

Cheddleton Parish Council

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN
WETLEY ROCKS VILLAGE HALL, MILL LANE, WETLEY ROCKS ON
TUESDAY, 20th. JUNE 2023**

ATTENDANCE Chairman - M. Ahmad.
Vice-Chairman - Miss. V.L. Salt

Councillor - Mrs. V.B. Cornes, M.F. Cunningham, Mrs. A. Grocott, Mrs. C.A. Lovatt,
O. Pointon, Mrs. L. Shaw & M.P. Worthington.
Co-opted Councillor - D.S. Bagnall, K. Grocott.

Clerk - Ms. L.J. Eyre.
District Councillor - D. Pascall and 3 members of the public.

37. **APOLOGIES** - Apologies were received from Councillor, M.P Worthington as he was attending Leek Town Council and would arrive late, it was resolved to accept these.
38. **SOUTHLOWE WARD MEMBERS DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE** - The Clerk reported that the two new members Councillor Bagnall and Councillor Grocott have completed the acceptance of Office.
39. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - Councillor Miss. Salt declared that agenda item 62 her company has provided a quote. Councillor Pointon declared a personal interest in agenda item 56 and item 74 a & b Planning Applications as previously declared.
40. **MEMBERS' SEC. 33 DISPENSATION REQUESTS** - No written applications for dispensations received.
41. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** - 2 planning applications for discussion by the Planning Members at the end of the meeting. C&RT Himalayan Balsam Pull - Thurs, 22nd June 2023 10 - 12.30 meeting on Cheddleton Park Avenue and St. Edwards Academy Summer Fair - Sat, 8th July 2023.
42. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** - First resident asked why weedkiller has been sprayed at the head of every grave at St. Edwards Lawn Cemetery and flowers and grass have been sprayed. There is also a deposit of soil under the hedge which should be removed, the Clerk will speak to ground maintenance and grave digger. One further question was how much longer the temporary barriers on Basford Bridge Lane need to be there, the clerk stated that Staffordshire Highways have been asked to remove them.
Second Resident asked why none of the Councillors attended the volunteers meeting of the Cheddleton Playing Fields. The Clerk stated that members are invited.
43. **RESIGNATION/CONDUCT OF MEMBERS/ COMMITTEES START TIME OF MEETINGS** - The Chairman announced the four resignations which have been circulated to members of M. Bowen, D. Kari, H.R. Jennings and Mrs. J.C. Parkes, do members want to discuss them individually and Councillor Worthington proposed that the resignations have happened and that there is no need to discuss them any further, seconded by Councillor Miss. Salt. Councillor Mrs. Lovatt stated that she was very disturbed by the fact that residents had asked a question which they did not receive an answer. Councillor Ahmad explained that the conduct of the residents was not acceptable. Councillor Mrs. Lovatt stated that she was concerned about the Councillor who was subjected to

questioning. The motion was carried that no further discussion to take place. The Clerk explained that some members have asked do we have to have a separate Planning & Amenities Committee. This would pose issues with the length of meetings and submitting the outcome in a time for the Planning Committee at Staffordshire Moorlands. Councillor Miss. Salt suggested a trial. Councillor Worthington proposed that still to keep them separate but to meet on the same day but done before Full Council so the Planning Meeting would still be chaired by Councillor Mrs. Lovatt but start at 7pm as this works for Leek Town Council, seconded by Councillor Miss. Salt. The Clerk stated that the July Meeting has already been advertised and that we have invited Councillor Matt Swindlehurst to come and as we do not meet in August to look to start it from September if members wish to trial it. The motion was carried and subject to the number of applications to discuss to adjust the start time accordingly.

44. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING 16th. MAY 2023** - It was resolved to accept these as a true record and were duly signed by the Chairman.
45. **MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM** - No matters were raised.
46. **APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES** - Due to resignations of members the following appointments to committees and outside bodies were made: -
 - a. **Planning & Amenities Committee - 1 vacancy**
Councillor - S. Bagnall.
 - b. **Community/Craft Centre Management Committee - 1 vacancy**
Councillor - M.F. Cunningham.
 - c. **Footpaths & Countryside/Cheddleton Playing Field Committee - Resident Request** - The Clerk reported that Ian Dakin has asked to remain as a member of the committee. Councillor Worthington stated that he felt his conduct and comments on face book about candidates for District Council were unacceptable. The Chairman stated that Ian has done a lot of work at the playing fields, but does he need to be a member of the committee. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Shaw that Ian Dakin continues to be a member of the committee, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Lovatt. After a vote it was resolved that he is not a member of the committee.
 - d. **Wetley Rocks/Toll Bar Playing Field Committee - Resident Request** - 3 members of each Ward.
Councillor - S. Bagnall & M.F. Cunningham for Southlowe Ward.
The Clerk reported that John Tunna has asked to remain as a member of the committee. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Lovatt that John Tunna continues to be a member of the committee, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Shaw. There were two for and two against, so the Chair voted against. Therefore, it was resolved that John Tunna is not a member of the committee.
 - e. **Burial Ground Committee - 1 vacancy**
Councillor - Mrs. V.B. Cornes.
 - f. **Staffordshire Moorlands Parish Assembly - 1 vacancy**
Councillor - O. Pointon
 - g. **Disciplinary and Grievance Hearing Panel - 1 vacancy**
Councillor - K. Grocott.

47. **UPDATED COUNCIL'S RISK ASSESSMENT FOLLOWING REVIEW** - The Clerk explained that the new version has been circulated to members with highlighted additions which is being worked through. The Clerk asked for details from Councillor Worthington who does Kingsley Parish Council's payroll. He agreed he would get the information.
48. **INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT ACCOUNTS 2022/2023** - The Clerk had circulated the report for members to read and highlights all aspects of the Councils Finances that have been tested and no issues raised. As part of the report, we need to appoint an internal auditor for this financial year. Councillor Miss. Salt suggested getting a quote from another auditor before making the decision. This was agreed.
49. **END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS 2022/2023 - STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE** - The Clerk had circulated the statement of assurance and read each question and members agreed the statements and was signed and dated by the Chairman for submission to Mazars as part of the Audit process.
50. **END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS 2022/2023 - ANNUAL RETURN** - The Clerk had circulated the Annual Return and members agreed and was signed by the Chairman for submission to Mazars as part of the Audit process. The Accounts will now be available for inspection but remain un-audited until the return has been signed off by Mazars.
51. **GROUND MAINTENANCE ISSUES/HANDYMAN/BUILDING WORKS**
 The Clerk reported that the final sign off the works at the Craft Centre will take place tomorrow with any snags raised before the final payment is made to Duncan Barber who has completed the renovations with a small percentage remaining unpaid this has been held back as part of the agreement.
 The Clerk raised that she has circulated the grounds maintenance areas asking members to volunteer to inspect areas to feed back the standard of works and any areas that need to be maintained to a better standard. The Chairman explained that Cheddleton playing field is not of a good standard and that we met with Jim and have told him. The risk of fire is due to grass been left and growing too long. Councillor Mrs. Shaw reported that most of the fires are on the field over the fence. The Clerk reported that the fire officer has reported evidence of 18 fires and stated that the footpath needs cutting back and that there are branches which have come of the trees which need to be removed. Jim has now been informed of some of the issues and he has spent some time on there. The no mow areas have been left as agreed but other areas need to be done. Councillor Pascall stated that there is community funding available from District Council. So, for the areas it was agreed that the Clerk allocate areas for inspection.
 Further report to the Police of a 44-ton truck going over the Canal Bridge with details of the vehicle. Resident suggested traffic calming measure be put in by Hazlehurst Drive which will only allow smaller vehicles to go down towards the bridge and give them a chance to turn around before it is too late. Similar to those on St. Edwards Park.
 The Clerk reported a tile slipped off the roof at the craft centre which Steve will put back and report from another resident about the weedkiller at St. Edwards Lawn cemetery and photos were circulated. A further complaint about Cheddleton Lawn Cemetery and Jim has been asked to put some grass seed down. The Fish outside the Community Centre has had the lock broken off, so the handyman has been instructed to replace the lock.

