

Cheddleton Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE FOOTPATHS & COUNTRYSIDE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE CRAFT CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 11th. JUNE 2019

ATTENDANCE Councillor – Ms. C.Y. Ball, M.T. Bowen, K. Harvey, H.R. Jennings,
S. Scalise.
Member – Mr. P.H. Green.

APOLOGIES Apologies for absence were received from: -
Councillor – N. Belson, G.W. Salt & Mrs. L.M. Salt.
Member – Mr. R. Hill.

1912 **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN** Councillor Harvey, proposed by Councillor Scalise and seconded by Councillor Ms. Ball, was duly elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

The Chairman wanted to thank the volunteers and experienced members of this Committee and especially Councillor Mrs. Meyrick who had chaired the Committee for several years and that he hoped he could also do as good a job.

1913 **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN** Councillor Ms. Ball, proposed by Councillor Bowen and seconded by Councillor Scalise, was duly elected Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

1914 **MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting of the 12th. March 2019, taken as read, were confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

1915 **MATTERS ARISING**

Re. Min. 1897. 10 Year Plan Councillor Bowen reported that talks are still on going between SMDC and Stoke City Council but that he will keep on it.

Re. Min. 1900. Dead Trees along Station Road, Cheddleton Councillor Jennings asked if the Clerk had anything to report about the piece of land and the current owner. The Clerk stated that she is still in touch awaiting the owner's son to contact when he is back from America.

Re. Min. 1902. Undetermined applications for rights of way Mr. Green asked was there any update on this matter. The Clerk reported that as yet no decision has been made.

1916 **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence.

1917 **COMMUNITY PATHS INITIATIVE – FUNDING FOR PROJECTS TO IMPROVE
THE COUNTRYSIDE – STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Clerk explained that she had enquired about getting some funding for the volunteers through SCC and this was the only suggestion to help fund some works. SCC have a budget of £30,000 with typically up to £2,000 awarded for each Initiative. She had provided all members with the guidance notes and stated that Councillor Harvey had also asked the volunteers for suggestions. They had come up with maybe a map/notice board sited near to the Railway Station in Cheddleton highlighting the walks for visitors to the area. Maybe looking at also producing a leaflet which they could take away. As the funding is limited it was discussed and suggested that this would be a good option to apply for as the sooner an application is put in the more chance of receiving some funding. Councillor Scalise suggested that maybe the

businesses close by would also be interested in contributing in return for advertising their business. Councillor Harvey felt that the CVR may wish to get involved also as passengers may gather further information as to where to go from the station in between travelling on the train. It would also be a good promotion of the Buttercross as walks that take you there could be included and help towards getting the funding for its restoration. Going forward it was agreed to put an application in but that this be placed on the agenda earlier next year so that a further project could be looked at being funded next year if there are grants available next year.

1918 EXPENSES FOR VOLUNTEERS -MILEAGE CLAIMS TO STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

The Clerk had also asked about the Volunteers being able to claim mileage from SCC as they are registered with them. They have provided claim forms which will have to be submitted each month direct to SCC so at least they would be able to get something back. She also explained that the previous mileage that the Parish Council had paid to the Volunteers she was trying to claim this back for last year. Councillor Harvey explained that other volunteer groups receive more for helping and that some of the footpath volunteers had been approached by other organisations so it may only be a matter of time before they decide to leave. Fortunately, SCC are providing materials from the depot in Werrington for doing the works but for how much longer that will be available he was not sure.

1919 BUTTERCROSS

The Clerk reported that she had sent an email to Nick Carter from Historic England asking for an update to which she had received no response so there was nothing to report back. The main concern is that the last time she had spoken to him there was going to be a restructure. She will chase him up and report back. Councillor Harvey reported that the Volunteers were planning to remove some of the vegetation from around the Buttercross but in no way will they touch the cross itself.

1920 TREE THINNING OPEN SPACE – CHEDDLETON -MEETING WITH STEVE MASSEY UPDATE

The Clerk reported that Steve had been very helpful in spending some time with Councillors Harvey, Jennings, Salt & Mrs. Salt with good advice about the way to approach the works. Councillor Harvey explained that in some areas there was a requirement for a lot of trees to be removed and other areas not so many. These works can not be started until after bird nesting season but that he would look at marking up the trees which need to be removed in late summer with a view to starting works in September and while the Volunteers may be able to do some of the work it would require a bigger team to make a bigger impact although it wouldn't be possible to achieve it all this year. Any trees removed would be left on site but hopefully it would encourage more ground cover with bluebells etc as they would receive more light. Councillor Jennings suggested the help of the Scouts and Councillor Scalise said that maybe a good idea to advertise a working party on Cheddleton Chat to encourage residents to take part. It was agreed that it would be looked at closer to the time to organise.

1921 PULLING OF THE HIMALAYAN BALSAM

Councillor Harvey stated that he had put up the notices to encourage people using the footpaths affected to pull the Himalayan Balsam so hopefully this will help to stop it from spreading. The programme on Basford being done by SCC seems to be working.

- 1922 UPDATE/SURVEY OF PATHS IN THE PARISH CONDUCTED BY VOLUNTEERS**
Councillor Harvey provided an up to date list with all footpath inspections and works that are being carried out and this is being put together by one of the volunteers and SCC have an update as it is forwarded to them regularly. It has provided a good relationship with all involved and the volunteers are getting to know the farmers and having great feedback from people using the footpaths because they are being kept clear and maintained.
- 1923 ANY NOTED FOOTPATH OBSTRUCTIONS**
The Clerk reported that Councillor Belson had asked about the Footpath next to the Bus Stop diagonally opposite to Cheddleton Florist on the A520 in Cheddleton. He stated that it is completely overgrown. Councillor Harvey explained that this was closed by SCC approximately 2 years ago so the Clerk would look back in the minutes when it was recorded and inform Councillor Belson of the situation.
- 1924 JAPANESE KNOTWEED – FOOTPATH 38 REPORTED**
Councillor Harvey reported that at the end of the meeting with Steve Massey they spotted some Japanese Knotweed on the slope going down onto the footpath from Cheddleton Park Avenue which he had offered to treat by spraying. The Clerk had reported it to SCC as we thought it should be reported and they are looking to get a contractor to deal with it as at this time of year it is better injected but it isn't clear who will pay for this but it has been clarified that it isn't a notifiable weed. The Clerk will chase up the outcome.
- 1925 WAYMARKING**
Councillor Harvey reported that as far as they can be all paths have been waymarked. Mr Green stated that he has a number of waymarkers which he was happy to let the Volunteers have for future use.
- 1926 COUNTRYSIDE**
Councillor Harvey stated that Deep Hayes Country Park is very much in need of some attention and that he was looking to inspect the paths within the Country Park and will report the findings but by no way do they want to be taking the jobs away from the rangers but it is very sad that what was once a well visited place is becoming run down and unkept area of the Parish.
- 1927 FORWARD AGENDA ITEMS**
No future agenda items.

Chairman
10th. September 2019.