

Cheddleton Parish Council

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN
WETLEY ROCKS VILLAGE HALL, MILL LANE, WETLEY ROCKS ON
TUESDAY, 19th. SEPTEMBER 2023**

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

Councillor - Mrs. V.B. Cornes, M.F. Cunningham, K. Grocott, O. Pointon, Mrs. L. Shaw,
Miss. S.J. Rogers & M.P. Worthington.
Co-opted Councillor - M. Leeder

Clerk - Ms. L.J. Eyre.
12 members of the public.

107. **APOLOGIES** - Apologies were received from Councillor, Mrs. A Grocott & Mrs. C. A. Lovatt, it was resolved to accept these.
108. **CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLORS FOR 4 VACANCIES** - The Clerk reported that one application for Cheddleton Ward - Matthew Leeder. Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Lovatt to co-opt him, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Shaw all agreed so he was co-opted.
109. **CO-OPTED COUNCILLOR SIGNING OF DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE** - This was completed by Councillor Leeder.
110. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - Councillor Pointon declared a personal interest in agenda item 139.
111. **MEMBERS' SEC. 33 DISPENSATION REQUESTS** - No written applications for dispensations received.
112. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** - Code of Conduct training 22nd September 2023 with SMDC via teams.
113. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** - Resident asked about the road closure due on the 23rd & 24th September. The Clerk reported that it is between Grange Road & Station Road between 8am to 6pm. Road resurfacing. Follow up question do we know when the rest of the road will be done. Councillor Worthington reported that he had been contacted by several residents and advised that County Councillor David Williams needs to be contacted with residents concerns as the portfolio holder for Highways. Major concerns about the state of the A520. Councillor Worthington reported that Folly Lane is currently shut and seems to be since the wedding venue has opened in Consall they have concentrated on upgrading the road. He went on to say that there is additional funding and he requested that Ox Pasture been done as it was a terrible state and has asked about the A520 but the road dressing being done this weekend is just not enough. The Clerk stated that as a Parish Council we do report potholes and if residents could to SCC Highways as this is the only way to get the works done. The more reports they receive from different people the better chance of getting the road fixed. The residents have designed a form and asked residents to email Councillor David Williams with their concerns. Resident explained several issues outside his property being water gathering and noisy manhole covers on the turning for Advanced Proteins. Also speeding is an issue. Residents know that there are no cameras so would average speed cameras be an option. Councillor

Worthington stated Staffordshire has no zones of average speed. He would like to move one to the A522 on the approach to Wetley Rocks.

A further question was about using A522 as a bypass around the village. Councillor Worthington stated that obviously residents of the A522 wouldn't be happy with that. Another resident stated that he lives 5ft from the road in Wetley Rocks and the amount of HGV's overnight has increased and he rarely sleeps. Barney Williams was in attendance from Advanced Proteins stating that they have improved the efficiency of the vehicles coming to and from the factory and the timing has been looked at, but it is more about the number of vehicles and the poor road surface which contributes to the noise and further deterioration. He left details for people to contact him. Properties are suffering damage because of this, and speed limit is too fast on the approach to Wetley Rocks & Cheddleton and not safe to cross them. Councillor Worthington stated there is no safe place to put a crossing. There is no way of restricting the size of the vehicles but if the road was fit for purpose, it would improve the route. Funding is an issue as far as Highways is concerned. Councillor Ahmad concluded that residents need to complain to more and more and include MP Karen Bradley.

114. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING 18th. JULY 2023** - It was resolved to accept these as a true record and were duly signed by the Chairman.
115. **MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM** - No matters were raised.
116. **GROUND MAINTENANCE ISSUES/HANDYMAN/BUILDING WORKS** - The Clerk reported that Toll Bar old bridge has been vandalised and handyman has removed the rest of the apparatus. On Tabletop picnic area the handyman found two sets of clothes and a set of keys this has been reported to Ashley Goodwin PCSO but had no response about either so will report to the Police. The handyman has also completed the moving of the memorial stone at the Asylum Burial Ground and planted the roundabout up. We have now had confirmation that the land is not owned by Cheddleton in writing from Anne James that it is owned by Stan Winterton and have been asked to remove the stone. The Clerk will look back in the Council records and confirm. The Community Centre Car Park has been marked out with car park spaces by Steve Billings as agreed and already had an incident of someone not using the bays. The Fish outside the Community Centre has been secured again by handyman. A report from a resident about the wall along Randles Lane at Wetley Rocks Playing Field which has some stones loose, so the handyman has been instructed to make safe. Councillor Mrs. Shaw reported the overhang onto the pavement just below the entrance to Cheddleton Playing Field on A520 which has already been cut back. We had discussed about getting a new basketball hoop, but Councillor Mrs. Shaw has stated that her husband will make a new backboard and just purchase a new net. The pumps have been serviced at the Craft Centre. Jim Gibson has been asked to have a meeting to discuss the grounds maintenance issues raised with him.
117. **UPDATE LETTING OF EMPTY ROOM IN CRAFT CENTRE/ INSURANCE VALUATION** - The Clerk reported that the new tenants Gold Care RSL Ltd have moved in paying 6 months and a deposit of a month into the empty room. The rebuild valuation has been completed by Mousey Surveyors for both the Community Centre and the Craft Centre and our insurance policy has been updated at a cost of £35.95 to the end of the policy 30/9/23. The new policy has been received quoting £2735.05 for the year which was £2434.12 plus the additional £35.95. So, it has increased over £300 but we have increased the sum insured with the new valuations. We are tied into a 3-year contract with BHIB who are now trading as Clear Limited insurance advisors. Therefore Councillor Mrs. Shaw proposed payment and Councillor Pointon seconded and it was resolved to pay the insurance as quoted. Also, the Clerk confirmed that if the hirers of the Craft Centre

