

**Cheddleton Parish Council**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN WETLEY  
ROCKS VILLAGE HALL, MILL LANE, WETLEY ROCKS ON TUESDAY,  
16<sup>th</sup>. NOVEMBER 2021**

**ATTENDANCE** Chairman - Councillor H.R. Jennings.  
Vice-Chair - Councillor Mrs. L.M. Salt

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

Clerk - Ms. L. J. Eyre & PCSO Paula Lowndes.

159. **APOLOGIES** - 100% Attendance.
160. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - Councillor Dakin as a member of Moorlands Climate Action. Councillor Worthington in both planning applications as residents have spoken to him about both applications and he lives opposite to the application 0674.
161. **MEMBERS' SEC. 33 DISPENSATION REQUESTS** - No written requests for dispensation were received.
162. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** - 2 Planning applications to consider at the by planning committee members at the end. The Clerk reported that the 3 vacancies have been re-advertised with a closing date of 10<sup>th</sup>. December 2021.
163. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** - PCSO Paula Lowndes reported that there are no major incidents to report in the Parish.
164. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING 19<sup>th</sup>. OCTOBER 2021** - It was resolved to accept these as a true record.
165. **MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM** : -  
Councillor Worthington made a comment that he did not receive his agenda for last month's meeting in the post until the day after the meeting although the agenda was dated the 12<sup>th</sup>. October 2021. The Clerk suggested to hand deliver them again and that was proposed by Councillor Ahmad and seconded by Councillor Scalise which will make sure Councillor receive their written copy of the agenda in time. Those who continue to receive them via email will. **Re. Min. 128. Reports of Committees and Outside Bodies d. Finance Committee - Discussed under (Confidential)**
166. **ENGAGEMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR** - The Clerk reported that it had been agreed to get quotes for this year's Auditor but that she had spoken to Alan Toplis who is our current Auditor and he stated that he is retiring next year. Financial Regulations do state that this is not required to be quoted for as it is below the amount required to get quotes plus, he is in the middle of sorting out whether we need to register for V.A.T. with the Inland Revenue, so it makes sense for him to complete this year's audit if members agree. There was no objection to this suggestion and to re-investigate for next year.

- 167. ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR VARIOUS COMMITTEES/MERGER OF COMMITTEES** - The Chairman reported that the Cheddleton Playing Field Committee Meeting was not quorate so he proposed merging it with Footpath & Countryside as an interim measure to ensure that the meeting can take place and re-evaluate next year. Councillor Bowen stated can members please let the Clerk know if you are unable to attend a meeting in advance to avoid this happening again as only two members turned up to the meeting.
- 168. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE ISSUES/HANDYMAN WORKS/BUILDING WORKS** - The Clerk reported that she has spoken to Jim Gibson with regards to the hedge cutting and asked him to speak to Councillor Tunna. He has requested an increase in his mowing costs due to increase in fuel prices which will be discussed at the Finance Committee in December. The Handyman is looking at Cheddleton Playing Field Inspection report and working through the issues reported that he can take care of. All issues are categorised as Low Risk. The goal posts on the playing fields are the bottom rails which were put there with the rollers on as they were heavy to transport. The other bars are missing that were left at the Community Centre and have been stolen and this results in not having a complete set now. Councillor Worthington reported that Kingsley Youth Club have offered their goal posts free of charge as they are no longer used if someone wants to look at them. The Clerk reported that she has also asked the handyman to remove the broken concrete bin and to cut around the bottom of the trees and tidy them up. He has put the bird deterrent strips on the swings. He has been asked to repair the sign at Toll Bar Playing Field. The Clerk reported she has asked Paul Williams to do some electrical works at the Community Centre and Craft Centre. Items required which have been supplied to fix the security light, alarm, doorbell, and Christmas Tree Electrics. Also, Craft Centre works replace faulty security light outside, light fitting in ladies toilet, had dryer not working. The Clerk will chase him up to get these issues sorted as quickly as possible. The Handyman has looked at the Outside tap at the Craft Centre which was reported as dripping. Councillor Scalise suggested getting another electrician if he does not get the jobs done which was agreed by Councillor Worthington. The Clerk will give him an ultimatum.
- 169. UPDATE ON RENOVATIONS CRAFT CENTRE/ ADDITIONAL INSURANCE CHARGE** - The Clerk reported that works are progressing nicely. Joinery and plaster boarding has been started and plumbing, first fix of electrics has been done. The Building Control Officer has made his initial visit and is more than happy with the specification of works being carried out and will be re-visiting next week and has asked about certain items but is more than happy with the works. The Fire Alarm & Emergency Lighting has been checked with Staffs Fire and all is in order. Looking to be completed on schedule. Councillor Dakin asked when will it be advertised for letting? Councillor Scalise suggested that it be investigated as soon as possible.
- 170. STREET LIGHTING MAINTENANCE CONTRACT/ ASHCOMBE ROAD COLOUMN QUOTE** - The Clerk reported that the Lighting/Maintenance Invoice has been received and that we are still being charged for the damaged light which has not been replaced so she has queried this with EON. The Clerk reported that the quote has been received to fit the light of £934.92 which has got to be done as soon as possible with shielding the back to avoid shining into the two affected properties. The Clerk will instruct EON to do the works and get a date of works. This will then need to be pursued with the insurance/ resident who caused the damage. Councillor Scalise stated that the quote should be forwarded to the resident, so he knows the cost involved.

