

**Cheddleton Parish Council**

**MINUTES OF THE FOOTPATHS & COUNTRYSIDE COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD IN THE CRAFT CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 12<sup>th</sup>. NOVEMBER 2019**

**ATTENDANCE** Chairman - K. Harvey.  
Councillor – M.T. Bowen, N. Belson, H.R. Jennings, G.W. Salt,  
Mrs. L.M. Salt, S. Scalise.  
Member – Mr. R. Hill.

**APOLOGIES** Apologies for absence were received from: -  
Councillor – Ms. C.Y. Ball.  
Member – Mr. P.H. Green.

**1941** **MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting of the 10<sup>th</sup>. September 2019, taken as read, were confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

**1942** **MATTERS ARISING** No matters arising.

**1943** **CORRESPONDENCE**  
There was no correspondence.

**1944** **QUOTE FOR CITY & GUILDS TRAINING COURSE OCCASIONAL USER  
CHAINSAW FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH TREE THINNING, OPEN SPACE**  
Councillor Harvey reported that as previously discussed that 3 of the volunteers (one of which is Councillor Mr. Salt) be trained in the use of a chainsaw but would only be ground level works, which would be a long term investment for future tree works as well as to perform the thinning of the trees along Footpath 38 and the open space. This would also mean purchasing a chainsaw and PPE equipment for them to use. The trainer approached lives locally and would perform the two-day course on the open space and had come up with a costing to provide the course £815.00 for all three, purchase of a Stihl MS 181 chainsaw £350.00 + chain sharpening kit £14.00 and then PPE for each of the 3 around £650.00. Totalling approx. £1829.00. Councillor Bowen stated that as it costs on average £500 to employ a tree surgeon that this makes sense to do and proposed that this be agreed subject to insurance checks. Councillor Jennings seconded the proposal and all were in agreement. Councillor Scalise raised the question that the quote was for 3 what would happen if 1 dropped out to the costing. At this point Councillor Belson commented that he would happily step in as he had some experience and would like to gain a qualification and help. Councillor Bowen then proposed that he be included anyway and seconded by Councillor Jennings. The Clerk would arrange this and contact the trainer. The Clerk also reported that she had emailed Staffordshire Wildlife Trust about the possibility of working parties but had not received any reply.

**1945** **UPDATE ON COMMUNITY PATHS INITIATIVE**  
Councillor Harvey updated that the actual walks that wanted including in the leaflet were almost written up to submit to CVR for them to produce the leaflet. This could then be costed along with the board to apply for the grant. There is definitely an increase in walkers visiting the area so to encourage other walks that the village has to offer can only promote it further. Councillor Belson mentioned that maybe the Canal & Rivers Trust could also be approached as they had done a similar thing along the canal which they hadn't made a very good job of as the board by the Flint Mill had been removed because the information wasn't correct. The Clerk will make contact to see if that is a possibility.

**1946 UPDATE ON THE RESTORTATION OF THE BUTTERCROSS**

Councillor Harvey stated that this was progressing but that the schools need to be approached and ask the children to get involved in designing and researching the information for the board to be installed next to the Buttercross once works have been carried out. The Clerk would approach the schools again.

**1947 UPDATE ON FOOTPATH 23 - CHEDDLETON**

The Clerk reported that she had forwarded the information to Councillor Worthington with Regards to Staffs Count Council taking up the entrance to the footpath as a County Road based on the information received from David Rice. Councillor Worthington had submitted this but had been told that he needed to send it to the Rights of Way panel which he will do.

**1948 UPDATE ON FOOTPATH 1R2284 – CHEDDLETON**

The Clerk reported that the New Post was being installed last Friday and Councillor Belson confirmed it was there.

**1949 INFORMATION REGARDING FOOTPATH 19 – CHEDDLETON**

The Clerk reported that she had received information about the re-direction of the Footpath because of a barn which needed to be checked to see if it had been built with permission but that there has been a recent planning application for screening of a low-level wind farm. Councillor Bowen reported that he had spoken to Arnie Swithenbank and that the Council were of the same opinion that the highest level of screening possible is required as this will be seen from a distance. The Clerk would contact SCC about the re-direction and ask what they will do as the owner should have applied for permission to do this.

**1950 UPDATE ON STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL OUTSTANDING DIRECTIONS**

The Clerk reported that a further 3 directions had been served on SCC by the Secretary of State meaning that they have now 108 outstanding comprising 123 path application routes. With the average of 3 a month being discussed by the Panel it was going to take more than the six months that they had been served on the Parish Councils directions.

**1951 UPDATE/SURVEY OF PATHS IN THE PARISH CONDUCTED BY VOLUNTEERS**

Councillor Harvey reported that the volunteers have now completed all works raised and surveyed all paths so are at the point of starting again at the beginning. Councillor Bowen stated that the volunteers are doing an excellent job and wanted to congratulate them for all the hard work which they have done. Councillor Mrs. Salt suggested that she may be able to attract further volunteers through the Christmas Tree Festival and was willing to put something together to encourage people to help. Mr. Hill stated that it was brilliant that the noticeboard on Footpath 38 is being updated with information.

**1952 ANY NOTED FOOTPATH OBSTRUCTIONS**

Councillor Harvey had some trees to deal with on Footpath 38 which had been reported to The Clerk but there was nothing else. Councillor Jennings stated he had been asked about a path that has been used for years that runs on St Edwards Park which was used by Hospital staff that runs along the side of St. Edwards Lawn Cemetery. Councillor Harvey stated it isn't a listed footpath by SCC Rights of Way. Councillor Jennings asked could The Clerk check the deeds to the cemetery to see if its noted to confirm if it should be listed. The Clerk will check and report back.

**1953 WAYMARKING**

Councillor Harvey reported that as far as they can be all paths have been waymarked but that they have very few left. The Clerk would request some more markers from SCC.

**1954 COUNTRYSIDE**

Councillor Harvey raised the report made by SMDC and the management of some of the Parks being taken over by Staffordshire Wildlife but this did not include Deep Hayes so wants the Parish Council to investigate what is happening as it is deteriorating more and more as the years go by as the rangers haven't got the capacity to keep up with works required. Councillor Mr. & Mrs. Salt have been monitoring and will continue to do so. Councillor Bowen suggested that The Clerk contact Nicola Kemp at SMDC to see if it is part of the long-term management plan as a starting point.

**1955 FORWARD AGENDA ITEMS**

No future agenda items.

**1956 CONFIDENTIAL ITEM – FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS**

After considering the figures produced the committee made their recommendations.

Chairman  
3<sup>rd</sup>. March 2020.