

Cheddleton Parish Council

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

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

Councillor - M. Ahmad, 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.
Police Sgt. Andy Bland

175. **APOLOGIES** - Apologies for absence were received from Councillor - N. Belson and J. Carr, it was resolved to accept these. Councillor Worthington joined the meeting later.
176. **MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - Councillor Dakin declared that he is member of Moorlands Climate Action.
177. **MEMBERS' SEC. 33 DISPENSATION REQUESTS** - No written requests for dispensation were received.
178. **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 reported that one of our volunteers is to appear on The Repair Shop on TV on 26th. March with a restoration of her father's painting.
179. **PUBLIC QUESTION** - No members of public were in attendance.
180. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING 16th. FEBRUARY 2021** - It was resolved to accept these as a true record.
181. **MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM** - No items were raised.
182. **MOORLANDS CLIMATE ACTION - RURAL COMMUNITY ENERGY FUND** - The Clerk reported that she had received an email from Nigel Williams asking for help in applying by giving details of local businesses, churches, schools etc. to be approached as part of a Solar Panel feasibility study. Councillor Dakin asked that we send a response on behalf of the Council help where we can. Councillor Bowen stated that St. Edward's Church is Listed so would not be suitable for solar panels. Also, advice on neighbourhood plan should the Council require any help.
183. **PARKING ISSUES CAULDON AVENUE & HOLLOW LANE, CHEDDLETON** - The Clerk reported on correspondence received from a resident in Cauldon Avenue regarding an ongoing problem of parking on pavements, in the cul-de-sac and the grassed area which Cheddleton Parish Council maintain. Many of the neighbours, who have driveways of their own, are parking on the pavement, sometimes on both sides of the road which makes walking past difficult. The communal grassed area is getting damaged by a neighbour who parks his Land Rover entirely on the grass. He has a driveway, but this is used to house his caravan plus 2 other vehicles. The cul-de-sac often contain 2 cars which makes turning around difficult. As a result of this, delivery vans and the refuse lorry must reverse up the road. We have tried to raise this with Highways and the Police but neither websites permit a complaint of this nature.

183. PARKING ISSUES CAULDON AVENUE & HOLLOW LANE, CHEDDLETON

(Cont'd...) – Staffs County Council suggests that it is referred to the Police and when I tried to register the complaint with the Police, it suggests that unless someone is in danger, the complaint cannot proceed. Whilst no one is at risk of imminent danger, this issue is causing access issues and whilst manoeuvring past the vehicles, it is putting other road users, and children playing in the road, in danger. The Clerk had a drive round and there were vehicles parked on the pavement and evidence that there has been vehicles parking on the grass. Councillor Bowen proposed that we install rocks along the grass edge to no longer allow vehicles to drive onto it. Councillor Ahmad seconded this, and all agreed. The Clerk would look at a physical restriction to stop it via the handyman. The Police could be made aware of the problem. Councillor Tunna suggested that Councillor Worthington managed to get hold of rocks for Wetley Rocks. The Clerk reported that Emily had reported a vehicle that keeps parking at the top of Hollow Lane making it difficult to access the entrance to the Craft Centre Car Park and as the road narrows as it goes into Shaffalong Lane any large vehicles are obstructed by it. This vehicle is parked there 5 days a week and it has been reported to the Police. Councillor Jennings also brought up the issue of cars dropping off and picking up from school sitting with engines running. Councillor Bowen stated he had approached drivers before and not received a particularly good response. Councillor Mrs. Lovatt asked could the schools be a help in educating parents via a letter. The Chair agreed to write to the schools. Police Sgt Andy Bland stated that the car on Hollow Lane is not causing an obstruction as it is passable so they cannot do anything about it. He stated that maybe approach SCC to get a yellow line at the top of Hollow Lane where it meets with Shaffalong which would give powers to stop this from happening. The main thing to do is to phone the police if an obstruction is caused as it takes place.