- 170. STREET LIGHTING MAINTENANCE CONTRACT/ ASHCOMBE ROAD**  
**COLOUMN QUOTE (Cont'd...)** - Councillor Bowen stated that when they met with the resident, he felt that it was a little unnecessary that EON removed the light as it was only minor cut into the column. The Clerk had suggested that the resident could claim on his house insurance. Councillor Scalise stated that it is a matter of health & safety, and should anything happened, it would be our responsibility if the column had collapsed. Councillor Ahmad stated it needs to be done and the Clerk stated it needs to be negotiated that someone pays. The Clerk will report back the progress after letting the resident know the costs involved and ask for his response.
- 171. UPDATE ON SCC DIRECTIONS FOR FOOTPATH MODIFICATIONS** - The Clerk had issued the details to all Councillors that David Rice has compiled with regards to the extensive list of outstanding reports that SCC Rights of Way must deal with. Councillor Mrs. Hartley commented on the numbers involved and that the years that they have done nothing to resolve them.
- 172. UPDATE CAR PARK, MILL LANE, WETLEY ROCKS** - Councillor Bowen reported that he had spoken to Dave Lovatt at Your Housing who is the new regional manager. He put it to him that we wanted to use the car park initially to let parents use it to drop off children at school to clear some of the congestion. He also reported that the hedges needed cutting and they were done the next day so hopefully this could be a start to negotiating a better use of the garages on the land too and the possibility of the Parish Council taking it over in the future. Councillor Scalise stated that parents are using it anyway. Councillor Ahmad stated that the hedge has been cut but not enough for visibility so could Councillor Bowen go back and ask this be cut back more. Councillor Jennings asked is there any lighting. Councillor Ahmad reported that there are no lights. Councillor Jennings asked could they be asked to provide some lights.
- 173. UPDATE BASFORD BRIDGE LANE BRIDGES/CCTV** - The Clerk reported that the C&RT have scheduled works for 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> November with pedestrian access. Not had a Road Closure issued yet. The Clerk also reported that she had sent the details from Police Commissioner to everyone on the mailing list. No incidents have been reported lately. Councillor Scalise stated there had been a large vehicle that got stuck and reversed along Cheddleton Park Avenue. The Clerk reported that Paula Lees was going to see if there was anything she could do to assist and has not come back with anything yet. Councillor Mrs. Lovatt stated that Paula had mentioned a build out but whether that would be allowed as it is a heritage asset but that would be a more permanent solution. Councillor Bowen stated that the lorries are still coming down the road so the signs are not stopping drivers from coming down Basford Bridge Lane so maybe a sign with an HGV on it and crossed to show they should not be even going down the road would be effective. Councillor Dakin stated the build out is the answer and conditions on access for delivery. Councillor Scalise agreed that signs make no difference. Councillor Jennings stated it should be single track and access only for Emergency Vehicles. Councillor Worthington stated that if there is a sign for access only then Satnav's do not use it as a route. There is one in Oakamoor, and it has quietened the road so maybe SCC could be approached in regard to that and speak to Councillor Worthington.
- 174. MORTUARY, ST. EDWARD'S PARK, CHEDDLETON** - The Clerk reported that she had received an enquiry from a resident about the building. The receivers have stated that it is not going to auction now. Councillor Worthington reported that the two owners were not in agreement to sell it so it will have to go back to court to be resolved. Councillor Jennings reported that residents were concerned about the state of the building.

