

Cheddleton Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM ON TUESDAY 16th. FEBRUARY 2021

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

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

Clerk - Ms. L. J. Eyre.
Moorlands Climate Action - Nigel Williams & Alison McCrea.

154. **APOLOGIES** - Apologies for absence were received from Councillor - M. Ahmad, it was resolved to accept these. Councillor Worthington joined the meeting later.
155. **MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - Councillor Dakin declared that he is member of Moorlands Climate Action.
156. **MEMBERS' SEC. 33 DISPENSATION REQUESTS** - No written requests for dispensation were received.
157. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** - The Chairman asked the members of the Planning committee to stay behind at the end of the meeting to consider a planning application. The Clerk also added that there is an additional agenda item to be added to the agenda after Moorlands Climate Action.
158. **PUBLIC QUESTION** - No members of public were in attendance.
159. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING 19th. JANUARY 2021** - It was resolved to accept these as a true record.
160. **MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM** - No items were raised.
161. **MOORLANDS CLIMATE ACTION - CLIMATE EMERGENCY ROLE OF THE PARISH COUNCIL** - The Chairman introduced Nigel & Alison. Nigel stated that Moorlands Climate Action were formed 2 years ago to try and get SMDC to declare a Climate Emergency which they did. Members have skills such as Community Energy, Nature and Engagement of which they are helping anyone. He explained that there is Rural Community Energy funding grant available for the Parish to apply for to get a feasibility study carried out for solar power and he is prepared to work on this with the Council. Alison explained that she has experience in Community Orchards and that this works better if the Community are encouraged to get involved. She suggested that a year ahead is the best way to start to get interest from the Community. She went on to explain about what she had been involved in previously with juicing events from the produce of the apple trees. Common Ground are a good source of advice and to get families and children involved in planting the trees works best. Fruit trees need to be ordered in advance and certain varieties are more suited to this area. The Council is welcome to borrow the fruit press to run your own events. Councillor Dakin explained that we have discussed Community Orchards and contacted Councillor Joe Porter as he is involved in these through SMDC and we are especially looking at Cheddleton Playing Field as there is a SCC Grant available now which he has been trying to apply for £1000 which had only a few weeks to apply for and the Orchard Project will not support us.

161. MOORLANDS CLIMATE ACTION – CLIMATE EMERGENCY ROLE OF THE PARISH COUNCIL (Cont'd...) - Councillor Porter has not come back to him yet. The idea is to plant in the autumn. We want to support SMDC and need some expertise. We are interested in gaining help from other experts. Councillor Bowen explained that the Playing Field may not be the ideal place but there may be other suitable areas at the Community Centre and the school. Guidance and help will be especially useful, and we had discussed a wildflower meadow possibly on the playing field and/or Asylum Burial Ground and have a good relationship with Staffordshire Wildlife. Alison stated that she has some background in hay meadows and she stated that they need to be on infertile soil so a Burial Ground may not be a successful place. She went on to say that Plant Life give advice about wildflowers on roadside verges but that they advise on 'No Mow May' to encourage the flowers to grow and encourage pollinating insects and is good for getting carbon in the soil. This can then be done later in the year too. This is extremely easy to do and helps in a good way to biodiversity. The wildflower meadows are more difficult to maintain. Councillor Mrs. Lovatt stated that at the school they have a nature area. Councillor Mrs. Hartley stated that Prince Charles is looking to inspire people to take part in next years platinum jubilee to grow some wildflowers. Alison will send some information of where we can obtain trees and useful websites. Councillor Bowen thanked Alison and Nigel for speaking to members.

161. a.) SCC GRANT COVID 19 - CHEDDLETON PLAYING FIELD - Councillor Dakin has been contacted by SCC Conservation Officer to provide costings of trees and give details of the group who is going to maintain it and what the water source is, and he will struggle to do this. He stated that he will try by stating that we have active volunteers and the backing of Moorlands Climate Action get some prices from local suppliers but unfortunately the Orchard Project were going to help with costings but stated that they do not know North Staffordshire. Councillor Bowen suggested a portion of the grant for an expert report and assistance towards their fees. Councillor Dakin stated that he initially had added this as part of the funding and SCC will not pay for anything like that including wages/fees for anyone. Councillor Harvey stated he was under the impression that nothing had been decided and that there is no structure and that discussions have not taken place about where to put orchards and that the idea was to work with SMDC and take advice from them. So why have Moorlands Climate Action been brought in as they were formed because SMDC had no plans for Climate Action and we have no residential support so we need to get people involved before we can approach anyone for money, and it will take years and years to go through and how many organisations do we take advice from. Councillor Bowen stated that SMDC have a policy and it was an intention to involve groups and not all have been helpful this has evolved through Committees at SMDC. The Moorlands Climate Action has approached us to give advice we have no set plans purely suggestions and what land/facilities we have available we can then involve residents we then decide if we do or don't go forward with Orchards. Councillor Jennings added we just need advice now, and we were offered this grant, and this has forced us to give more details and Councillor Dakin has tried his best to secure the funds. The Clerk stated that Moorlands Climate Action had sent an email to all Parish/Town Councils and this was brought up in the correspondence of the last meeting and suggested that we invite them to give us advice. Councillor Scalise stated that we need to start from getting people involved rather than securing the funding first as we need a plan. We can then look at funding. Councillor Bowen stated that the volunteers could be members of the Council and we do need a plan, and the funding was slightly misrepresented to us and it has not been as easy as we thought.