have their own public liability insurance, we have adequate cover should there be any issues with the building through any fault of them.

118. **UPDATE ASSET REGISTER/RISK ASSESSMENT - NEW VALUATIONS** - New asset register has been circulated to members due to the increase in sum insured because of the re-build values and the Risk assessment to clear the item of risk of being under insured. This will now be displayed on our website as the latest version of both documents. Resolved to accept this.
119. **UPDATE A522, APPROACH TO WETLEY ROCKS SPEED LIMIT** - The Clerk reported that the only other update is that there was an accident on the A522 on the junction of Plough Bank where a vehicle overshot the junction travelling at speed estimated at 40mph and a car ran into the back of it, but no police were called just exchanged details. But someone could have been killed as the vehicle ended up on the wrong side of the road.
120. **A520 CLEANING OF SPEED CAMERAS** - The Clerk reported that Councillor Mrs. Shaw had requested information about cleaning the speed cameras on the A520 to make them more visible. Councillor Worthington will ask about this at Staffordshire County Council.
121. **UPDATE REMOVAL OF BUS STOP MAIN ROAD, WETLEY ROCKS BOTTOM OF PLOUGH BANK** - Councillor Pointon updated that D&G bus drivers have deemed it dangerous to stop there so SCC have removed it. Whether they have carried out a risk assessment or if we can ask them to do so. The Clerk also reported that they have a campaign to get people to use public transport, so she emailed County Councillor David Williams asking for a response as to why the bus stop has been removed. He did acknowledge receipt and that he would investigate it via officers and send a response. Councillor Miss Salt left the meeting.
122. **ROAD SAFETY PARKING ON PLOUGH BANK - AMEY REPORT 4337430** - The Clerk has received several letters from residents over the course of time about the dangers being parking on pavements, poor visibility at the junction of Meadow Avenue. So, a report was raised enquiring with Staffordshire Highways and a response was that it has been forwarded to the Divisional Highways Programme. Councillor Worthington responded that there are no funds left this year, but this can be looked at next year. Councillor Ahmad asked what the cost of double yellow lines would be. We could look at approaching the bigger companies in the Parish to contribute towards the cost of the works.
123. **UPDATE UTILITY AID - ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CONTRACT 1/10/23** - The Clerk reported that the contract ends, so we need to decide if to fix it for the future. The current supplier SSE have quoted along with other companies provided by Utility Aid who advise we fix it with the current supplier SSE for 24 or 36 months, but it will mean double the cost of what we are currently paying. Councillor Mrs. Shaw proposed that we contract with SSE for 24 for electricity, seconded by Councillor Miss. Rogers and the Gas which is out of contract from 1/4/23. It was resolved to accept this.
124. **QUOTE FOR TREE WORKS ASYLUM BURIAL GROUND, CHEDDLETON** - The Clerk reported that under instruction she had gone back to Charles Piggott who had given a variation on the quote of between £2100 & £2800 dependant on the time it took, and he had fixed the price at £2300 + VAT so Councillor Pointon proposed that we instruct him to do the works, seconded by Councillor Worthington. Resolved to accept.

