

Cheddleton Parish Council

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

ATTENDANCE Vice-Chairman - Mrs. L. Shaw (Chaired)

Councillors - M. Ahmad, M.F. Cunningham, C. Ramos, and Miss S.J. Rogers.

Members - Mr. R. Beresford, Mrs. G. Higginson & Mr. P. Green

Clerk - Ms. L.J. Eyre.

39. **APOLOGIES** - Apologies were received from Councillors M.P. Worthington, Mrs. A. Grocott, Miss. V.L. Salt, and it was resolved to accept these.
40. **MINUTES OF THE FOOTPATH & COUNTRYSIDE/CHEDDLETON PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE MEETING OF 12th. SEPTEMBER 2023** - It was resolved to accept these as a true record and were duly signed by the Chairman.
41. **MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM** - No items were raised.
42. **CORRESPONDENCE:** - No Correspondence.
43. **UPDATE ON COMMUNITY PATHS INITIATIVE FUNDING PROJECT** - Mr. Green reported that Churnet Valley Railway would like to ask the Council if they could take ownership of the project with the backing of the Parish Council, and they have a volunteer who will walk the footpaths and proofread the documents adding what 3 words locations. They would then get costs for printing and apply for funding from Staffordshire County Council. He went on to explain that the other Parish Councils approached have not really shown any interest in getting involved but that leaflets would be made available for the distribution within the area of the walks. The Clerk suggested that all parishes (Ipstones, Consall and Kingsley) and RSPB be updated the offer of Churnet Valley Railway taking ownership. Mrs. Higginson stated that some of the signage still needs to be updated because it is poor when she walked the footpaths to be included.
44. **UPDATE ON THE RESTORATION OF THE BUTTERCROSS** - The Clerk reported that Rt. Hon. Karen Bradley MP has been contacted by a resident and is keen to get involved. The Clerk reported that she has given her background to the project stating that it has been ongoing since 2018 and that the buttercross is on the at-risk register. Karen has now contacted the CEO of Historic England. We have yet another new officer from Historic England, Rachel Boulton who has inherited the project and has stated that they are looking at redefining and retendering the original brief for the project to detail the initial short project development works being a survey and specification and then to repair based on those results. The Clerk stated she will feed back some more information hopefully prior to our next Council Meeting on the 28th. November.
45. **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 and all footpaths have been surveyed. All items that needed to be reported to Staffordshire County Council have been. Footpath 83 has been cleared recently. The Clerk thanked all volunteers for the work they have carried out including Councillor Miss. Rogers who has completed a lot of the inspections recently.

