

Cheddleton Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM ON TUESDAY 19th. JANUARY 2021

ATTENDANCE Chairman - Councillor M.T. Bowen.
Vice-Chairman - Councillor H.R. Jennings.

Councillor - M. Ahmad, Ms. C.Y. Ball, N. Belson, I. Dakin, Mrs. D.A. Hartley,
R. J. Hartley, K. Harvey, Mrs. C. A. Lovatt, Ms. O. Lucas, G. W. Salt, Mrs. L. M. Salt,
S. Scalise, H. J. Tunna, M.P. Worthington.

Clerk - Ms. L. J. Eyre.

122. **APOLOGIES** - Apologies for absence were received from Councillor - J. Carr, as he has poor internet connection it was resolved to accept these.
123. **MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - Councillor Dakin declared that he is member of Moorlands Climate Action.
124. **MEMBERS' SEC. 33 DISPENSATION REQUESTS** - No written requests for dispensation were received.
125. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** - Councillor Bowen reported that Councillor Scalise has resigned from all committees. Councillor Scalise stated that due to recent events he felt that this was the best thing to do. It was agreed to leave members of committees as they are until the Annual Council Meeting. Councillor Worthington thanked Councillor Scalise on behalf of Cheddleton Playing Field Committee for all his hard work as chair of that Committee. Councillor Bowen also thanked Councillors for the total raised so far of £130 donated to Cheddleton Carnival Committee and should anyone else wish to donate to contact the Clerk for details. The Clerk reported that Mrs. Irene Fleming has sadly passed away aged 101.
126. **PUBLIC QUESTION** - No members of public were in attendance.
127. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING 22nd. DECEMBER 2020** - It was resolved to accept these as a true record except for Councillors - Scalise, Worthington, Ahmad who wanted it recording that they did not agree. Councillor Harvey stated that the Confidential item 117 was confusing.
128. **MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM: -**
Re. Min 85. Works required Craft Centre - Councillor Bowen reported that due to the report not being received from the original building control officer for the old pottery room he had arranged for another report to be submitted and this should be ready for the Community Centre/Craft Centre Management Meeting for discussion next week.
Re. Min 102. Chairmanship of Cheddleton Parish Council - Councillor Bowen raised that this was for all Committees not just Chair of the Council so minutes to be amended to report this.
129. **UPDATE ON QUEENS TREE** - Councillor Mrs. Hartley reported that the tree is coming along nicely but would benefit from a further 12 months growth before planting at Wetley Rocks, so it was agreed to leave it potted.