- 125. QUOTES FOR ADMINISTRATION OF CLERK'S PAYROLL & INTERNAL AUDITOR** - The Clerk reported that she acquired two quotes being Bradley Accountancy for performing our payroll being £120 + VAT and Kevin Ford quoted £75 to set up then £180 per year. Therefore, Councillor Worthington proposed Bradley Accountancy, seconded by Councillor Miss Rogers and it was resolved to instruct them to do the Clerks payroll as a separation of duties.
The Clerk then reported that Toplis Associates have quoted £194 plus expenses for Internal Audit and Account Ant have quoted £250 she did ask Kevin Ford who stated that both those quotes would be less than he could quote. Toplis Associates were proposed by Councillor Mrs. Shaw seconded by Councillor Point and resolved to appoint them as internal auditor for 2023/24.
- 126. UPDATE DEED OF DEDICATION - CHEDDLETON PLAYING FIELD** - The Clerk reported that Fields in Trust have sort permission from Charity Commission and Staffordshire Playing Fields Association and the Trustees of Fields in Trust takes place 26/9/23 to agree it. The cost will be £1500 plus VAT which the Parish Council has already agreed to pay, and we will need to instruct our own solicitor to look over the deed of dedication. Councillor Worthington stated he has asked Tinsdills solicitors for a quote.
- 127. UPDATE OX PASTURE, CHEDDLETON - ROAD/PAVEMENT DAMAGE** - The Clerk reported works have been completed and Councillor Ahmad thanked Councillor Worthington for making sure this was done by County Council. Residents passed on their thanks to Councillor Mrs. Cornes.
- 128. AMEY REPORT 4335650 - PARK LANE - LARGE PORHOLE. REPORTED 2/8/23**
- The Clerk reported this via the County Highways system as Councillor Mrs. Shaw had told her about it. Councillor Mrs. Rogers reported that there is due a road closure for works so hopefully it will be addressed.
- 129. AMEY REPORT 4335692 - OSTLERS LANE - BRANCH FALLEN. REPORTED 19/7/23** - The Clerk had details reported to her by a resident so reported it to County Highways.
- 130. FLY TIP - THORNEYEDGE ROAD, ROWNALL. REPORTED 31/7/23** - The Clerk reported a further fly tip.
- 131. ARTS GROUP - FUNDING FOR HIRE OF COMMUNITY CENTRE - AUTUMN/SPRING TERM** - The Clerk reported that the 3 District Councillors have agreed to fund via their Community Initiative Fund. So, the application has been given to Councillor Worthington to get it completed for £260.
- 132. AMEY REPORT 4325805 STATION ROAD - FLOODING/WELL WORKS ON BRUDGE EYE** - The Clerk reported that Bridge Eye is being continually flooded by poor road drainage. There is scheduled works for 26/9/23 but for jetting the gully which will probably not help as the gully is collapsed so until works are done the problem will not be solved.
- 133. UPDATE PLANNING ENFORCEMENT SMC/2021/00075 - 7 KINGSLEY VIEW, CHEDDLETON** - The Clerk updated that this was raised with enforcement in June 2022 and the update is that new owners have taken over, so the complaint has been closed.

134. **UPDATE FUNDING STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS LENGTHSMAN SCHEME 2022 & 2023** - The Clerk reported receipt of £800 being £400 for last year and this year.
135. **UPDATE CONSULTATION ON ELECTION DIVISION BOUNDARIES IN STAFFORDSHIRE** - The Clerk reported that it does not affect Cheddleton boundaries but recommendation for Leek Town & Cresswell Parish. Councillor Worthington reported that Leekbrook & Birchall become part of Leek South.
136. **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL - SUPPORT STAFFORDSHIRE - £25** - Proposed renewing the Membership by Councillor Worthington and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Shaw. Resolved to accept this proposal.
137. **RENEWAL OF SOFTWARE PACKAGES NORTON £64.99/MICROSOFT £59.99** - The Clerk reported that Norton has reduced the charge to £19.99 as she removed the automatic renewal and Microsoft is needed by the Clerk so resolved to accept these charges.
138. **UPDATE ON DEFIBRILLATORS** - The Clerk reported that all 6 defibrillators are now listed with WMAS and are on the website www.defibfinder.uk and a link on our website. We received a recall from CU Medical that your device might need to be checked for a software update so contacted AEDdonate who we instructed to get them all up to date and was told that we had not instructed them to continue the maintenance. As we were waiting for SMDC to co-ordinate with AEDdonate for all Councils in the District to subscribe to a maintenance package but it was agreed at a previous meeting that we would do our own as it is important to keep the defibs working so in light of that the Clerk has signed the Council up to a years maintenance and should SMDC get theirs completed AEDdonate are happy to refund us. This enabled them to sort out the software update and it does affect one of them, so they have put a replacement defib in whilst it is sent off for the upgrade. What has come to light through conversations with AEDdonate is that Dave Kari had assigned himself as guardian for the 6 defibs to do a weekly/monthly check. We have 3 that there is no-one checking now, so we need someone to be guardian for The Black Lion, Wetley Rocks Village Hall & The Vets. Councillor Miss. Rogers volunteered to be the guardian for all three. The Clerk will send her details as a contact to AEDdonate.
139. **APPLICATION FOR PREMISES LICENCE - ASHCOMBE PARK ESTATE, CHEDDLETON** - Councillor Pointon left the room. The Clerk reported that we have been notified by licencing of the application should we have any objections. It was agreed that there are no issues with it as a hotel.
140. **PROPOSAL FOR SOLAR PANELS AT COMMUNITY CENTRE, HOLLOW LANE, CHEDDLETON** - The Clerk reported that we have one quote but not based on our actual usage. There are two quotes for one for just 20 solar panels only and one for 20 solar panels and battery storage from Broadoak and made an enquiry with another company as well as any funding options. Councillor Grocott reported that he has just had 17 solar panels fitted with one battery on his own property so will forward the details to the Clerk for a further estimate. Councillor Pointon proposed we investigate it further, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Shaw. Resolved by members to get further details.