46. **HIMALAYAN BALSAM/JAPANESE KNOTWEED** - The Clerk stated that she will contact the Canal & River Trust next year about any Balsam pulls next year.
47. **UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING FOOTPATH MODIFICATIONS/ APPEALS/ DISCREPENCIES** - The Clerk continues to keep an eye on all issues. There are no updates from the current outstanding issues. There is an application which is due to be heard at the Countryside & Rights of Way Panel which is proposed to be added to the definitive map and it connects Basford Lane to Footpath 33 in Cheddleton. We have received details asking for any comments to be submitted by 6th. December and the application dates to 1999 which the Parish Council made no comment on back then. The Clerk explained that she has contacted David Rice, and he has been involved in the application with Martin Reay and he has stated that there is compelling evidence for it to be included and if it gets refused, they will take it to appeal.
The Clerk then reported Footpath 23 which has been an ongoing issue because the start of the footpath is not from Station Road, so it does not start from a County Road. At some point this was missing when Station Road was re-routed, and we were asked to submit a modification to get the footpath extended to Station Road. After consulting with David Rice and his help by supplying evidence that it was a County Council Highway error that it was not amended at the time. So, this was submitted, and they have now responded stating it will be added to the S36 List of Highways Maintainable at Public Expense. There is no time scale as to when this will happen. The Clerk reported that David Rice is to be thanked for his help in this matter.
48. **ANY NOTED FOOTPATH OBSTRUCTIONS/REPORTS WITH ROW** - The Clerk reported that she had received information from a member of the public about Footpath 55 being obstructed from Wetley Abbey Farm through to Cellarhead. Mrs. Higginson stated that it is extremely wet in places. This links into a Footpath in Consall Parish. Mr. Green reported that this is subject to planning permission for 9 bungalows by Sub-4. This has been reported to the volunteers and been walked by them and Keith Harvey has contacted County Council to make it passable, so they are going to inspect it tomorrow. The drainage is dreadful and seems to need some work to drain it away. This will be fed back when County have inspected. Consall Parish will be made aware of the issue by the Clerk.
49. **WAYMARKING** - All Waymarkers are constantly being checked and put up to help with directing walkers.
50. **DEEP HAYES/COUNTRYSIDE/CANALS** – Mrs. Higginson reported that Deep Hayes is continuing to be improved by volunteers.
51. **UPDATE PROJECTS/WORK PARTY/DEED OF DEDICATION - CHEDDLETON PLAYING FIELD** - The Clerk reported that District Councillor Matt Swindlehurst has contacted requesting an update about the requirements and grant requests for the playing field. Councillor Ahmad has had a plan drawn up for the area. The Clerk reported that we were looking at consultation with the community and initially we had discussed sending out a survey, but an open day might be easier to consult by inviting residents to look at a plan. It had been agreed to wait until the deed of dedication to the Parish Council from Fields in Trust was complete but we have consent from them to make any improvements and there is plenty of funding via SMDC so there is no need to wait. After some discussions the main areas were raised being fencing off the plantation to protect it, football pitch and lighting, enclosed dog space, tennis court /multi use games area, bike/skate area. The Football pitch we have started to collaborate with Staffordshire Football Association (Staffs FA), and they have approached about what needs to be done to make it match ready. The Clerk asked if a Councillor could take part in the meeting with them to help with this and what the process

is to get funding. Councillor Cunningham volunteered to do this as he has experience with Staffs FA as they have through grassroots identified a need in the area being Leek Town FC. Forward agenda for Full Council to get a working party assigned to the project and share the works and preparation of bids for funding and consultation. The Clerk updated that Fields in Trust have had consent from Staffordshire Playing Fields Association but are still waiting for the Charity Commission's consent.

52. **GENERAL CONDITION OF PLAYING FIELD** - There were no issues with the field.
53. **CHEDDLETON PLAYING FIELD - ANY WORKS REQUIRED/VOLUNTEERS** -
The Clerk reported that the handyman is working his way through the inspection report and has asked about the four way springer manufactured by Proludic which the handle that children hold on is broken and the seat has over the years worn away and had to be sanded to remove rough edges so the manufacturer have been contacted for a quote to replace it would cost £766 plus 10% delivery charge. To replace the seat and handle leaving the original spring would be £395.99 plus 10% delivery charge. Our handyman could manufacture them out of marine plywood, but it was felt that after the time it was installed is approximately 20 years that it should be replaced and as a matter of health and safety contact for a quote to install the equipment but ask for recommendation as to if the spring needs to be replaced and then it can be discussed by Full Council.
The Clerk reported that the sign has been put up on the gates to the Memorial Garden for Dogs on Leads (Old Bowling Green). The spare goalposts have been removed off site.
54. **GRANGE POND** - The Clerk reported that this is due for maintenance.
55. **BRIDGE EYE** - The Clerk reported that the well is still flooded and there is no information yet as to when the road gullies will be cleared. Awaiting Staffs County Highways works before anything can be done to clear the well.
56. **FORWARD AGENDA ITEMS** - No agenda items raised.
57. **CONFIDENTIAL ITEM - FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS 2024/25** - The Clerk had circulated the current budget and spend. Future projects funding needs to be established for next year's budget.

12th. March 2024.
Chairman