188. BASFORD BRIDGE LANE BRIDGES/CCTV – It was agreed to discuss this item as Police Sgt Bland was present and then to move on with the rest of the agenda. Councillor Bowen reported that the signs on the main road had been erected which after 7 months of waiting to then spell Basford incorrectly as Bapford. SCC were informed straight away of the error. He went on to report that he had received a complaint about the size of the sign at the approach to the roundabout. Police Sgt Andy Bland reported that all the businesses along station road and farms as far as Consall have received a letter from the Police reminding them that it is a structural restriction so it cannot take the weight. Patrols are now checking regularly but have not caught anyone in the act. He stated that if anything large goes over report it straight away and they will try to attend. Councillor Jennings asked if residents have photographic evidence will that lead to prosecution? Sgt. Bland stated that if the vehicle is over the weight limit and the person taking the photo is willing to be a witness then yes this can be put forward for prosecution. It would be CPS to decide. Councillor Harvey reported that the bridge top course of bricks is loose. He stated that the hump of the bridge has been made worse since the repairs and the main damage is being caused by trailers rather than anything else as they go over the hump they swing from side to side. There are stones which could easily be pushed off the top of the bridge. Councillor Bowen stated that the width restriction is the only answer. Councillor Dakin stated that the haulier should give details of the driver via the tachograph. Sgt. Bland explained that they must give the information by law. Councillor Jennings stated that drivers are aware of the low bridge on Station Road but unfortunately the signage does not make it clear if they will have access to the industrial estate off Station Road and is probably why they use Basford Bridge Lane. At that point Sgt. Bland left the meeting.

- 184. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE ISSUES/HANDYMAN WORKS/BUILDING WORKS** - The Clerk asked if anyone had any issues to report about Grounds Maintenance as at the last meeting, she was asked to circulate the plan of areas that Councillors had volunteered to cover. Councillor Mrs. Lovatt reported that at Cellarhead crossroads there is a trip hazard as two tiles of the tactile crossing are missing so it needs reporting. The Clerk asked for photographs to report it. Councillor Harvey stated that we reported that the pavement along from Wetley Rocks has been cleared of weeds but only about 20 yards has been done. The Clerk reported that she has asked him to carry on. Councillor Harvey stated it needs doing while the weed is low. Councillor Mrs. Hartley reported that the road sign was hanging off in Cellarhead. Councillor Mrs. Lovatt will check and report back to the Clerk. Councillor Mrs. Hartley reported that opposite to Morrison's in Wetley Rocks there looks like new trees are being planted do we know by whom. The Clerk reported that the handyman is going to replace a light which is broken outside the Community Centre. The Map along Ashcombe Level has been replaced and sealed up which is much better. The padlock at Wetley Rocks Playing Field has been put on the gates. The three new signs have been put up at St. Edward's Lawn Cemetery. The new noticeboard has been put up outside the Community Centre. Works have been completed at Toll Bar Playing Field to replace rotted wood and photos were shown. Emily at the Craft Centre has reported that a pane of glass has been broken so the Clerk will ask the handyman to make good. Plus, her guttering had come apart. Councillor Jennings reported that the laurel hedge has been cut at the Asylum Burial Ground by Jim and a good job has been made.
- 185. REFURBISHMENT WORKS OLD POTTERY ROOM, CRAFT CENTRE** - The Chairman reported that the contractor has been back again to do some external measurements to confirm that the access meets requirements for disabled access. The Clerk reported that the cheque will be raised for payment as the contract states that the report will be given on receipt of payment.
- 186. MOBILE - COMMUNITY CENTRE** - The Chairman reported that he had spoken to Christina about the use of it recently. This continues to only be used on an adhoc basis but that once the creche is again occupied then we may need the additional space once lockdown has lifted as the demand is not quantifiable so could we hold back on removing the mobile. We can then get Jonathan Cornes to assess it for works required and how it is structurally once the Pottery Room has been done. Councillor Harvey asked do we advertise the space. The Clerk reported that we need the valuation before we can.
- 187. RENTAL VALUATION FOR ROOMS IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE/CRAFT CENTRE** - The Chairman reported that he has approached a quantity surveyor to provide valuations for the rooms to move forward with correct rental values and we are expecting this information very soon.
- 189. BUS SHELTER WETLEY ROCKS/CHEDDLETON** - The Chairman reported that this is an ongoing saga. The Clerk stated that the step has been repaired and the Perspex has been replaced to allow occupants to see the bus coming but as far as anything else the bus shelter is still not in particularly good condition as the paint is peeling off and the yellow paint on the step edge has not been done yet but will be. Simon Clowes has reported that there is a possibility that there will be further funds in April. Councillor Bowen suggested stating to SMDC that the workmanship was not of a good quality. The Clerk reported about the request for a shelter in Cheddleton she had contacted Rhonda Gallimore at SCC and received a response stating that it is not ideal as it falls between two driveways. She suggested to contact Highways for a site assessment and then get back to the resident.

