

Cheddleton Parish Council

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN WETLEY
ROCKS VILLAGE HALL, MILL LANE, WETLEY ROCKS ON TUESDAY,
21st. SEPTEMBER 2021**

ATTENDANCE Chairman - Councillor H.R. Jennings.

Councillor - M. Ahmad, M.T. Bowen, I. Dakin, Mrs. D.A. Hartley, R.J. Hartley,
Mr. T. James, Mrs. C.A. Lovatt, G.W. Salt, S. Scalise, H.J. Tunna & M.P. Worthington.

Clerk - Ms. L. J. Eyre, PCSO - Alison Nowiki and C&RT - Mr Ian Bogges.

98. **APOLOGIES** - Councillors G.W. Salt & Mrs. L.M. Salt were at CPRE AGM it was resolved to accept these. Councillor Worthington had another meeting to attend and arrived near to the end but sent his apologies. Also, PCSO A. Goodwin, County Councillor D. Williams, Police Chief Inspector M. Thorley & Police Sergeant. A. Bland
99. **CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLORS FOR 4 VACANCIES - 3 CHEDDLETON WARD & 1 SOUTHWOLD WARD** - The Clerk had circulated the application for Mrs. Jayne Parkes so proposed by Councillor Dakin and seconded by Councillor Bowen. All agreed to co-opt her onto the Council. The Clerk would let Mrs. Parkes know and get her to sign the declaration of acceptance form. The Clerk reported that the other vacancies will be re-advertised.
100. **ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR VARIOUS COMMITTEES** – The Clerk reported that there are still vacancies on Planning & Amenities which Mrs. Parkes is happy to be a member of. Also, seats remain empty on Cheddleton Playing Field and Footpath & Countryside. The Chairman stated if anyone else was interested to please let the Clerk know.
101. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - There were no declarations of interest.
102. **MEMBERS' SEC. 33 DISPENSATION REQUESTS** - No written requests for dispensation were received.
103. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** - 1 Planning Applications to be considered by planning committee members at the end. 92nd Birthday Flowers for Mrs. Dora Turner on 8th. August 2021. Also, flowers for the arrival of the Clerks grandson, Arlo John.
108. **UPDATE BASFORD BRIDGE LANE BRIDGES/CCTV** - The Clerk reported that a letter has been sent to the Police Crime Commissioner as discussed at the last Council meeting. Mr. Adams is speaking directly to the Chief Executive of Staffordshire County Council to see if this matter can be resolved and as soon as he has received feedback, he will make a response in full and comment on funding stream re: CCTV. He made enquiries about access to power to the site and if this has been resolved. The Clerk forwarded the quote for CCTV and that an enquiry had been made to Western Power without any success to access power for its installation. Councillor Bowen reported that The Boat Inn may be an option and he will follow this up with the landlord.

108. UPDATE BASFORD BRIDGE LANE BRIDGES/CCTV (Cont'd...) - Ian Bogges from C&RT updated that the repairs to Bridge 44 will take place in November at the earliest to avoid a road closure and impacting on The Boat Inn's trade as they have suffered enough. Staffs County Council Highways need to have a road closure order in place for the works to take place. The Clerk also reported that Rob Malpass from C&RT has checked and continues to check the bridge to make sure it is structurally safe. Ian Bogges also reported that the recent reports of the tarmac sinking, and cracking is also being monitored. He also stated that they have not received any information from SCC about any permanent restrictions being put in place. Councillor Jennings stated that the caps on top of the bridge should be removed to avoid falling off onto anyone. Ian will check it out. PCSO Alison stated that she will report back to Sgt Andy Bland. The Clerk reported that the incident which was reported by Councillor Scalise is being followed up as the Company has not responded with driver details. Councillor Scalise asked what is the legal width restriction which would fall under SCC Highways to work with. Councillor Bowen reported that SCC Councillor David Williams was in favour of a width restriction. Councillor Tunna asked if the C&RT could also approach SCC Highways to push that they are also in favour of a width restriction. Ian Bogges stated that they have already done this as they will do anything to avoid having the bridge continually damaged especially as it cost over £160,000 for the last repairs. The signage is now fully compliant signage which enables the Police to prosecute against culprits and the C&RT are willing to contribute to CCTV to deter and allow prosecutions. The Clerk reported that the SCC Highways wanted the signs in situ and then to re-evaluate the need for restrictions. PCSO Alison stated that drivers follow their Satnav and are oblivious to signs as she reported that as the PCSO in Cheddle the number of times people drive the wrong way along the one-way system because they miss the Road Closed sign, and the Satnav tells them to go that way. People do not update the software which is an issue too. Ian Bogges added that the prosecutions are key to stop repeat offenders and the C&RT will back anything to stop the damage. Councillor Ahmad stated that our County Councillor Mike Worthington should also be following this up. It was suggested that a letter be sent to remind Councillor David Williams of his initial meeting and promises made when we met with regards to the review of the incidents now that the signs have been up a while and send a copy of the minutes of the meeting. The damage being caused to Cheddleton Park Avenue needs to be also reported as an issue. PCSO will report the discussion to Sgt Andy Bland and left the meeting and so did Ian Bogges from C&RT.

104. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME - There were no questions from the public.

105. MINUTES OF THE MEETING 20th. JULY 2021 - It was resolved to accept these as a true record.

106. MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM : -

Re. Min 78. Broken Fence on land by railway line - Cheddleton - Councillor Bowen reported that Network Rail had an incident on the line into Leekbrook where a member of the public was on the line with four dogs and the CVR train had to perform an emergency stop. The Police were involved, and she will be prosecuted for trespass. This is the reason for fencing it off is to stop people walking on the line. Signs need to be erected and people need to be made aware of the severity of it as an offence in law to trespass and the danger. The incident has highlighted what could happen and people should take heed. An official statement needs to be made. Councillor Mrs. Lovatt stated it is a real safety issue with trains taking a long distance to stop.

- 106. MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM (Cont'd...) : -**
Re. Min 81. Update Well on Well Meadow, Wetley Rocks - Councillor Ahmad asked when it will be re-instated. Councillor Bowen will chase this up with SMDC.
Re. Min 82. Update on Roundabout A520/Bones Lane, Cheddleton - Councillor Bowen stated this can be raised with M.P. Karen Bradley at the AP Liaison Group Meeting on Friday.
Re. Min 88. Proposed Allotments Wetley Rocks, Mill Lane - Councillor Scalise stated that the minutes do not read correctly about the gate which was removed without his permission and a fence erected.
- 107. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE ISSUES/HANDYMAN WORKS/BUILDING WORKS** - The Clerk reported Steve Billings wife has come out of hospital after 8 weeks. The goalposts are missing the crossbars. Councillor Dakin reported that they may still be on the Playing Field hidden in the grass. He also, reported there has been an issue with the anti-vandal paint which will be discussed on Cheddleton Playing Field Committee. The Clerk reported that the Disabled Parking Bay at the Craft Centre has been re-marked and that the notice board has been removed as requested by the handyman. The Garden of remembrance slabs in St. Edwards Lawn Cemetery have been laid by Basil, and he has made a particularly excellent job. The Clerk had received a request from James Barber to re-paint the wheel sign next to the Powys Arms which he is happy to do, and he has re-painted the Mill Lane sign. He also wants to plant daffodils around it which it was agreed to offer him some materials/cost of what he is doing for the village. The Clerk also reported that Steve has replaced some taps in the Community Centre.
- 109. COMPLETION OF THE AUDIT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st. MARCH 2021** - The Clerk had circulated the documents and the signed copy for members information. The Clerk will also add this to the Website and Noticeboards as required to finalise the closure of the Audit.
- 110. INSURANCE RENEWAL** - The Clerk reported that the Insurance renewal for the third and final year of the Insurance contract had been received and is correct with an increase of £89 from last year. This will need to be re-evaluated from next October.
- 111. NORTON 360 & MICROSOFT OFFICE ANNUAL RENEWAL** - The Clerk reported that these both need to be renewed because the new computer was purchased last year. The Cost of Norton is £24.99 & Microsoft is £59.99 so it was agreed to purchase them both.
- 112. UPDATE STREET LIGHT ASHCOMBE ROAD, CHEDDLETON** - The Clerk reported that a meeting was arranged to discuss the replacement of the light with the residents and EON and was agreed it is necessary works. Councillor Bowen stated that EON was a bit extreme in cutting the post off. The Clerk reported that a cover be added to shield the light from the residents' properties. It has now been agreed with EON to replace it. Councillor Ahmad suggested claiming on the Councils insurance and claiming the costs from the resident who caused the damage.
- 113. VILLAGE GATEWAY SIGNS** - The Clerk reported that we need to contact all companies that were involved and move the project forward now as agreed.

