to no longer mow that area. Councillor Mrs. Hartley had got permission from the Governors at the school to allow the trees to be cut by Your Housing so hopefully this will help with the progress of works.

59. **ENERGY NATIONAL CHARITY TENDER PRICES - ELECTRICITY** - The Clerk explained that as costs are escalating Utility Aid are looking to lock in longer term contracts and so want the power to represent as many Councils going forward as possible to have the negotiation powers with more energy companies. It was proposed that the Council agree to stay with them until 2030 by Councillor Bowen and seconded by Councillor Ahmad. Agreed.
60. **COUNCIL NEWSLETTER** - The Clerk explained that she had been given a copy of what is produced independently by Werrington and stated that she had not got the hours to spend producing anything like this for the Council. It was proposed by Councillor Worthington that we leave it, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Lovatt. Agreed.
61. **FOOTPATH UPDATES** - The Clerk reported that a kissing gate on Footpath 38 needs to be repaired/replaced by the entrance next to the Red Lion. This has been reported to County Council as it is a metal one and they will look into this as the volunteers do not normally deal with metal ones.
62. **DOUGIEMAC HOSPICE REQUESTING FUNDING** - The Clerk reported that a request for funding to help providing services. Councillor Ahmad proposed £200 donation, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Lovatt. Agreed.
- 62a. **JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS FUNDING** - The Clerk reported that eventually Advanced Protein have sent a contribution for the mugs and now there is a remainder of £97.88 plus some mugs left to sell so any monies could be donated as previously suggested. Councillor Worthington proposed the Chairman's Charity that he nominates for the Christmas Card Collection. Seconded by Councillor Ahmad. Agreed. Any mugs will be available for donations should anyone wish to buy any which the Clerk will make available.
- 62b. **LEEK RUGBY CLUB FUNDING** - Councillor Jennings explained he had been approached to fund the balls/tags for the new coming season at a cost of £250. Councillor Worthington stated that they should approach Leek Town Council/Lands Charity/Severn Trent information to be forwarded to them. It was proposed by Councillor Worthington to donate £50, seconded by Councillor Jennings and agreed. Details of the other funding options for them to apply.
63. **QUOTE FOR TREE WORKS BEHIND 4, KINGSLEY VIEW, CHEDDLETON** - The Clerk reported that she had obtained a quote from Moorlands Tree & Groundcare as this has been waiting for SMDC to come back but as Steve Massey is still of sick. The quote for pruning the oak tree is £225 + VAT. It was proposed by Councillor Worthington, seconded by Councillor Bowen. Agreed.
64. **TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE - 4264372 - BLACK BANK ROAD, CHEDDLETON** - Details given of diversion to take place on 6h. July 2022 to 8th. July 2022 and diversion via Park Lane.
65. **SUPPORT ST. EDWARDS CHURCH, CHEDDLETON - VICAR/VICARAGE** - Councillor Jennings explained that the Church wants a letter of support to keep the vicarage by the Diocese and a vicar in post. Councillor Bowen explained to give visibility of the clergy in this area. Councillor Ahmad proposed that we support this and seconded by Councillor Worthington. Agreed Councillor Bowen to compose the letter.