- 190. USE OF COMMUNITY CENTRE CHEDDLETON PUDDING RACE 27th. NOVEMBER 2021** - The Clerk had been approached to book the Pudding Race. Councillor Mrs. Hartley reported that there were no issues last time. Councillor Harvey stated it should be supervised on the day and volunteered to help and hoped that 2 or 3 people would get involved for the charity/residents. Councillor Dakin stated it is a positive event. All were in favour that if restrictions lift, they can go ahead.
- 191. UPDATE ON PHOTOGRAPHS FOR WEBSITE** - Councillor Mrs. Hartley reported that the old website was good but that the quality of the photos is not good, but she will look to see if she could photoshop them. Councillor Mr. Hartley suggested that we have adequate from those received to start and then keep changing them. Councillor Harvey suggested a collage of the Playing Fields, Railway and Barge on Canal. Councillor Jennings stated we need to have clear map of the area and its boundary. The Clerk asked for recommendations to be emailed to her.
- 192. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT** - The Clerk reported that she had a Zoom meeting with the Auditor and he picked up several issues. He checked the website being the current one and not the new one, we should have 5 years of audits displayed which we will have by the end of this year. He advised an accessibility statement to be added which the Clerk has already done stating that we are not meeting the new legislation. He recommended as part of the minutes to add the accounts as an appendix item straight from the RBS system. He recommended that the Financial Regulations need to be updated as soon as possible. The Asset Register was added to the website and V.A.T. registration was discussed but the Inland Revenue have refused our registration. He gave details of a specialist for us to write to with regards to the registration but as yet, no reply has been received. He also checked the Insurance, and we should be eligible for Business Interruption payment based on our policy. The Clerk reported that she has not yet received a reply.
- 193. UPDATE LOCAL RESTRICTIONS SUPPORT GRANT - SMDC** - The Clerk reported that a further grant has been received for £2,096. As requested, she had sent an email thanking SMDC Finance team for the quick distribution of monies on behalf of the Parish Council. Claire Hazeldene - Acting Director of Finance responded and said she would pass this onto her team.
- 194. UPDATE ON FEASIBILITY STUDY RAIL LINK TO STOKE** - The Clerk reported that there has been a delay to the submission which until 5th. March 2021 and so nothing else to report. Councillor Jennings reported that some of the residents on St. Edward's Park do not want this railway and have made complaints to Network Rail about access for children playing on the railway line. It was discussed at great length at the Footpath Committee and if the footpath which runs over the railway is shut off it will not be re-opened. Councillor Dakin asked several questions with regards to the opening of the railway line and some environmental issues. Councillor Bowen stated that this will be all discussed as this is only a feasibility study. Councillor Dakin stated that if it is not part of an integrated transport system surely in the moorlands a bus service would be more environmentally friendly. Councillor Jennings this will link Stoke for passengers and freight to Lafarge and trains to Alton Towers. Trains will hopefully be electrified but this will take years and will all have to be considered in the feasibility study.
- 195. UPDATE STREET LIGHT ASHCOMBE ROAD, CHEDDLETON** - The Clerk reported that she had contacted EON again with regards to the Light with a copy of the minutes of the last meeting. The response as far as Eon are aware there is no payment made to the resident for the streetlight. The light belongs to yourselves and is classed as a non-county unit. If any payments were made, they would come from Cheddleton PC.