114. **UPDATE ON DEFIBRILLATORS** - Councillor Jennings reported that he and Councillor Mrs. Salt have met with Leek Rugby Club and will fund raise to have a defibrillator purchased for them for St. Edwards Park Estate too. Councillor Bowen will donate some from his Community Fund as a District Councillor. The Clerk also asked about training to use the defibrillator. It was suggested to set up a date and invite Councillors and residents. It was suggested all Councillors should attend.
115. **QUOTE FOR TREE WORKS REQUIRED OAK TREE NEXT TO 12, CHEDDLETON PARK AVENUE, CHEDDLETON** - The Clerk had a further quote for the works of £275 from Total Tree Solutions and original quote of £250 from Moorlands Tree & Groundcare. The Clerk reported that the resident was asking if it could be more than a trim, but this is what Steve Massey had recommended so we need to get it done. Councillor Mrs. Hartley proposed asking Moorlands Tree & Groundcare to do the works. Councillor Bowen seconded this, and all agreed.
116. **47, CHEADLE ROAD, CHEDDLETON OVERHANGING TREE** - The Clerk reported on further investigation the area of land is owned by Severn Trent Water and this information has been passed to the resident. It will be looked at by the owners Severn Trent.
117. **RESIDENT'S REPORT OF ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR** - The Clerk reported that a resident reported that somebody has defecated in two places along by the Canal in the small triangle of land. It was discussed and unable to enforce anything but appalling that someone would do this. The Clerk will thank the resident for the information and further investigate.
118. **UPDATE ON CRECHE, COMMUNITY CENTRE** - The Clerk reported that adverts have been up to advertise the space, and nobody has made any enquiries. Jobs 22 are still hiring it for 2 days a week and have been since July and will be through to end of October. The Clerk has consulted with Christina, and she is getting more enquiries about hiring so the best use would be just as another room for hire and not as a creche by clearing it out and getting rid of the toys. Councillor Mrs. Lovatt suggested donating to a toy library or maybe Children's Hospital/Centre. It was agreed to go ahead and clear it out for Community use.
119. **COMMUNITY CENTRE MOBILE STRUCTURAL SURVEY** - Councillor Mrs. Hartley stated that the report is damning that it is not safe for use and would invalidate any insurance that we have because we are now aware of the state of it. Councillor Dakin stated that we have discussed it before but if we have the funds to remove it, we could extend parking and grants available for electric charging points. Councillor Jennings reported that it is in a poor condition and is an accident waiting to happen. The development of the Boiler House could be extended to provide more space. As the Creche can be used to house those that are currently using the mobile we need to stop using it. Councillor Bowen proposed that we follow the advice of the survey and stop using it going forward. This was seconded by Councillor Dakin. All agreed apart from Councillor Scalise who stated he had not read the report. The Clerk had circulated it prior to the meeting via email. The future of the mobile will be a future agenda item.