- 65a. **SUPPORT FOR LEVELLING UP FUND BIDS BY SMDC** - Councillor Scalise explained the funding available and letter of support to bids being applied for funding for Cheadle Leisure Centre, Leek Leisure Centre, Nicholson Institute and Trestle Market in Leek. Councillor Worthington explained details of the applications and Councillor Scalise proposed that Cheddleton PC write a letter of support, seconded by Councillor Kari. Agreed but Councillor Bowen abstained. The Clerk will send a letter to Councillor Keith Flunder.
66. **ASYLUM BURIAL GROUNDS MAINTENANCE** - Discussed under agenda item 50.
67. **ASHCOMBE PARK CRICKET CLUB, CHEDDLTON - NETTING** - The Chairman had contacted Councillor Worthington with regards to this and he reported that he has already approached Councillor Mark Deaville for funding for the Cricket Club to put up netting along the wall to stop balls going over the wall into the road.
68. **NEW HR POLICIES** - Future agenda item as the Clerk requested more time.
69. **MOBILE PHONE CONTRACT FOR THE CLERK** - The Clerk reported that she has an old I-phone 8 which she will donate to the Council for use and a contract with Sky of £6 per month for unlimited calls, texts, 2Gb of data a month. Councillor Bowen proposed that this be done, seconded by Councillor Scalise. Agreed.
70. **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES: -**
- a. **Footpaths & Countryside/Cheddleton Playing Fields Committee**
Re. Min. 8. Himalayan Balsam/Japanese Knotweed - The Clerk reported that Councillor Dakin had organised a Himalayan Pull which took place on Sunday and was a success as a few people turned up to help.
Re. Min. 13. Disabled Access Enquiry - The Clerk reported that the resident has asked for a meeting to explain the outcome which will be arranged with Councillor Dakin.
 - b. **Community/Craft Centre Management Committee**
 - c. **Planning & Amenities Committee**
Re. Min. 3. Public Question Time - Councillor Scalise asked can there be more than one public question time. Councillor Bowen suggested as Full Council one at the start and one at the end.
 - d. **Outside Bodies: - SMDC Committees, SLCC Staffordshire Branch Meeting & SLCC Standards & Wellbeing Webinar** - Councillor Worthington reported that the two Wetley Rocks applications have been refused but not because of green belt but because of visibility issues, lack of screening. The Clerk did not attend the SLCC Branch Meeting but not much was discussed at the meeting. As for the SLCC Webinar it was interesting to have the perspective of other Councils and SLCC are looking to set up a HR advice/service to all Councils to help those who have issues. Also, advice on training for Councillors, as we have new members is always needed and something we have been lacking in. The Clerk will look at Planning & Budgeting as a matter of urgency for Members.

71. **ACCOUNTS/EAR MARKED RESERVES** - See attached reports of accounts authorised for payment. All members received Bank Reconciliation, payments, receipts, and budgets as spent to date. The Chairman and The Clerk signed the Balance Sheet as at 21st. June 2022 also attached. Proposed by Councillor Ahmad to pay and all agreed. The Clerk also circulated her timesheet for April and May for Councillors to see the number of hours accrued. Councillor Tunna proposed that the 7 hours shredding be paid, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Hartley. Agreed.

Authorised under Sec. 137 of the L.G.A. 1972 ‘Free Resource’

72. **CORRESPONDENCE: -**

- a. Amey Report 4280530 - Mill Lane, Wetley Rocks - Pothole - Completed 7/6/22.
- b. Amey Report 4257864 - Park Lane, Cheddleton - Blocked Drain - Non-urgent works 1/6/22.
- c. Local Government Pension Scheme Enquiry.
- d. CPRE News.
- e. Active Places Newsletter.
- f. Fields In Trust Updates.
- g. HMRC Updates.
- h. Fraud Updates.
- i. Staffordshire Wildlife - Enews.
- j. Support Staffordshire News.
- k. Football Team enquiry Cheddleton Playing Fields. Email asking to use the football pitch, but no other information received.
- l. Cemetery Awards - BRAMM.
- m. Register of Electors monthly updates.
- n. Staffordshire County Council News.
- o. Appeal 3295491 - SMD/2021/0745 - 1, Southlowe Avenue, Cellarhead - Single storey extension - No Objection - Appeal Dismissed 9/6/22.
- p. SMD/2022/0171 - 82, Heath Avenue, Cellarhead - Proposed single storey rear extension - No Objection - Approved 8/6/22.
- q. SMD/2021/0656 - Land at Eastern End of Mill Lane, Wetley Rocks - Reserved matters application following the grant of SMD/2015/0701 - Objection - Approved 8/6/22.
- r. SMD/2022/0140 - 4, Basford View, Cheddleton - Single Storey rear extension - Revised plan previously No Objection - Approved 1/6/22.
- s. SMD/2022/0068 - 10, Villa Road, Cheddleton - Proposed single storey rear extension and conversion of existing garage - Neither - Withdrawn.

72. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** - No members of the public were present.

73. PLANNING APPLICATION

a. **SMD/2022/0264** - Bridge 37, Leek Old Road, Longsdon - Listed building consent for faithful reinstatement of the structure.

No Objection.

b. **SMD/2022/0263**- Proposed Field Access, Mill Lane, Wetley Rocks - New Field Access.

No objection to access to the field but can the access be re-aligned to save cutting down two trees? Also, the screening how is this relevant.

c. **SMC/2022/00077** - 25-33 Beech Avenue, Cheddleton - Road width.

New Enforcement case for details as to access. Clerk to follow up with Ben Hayward at SMDC.

Chairman

21st. June 2022