161. a.) SCC GRANT COVID 19 - CHEDDLETON PLAYING FIELD (Cont'd...) -

Councillor Dakin stated that he will try again and if the funding is not secured, we can look at securing funding later. Councillor Scalise suggested we need to start now and work on the funding once we have established plans by advice from Councillor Porter and other organisations who have already completed such projects and bring it up on a Committee. Councillor Mrs. Lovatt stated that with grant funding they need a fully formed plan before they will agree the application. Councillor Bowen stated that it was thrust at us and we need to start with advice and maybe get funding from elsewhere. Councillor Dakin will form a plan and bring it back to discuss.

162. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE ISSUES/HANDYMAN WORKS/BUILDING WORKS -

The Clerk asked if anyone had any issues to report about Grounds Maintenance. Councillor Harvey reported that the gully on Withy stakes is full of rubbish and looks like it has been tipped. This can be sent to SMDC and reported as fly tipping so Councillor Harvey will photograph it. Councillor Scalise asked if the Clerk could circulate the areas which Councillors were made responsible for so that these can be checked for the next meeting. The Clerk went on to report that the handyman has spent 5 hours on the pavement in Wetley Rocks. The Clerk has photographed the gaps in the wall and will report to Highways for a response. Councillor Tunna stated that one of the gaps in the wall was caused by D&G Bus which went through it so maybe the Clerk could contact them about it. The Handyman has done most of the reported items on the Playground Inspection Reports at Toll Bar & Wetley Rocks. He had attempted to collect the goalposts from Pointon's Park but that they would not fit in his van so asked if anyone had access to a large trailer? Councillor Scalise stated we need to decide where they are to go so that we only transport them once. Councillor Harvey reported that the set on Cheddleton are not legal. These could be replaced to be able to allow teams to play. So, it was agreed to move them to Cheddleton, and it was left for Councillor Harvey to see if his trailer would be big enough to transport them. The Handyman has tarmacked the car park at the Craft Centre. Fire recommendations need to be re assessed as well as she has told him to leave the sink.

163. REFURBISHMENT WORKS OLD POTTERY ROOM, CRAFT CENTRE -

The Chairman reported that Stuart Underhill has looked at the room and made his recommendations much in line with what we thought but in addition they will take on the tendering of works and supervise the works. They already have a list of contractors to approach them who are reputable people. Council Scalise commented that this comes at a premium cost of 12.5%. Once the specification has been done, we get our tenders etc. which would be cheaper. Do it in phases and tender each one. Or for them to come up with prices. Quotes needed before we commit to anything further. Councillor Mrs. Hartley stated that this was discussed at length at the CCMC and that this would be the quickest and more practicable then getting separate tradespeople in and taking a long time to get things done which has been the experience over other projects. We then have a guaranteed come back on all works carried out. Councillor Scalise suggested a quote then take it from there. Councillor Hartley stated we have not agreed to anything and we can ask them to tender the works and that we have stops at various stages should we not wish to continue, and this would be more professional if the price is right. Councillor Jennings stated that we use local tradesmen and ask them to price it. They will have public liability insurance and supervise the works and time restraints which we have come back on and if they fall behind, we will have leverage. Councillor Bowen will speak to them and we want to be fully involved in it. They will advertise to local tradespeople which we would have to do anyway to tender the works out.