- 120. UPDATE ON ST JOHNS DRIVE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT** - Councillor Bowen reported that he had contacted Peak Housing who are equally frustrated as are County Council. The road must be adopted via a bond between the developer and the County, and they are still waiting for the relevant paperwork to complete this. Consequently, it is down to the developers' agents to get moving. This is preventing six families from occupying since last May.
- 121. UPDATE ON BASFORD GREEN, CHEDDLETON - ROAD/VERGE DAMAGE** - Councillor Bowen reported that Constable Lee Pattinson has had all the evidence, and nothing has been reported back yet but will be chased up. Councillor Bowen has spoken to Mark Hitchin at SMDC who the Community Protection Officer and the delay is may be the CPS. He will speak to Police Sgt Andy Bland to see if he has any update as SMDC can put a Community Protection Order against the culprit and be able to prosecute if this is broken. He also reported that SCC are looking to claim for damages for the spillage of oil on the road.
- 122. UPDATE ON PARK LANE, CHEDDLETON ROAD ISSUES/WORKS** - Councillor Bowen reported that SCC are starting works in early October for the scheme to improve the road.
- 123. UPDATE ON NEW COUNCIL WEBSITE** - The Clerk reported that delays have been because of access to the Web Domain name as it was originally done by David Fielden when he set up the original website. His widow Karen has been extremely helpful and has given access to the Clerk and it highlighted that we do owe 3 years of charges for the hire of it which will be paid to her. The Clerk will then set up payment going forward and now access is available the new website can go live next Monday. Then the emails will be available for the Council.
- 124. PROPOSED ALLOTMENTS WETLEY ROCKS, MILL LANE** - Councillor Jennings reported that Councillor Mrs. Salt attended the Wetley Rocks Village Hall Committee meeting where this was discussed. It was felt that the parking is an issue as it would only contribute further to an already overcrowded issue. The Clerk also reported that a resident had written in stating that it would be better used as an additional play area if it was tidy. Councillor Ahmad updated that allotments would not work. Councillor Jennings stated it was purely a suggestion for the use of it and that the Parish Council could help but it is down to the Village what they use it for. Councillor Scalise stated it needs to be mowed and regularly which will help stop it being waterlogged. Councillor Mrs. Hartley stated it was maintained by the Darleyshire Society held a summer fete and they have not continued to do this. This will need to be decided by the Village Hall Committee as it belongs to the Village.
- 125. NON-CONSECRATED AREA IN ST. EDWARD'S LAWN CEMETERY** - Councillor Scalise stated it is not about reserving plots it is for non-Christian burials. Councillor Bowen explained the area that is non-consecrated area has now been identified and allows plenty of space for any other religions or non-religious burials. Councillor Ahmad stated that he would prefer to know which area is for Muslim Burials. Councillor Bowen stated that the plots are not pre-allocated or reserved as they are allocated by the Council to make sure that there are no empty spaces. The Clerk explained that some burial grounds do not have any area consecrated and then when the funeral is performed from whichever religion the grave is blessed at that time. The Parish Council decided when it started the Cemetery to have a substantial portion of the land consecrated and therefore most burials take place in consecrated ground but if anyone requests specifically there is an area which can be used but if it is not specified each burial is allocated the next plot.

125. NON-CONSECRATED AREA IN ST. EDWARD'S LAWN CEMETERY (Cont'd)

Councillor Jennings stated that if an area was specifically for Muslims, then there would have to be, and area allocated for each religious/non-religious belief. Councillor Ahmad stated he has space in Wetley Rocks Cemetery but there is limited space and wants to be buried in Cheddleton where there is a bigger area. Councillor Bowen stated when the Cemetery was purchased and created that the Council made the decision to have part of the ground consecrated as most of the residents were of Christian faith but that there is an area which remains for others without reserving any other areas for certain religions. Councillor Dakin stated that it is a theological issue and its your belief it should be covered by the 2010 Equalities Act, and we are not able to discuss that now and to see whether there is a statutory duty. Councillor Mrs. Lovatt asked is there any Burial Grounds within SMDC that have an allocated area for Muslim Burials? Councillor Ahmad stated there are two in Stoke-on-Trent. Councillor Mrs. Lovatt also asked are all Burial Grounds in SMDC run by Parish Councils/Churches or is there a Cemeteries Department who could advise on this? Councillor Bowen stated that there are no separate Muslim burial grounds in SMDC they are run by individual Councils. Councillor Ahmad left the meeting as he was not happy. A lengthy discussion took place, and it was decided that all the legislation needs to be researched and finalised at the next burial grounds committee. The Clerk will research the legislation.