195. UPDATE STREET LIGHT ASHCOMBE ROAD, CHEDDLETON (Cont'd...) - I do not know the full history of this location but usually where there is no footway constructed the first metre of the resident's land is classed as a service strip. This area of land is where all the different utilities equipment is found and includes for the installation of lighting columns. The column itself has been made safe from any potential structural collapse by removing the shaft of the column. All the electrics are safely housed in the concrete stump was taped up to prevent water ingress. As this has been ongoing for some time now, I will get the unit checked again to make sure it is still safe. Your options are to remove it completely, but Councillor Jennings has already stated that you have a duty of care to provide the light. You could install the lighting column just in front of the brick pillar, in the highway. It would be a difficult task to excavate through the concrete pad in front of the property and what looks like newly laid tarmac outside the property next door. But if both residents agree we could install the column as close to the new pillar as possible. Third option is he just allows us to replace the column in its existing location. Councillor Mrs. Lovatt stated we go back to them with the options that as a matter of safeguarding we must replace the light and what the options are as agreed by all.

196. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES: -

a. Burial Grounds Committee Meeting

b. Planning & Amenities Committee Meeting

The Clerk will re-number the minutes as they do not follow the agenda.

c. Footpath & Countryside Committee Meeting

The Clerk reported that Councillor Scalise was not present, and she will remove his name from the minutes the minutes.

d. Reports of Outside Bodies - SMDC Committees, SLCC Practitioners Conference etc.

Councillor Harvey reported that there is a Parish Assembly next week if anyone has anything to report. Councillor Bowen reported that the Moorlands Partnership Board met today which he was unable to attend because of technical difficulties. The Clerk reported that the Practitioners Conference was good and she gained some additional knowledge. Councillor Bowen gave a Covid 19 update.

197. ACCOUNTS - See attached report for accounts authorised for payment. All members received Bank Reconciliation, payments, receipts, and budgets as spent to date. The Clerk reported that she had stopped three cheques that have not been cashed so re-issued for Royal British Legion and Mary Walker.

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

198. CORRESPONDENCE: -

a. RBS Alpha Accounts Year End Webinar 16th. March 2021. The Clerk attended which was a good refresher for year end.

b. Amey Report 4230463 - Pothole, Tall Trees, Leek Road, Wetley Rocks. – Councillor Harvey has reported this himself.

c. Everyone Health February Newsletter.

d. Complaint Handling in the Public Sector Digital Conference | Broadcast Live | Friday 30th April 2021.

198. CORRESPONDENCE (Cont'd...): -

- e. British Register of Accredited Memorial Masons(BRAMM) Registration. Free registration as agreed at Burial Grounds Committee.
- f. Infect Protect - Antimicrobial coating for playgrounds/play areas, village halls etc.
- g. Cyber Crime Unit Top Tips.
- h. Action with Communities in Rural England(ACRE) - Village Halls Survey. The Clerk will complete it.
- i. Electoral Role Update.
- j. Fly Tip Report XJNNRRKK - Villa Road, Cheddleton. Residents cleared it up.
- k. Amey Report 4232790 - Slurry on Station Road, Cheddleton. Reported also to Environmental Health at SMDC and the Police. Councillor Ms. Ball also contacted as a resident had spoken to her about it. Slurry pipe split and came down the field from Pickford's and onto the road. The farmer did come and attempt to clean it up. The main concern is could this happen again. The Clerk will chase up with Environmental Health to check it will not happen again.
- l. Rural Services Network Funding.
- m. Community Foundation - European Union Social Fund Grants.
- n. Resident letter about water on Park Lane missing the drains - SCC contact going back, as far as 2012 and flooding properties. Follow up with Highways and Councillor Worthington not heard anything. Future agenda item.
- o. Road Closure 5 Days from 22/3/2021 SCC Highways.

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

200. PLANNING APPLICATION

SMD/2021/0098 - 9A, Coppice Barn, Hollow Lane, Cheddleton - Conversion of existing garage into ancillary accommodation, construction of a single-storey link-up extension and other associated works.

Objection as it is in a Conservation area and does not enhance or protect the area and potential removal of mature trees.

Chairman
20th. April 2021.