- 130. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE ISSUES/HANDYMAN WORKS** - The Chair reported that as previously noted the hedge has been cut around Cheddleton Lawn Cemetery and an excellent job made. The Clerk confirmed that she had been invoiced for hedge cutting by Jim. Councillor Harvey reported that the Handyman has commenced clearing the pavement from Cellarhead to Wetley Rocks, but this has uncovered the broken walls which needs to be repaired as it is dangerous. Councillor Bowen stated it needs to be reported to highways. The Clerk reported that the Handyman has dealt with some issues at the Community Centre being the alarm keycode pad was sticking and a leak in the disabled toilet which he has fixed. Completed some repairs at Toll Bar Playing Field and he has been forwarded the Inspection Report for there and Wetley Rocks. He has replaced the missing latch on the Asylum Burial Ground Gates which had been removed by someone. Councillor Harvey asked how the Handyman can be working under Covid conditions. Councillor Dakin remarked that the regulations are that you work from home if you can if your job allows it. The Clerk reported that volunteers are not as they are not classed as essential being unpaid work. The Clerk reported that she had forwarded Councillor Worthington's number to the Handyman to collect the free goalposts from Pointon's Park. Councillor Worthington confirmed he had collected them today. The Clerk has also spoken to the Handyman with regards to the Craft Centre Carpark and he has the experience to dig out the affected areas and tarmac them if members want him to do so. Also, the resident who had asked about the boundary wall of his property which is alongside the entrance to Cheddleton Playing Fields off Rennie Crescent and he is responsible for the boundary wall but has asked if we could patch the tarmac which is missing to help stop water running off into the wall. It was resolved to get the Handyman to make these repairs of tarmac in both areas. The pumps have ben serviced at the Craft Centre, the moles have been dealt with in three areas of Bridge Eye, Cheddleton Lawn Cemetery and Cheddleton Playing Field and the plumber has done the agreed works in the tearooms on the stop cock and replaced a broken tap. Councillor Bowen wanted to thank the handyman for being so efficient and sorting these jobs very quickly. Councillor Harvey made the point that the handyman is self employed and that the costs for his works are increasing so we need to be aware of this in the accounts to show how it has changed from previous years even though it is saving the Council money. The Clerk reported that where costs can be quantified, they are being allocated to the various committees.
- 131. QUOTE FOR NEW SIGNS ST. EDWARDS LAWN CEMETERY** - The Clerk reported that she had obtained quotes for either plastic or stainless steel to replace the damaged signs. So, for 3 signs in plastic a cost of £55 or stainless steel £100 which we have two signs already one either side of the gates. Councillor Bowen proposed the stainless-steel ones be the better option. Seconded by Councillor Jennings. It was resolved to buy the stainless-steel signs.
- 132. REPORT OF MOTORBIKES BEHIND WETLEY ROCKS PLAYING FIELD**
The Clerk reported that a resident had approached Councillor Tunna and sent her an email about this becoming a nuisance. This was forwarded to the Police & PCSO's who contacted for more details. Ashley Goodwin has stated that he will visit over the weekend to speak with them and will report back. Councillor Harvey stated that he had spoken to a 9-year-old and his father who he met on a motorbike and made them aware that it was not an ideal place to be riding and may well be causing a noise nuisance to the residents. The Clerk reported that it was more the use of the footpath that was causing concern which is dangerous for walkers.

- 132. REPORT OF MOTORBIKES BEHIND WETLEY ROCKS PLAYING FIELD (Cont'd...)** - Councillor Tunna reported that the first incidence of a motorbike which was reported to him was in a field owned by Mr Ahmad, which his son had spoken to them and told them not to use the field. He then went on to say that a go-kart was been seen riding around the Playing Field which had gained access via the large gate on Randles Lane which is not currently padlocked, so he suggested a lock be put on the gate to avoid easy access, so it was resolved to do this. Councillor Ms. Lucas stated that she could research where they can safely ride bikes off road to supply to anyone else that is caught using this area on motorbikes. Councillor Harvey also reported that unfortunately it is a problem on a lot of the public footpaths that people ride off road bikes along them.
- 133. WETLEY ROCKS/TOLL BAR PLAYING FIELD INSPECTION REPORTS** - The Clerk has forwarded this to all Councillors and the handyman. Main issue is at Toll Bar being rotten posts which the Clerk reported that our Handyman is already doing these.
- 134. UPDATE ON STREET LIGHT ASHCOMBE ROAD** - The Clerk reported that this is still outstanding as the light was damaged and has, not been able to resolve removal or replacement of this as there is some opposition from the resident whose garden it is in. Councillor Jennings stated we have a duty of care to provide the light. Councillor Worthington stated that a fee is normally paid for it to be housed on his land and gives right of access to it. Councillor Dakin stated that if the old light is still live surely, it is a matter of health and safety to make sure it is safe. Councillor Bowen suggested that EON must also have some responsibility for the health and safety. Councillor Harvey asked has a Councillor approached the resident. Councillor Mrs. Lovatt stated that she has a telegraph pole which she receives a small amount of money to allow maintenance. Councillor Belson asked if this is an unadopted road which was confirmed. The Clerk will make further enquiries with both EON and the resident.
- 135. UPDATE ON DIFIBRILLATORS IN CHEDDLETON** - Councillor Mrs. Salt confirmed that the cabinet has arrived, and she is obtaining quotes from electricians and negotiating a good time for it to be fitted outside the vets. Councillor Bowen stated that the Black Lion one is in situ which is good. Councillor Mrs. Salt stated that this will be number 2 done and then to move on to fund raising for another one.
- 136. BASFORD BRIDGE LANE BRIDGES/CCTV** - The Chair reported that all Councillors should have received the statement he has prepared to release on Cheddleton Chat and to the press. It has been hit 4 times since Christmas and lots of comments on Cheddleton Chat in a positive way. Councillor Harvey asked will this also be released to all parties involved. He asked that the last paragraph be amended or removed. He also stated that each name of those involved should be in bold print. Councillor Mrs. Lovatt also agreed that the last paragraph needs to be removed or amended. She liked the bullet points about Cheddleton Parish Council have no statutory powers. Councillor Mrs. Salt reported that the bridge has been hit again this week. Councillor Scalise stated that the only issue he has with the statement is closure of the bridge which could be for months or forever. Councillor Bowen stated that he is attempting to embarrass them in to acting but that the towpath should be closed. All incidents are being reported to everyone. Councillor Ms. Lucas stated that this is a good start and need the voice of the people and residents. Councillor Bowen has already spoken to a reporter at the Leek Post. Councillor Scalise asked has it been inspected? Councillor Bowen reported that the Canal & River Trust have stated it is structurally sound. There have been many complaints about the workmanship of the repairs. Councillor Ahmad stated he thought it was a good statement to get some action.