126. COUNCIL DINNER - Councillor Jennings stated that there will be no Council Dinner this year.

127. LANDS CHARITY MAINTENANCE/ QUEENS COMMONWEALTH TREE - Councillor Jennings stated that it was agreed the location of the tree now that it has grown to a substantial height but needs protecting.

128. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES: -

a. Community/Craft Centre Management Committee

b. Planning & Amenities Committee - two meetings.

Re. Min. 71. Quotes for Mower - Cheddleton Playing Field - The Clerk reported that the mower has been purchased and delivered to Rob Beresford for the use on the playing field.

Re. Min. 77. Planning Applications - Councillor Scalise asked what if a member of the public has a question on a planning application that comes up for discussion can they not ask it at the time. Councillor Jennings stated that is what public question time is for any questions on agenda items. We as an authority are only advisory and not decision-making authority it is down to Staffordshire Moorlands DC to allow or reject applications.

c. Footpath & Countryside Committee

d. Finance Committee (Confidential item)

e. Outside Bodies :- SMDC Committees, Cautionary Lands Charity - Councillor Jennings reported that Cautionary Lands Charity with regards to the pipework for the land drain which is causing an issue with drainage at the well on Bridge Eye they will check it out and do any necessary works required to improve the issue. The Clerk will get the swing seats checked. There are vacancies on the Committee if anyone is interested and the tree will now be planted at Wetley Rocks.

129. ACCOUNTS - See attached report for 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. September 2021 also attached. Councillor Tunna proposed payment, and all agreed.

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

130. CORRESPONDENCE: -

- a. SMD/2021/0496 - Land at Greenfields Farm, Thorney Edge Road, Bagnall - Proposed development: solar farm approximately 1.5MW with energy storage capacity of up to 57MW on 4.25 hectares of land at Greenfields Farm, ST9 9LA. Strong Objection - Screening Opinion - EIA Not required 10/9/2021.
- b. SMD/2021/0436 - The Barn, Ringe Hay Farm, Basford Green Road, Basford - Erection of side extension to provide kitchen extension. No Objection - Refused 10/9/21.
- c. Planning Appeal 3264486 - SMD/2019/0352 - Ringe Hay Farm, Basford Green Road, Basford - Appeal dismissed 6/8/2021.
- d. Climate Change by small actions.
- e. Moorland Climate action newsletter.
- f. My Staffordshire Newsletter.
- g. BHIB Council Insurance risk management.
- h. Endon with Stanley Parish Council - Benches on Caldon Canal. Future agenda item.
- i. Active Places updates.
- j. Action Fraud Alerts. Think before you park especially around schools.
- k. HMRC scam email. Circulated and reported as a scam.
- l. Staffordshire County Council update to bus services.
- m. NHS 111 First Programme.
- n. Pension Regulator.
- o. SMDC War on Fly Tipping. Lot of press releases and duty of care who removes waste is licensed. £400 fine.
- p. Manchester Airport our future.
- q. Community Foundation Grant.
- r. Report of Fly Tipping - Ernvale, Station Road, Cheddleton. Oil drums and equipment needs investigating by environmental health as a health issue.
- s. Advanced Proteins Liaison Group Meeting - re-scheduled to 24/9/2021.
- t. SPCA/SCC Update Webinar 27/9/21.
- u. Woodlands Trust plant trees. Councillor Dakin sent to the Clerk will be forwarded to all Councillors.

131. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME - No members of the public were present at this point.

132. PLANNING APPLICATION

- a. **SMD/2021/0564** - Felthouse Farm, Cheadle Road, Cheddleton - Alterations to existing plant storage building to form biomass boiler housing and wood chip store. **No Objection.**

Chairman
19th. October 2021.