- 175. UPDATE AMEY REPORTS 4235816 & 4247571 LEEK ROAD, CELLARHEAD - DAMAGED TACTILE TILES** - The Clerk reported that Paula has responded that an inspector has visited and is not an urgent issue. Councillor Jennings stated surely health & safety is the main issue as it involves visually impaired people. Councillor Lovatt stated that this is a terribly busy road and is used regularly by lots of pedestrians and is why she raised the issue in the first place. The Clerk will follow it up again and ask who else we can raise this with to make it a priority.
- 176. ALPHA ACCOUNTS SOFTWARE PACKAGE - RIALTAS SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE FEES 2022/2023** - The Clerk reported that this is to cover the Accounts package that we use for the next Financial Year being £129 for the year. Councillor Mrs. Hartley proposed we pay it, and this was seconded by Councillor Dakin and agreed by all Councillors.
- 177. ST. EDWARD'S LAWN CEMETERY, CHEDDLETON - OIL SPILLAGE** – The Clerk reported that Basil had contacted her on Monday 1<sup>st</sup>. November 2021 stating that there was oil/diesel all over the road and in the entrance to the cemetery by the commercial waste bin. There was a funeral on Tuesday, so it needed to be cleaned up as soon as possible because it was raining it was spreading it all over the carpark. The Clerk instructed the Handyman to clean it which he did in time for the funeral the next day. A few days later it became known that the commercial waste bin had been emptied on that day. The incident was reported to the Police, investigated, and closed as they felt it was not malicious. The Clerk contacted SMDC for the CCTV footage off the waste truck which has finally been supplied to her. On reviewing the footage, it looks like something is on the road as the truck drives away this has been forwarded to the Police for them to look at. SMDC stated that there had been no reported issues with the truck on that day, so they felt it is not down to them. Councillor Dakin asked did they sent the inspection sheets for the truck along with the footage and are there any drains on the carpark that the oil/diesel could enter the watercourse. Councillor Jennings stated that there are not any drains and that if there is any proof that it was the truck, they should pay the clean-up costs. The Clerk will go back to them and request the inspection sheets.
- 178. CHEDDLETON PLAYING FIELD CHAIRMAN'S IDEAS** - Councillor Dakin stated that he would like Councillors to agree the low cost/no cost items such as tree planting be agreed and then he will get the trees/hedges ordered. Get together with volunteers to make some bird boxes and the no mow areas to allow grass to grow as shown on the map. Councillor Worthington stated that there are plenty of free trees on offer to get supplies and maybe some fruit trees. Councillor Dakin stated that hedging may be more appropriate but would seek advice. Councillor Bowen stated that Councillor Joe Porter would be more than willing to supply trees and volunteers to plant them. He also stated he could supply around thirty oak trees if required. Councillor Ahmad also has some oak trees. Councillor Lovatt stated that the no mow areas should have notices and the Clerk reported that Jim Gibson will have to be notified. Councillor Bowen stated children need to be involved and that is the good thing that Councillor Porter is doing and then they are less likely to get damaged if they take ownership for looking after them. Councillor Dakin stated that trees ordered now would be available for planting in March and he would ask volunteers to help plant them.
- 179. CHRISTMAS CARD COLLECTION** - Councillor Jennings stated that he wants to donate it to Royal British Legion as it is 100-year anniversary so seems fitting to make donations to them. Could Councillors please contribute today.

**180. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES: -**

a. **Wetley Rocks/Toll Bar Playing Field Committee**

b. **HR Committee - Discussed under (Confidential)**

c. **Planning & Amenities Committee**

d. **Outside Bodies :- SMDC Committees, SMDC Parish Assembly, Cheddleton Playing Field Volunteers**

- Councillor Bowen reported that a complaint had been received with regards to the remembrance service taking place in church. He reported that the Royal British Legion are more than happy with how the event takes place year on year. Councillor Mrs. Hartley reported that Councillor Tunna laid the wreath at Wetley Rocks on behalf of the Parish Council. Councillor Worthington laid a wreath for Sam Greenfield on behalf of Mrs. Greenfield of Cheddleton.