52. **FIRE/LEGIONELLA RISK ASSESSMENT - CRAFT/COMMUNITY CENTRE** - The Clerk reported that Ian Dakin has provided his qualifications to do the Fire Risk Assessment but has now withdrawn his help so a relevant specialist will have to be paid to do it. The Clerk explained that she had attended a course run by SLCC which highlighted that we need to do a Legionella Risk Assessment and a quote for the initial assessment to be carried out by Valens Water on both buildings is £250. The chairman agreed that it needs to be done so proposed it be carried out seconded by Councillor Mrs. Lovatt and resolved to get this done.
53. **UPDATE STREETLIGHT 009 BOUCHER ROAD REPAIRS** - The Clerk reported that EON are awaiting the part to replace the light fitment which will be LED but will not be received until 10th. July and will be scheduled to be repaired as soon as they receive it.
54. **UPDATE UTILITY AID - ELECRICITY SUPPLY CONTRACT 1/10/23** - The Clerk reported that the costings are still coming down, so we have done the right thing in waiting before locking ourselves into a new contract. Initially it was an increase of 128% and is now at 94% so better to wait to see what happens in the market.
55. **TREE WORKS ASYLUM BURIAL GROUND, CHEDDLETON** - The Clerk reported that the TPO works have been agreed by SMDC and therefore we can instruct the works to be done. A quote from Moorlands Tree & Groundcare but varies on the number of days so the Clerk will go back for a figure.
56. **UPDATE DESTRUCTION OF FOX'S PLANTATION, CHEDDLETON** - The Clerk reported that the tree works were shared with Steve Massey at SMDC, and he confirmed that the area is not an ancient woodland and that there is no TPO but that a felling licence would need to be acquired from the Forestry Commission, so he has notified them. Councillor Worthington reported that although trees have been removed, they have put a screening bund in place which is better for residence.
57. **CHEDDLETON PLAYING FIELD - TRUST DEED/DEDICATION - FIELDS IN TRUST** - The Clerk has circulated to members the proposed deed of dedication that fields in trust use. The costs would be expected to be paid by the Council in the region of £800 to £1500 and would take approximately 6 months. Councillor Miss. Salt proposed that the process be commenced to draw up the deed of dedication, seconded by Councillor Lovatt so it was resolved to go ahead and let Fields in Trust to start drawing up the contract and have discussions about any required clauses.
58. **CHEDDLETON PLAYING FIELD - PROPOAL FOR GYM EQUIPMENT/ VOLUNTEERS PAINTING EQUIPMENT/ RESIDENT REQUEST/ FUNDRAISER IDEAS** - The Clerk stated that Councillor Matt Swindlehurst is coming to discuss funding and as we need to take over the full responsibility of the playing fields first any other equipment would be better to wait before resolving to spend any further funds. Councillor Mrs. Grocott will approach the schools to get children involved in helping raise funds and volunteer.
59. **COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP FUND - SUPPORT FOR THE PURCHASE/RENOVATION COSTS OF COMMUNITY ASSETS** - The Clerk forwarded details to all members about new funding available for the purchase of assets to renovate them.

60. **CHARGING POINTS ELECTRIC VEHICLES** - The Clerk reported that this was agreed to make a future agenda item. Councillor Lovatt stated that it is a good idea, but the issue is where to put them. Councillor Worthington proposed that it is not viable at this present time, seconded by Councillor Miss. Salt and resolved to leave it.
61. **DOG WARDEN - SMDC** - The Clerk reported that this had been raised at the Footpath & Countryside Meeting. We are still awaiting a visit to the Playing Fields to catch dog owners in the act.
62. **QUOTES FOR LED REPLACEMENT LIGHTING/FUNDING - COMMUNITY CENTRE** - Councillor Miss. Salt left the room before any discussion took place as a declared interest in this item. The Clerk had obtained two quotes Hydra Electrical have quoted £1262.33 and LSS Electrical £945. Councillor Worthington proposed LSS Electrical to be contracted to do the replacement, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Shaw. Agreed to LSS Electrical subject to funding.
63. **QUOTE FOR KITCHEN WORK TOPS/KICK BOARDS – CHEDDLETON COMMUNITY CENTRE** - The Clerk reported that she had obtained a quote from Robert Marsden as he is providing a quote for Wetley Rocks Village Hall. The worktops are now not fit for purpose and health and safety risk as not hygienic. The amount of the quote requires in the financial regulations that we obtain at least 3 quotes.
64. **UPDATE CAUTIONARY LANDS CHARITY - BRIDGE EYE/ARTS GROUP** - The Clerk reported that Cautionary Lands Charity have given the Parish Council permission to get the works done so Tom Neal has been approached to investigate the issue of flooding on Bridge Eye. He is going to drain the water and look at the cause of the flooding and suggested a grid be fitted to stop debris and leaves entering the drains, but he will report back his initial findings and costs will be covered by the Lands Charity.
65. **SMDC LITTER PICKING/BIN BAGS** - The Clerk reported that there has been an issue with the supply of bin bags from SMDC to which Councillor Worthington will obtain them on the Councils behalf.
66. **STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS LOTTERY LAUNCH** - The Clerk reported and forwarded details of the launch for local causes.
67. **OX PASTURE, CHEDDLETON - ROAD/PAVEMENT DAMAGE** - The Chairman reported that Councillor Worthington has contacted officers and funding has been allocated to get the works done.
68. **UPDATE ON SCC OUTSTANDING DIRECTIONS FOR FOOTPATH MODIFICATIONS - LG659G CROW PANEL MEETING - LA647G/ SMDC FOOTPATH DIVERSION** - The Clerk reported that the next Panel meeting is 23rd. June and Deep Hayes to Crownpoint and is recommended for refusal. Councillor Worthington offered to attend the meeting and represent the Council. All Agreed. The Clerk went on to report about Footpath Diversion recently approved and advertised by SMDC for Footpath 27 Caverswall. On asking after an infill housing development has been approved on planning and the Solicitor at SMDC notified that SCC ROW have enforcement powers to get owners who have obstructed to apply for diversion.
69. **SPCA - SUPPORT DELIVERY OF HEALTH & WELLBEING** - The Clerk reported that we are not a member but promote health & wellbeing.

