

Cheddleton Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE WETLEY ROCKS VILLAGE HALL, WETLEY ROCKS ON TUESDAY, 18th. FEBRUARY 2020.

ATTENDANCE Chairman – Councillor M.T. Bowen.
Councillor – M. Ahmad, Ms. C. Y. Ball, I. Dakin, Mrs. D. A. Hartley, R. J. Hartley, K. Harvey, G. W. Salt, Mrs. L. M. Salt, S. Scalise, H. J. Tunna, M.P. Worthington.

APOLOGIES Apologies for absence were received from: -
Councillor - N. Belson, J. Carr, H.R. Jennings, Mrs. C. A. Lovatt, Miss. O. Lucas and M.P. Worthington for arriving late.

5649 **MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting of the 21st. January 2020, taken as read and were confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

5650 **MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM**
Re. Min. 5637. – Works completed to flooring Tearoom/Beauty Room loss of earnings request Councillor Mrs. Hartley asked how Emily had responded to the £50 and the Clerk reported that she was grateful and had told her to deduct this from her rent but she had paid the same amount for January of £130.

5651 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
The Chairman asked the members of the Planning committee to stay behind at the end of the meeting to consider two planning applications. He read out a thank you letter for the lovely bouquet that Dick & Denise Hartley had been given by the Chairman to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary on Valentines Day. He also, announced the sad passing of former Councillor Mrs. Shirley Sugars and Roger Hill a member of our Footpath & Countryside committee with details of the funerals.

5652 **MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
There were no Declarations of Interest.

5653 **MEMBERS' SEC. 33 DISPENSATION REQUESTS**
None had been received.

5654 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**
There were no members of the public present.

5655 **VISIT FROM ALISON CLAMP FROM PEAK DISTRICT/MIDLANDS RURAL HOUSING, NEW DEVELOPMENT AT ST. JOHNS DRIVE, WETLEY ROCKS**
Councillor Bowen introduced Alison Clamp and thanked her for coming to the meeting. Alison went on to explain that Peak District Rural Housing Association has been running for 30 years and was formed in 1989. They currently manage almost 300 homes in all areas of the Peak District, Stoke-on-Trent and as far as Sheffield. The reason for her visit was to make people aware of the project in Wetley Rocks of 6 new properties for local people. Although the Housing Association have not been the instigator of the project this has been carried out by Pointon's they are about to complete the contract of purchase of these houses which are being built and due to be completed in May 2020. She explained that there will be 2 x 3-bedroom houses & 2 x 2-bedroom houses for rent at £125 & £106 per week respectively.

5655 VISIT FROM ALISON CLAMP FROM PEAK DISTRICT/MIDLANDS RURAL HOUSING, NEW DEVELOPMENT AT ST. JOHNS DRIVE, WETLEY ROCKS (Cont'd)....

Then a further 2 x 3-bedroom houses for shared ownership valued at £180,000 each. They offer from 30-80% ownership to the tenant with the annual rent being 2.75% of the unsold equity. The priority is for local people and the section 106 defines these as: -

- People who have lived in the Parish for at least 5 years.
- People who have a strong local connection to the Parish by birth, upbringing or by previous period of residence.
- People who need to support their family currently living in the Parish or are themselves in need of family support.
- People who are employed in the Parish.

The Parish is defined as Wetley Rocks and if after two months the houses are not filled by those with a local connection, the area can be extended to Staffordshire Moorlands. Alison explained that they will be working closely with Staffordshire Moorlands District Council but wanted to ask the Parish Council to help promote this housing to the residents of the Parish, Anyone who may be interested in one of the properties should register with 'home-options' online at www.home-options.org or telephone 0345 345 0272 and it helps to also register interest with the Housing Association at

<https://www.peakdistrictrha.org.uk/finding-a-home-to-rent/register-of-interest-form/> or telephone 0300 1234 009 or email enquiries@midlandsrural.org.uk

A few questions were put to Alison about the project such as the short length of time before housing is opened up to people outside of the village. If no-one shows interest in the shared ownership could this just be rented. Alison assured the members that the houses are for local people and the project is to allow them to live in a familiar location especially those who find it difficult to get on the property ladder. As a rule, because tenants want to live in the area they settle in well and they work closely with the Local Authority to adhere to the section 106. The Chairman thanked Alison for coming along and that if there was anything the Parish Council could do to help/advertise the houses then for Alison to contact the Clerk. Alison thanked the members and suggested that when the houses are complete that they would be invited to view them. At which point she left the meeting.

