

## Cheddleton Parish Council

### MINUTES OF FOOTPATH & COUNTRYSIDE/ CHEDDLETON PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN CRAFT CENTRE MEETING ROOM, HOLLOW LANE, CHEDDLETON ON TUESDAY, 14<sup>th</sup>. MARCH 2023.

**ATTENDANCE** Chair - Councillor I. Dakin.

Councillors - M.T. Bowen, Mrs. V. B. Cornes, H.R. Jennings, D. Kari, Mrs. C.A. Lovatt & Mrs. L. Shaw.

Members - Mr. P. Green & Mrs. G. Higginson and.

Clerk - Ms. L.J. Eyre.

57. **APOLOGIES** - Apologies were received from Councillor D. Kari and Mr. R. Beresford, it was resolved to accept these.
58. **MINUTES OF THE FOOTPATH & COUNTRYSIDE / CHEDDLETON PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE MEETING OF 22<sup>nd</sup>. NOVEMBER 2022** - It was resolved to accept these as a true record.
59. **MATTERS ARISING THERFROM** - There were no matters arising.
60. **CORRESPONDENCE:** - Correspondence forms part of the agenda.
61. **UPDATE ON COMMUNITY PATHS INITIATIVE FUNDING PROJECT** - Mr. P. Green had sent information through of the Churnet Valley Railway walks and produced a draft version for publication. Mrs. Higginson has walked some of them, and comments have been forwarded accordingly. It was recommended the Clerk, Mrs. Higginson and Keith Harvey arrange a meeting to go through the individual walks. 10am on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 meeting at the Craft Centre, Hollow Lane, Cheddleton. A full list of the paths will enable the publication of the leaflet; funding was still available through County. It was recommended other neighbouring Parishes get involved including Kingsley and Consall and seek businesses who may wish to advertise. Initial costings would include the walks only at this stage. A PDF version would be available on the web site and a physical stand displaying the booklets made available at Churnet Valley Railway so visitors wishing to explore the area can collect. It was also recommended the booklet include the fact where car parking charges now apply (Consall Nature Reserve) and Electric fence symbols to be included to warn walkers of the dangers.
62. **UPDATE ON THE RESTORATION OF THE BUTTERCROSS** - The Clerk read out the correspondence received from Historic England?; the grant offer previously agreed from 2019 is still valid in principle. They need to iron out the details and update the forecast costings and have asked for the following information: -
- a. The amount / percentage the Parish are expecting from Historic England with regards to the survey, reports and repairs and what we are willing to contribute in kind? It was noted that until the repair costings are known it is difficult to quantify these figures.
  - b. Whether other funding is available from alternative sources? The Clerk noted the Moorlands Partnership are chasing us for funding, unfortunately their next meeting is on 21<sup>st</sup> March, and we have missed their deadline for submission. An application for submission will need to be prepared by June in readiness for their next meeting. Historic England were supposed to be providing us with a coordinator so we can understand their requirements as it was them who produced the list of repairs which need undertaking. The Clerk to look at this with them.

**62. UPDATE ON THE RESTORATION OF THE BUTTERCROSS (Cont'd...)**

- c. Whether the proposed minor landscaping works have taken place i.e., vegetation clearance, levelling, fencing and interpretation has been undertaken? It was clarified nothing has been done to date. Keith Harvey was looking at this with volunteers as to what they can and cannot do, however we need to obtain approval from the landowner. It was suggested a meeting be arranged to get everyone together including the Moorlands Partnership, the landowner, and volunteers to resolve these issues. It was noted we may need to wait until after District Elections. Marie Twomey from Historic England has taken over, we need to ascertain if she can estimate the costings; this needs to be undertaken before a meeting is arranged. Nick Carter wrote the initial report on the works which need doing. Marie has now visited the site and seen the memorial. Throw it back to her as they were supposed to be obtaining quotations. Clerk to liaise with Marie to obtain the information required and clarify their position with regards to works they were undertaking.

**63. UPDATE/SURVEY OF PATHS IN THE PARISH - VOLUNTEERS** - The volunteers have been doing a great job and note there are no major issues at the moment.

The poor weather has restricted some works from taking place, however, works have been undertaken on footpath 38: cutting back the trees; making a clearing; making and installing 3 new benches made from wood provided by the County Council.

It was noted the route path above the petrol station in Wetley Rocks is difficult to identify, it was clarified you access this by going through the passageway by the house which brings you out on the top field. Volunteers will be visiting site next week.

The post identifying the footpath from Cheddleton Heath past the Finney Farm is missing. This appears to have gone following works to the adjacent property. It is recorded as an ancient route identified as a green dotted line on the OS map, this needs to be investigated.

The footpath on Folly Lane; Councillor Worthington was investigating this, which is still outstanding. It is believed the householder has built over the path. Councillor Dakin will visit site and report back.