The Clerk reported that the SMDC Parish Assembly have not been happy with regards to the lack of response from SCC Highways for the letter of no confidence sent by them in March. The Clerk also reported that the volunteers meeting went well and that they are keeping eyes on the use and activity on the playing field and litter picking. Main issue reported is dog fouling from irresponsible owners.

**181. 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 16<sup>th</sup>. November 2021 also attached. Proposed by Councillor Ahmad to pay and all agreed.

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

**182. CORRESPONDENCE: -**

- a. Climate Change - Victoria Berringer. Councillor Bowen reported that Part 2 of the climate action plan was discussed last night at SMDC Overview & Scrutiny Panel. Councillor Worthington reported that SCC have been awarded £1.5k to County Councillors towards Climate Action. Could links be put on the website for residents.
- b. Moorlands Climate Action News. Councillor Dakin added that they have offered Carbon Literacy training for Town & Parish Councils via SMDC.
- c. Amey Report 4259609 - Cheadle Road, Cheddleton - Manhole Damaged Tarmac - Logged 1/11/2021. Councillor Worthington reported that this has been completed.
- d. Amey Report 4259610 - Cheadle Road, Cheddleton - Drain Damaged Tarmac - Logged 1/11/2021.
- e. Amey Report 4259613 - Cheadle Road, Wetley Rocks - Drain Damaged Tarmac - Logged 1/11/2021.
- f. Sustainability Matters. Add to the website.
- g. SMDC Regeneration News.
- h. Officer Lieutenancy - Jubilee Beacons - Future Agenda item.
- i. Support Staffordshire News.
- j. Parish Neighbourhood Plan.
- k. Staffordshire Commissioner - Consultation for Police Crime Plan and Fire & Rescue Plan 2021-2024 ends 23<sup>rd</sup>. November 2021.
- l. SLCC News Bulletin.
- m. Eforest Free Trees.
- n. My Staffordshire Newsletter.

**182. CORRESPONDENCE (Cont'd): -**

- o.** Action Fraud Alerts.
- p.** Enquiries via Council Website. The Clerk reported that she is now receiving several enquiries through the website which includes about hiring the Community Centre which has now been highlighted on the home page who to contact. Also, an enquiry as to who to report smells coming from AP Protein which she advised the resident to contact the hotline for Environments Agency.

**183. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** - Councillor Jennings asked Paula if she would be attending again and she stated that hopefully her or Ashley would attend monthly now going forward. Councillor Scalise asked what is the law with regards to dogs on leads in public areas? Paula stated your dog should be under control in a public place so that would require being on a lead. It is exceedingly difficult to Police. Signage should state that dogs should be on leads. Councillor Bowen added that there is only one dog warden in Staffordshire Moorlands. Paula suggested an area fenced off for dogs to be let of the lead on the playing field as some councils do. The Police does have powers, but it is exceedingly difficult but can be pursued via a Community Protection order. The Clerk asked about surgeries taking place for residents and the proposal of using Facebook. Paula suggested doing a surgery with a Councillor in the future to allow residents to raise things with both authorities on a Saturday. Councillor Jennings & Mrs. Salt stated that they would be happy to come along, and we could supply a room in the Community Centre at Cheddleton. Consult with the Clerk.

**184. PLANNING APPLICATION**

- a. SMD/2021/0695** - Land Adjacent Cellarhead Substation, Rownall Road, Wetley Rocks - Erection of a Flexible Energy Facility.  
**Comment this is in greenbelt so needs to be incredibly exceptional circumstances for this to be approved which outweighs the harm. All residents' concerns with regards to noise, safety, screening, trees, bunding and safeguards to protect residents and surrounding area. Does this meet requirements for greener energy and help with climate emergency? Why is the site double the size when only half is being used for batteries and what is meant by flexible site?**
- b. SMD/2021/0674** - 83, Lilac Grove Farm, Folly Lane, Cheddleton - Demolition of existing dwellings and outbuildings and erection of 8 dwellings.  
**No Objection.**

Chairman

21<sup>st</sup>. December 2021.