5655 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE/ ADDITIONAL WORKS – FULL UPDATE OF AREAS AND ANY ISSUES

Councillor Bowen reported that Cheddleton Lawn Cemetery hedge has been cut. The Clerk stated St. Edwards Lawn Cemetery has also been cut. She also reported that Cheddleton Playing Field top cops has been done as reported by Mrs. Hine. The bus shelters still remained dirty but none of these had been paid for yet either. The Clerk had spoken to Mrs. Meyrick who stated that the hedge on Armshead Road is very overgrown so she would ask Jim to cut it. Councillor Mrs. Hartley reported that the Roller Apparatus on Wetley Rocks needed to be looked at and maybe greased. The Clerk would speak to the Handyman. Councillor Tunna asked about the hedge clipping that have been left on Wetley Rocks Playing Field if Jim had cut the hedge could he remove them. Councillor Mrs. Salt reported that there has been a lot of interest in the old Brittain's Sign on Footpath 38 and that it needed a tidy up. She had information that maybe a concrete pedestal which it used to be on was at the Flint Mill. The Clerk would make enquiries.

5656 REFURBISHMENT/WINDOWS OF OLD POTTERY ROOM – CRAFT CENTRE

The Clerk reported that she had contacted Walkers Windows with regards to the quote she had obtained last March and they were happy to stick to the price of £3750 + VAT to replace the windows but would be 10 weeks lead time for making the windows. Councillor Scalise verified the sub-committees plans for the refurbishment so it was proposed by Councillor Dakin to get the windows ordered. This was seconded by Councillor Scalise and all agreed.

5657 ASBESTOS REMOVAL FROM BOILER ROOM - COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Clerk reported that she had contacted TES who's quote had previously been agreed by the Council for £8495+ VAT to remove all asbestos + £450 for removal of the old boiler which may also contain asbestos and they had agreed to stand by the quote which was done back in February last year. Councillor Mr. Hartley stated that the works need to be carried out as the project has been ongoing for years. The Clerk confirmed funds had been set aside to complete the works without grant funding. Councillor Ahmad proposed to go ahead and get the asbestos & boiler removed by TES, this was seconded by Councillor Mrs. Hartley and all agreed.

5658 VOLUNTEER STAR AWARDS NOMINATIONS

The Clerk reported that Councillor's Mr. & Mrs. Salt felt that we should nominate our Footpath Volunteers for their contribution to keeping the Footpaths clear and safe which is the responsibility of Staffordshire County Council. Councillor Bowen suggested that the nomination be delegated to Councillor Mrs. Salt, Councillor Harvey and the Clerk before the closing date of 3rd. April 2020. This was agreed by all members. The Clerk reported the awards take place at Westwood Golf Club on Tuesday 30th. June 2020.

5659 BUS SHELTER – JUNCTION OF A520 AND THE AVENUE - CHEDDLETON

The Clerk reported that she had met with Mr. & Mrs. Redden about the letter they wrote to the Parish Council. She showed photographs of the bus shelter and explained that they wondered if the shelter could be moved closer to the road to stop rain water damaging the wall as it is leaning towards the wall and allows it to flow directly onto the wall. Another suggestion was to raise the height of the wall which would also stop rubbish from being thrown over it even though there is a bin right next to the shelter. The Reddens are willing to pay the cost of such works if the Council approved. The Council had already discussed guttering which maybe required as well. The Council were in agreement that if Mr. & Mrs. Redden wished to raise the wall then the Clerk could relay that to them and anything further the Council could do to help i.e. guttering to liaise with them. It would not be possible to move the shelter forward as it would obstruct vision when coming out of The Avenue. The Clerk would report back.