70. **REQUEST FOR WEBSITE LINK - GOCOMPARE FLOOD RISK** – The Clerk has been approached to add a link to our website. After discussion it was suggested that as it is advertising what would they be willing to pay? The Clerk will investigate.
71. **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES -**
- a. **Footpath & Countryside/Cheddleton Playing Field Committee**
 - b. **Community/Craft Centre Management Committee**
 - c. **Planning & Amenities Committee**
Re. Min. 15a. SMD/2023/0224 - Councillor Mrs. Lovatt reported that it has been approved but a condition that they knock the front wall down to allow for parking for 3 cars.
 - d. **Reports of Outside Bodies - SMDC, SLCC Community Building Management Summit/Branch Meeting** - The Clerk reported that the planning committee at SMDC and results in the correspondence of the battery storage applications.
72. **ACCOUNTS** - See attached reports for payments. It was resolved to accept the figures and pay the invoices.

Authorised under Sec. 137 of the L.G.A. 1972 ‘Free Resource’

73. **CONFIRMATION OF SIGNATORIES - NATWEST & CCLA Public Sector Fund** - The Clerk reported that the signatories have now been updated.
74. **CORRESPONDENCE** -
- a. SMD/2022/0548 - Land Adjacent Cellarhead Substation, Rownall Road, Wetley Rocks - Erection and operation of a Battery Energy Storage System and associated infrastructure and equipment. Objection - Approved 8/6/2023.
 - b. SMD/2022/0574 - Land Adjacent to Armshead Farm, Armshead Road, Werrington - Erection of storage containers, support infrastructure and security fencing for battery energy storage facility along with landscaping and all associated works. Objection - Refused 8/6/2023.
 - c. Amey Report 4273818 - Tall Trees, Leek Road, Wetley Rocks - Road damage - Completed 31/5/2023.
 - d. Amey Reports 4324345 & 4324351 - Foxdale, Mill Lane - Flooding - Completed 31/5/2023.
 - e. Amey Report 4278456 - Leek Road, Wetley Rocks – Footpath Fingerpost missing - Completed 5/6/2023.
 - f. Amey Report 4219671 - Southlowe Road, Cellarhead - Damage around main hole cover - Completed 6/6/2023.
 - g. Amey Report 4315595 - Rownall Road - Road erosion - Completed 8/6/2023.
 - h. ROW 230685789 - Fingerpost request for IR2575 - Ox Pasture end of gully, Cheddleton.
75. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** - Councillor Pascall Climate Change Emergency Fund of up to £500 and Councillor Initiative Fund from District Council.

76. PLANNING APPLICATION

a. SMD/2023/0264 - Land at Basford View, Cheddleton - Proposed erection of dwelling.

No Objection.

b. SMD/2023/0266 - Shepherd's Lodge, Kingsley Road, Cellarhead - Side Extension.

No Objection.

Chairman

18th. July 2023.