136. **BASFORD BRIDGE LANE BRIDGES/CCTV (Cont'd...)** - The Clerk suggested that the actual weight limit and the size of the vehicles that have been using it and that without CCTV how can it be monitored? Should also be added. Councillor Bowen stated that with these modifications it will be sent tomorrow to everyone involved and the press.
137. **BUS SHELTER WETLEY ROCKS** - Councillor Scalise reported that the contract for repairs is going to Derbyshire County for Staffordshire Moorlands and they will have a duty of care. The Clerk reported that the quote received from Staffordshire Moorlands is by Derbyshire County. Councillor Scalise asked was the quote done for Cheddleton to pay for this? The Clerk stated that Staffordshire Moorlands are responsible but have no funding to make repairs. Councillor Scalise and Councillor Bowen will chase this up with Chief Exec at Staffordshire Moorlands for action as they have a duty of care and it is a matter of health and safety for the residents using this bus shelter to get on a bus as currently, they cannot see the bus coming. Councillor Ahmad stated we had already agreed to do the job but waiting for Staffordshire Moorlands to get it done. Councillor Mrs. Lovatt stated it needs to be done now as we did have a member of the public to raise it with us.
138. **FIRE RECOMMENDATIONS/ALARM SERVICE/RISK ASSESSMENT - COMMUNITY CENTRE/CRAFT CENTRE** - The Clerk reported that Councillor Dakin has updated the Fire Risk Assessment which has been sent to all Councillors with all items that have been done. She went on to state that we have a quote for the Alarm Service of £225 which has not been done for several years and it has been difficult to get anyone to provide this service. Councillor Dakin stated that this was the 6th Company he has contacted. Councillor Mrs. Hartley stated that this is a good quote and seconded by Councillor Tunna. It was resolved to get the job done.
139. **UPDATE ON SCC DIRECTIONS FOR FOOTPATH MODIFICATIONS** - The Clerk reported that we are still waiting for these to be actioned. She has written to Chief Exec at SCC stated that a complaint will be lodged with the ombudsman which she has done. After this she has received a letter from John Henderson from SCC which she read out. He confirmed that these will be heard in the new year. We will await an update as to when they are scheduled to go to the Rights of Way Panel.
140. **NEW WEBSITE/EMAIL ACCOUNTS** - The Clerk reported that Councillor Dakin has shared quite a few photographs and that we need to move forward with the Website going live so that we can then obtain the 10 email addresses. Councillor Mrs. Hartley suggested a competition for Facebook Users on Cheddleton Chat/Newspaper to submit their photographs to be used on the website. Councillor Mrs. Lovatt liked the diversity of the photographs of the subjects covered. Councillor Bowen suggested that we could keep updating it regularly. Councillor Jennings suggested that photos of Councillors should be put on when we can get together. Councillor Mrs. Hartley stated that the subject matter should cover all 3 wards. The Clerk then went on to say that once the website is up and running that Councillors could make regular contributions with updates on what is happening news and events. Email addresses need to be formatted and agreed whether first name or initials. It was agreed full name.
141. **SLCC APPRAISAL TRAINING - £30 PER PERSON** - The Chairman proposed that the HR committee attend this training and a rolling programme of any future members. This was seconded by Councillor Mrs. Hartley and resolved to provide the training to current members of HR Committee.