5660 BRIDGES ON BASFORD BRIDGE LANE - CHEDDLETON

Councillor Scalise reported that he had yet again followed a tanker that had got stuck which was continually happening by mainly foreign drivers so maybe the signs need to be pictorial for the benefit of non-English speaking drivers. The Clerk reported that she had received details from Bob Allen – SCC Structures Engineer that as yet the signage works have not been carried out but will be available end of Feb / early March. Then the signs will be ordered and erected soon after. She updated that she had responded and informed them of further incidents and again reiterated that signage may not be enough but was awaiting a further response from Bob as he is currently on annual leave. The Clerk also reported that she had now contacted the Canal & River Trust via Gareth Scott who she had received some communication recently with regards to the Dock House to ask as the owners of the Canal Bridge for their input and had also copied in Councillor Mrs. Helen Fisher of SCC. It was agreed to add as a future agenda item awaiting responses. Councillor Tunna suggested that the new Highway's Liaison Officer be invited to a meeting with the Council.

5661 VARIOUS ISSUES ON MILL LANE, WETLEY ROCKS

Councillor Mrs. Hartley reported that her neighbour had reported the raised drain cover in Mill Lane. Amey Report 419077. She also, reported and showed photographs of the verges which are constantly being churned up by vehicles mounting them to pass on Mill Lane by the school. Photographs of a sinking manhole and blocked drain. Councillor Ahmad stated that there was also a water grid which is very noisy. Councillor Mrs. Hartley had also been asked about the verge with white bollards in front of the school by the headteacher if this could be tarmacked as parents pull cars in here as it is close to the school entrance and then open car doors into the road because the verge is muddy/wet for them to step onto but making it very dangerous at a very busy time. Whereas if the verge was tarmacked children could step out onto there being a far safer option. These would all be reported to SCC Highways by the Clerk.

5662 TPO TREE WORKS BY WESTERN POWER ON WALL LANE TERRACE/LEEK ROAD – CHEDDLETON AGREED WITH STEVE MASSEY ARBOURICULTURAL OFFICER AT SMDC

The Clerk circulated details of works that were approved by Steve Massey and had been completed last week for safety of power cables:-

T1 (Beech), T2 (Oak), T3 (Ash) (all in TPO) – these three trees should all be retained, but will require some side pruning including removal, back to suitable base unions, of several lateral limbs in order to provide a minimum 1–2 metres clearance from the conductor wires (and BT cable).

T4 (Ash) (in TPO) – this tree is twin-stemmed with a notable longitudinal split in one stem; in addition, its crown structure is such that following pruning to achieve operational/safety clearance from the wires, there would be little crown remaining, and of very poor form. Given these issues it would be best, and acceptable, to fell and remove the entire tree.

T5 (Birch) (not in TPO) – twin-armed tree leaning towards and over the conductors, we agreed best to fell and remove the entire tree. Other Birch behind are not a particular issue and should be retained.

T6 (Sycamore) (not in TPO) – remove all basal suckers and secondary stems around the primary stem, as these suckers etc are growing up directly under/through the conductors.

T7 (not in TPO) – dead tree in side/rear garden of 24 Wall Lane Terrace, fell and remove.

G1 (group of mature birch) (in TPO) – 1 tree closest to conductors to be removed as otherwise unable to achieve clearance; other mature Birch behind to be retained with just one or two lateral branches immediately above/below the conductors to be removed back to base unions with the stems. A few sapling Sycamores at top of retaining wall to be removed as they are growing up directly under the wires – probably anyway too young to have been present in 2001 when the TPO was made and therefore these are technically not protected).

G2 (group of young Sycamores and older Hawthorn) (not in TPO) – Sycamore saplings should be removed; the Hawthorn are presently not encroaching on the electric wires (although directly beneath) having been previously topped, probably on more than one occasion, although the re-growth is already around the lower BT cable. Ideally, these Hawthorn would be retained for habitat benefit but again reduced to previous main stem tops to provide a few years clearance off the BT cable; however, they are not protected trees and therefore could be removed altogether without needing the Council's consent.

