

Cheddleton Parish Council

MINUTES OF FOOTPATH & COUNTRYSIDE/CHEDDLETON PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN CRAFT CENTRE MEETING ROOM, HOLLOW LANE, CHEDDLETON ON TUESDAY, 12th. SEPTEMBER 2023.

ATTENDANCE Chairman - M.P. Worthington
Vice-Chairman - Mrs. L. Shaw

Councillors - M. Ahmad, Miss S.J. Rogers.

Members - Mr. R. Beresford

Clerk - Ms. L.J. Eyre.

1 Member of Public.

21. **APOLOGIES** - Apologies were received from Councillors M.F. Cunningham, Mrs. A. Grocott, C. Ramos, Miss. V.L. Salt, and Members Mr. P. Green & Mrs. G. Higginson it was resolved to accept these.
22. **MINUTES OF THE FOOTPATH & COUNTRYSIDE/CHEDDLETON PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE MEETING OF 23rd. MAY 2023** - It was resolved to accept these as a true record and were duly signed by the Chairman.
23. **MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM** - Councillor Mrs. Shaw asked about replacing the Basketball Hoop to replace the one in the tennis courts. The ring is still there but the back board is no longer there. It was agreed to get one as children are using the hoop as they are playing basketball at school. The Clerk will investigate purchasing one.
24. **CORRESPONDENCE:** -
 - a. Staffordshire Football Association - Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund - Details as to getting funding for maintenance of the pitch for any grassroots teams who use the pitch. The Clerk will contact them for further information and carry out a pitch inspection to ascertain what is required to make it match fit. It was agreed that any funding would be great.
 - b. Cancer Research - Robbie Beresford Donation thank you for his contribution to works completed for the Council and payment donated to the Charity Walk organized for Cancer Research by the Cheddleton Local Committee.
 - c. PlayMaintainRepair - Playground Equipment - Inspections.
25. **UPDATE ON COMMUNITY PATHS INITIATIVE FUNDING PROJECT** - The Clerk reported that the sub-committee did not meet in July as previously agreed because the information needed for the walk had not been completed. This will be a future agenda item.
26. **UPDATE ON THE RESTORATION OF THE BUTTERCROSS** - The Clerk reported that we have a new contact from Historic England, Mrs. Imogen Newcombe, who has been off sick since June. Hopefully, we can move forward as it has been deemed at risk.
27. **UPDATE/SURVEY OF PATHS IN THE PARISH - VOLUNTEERS** - The updated spreadsheet has been circulated of any works and issues completed. The volunteers continue to keep the paths in good repair. Councillor Miss Rogers Footpath 10 from shaffalong is overgrown. Footpath 1 stile is broken. Councillor Mrs. Shaw asked about the issue with Footpath 70 being obstructed by the landowner. The Clerk stated it is Staffordshire County Council's (SCC) responsibility to act against them and they are not doing this in most cases. There is an issue logged for several paths where this is the case.

Councillor Worthington asked for the address of the property (FP70), and he will speak to Paul Rochfort, the Rights of Way Team Leader at SCC. The Clerk explained that any issues of broken stiles, overgrown the volunteers work at making them passable and they have worked on Footpath 23 & 24 which had overgrown vegetation on the stiles. Also, Footpath 1R/2248 was overgrown and has been cleared by volunteers.