- 142. SITING OF 3 NEW RECYCLED PLASTIC BENCHES** - The Clerk reported that we purchased these, and she has received suggestions of replacing the Bench in Wetley Rocks opposite to Morrison's which is in a poor state. The Asylum Burial Ground there is a concrete platform which a bench was previously on. The Oval at Southlowe along the path next to the noticeboard. Councillor Mrs. Lovatt put forward that the Asylum Burial Ground to be a really good location as Staffordshire Archives have done a project with the Welcome Trust on the three asylums in Staffordshire. Looking at making links between occupational stress of the time and people going into them and a 100-year rule on public records a lot of people's family histories are leading them back to these burial grounds and as the graves are not marked it would be lovely to have a seat in there. Councillor Mrs. Hartley also suggested the layby by Truckers Tucker for walkers to sit. She stated that the one at Wetley Rocks looks at the road which may not be a brilliant view, so Councillor Harvey suggested it be turned to face the countryside. As these 4 suggests have been made we can look at putting the benches in place.
- 143. REFURBISHMENT OF MAP AT ASHCOMBE LEVEL, CHEDDLETON** - The Clerk reported that Mrs. Hine had contacted her asking could this be looked at. It is not that the Perspex needs replacing its just dirty and needs to have the Perspex removed to see if the map is still ok. Councillor Scalise stated that there is an additional map as when it was installed two maps were purchased. The Clerk will look in the Meeting Room for the spare map. The Clerk will ask the Handyman to look at cleaning it.
- 144. SCC GRANT COVID 19 - CHEDDLETON PLAYING FIELD** - Councillor Dakin reported that at the Cheddleton Playing Field Committee Meeting we were discussing improvements that we might make to the Playing Field and we were made aware of this grant of £1000 by Councillor Worthington but that the closing date is 29th. January 2021 to apply it has been put on the agenda as a matter of urgency and he had put together some ideas to make an application for it which has been circulated to Councillors and if we should appropriate it to carbon reduction or biodiversity of the Playing Fields. Councillor Harvey suggested that we use the funds to form a written plan of a scaled model of the Playing Field. Councillor Mrs. Hartley suggested that we use Councillor Dakin's report as part of the application. Councillor Worthington stated that it is for groups who wish to make improvements and maybe an installation of an orchard for the benefit of the Community. So, he proposed to make the application, and this was seconded by Councillor Jennings. Councillor Dakin stated he will complete the application on behalf of the Council, so it was resolved to apply.
- 145. ZOOM SUBSCRIPTION ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION DISCOUNT** - The Clerk reported that Zoom will discount on an annual subscription as we currently pay monthly. Councillor Ahmad proposed that this would-be a saving and would still be used. Councillor Mrs. Hartley stated that we could carry on with Zoom for Committees and meet in person for Full Council. Councillor Jennings stated that we maybe could use both in the future. It was resolved to subscribe for 12 months.
- 146. UPDATE ON INVESTMENT OF RESERVES** - The Clerk reported that this was suggested as the current rate of return on reserves is extremely poor as are most now. Councillor Bowen had asked for advice from Staffordshire Moorlands Finance and they have suggested Santander offer 180 day notice 0.4% whereas we are currently receiving 0.05% on an instant access with CCLA. Councillor Harvey asked why we have not spoken to a financial advisor. Councillor Mrs. Lovatt stated be careful with Santander as they have just halved the interest on current accounts. She asked can Council invest money just anywhere.