5663 BURIAL PLOTS – ST. EDWARD'S LAWN CEMETERY

The Clerk reported that she had found documentation of the consecration of St Edward's Lawn Cemetery which was done 19th October 2000. The detail isn't very clear but shows the outside around the edge to be unconsecrated therefore the Clerk will consult with Basil Heath and come back with a definite location for followers of other/no religions for plots to be located.

5664 WORKS COMPLETED/REPORTED BY HANDYMAN

The Clerk reported that Steve has replaced the seat on the swing at Toll Bar Playing Field and removed the damaged rope. He has also sprayed all the timber with preserver to help stop it rotting. The handle on the Asylum Burial ground gates had come off which Steve has fixed back on. Completed the area at the bottom of Hollow Lane by replacing the perspex to the map and treated the wood and seat and made the area look much better which Councillor Mrs. Salt agreed. Sent photos of Climbing frame on Cheddleton Playing Field which needs painting where it has been chipped and to cover graffiti. Also, bus shelters which remain a mess so it was agreed to ask him to tidy them. He had also pointed out a broken picnic bench on the site of the WWI Centenary Bench in Wetley Rocks which the Clerk had reported to the Cautionary Lands Charity Clerk. Councillor Scalise reported that this had been raised at the last meeting he attended at Lands Charity to be removed.

5665 WORKS UPDATE FOR FOOTPATH VOLUNTEERS

Councillor Harvey reported that the two volunteers had attended the City & Guilds Chainsaw Training Course to which one had passed and the other volunteer had obtained 2 out of 3 parts and would be certificated accordingly. They are both now kitted with correct PPE so will be a big help going forward on clearing Footpath 38 of vegetation and to thin the trees. This will be of great use to the Council with any other small works requiring a qualified person and the Chainsaw has been purchased to use. Staffordshire Wildlife unfortunately didn't come last week for the first Wednesday to help as the weather was too bad to work. They will hopefully make it next week weather permitting.

5666 UPDATE ON CRECHE – COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Clerk reported that she has received a response from The Rt. Hon. Karen Bradley MP in response to the letter sent to her about the timescales of Ofsted registration. The Clerk reported that to investigate she required consent forms completed by both the Council and Seux. The Clerk had returned the Parish Council's and emailed Seux details including a copy of MP's letter for her to complete her consent form. The Clerk reported that she had text and telephoned Seux with no response from her as yet. Councillor Scalise stated that it was not very business like to continue to allow the Creche to remain empty and Seux should be asked to pay to rent it even before she starts as the Council has lost 10 months revenue. He proposed that the Creche needs to re-advertised so that if Seux continues to not use it the Council has an option to let to someone else this was seconded by Councillor Bowen. The Clerk would look at advertising it again in the paper and let Seux know the situation unless she is willing to start to pay a fixed amount of rent.

5667 OVERGROWN HEDGE BY THE NEW VICARAGE/GULLY - CHEDDLETON

The Clerk reported that Mrs. Barbara Hine had contacted her about the hedge between the gully and the new vicarage and that as the vicarage is now unoccupied could the Council please write to The Diocese and ask them to get it dealt with as a matter of urgency. The Clerk would deal with this as soon as possible.