141. **AMEND CALENDAR OF MEETINGS. P&A COMMITTEE & FULL COUNCIL. STANDING ORDERS** - The Clerk had circulated a new calendar of proposed meetings moving Full Council to 4th Tuesday of the month and to incorporate Planning & Amenities Committee on the same night but not December because of Christmas. We will have to amend Standing Orders in line with this. No Parish Meeting to continue past 9pm. Councillor Pointon proposed the changes, seconded by Councillor Worthington, and resolved to make the changes.
142. **PARISH ASSEMBLY - FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** - The Clerk reported that the next meeting is 28/9/23 and Councillors Pointon & Miss Salt are our representatives. Note that other meetings are 23/11/23 & 7/3/24 and if we have any future agenda items that we would like to be added.
143. **UPDATE STREETLIGHT 009 BOUCHER ROAD REPAIRS** - The Clerk reported the light has been fitted with a new lamp in July by EON as agreed.
144. **WETLEY ROCKS PLAYING FIELD AGREEMENT TERMS FOR 20-YEAR LEASE** - The Clerk reported that we received the invoice for the next 6 months at the same rate. So, an email was sent asking what was happening. A response was sent stating that they had posted out Heads of Terms for the Agreement back in February after the meeting which were not received. The Clerk read out the terms with only issues being: - Term, Rent Review and Tenant Covenants so we will feedback these issues to negotiate them. The invoice is being paid at the amount stated of £210 which takes us to 24/3/2024.
145. **UPDATE CONSERVATION CHARACTER APPRAISAL** - The Clerk reported that SMDC have been looking at the statutory appraisal of the Conservation Area which is a requirement. There is a new officer in post, but they have made no commitment to timescales as to completion.
146. **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES** -
- a. **Burial Grounds Committee**
 - b. **Reports of Outside Bodies - SMDC, SLCC Branch Meeting** - The Clerk reported that the planning committee at SMDC and results in the correspondence of the battery storage applications.
147. **ACCOUNTS** - See attached reports of accounts authorised for payment. All members received Bank Reconciliation, payments, receipts, ear-marked reserves, and budgets as spent to date. The Chairman and The Clerk signed the Balance Sheet as at 19th. September 2023 also attached. It was resolved to accept the figures.

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

148. **CONFIRMATION OF SIGNATORIES - NATWEST & CCLA Public Sector Fund** - The Clerk reported that we need further signatories for our accounts, so Councillors Mrs. Shaw & Cornes agreed to put themselves forward to increase the members who can sign cheques. The Clerk also requested a DD mandate to be signed for HMRC for payments rather than issuing a cheque each month. It was resolved to add the two Councillors and pay HMRC by DD.

149. CORRESPONDENCE -

- a. Advanced Proteins Meeting - 20/9/23, 4pm at Cheddleton Community Centre. Councillor Cunningham will attend.
- b. EVPlus - Electric Vehicle Chargers.
- c. Road Closures - 4338521 Rownall Road 20-22/9/23/ 433873 Station Road 26/9/23 / 4338999 Ostlers Lane 27/9/23.
- d. Cautionary Lands Charity - Next Meeting 12/10/23.
- e. Amey Report 4243874 & 4313035 - Mill Lane, Wetley Rocks - Crossing potholes - Completed 4/9/23.
- f. Tree Preservation Order SM327 - Windy Ridge, Park Lane, Cheddleton.

150. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME - One resident remaining asked about the bus stop removal at the bottom of Plough Bank and why it has been removed after 50 years. It was discussed as an item on the agenda and will be chased up with Staffordshire County Council.

Chairman

24th. October 2023.