**64. HIMALAYAN BALSAM/JAPANESE KNOTWEED** - No further works have taken place since volunteers undertook to pull some of this out last year. Councillor Dakin agreed to arrange the same volunteers to attend and undertake another session. The Clerk had requested a contact from the Canal & River Trust, but they have not responded to date, she will approach them again. Gardening gloves were requested, the Clerk to action.

**65. UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING FOOTPATH MODIFICATIONS/APPEALS** - Mr. D. Rice put together the monthly report, informing us they are behind. He has also notified us we are coming up to the date of 2026 for any reviews of any modifications etc., it looks like this is going back to Parliament. The 26<sup>th</sup> is the cutoff date which is currently under review. They will provide an update shortly. Backlog information: - January meeting determined 3 applications; December meeting 1, and November being 1.

The latest update: - New applications submitted 32, which is an increase of 25, following an additional 7 applications submitted in 2022; 95 applications have been determined, with 143 new applications submitted; the backlog is now 290. Even when these have been dealt with the maps are not being updated.

**65. UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING FOOTPATH MODIFICATIONS/APEALS**

**(Cont'd...)** - The railway footpath LG659G modification at St Edwards has still not gone to Committee, evidence was submitted from the Parish in September 2022 during a four-week consultation period. County are going to recommend rejection; they will notify the Clerk accordingly. No updates from any of the outstanding queries from ROW at County

**66. ANY NOTED FOOTPATH OBSTRUCTIONS/REPORTS WITH ROW** - Mrs.

Higginson has issued a report. Walked around the substation and the badger set has been fenced off by the volunteers. A new stile has been installed. Footpath 42 bull in the field sign is still being displayed and has a metal post to obstruct to stop people getting through the squeezer entrance - Clerk to report to County. The obstruction be the Boat Inn is now cleared.

**67. WAYMARKING** - The Clerk was asked to clarify by Mr. Green if a fingerpost be installed when a footpath comes off an unadopted road, she will liaise with ROW. It was noted footpaths 24, 25, 32, 34, 73 and 77 do not have fingerposts off a County Road. The Clerk did report one off the main Road at Wetley Rocks, ROW have advised they will sort this.

With regards to 01631, there is no longer a stile because it has been removed, but the fingerpost is still there which seems odd. It was resolved for the Clerk to be emailed with details to enable her to investigate.

**68. DEEP HAYES/COUNTRYSIDE/CANALS** - It was proposed Beavers be introduced based on their wetland management. It was noted the new representative will not communicate with the Clerk. She will investigate who the portfolio holder is at County. It was noted that Deep Hayes volunteers were doing amazing work clearing holly/brambles under instruction of the County Ranger.

Regarding Canalside; a report was received from Councillor Mrs. Cornes indicating damage to the bridge by the flint mill which has been hit at some point and appears to be historical. The bricks have broken away. The Clerk will report it to the Canal & River Trust.

**69. UPDATE CHEDDLETON PLAYING FIELD CHAIRMAN'S IDEAS/SMDC PROJECTS - RESIDENTS SURVEY**

– Group of volunteers including Brownies have planted Trees. Councillor Dakin asked if the Council were happy for him to mark out an area for no mow summer, this was resolved unanimously to accept this recommendation; he will re-visit the site during the winter. It was noted no trees have been touched.

With regards to the residents' survey, this has not been undertaken to date. Councillor Worthington advised at the planning meeting that if we took over the playing fields, we could obtain funding. The contact at Fields in Trust has been unavailable, an alternative contact is required so we can progress matters. It was noted they would gift the playing field to the Parish, but a formal agreement will be required to ensure the land remains a playing field. The Clerk will prioritise the survey and send out to residents. Fields in Trust have finally sent confirmation we are a member following the cheque issued in November.

**70. GENERAL CONDITION OF THE FIELD** - There were no issues with the field.

**71. ANY WORKS REQUIRED/VOLUNTEERS** - Hedging plants from the Woodlands Trust have been received for Wetley Rocks playing fields, if any are left over these will be handed over to Councillor Dakin for planting at Cheddleton Playing Fields.

The football pitch needs bringing up to a standard. It was suggested the second set of goalposts be installed so there are two pitches available.

Playing field inspection report, no serious issues raised. The handyman will undertake the works previously as agreed.

72. **GRANGE POND** - Councillor Mrs. Shaw reported two bags of rubbish were removed following litter picking. There is a Bike sticking up at the edge which needs to be addressed which the Clerk will ask the handyman to remove.
73. **BRIDGE EYE** - Mr. Beresford had reported this was in a terrible state to the Clerk. Although a neighbour of his has the relevant equipment to clear the blockage, the Lands Charity have not given instruction that drainage clearance works can be undertaken, this is blocked adjacent to the well.
74. **FORWARD AGENDA ITEMS** - No items were submitted.

23<sup>rd</sup>. May 2023.

Chairman