5668 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES

The Council examined the reports of the following committees and adopted their recommendations: -

- a. **Community Centre/Craft Centre Management Committee Meeting**
Re: Min. 3091. Fire Safety Risk Assessment – Community Centre Councillor Dakin reported that he had put up the additional signage apart from in the Creche which isn't in use at the moment anyway. He had contacted about the Fire Extinguishers which had been recommended and had not been given any reason as yet as to why they are required
- b. **Planning & Amenities Committee Meeting**
Re: Min 2721. Update Street Light Damage Ashcombe Road, Cheddleton The Clerk reported that she had asked EON for advice and as yet had not had a response. She had also emailed Mr. Geston explaining that he would be pursued for the cost of replacing the street light.
- c. **Reports of Outside Bodies**
SMDC Committees
Local Plan Examinations Councillor Bowen reported that he had attended with Kevin Barr & Paul Jones and spoke about the Local Green Spaces and why they are so important to the village and its residents. He felt that the inspector has been very receptive to all the evidence provided and the presence of so many residents had helped. It was not known when the decision would be made but that SMDC would inform him as soon as they have been notified of it.
Support Staffordshire The Clerk reported that the next meeting will take place Tuesday, 10th March which she would try to attend.
Staffordshire Branch - SLCC The Clerk reported that the next meeting is Thursday, 12th March which she would try to attend. There was also a training course planned for 26th February 2020 at a cost of £25 per head for Planning Reasons to object which will be carried out by Urban Vision.

5669 ACCOUNTS

5670 CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Amey Report 4186533 – Blocked Drain – Ostlers Lane, Cheddleton – Closed. Works were completed by Severn Trent Water.
- b. SPCA – Extra Date – Local Councillor Training Course – Wed, 26th. February 2020.
- c. Western Power Distribution Annual Stakeholder Workshops Feb/March 2020.
- d. Amey Report 4186909 – Blocked Drains – Park Lane, Cheddleton – Determined works required. Further report raised following up 4135179 from 03/09/2018.
- e. Amey Report 4186919 – Japanese Knotweed – Shaffalong Lane, Cheddleton – Will inspect during growing season as previous report 4166784 had been closed.
- f. Amey Report 4186924 – Road Sign Missing – A520 pointing up Hollow Lane – Determined works required. Follow up from Report 4160599 dated 07/06/2019.
- g. Amey Report 4186931 – Road Markings – A520, Wetley Rocks – Not been inspected. Follow up from Report 4165169 dated 18/07/19.

5670 CORRESPONDENCE (Cont'd...)

- h. Churnet Valley Railway – Shareholding Transfer Form. To change address details for all correspondence.
- i. Keep Britain Tidy – Great British Spring Clean 20th. March – 13th. April. Passed onto Councillor Dakin to organize a litter pick.
- j. Amey Report 4187304 – Pothole – Moorside Road, Werrington – Inspected classed as non-urgent works.
- k. Earth Anchors Forest-Saver benches & Notice Boards.
- l. Support from HMRC. Employers information emails.
- m. Plantscape – Floral Displays.
- n. Commercial Waste Service transferring administration to Alliance Environmental Services wef 1st. April 2020.
- o. High Grove Limited – Garden Services.
- p. NHS Stakeholder Briefing – Surveys available from Mon 6th January to Sun 1st March 2020. Engagement Event Wed, 26th. February 2020.
- q. Editor of Times & Echo Newspapers – Reporting on Parish Councils. Letter to request information to publicize details of the Council’s work.
- r. Public Sector Deposit Fund Statement & Interest. Confirmation of investment and interest for the month of January 2020.
- s. SMDC Corporate Peer Challenge – Thurs, 2nd. April 2020. Staffordshire Moorlands District Council has invited the Local Government Association to conduct a “Corporate Peer Challenge” for the Authority. The challenge is a tool for improvement and aims to help local authorities respond to their own priorities and issues and involves a small team of local government officers and Councillors spending time at our offices. The process also involves engaging with a wide range of people connected with the Council such as Parish Councils. With this in mind parish clerks and parish Councillors are invited to attend a focus group that will be run by the Peer Challenge Team. Councillors Mr. & Mrs. Salt expressed an interest in attending which the Clerk would notify SMDC.
- t. SMDC’s Chairman’s Charity Quiz Night – Fri, 21st. February 2020. Open to any teams not just Councillors.
- u. SMDC Climate Change Lectures – Tues, 25th. February 2020. Further two training sessions provided by Keele University should any Councillors wish to attend.

5671 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME
There were no questions raised.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed.

Chairman
17th. March 2020.