- 163. REFURBISHMENT WORKS OLD POTTERY ROOM, CRAFT CENTRE** **(Cont'd...)** - He also added about the change of use needed to be looked at he has spoken to Business Rates at SMDC they will report this after and spoken to Ben Hayward under planning once we know what we want, and we may not need to apply for any change of use. Councillor Dakin suggested that there is a Construction Design and Management Regulation 2015, and we include this in the contract between us and them if we do let them project manage it.
- 164. BASFORD BRIDGE LANE BRIDGES/CCTV** - The Clerk reported that she had received an email from Matthew Anderson as he had seen an article in the New Civil Engineer Magazine about the bridge and he had taken part in a project on an old suspension bridge in Marlow which had a lower weight limit of 3t. Drivers were ignoring this and set up a monitoring system by identifying overweight vehicles and using ANPR in real time to warn drivers before they cross the bridge. The Clerk has forwarded this to SCC & Canal & River Trust as well as some further incidents that have taken place. Tractors, JCB's and other overweight vehicles reversing back up the road causing damage which have also been reported to everyone including the Police. Not all the signs are in place yet as the plans show some on the A520 which have yet to be installed. She also reported that the meeting between Canal & River Trust and SCC had not been in depth about the bridge, so nothing really had been discussed. Canal & River Trust are concerned about the structure of the bridge and to shut the towpath they would have to shut the canal. Councillor Harvey reported that it was raining under the bridge which is concerning. Councillor Jennings stated that the signs now at the top of Basford Bridge Lane are now legal so the Police should be prosecuting anyone who is over the weight limit. Councillor Scalise stated that if the bridge does not collapse, he would be incredibly surprised. Councillor Bowen stated again until County put in width restrictions this will happen. We will need to continue to send details through of all incidents, but a lot of the tractors do not have registration plates. The Clerk reported that she had invited the Police to attend the meeting and she had not received a response. Councillor Worthington stated we need to tell the Canal & River Trust that water is leaking through and for them to instruct SCC to close the bridge. Councillor Jennings suggested stating that we contact them all and pre-warn that the Council will involve national press and we can convene an emergency meeting and invite them all to attend. The Clerk will contact them all.
- 165. BUS SHELTER WETLEY ROCKS/CHEDDLETON** - The Chairman has spoken to CEO Andrew Stokes at Staffordshire Moorlands and he will get in touch with Simon Clowes and give him a couple of weeks. The Clerk reported that she has emailed Simon for an update about works. The Clerk had received a letter asking about a further Bus Shelter on the route into Leek opposite The Avenue. The Clerk suggested approaching SCC to see if they could follow this up as it is under their remit and will contact the resident and update him of the outcome of the discussion.
- 166. UPDATE ON DIFIBRILLATORS IN CHEDDLETON** - Councillor Mrs. Salt confirmed that the issue is attempting to get a quote under COVID-19 restrictions now for an electrician to fit the defibrillator at the Vets.

- 167. UPDATE ON SCC DIRECTIONS FOR FOOTPATH MODIFICATIONS/S53 UPGRADE FOOTPATH 11 & 1** - The Clerk reported that the Rights of Way Panel are still only considering a couple of applications a month. We did receive a letter from John Henderson stating our reports will be looked at this year. The Clerk also stated that she had reported SCC to the Ombudsman, and she had now received the outcome from them that as it involves two local authorities they will not intervene. The Clerk suggested writing back to John Henderson to give us a date when it will appear before the Committee. Councillor Harvey reported on S53 Upgrade on Footpath 11 & 1 and stated that the paths cannot be walked as cows are on the paths themselves and are impassable for 6 months of the year so the comments, he has produced the Clerk will forward to SCC stating they are not fit for bridleways.
- 168. UPDATE CENSUS 21st MARCH 2021** - The Clerk reported that she had received posters and information which she will put in the Council Noticeboards and on Facebook to advertise that the census is happening.
- 169. AMEY REPORT 4226567 – A520 LEEK ROAD, WETLEY ROCKS – ROAD DAMAGE** - The Clerk reported that she had chased this up again as the road was dangerous and when she was out last week SCC were patching the road. Paula Lees had reported that they have been temporarily filled and will be dealt with when resources and planning allow.
- 170. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES: -**
- a. Community/Craft Centre Management Committee Meeting**
Re. Min 23. Any urgent works/matters to raise - Community Centre - Councillor Scalise asked about the decision to remove the mobile. Councillor Bowen stated that this is for ratification by the Council. He stated that the lifespan of the wooden mobiles is about 50 years and it is not used by many hirers. Councillor Scalise asked has a report been done on the state of it and the reason it has not been used as it has not been advertised. Councillor Jennings reported that it was used for Keep fit but many years ago and the Band use it for a few weeks in the summer. It gets used on the Pudding Race day. The Clerk stated that the Police would not use it as they said it was too cold. Councillor Scalise stated it is not sensible to spend money removing it. Councillor Mr. Hartley stated that we have plenty of space which is not being used and this will just rot eventually, and he proposed that we remove it as discussed and seconded by Councillor Jennings. Councillor Worthington suggested getting it looked at first to see what needs to be done at it. Councillor Tunna asked to use it for what? Councillor Scalise stated he has seen nothing to state it is in disrepair. Councillor Scalise asked for a named vote and was seconded by Councillor Worthington. Councillors Mrs. Hartley, Mr. Hartley, Jennings, Tunna & Bowen were for the proposal. Councillors Harvey, Scalise, Worthington & Belson were against. Councillors Mrs. Salt & Mrs. Lovatt abstained. Therefore, there is no overall decision made for or against so will be on the next agenda. Councillor Scalise then brought up the Creche and that we are not advertising it and it has been empty for a long time so we continue to lose money. Councillor Mrs. Hartley stated that COVID-19 has not helped. Councillor Scalise stated that Teddy's has sold during COVID-19. Councillor Mrs. Hartley stated that this is a going concern not just an empty room. Councillor Scalise stated we need to get it advertised to get anyone in it as it has been going on too long. Councillor Tunna stated that there was someone interested in using it wasn't there? Can we get it advertised next week and get someone to assess the Mobile too? Councillor Jennings stated that we were going to get a valuation of the rooms rental potential and we have not been able to get this done with COVID-19. Councillor