28. **HIMALAYAN BALSAM/JAPANESE KNOTWEED** - The Clerk reported that Canal & River Trust (C&RT) did a Balsam pull along Footpath 38 in June which was advertised but was short notice. They will do another one next year and advertise it sooner. No cases currently of Japanese Knotweed. Councillor Worthington asked about Ragwort is that reportable as he had been asked about it as it is poisonous to horses.
29. **UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING FOOTPATH MODIFICATIONS/ APPEALS/ DISCREPENCIES** - The Clerk continues to keep an eye on all issues. The website has lost information as informed by David Rice. Councillor Worthington stated that there is an IT issue with the County Councils website. The Clerk updated an application for Crown Point to Deep Hayes which was refused after waiting 33 years for the CROW panel to decide, but we have appealed. Footpath 23 is under review by Darryl Evers - Director for Infrastructure at SCC because there is no requirement for a modification under advice from David Rice as it has become a dead-end due to the maladministration in the way the highways were recorded when station road was re-routed.
30. **ANY NOTED FOOTPATH OBSTRUCTIONS/REPORTS WITH ROW** - The Clerk has reported 5 missing fingerposts of information from Mr. Green. The Gully has been cleared by SMDC because the Clerk reported the footpath to them as they do clear the debris annually but do not cut the hedges. That is down to the landowners either side. Footpaths 19,27,62,12 & 44 are long standing reports with SCC as well as Footpath 70 previously mentioned. Councillor Miss Rogers mentioned another obstruction so this will be investigated further.
31. **WAYMARKING** - All Waymarkers are constantly being checked and put up to help with directing walkers. Councillor Ahmad asked about dogs on lead signs do SCC provide them which the clerk will check.
32. **DEEP HAYES/COUNTRYSIDE/CANALS** - No reports to make. Councillor Worthington mentioned that the towpaths are getting overgrown. The clerk recommended any areas of concern can be reported to C&RT.
33. **UPDATE PROJECTS/WORK PARTY/DEED OF DEDICATION - CHEDDLETON PLAYING FIELD** - The Clerk reported that she had now had information from Fields in Trust and their solicitors haven't written to the Charity Commission and consent is required from Staffordshire Playing Fields Association as they are unusually named as a beneficiary. While waiting the trustees will discuss at the September Meeting and the Deed of Dedication can be drawn up. There will be a cost of £1500 plus V.A.T. payable by Cheddleton and a solicitor will need to be engaged by us for the Deed of Dedication so will be a further cost. Councillor Ahmad asked we write and confirm to do it straight away. Councillor Worthington will investigate a specialist solicitor.
34. **GENERAL CONDITION OF PLAYING FIELD** - There were no issues with the field. After the Work Party it was looking great. Zipwire is repaired.

35. CHEDDLETON PLAYING FIELD - ANY WORKS REQUIRED/VOLUNTEERS –

The Clerk reported that the Toddlers Play Area fence has been broken but Steve has now mended it. The goalposts that were given to us by Pointon's Park which are incomplete are laid in the grass which we had a complaint about them being a trip hazard could be removed by Steve. Members were happy for him to get rid of them. The Clerk reported that we had received a letter of complaint about Dogs off Leads. On further investigation with SMDC they have a Public Space Protection Order in place to cover some play areas which are up for renewal, and we need to get Cheddleton added. Councillor Worthington will investigate this. There is no Dog Warden for SMDC now, but this would add powers for the Police to prosecute. District Councillor Pascall has also helped by emailing SMDC Officers.

Mr. Beresford reported that some serious Bowlers have asked if we could cut a practice strip for them to practice in the old bowling green area. This would be very good to encourage further use and members agreed it was a good idea.

The Clerk reported that she has had a request from a resident for access to the rear of their property on Beech Avenue which backs onto the playing fields as she wants to have a tree pruned by a professional. The Clerk has explained to her that if they could use the carpark for equipment that would be better as we do not want any vehicles causing damage, but she will co-ordinate this with the resident in the next couple of weeks and if access is required the Councillor Mrs. Shaw will assist as she knows the code to allow it.

36. GRANGE POND - Councillor Mrs. Shaw stated it looks well and the stile has been repaired.

37. BRIDGE EYE - The Clerk reported that the well has been surveyed by Tom Neale as agreed by Cautionary Lands Charity. The main issue is the road gullies are blocked/collapsed and forcing the rainwater to collect in the well. There are works scheduled 26/9/2023 by SCC to clear the gullies but this will not work if they are collapsed as already suspected so why are they not fixing them. Councillor Ahmad asked if Councillor Worthington could investigate this. The work that could be done to improve the well is pointless until the road issues are sorted.

38. FORWARD AGENDA ITEMS

28th. November 2023.
Chairman