146. UPDATE ON INVESTMENT OF RESERVES (Cont'd...) - The Clerk stated that a lot of Councils use CCLA who we have our reserves invested with its just a matter that all financial institutions are the same now and the return is poor. Councillor Tunna stated that The Clerk surely is doing her best for the Council and that a Financial Advisor will cost us. It was left to investigate further.

147. PRECEPT REQUIREMENTS FOR 2021/22 FINANCIAL YEAR - The Clerk reported that for the agreed £70,000 precept for 2021/22 based on the tax base received will have a Band D equivalent charge of £31.15 compared to £31.28 this year. She also reported that the last 6 years have been the same amount collected but that the charge has reduced year on year because the number of properties has increased from £32.23 to £31.15 for next year. Staffordshire Moorlands have provided the information going back the last ten years. Councillor Bowen stated that we are possibly the only Parish Council who has continually reduced the precept over the last 6 years. Councillor Worthington asked for a copy of the information for the last 10 years. The Clerk to submit the agreed precept of £70,000 to Staffordshire Moorlands as soon as possible.

148. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES: -

a. Cheddleton Playing Field Committee Meeting

b. Reports of Outside Bodies - SMDC Committees - Councillor Bowen reported that the Climate change committee has been cancelled and that a further meeting was scheduled for tonight.

149. ACCOUNTS

150. CORRESPONDENCE: -

- a. Support Staffordshire latest information and news. Our Community Centre should remain closed but that SMDC have further grants available but that we do not need to make a further application this will be awarded automatically.
- b. SMDC Parish Assembly - Thurs, 28th. January 2021 at 7pm. Agenda not yet received but will be forwarded by the Clerk.
- c. Cyber Crimes Unit - Top Tips - Covid Text message re the vaccinations.
- d. 3rd. Sector Commissioning Digital Conference - Tues, 23rd. February 2021.
- e. Moorlands Climate Action - The role of Parish/Town Councils. Future agenda item and may be worthwhile inviting someone.
- f. SMDC Draft Licensing Policy 2021-2026.
- g. CPRE update.
- h. Electoral Register Update - January 2021.
- i. Fly Tip Report/Police Report - Table Top picnic area, Knowsley Common.
- j. Care Quality Commission review of DNR Orders.
- k. SPCA Training Courses.
- l. Amey Report 4220735 - St Hilda's Avenue, Cheddleton - Road damage. Councillor Jennings reported it has been fixed.
- m. Staffordshire Community Foundation Bulletin.
- n. Staffordshire Wildlife Trust monthly e-newsletter.
- o. Amey Report 4221334 - Heath Avenue, Werrington - 2 missing bollards.
- p. Amey Report 4181095 - Shaffollong Lane/Hollow Lane, Cheddleton - pothole.
- q. Waterhouses Parish Council Re: Waterplus
- r. TTRO 4213677 - Tompkin Road, Stanley.
- s. TTRO 4216185 - Cheddleton Heath Road, Cheddleton

- t. Action Fraud Alerts.
- u. HMRC information.
- v. Appeal SMD/2019/0352 - Ringe Hay Farm, Basford Green Road, Basford.
- w. Planning Committee SMD/2020/0299 - Sub-4 Health, Leek Road, Cellarhead - Planning Committee Thurs, 14th. January 2021. - Application was granted.
- x. Amey Report 4222914 - Layby, Cheadle Road, Cheddleton - Blocked Drains.
- y. SLCC Update.
- z. Amey Report 4223486 - Cheadle Road, Cheddleton - Road Damage - Opposite the bollard on Cheddleton Bank just up from One Stop shop. Forward report to highways.

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

152. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

SMD/2021/0005 – 7, Vale View – Demolition of existing conservatory and rear bay window and erection of sunroom.

No Objection.

SMD/2021/0006 – 3, Boucher Road, Cheddleton - Single storey front porch / hall extension and raised front path.

No Objection.

153. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS – PURCHASE OF LAND - Discussions took place and Councillors were updated.

Chairman

16th. February 2021.