Scalise stated that all rented premises need to be valued. Councillor Bowen stated that he will get all areas valued before we move forward.

b. Planning & Amenities Committee Meeting

c. Reports of Outside Bodies - SMDC Committees, Parish Assembly, Village Halls week - Councillor Harvey reported on the Parish Assembly with a climate change update from Councillor Porter and Mrs Julia Jessall from SCC and they were both incredibly positive and apparently there is a green infrastructure delivery plan. Councillor Porter did ask people to contact him as they have done 5 Orchards already and want to do 15, of which he has not responded to two emails. There will be another Parish Assembly before the end of the year. Councillor Jennings also attended the meeting and that they are moving to LED lighting.

The Clerk took part in some of the Village Halls week and will send the link to everyone should they be interested in watching them.

171. ACCOUNTS - See attached report for accounts authorised for payment. Councillor Harvey thanked the Clerk for the details which have been forwarded. Each Chair of each Committee need to look at the budgets going forward. All members received Bank Reconciliation, payments, receipts, and budgets as spent to date. ***Authorised under Sec. 137 of the L.G.A. 1972 'Free Resource'***

172. CORRESPONDENCE: -

- a. Advanced Protein Liaison Group on Friday, 30th April 2021 @ 4pm.
- b. Electoral Role Update February 2021.
- c. Amey Report 4222914 - Blocked drains Layby Cheadle Road, Cheddleton – completed 1/2/2021.
- d. Cancer Research Pudding Race - 27th November 2021 - Use of the Community Centre. Future Agenda item.
- e. SPCA Training Courses.
- f. West Midlands Cyber Crime Unit webinars/top tips.
- g. Overflowing litter Bin Ostlers Lane. The Clerk stated that this has been resolved.
- h. Amey Report 4226568 - Road Damage, Rownall Road, Werrington.
- i. Amey Report 4226569 - Missing Bollard, Layby, Cheadle Road, Cheddleton.
- j. Amey Report 4226571 - Road Damage, Ox Pasture, Cheddleton. Has been completed.
- k. Amey Reports 4226573 & 4226575 - Road Damage, Hollow Lane, Cheddleton.
- l. Utility Aid Energy Outlook Summary.
- m. Letter from Vice Lord-Lieutenant - Unsung Heroes.
- n. Consultation under clause 60 of the High-Speed Rail (West Midlands - Crewe) Bill as amended in the House of Lords.
- o. Live & Local - Community Arts during Lockdown and Subsidised Outdoor Performances.
- p. PTTRO 4219443 Basford Bridge Lane, Cheddleton - resurfacing the road 1st March. and completed by 5th March.
- q. Planning Committee SMD/2020/0575 - Stanhopea Mill Lane, Wetley Rocks Formation of vehicular access. This was refused.

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

174. PLANNING APPLICATION

SMD/2021/0055 - Greenways, Rownall Road, Wetley Rocks - Construction of outbuilding for a purpose incidental to the enjoyment of the dwelling house.

Objection on greenbelt and there is no special circumstances grounds for submission of the application as this could easily become a subsidiary dwelling.

Chairman
16th. March 2021.