

**Cheddleton Parish Council**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN  
CRAFT CENTRE MEETING ROOM, HOLLOW LANE, CHEDDLETON ON  
TUESDAY, 24<sup>th</sup>. OCTOBER 2023**

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

Councillor - D.S. Bagnall, Mrs. V.B. Cornes, M.F. Cunningham, K. Grocott, M.J. Leeder,  
Mrs. C. A. Lovatt, Mrs. L. Shaw, Miss. S.J. Rogers & M.P. Worthington.

Clerk - Ms. L.J. Eyre.

A minute's silence was observed for the Middle East.

151. **APOLOGIES** - Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs. A Grocott, O. Pointon, & C.A. Ramos, it was resolved to accept these. Also, Councillor Mrs. V.L. Salt will be late.
152. **CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLORS FOR 3 VACANCIES** - The Clerk reported that no applications have been received for the vacancies. These will continue to be advertised until they are filled.
153. **CO-OPTED COUNCILLOR SIGNING OF DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE** - Not required as no applicants.
154. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - There were no declarations of interest.
155. **MEMBERS' SEC. 33 DISPENSATION REQUESTS** - No written applications for dispensations received.
156. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** - The Clerk stated that due to the cancellation of the last two meetings she suggested new dates being Wetley Rocks/Toll Bar Playing Fields Committee re-scheduled to 21/11/2023 & Burial Grounds Committee 5/12/2023 so that we meet prior to Finance Committee. Also, HR Committee can we meet at 6.30pm next week rather than 7.30pm. All agreed. The Clerk reported that John Tunna was 80 last week and after 50 years as a Councillor we should recognise his birthday. Proposed a gift of a bottle of Whisky was proposed by Councillor Cunningham and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Shaw. The Clerk also stated that the Rail link to be re-instated between Leek & Stoke because funds of £36bn into other projects.
157. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** - No members of the public were present.
158. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING 19<sup>th</sup>. SEPTEMBER 2023** - It was resolved to accept these as a true record and were duly signed by the Chairman.
159. **MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM** –  
**Re. Min. 108. Co-option of New Councillors for 4 Vacancies** - Councillor Mrs. Lovatt was not at the meeting. The proposer was Councillor Miss. Salt so minutes corrected.  
**Re. Min. 123. Update Utility Aid** - The Clerk reported the minutes read 1/4/23 should be 1/4/24 for the gas contract.

**160. GROUND MAINTENANCE ISSUES/HANDYMAN/BUILDING WORKS -**

Councillor Mrs. Lovatt stated that there have been quite a few garage thefts recently in Werrington. The Clerk reported that the meeting with Jim Gibson is scheduled for Friday. Hedge needs cutting at Cheddleton Lawn Cemetery which Jim will be asked to do. An email requesting the hedge between the churchyard and the same cemetery has been sent to SMDC because it is getting too tall. A resident has enquired about a tree in the churchyard which has also been reported to SMDC.

Jane Edwards has reported a water leak near to the meter outside the Craft Centre which has been reported to Severn Trent and awaiting a third visit.

Report from Ian Dakin about vandalism in the woods at Cheddleton Playing Fields making ramps and holes for BMX bikes and left tools behind. Steve handyman visited and filled in holes and removed ramps and was approached by a resident who's tools they are so will arrange for the return of the tools. They have been told they need permission to make any adaptations from the Council and Steve will monitor the woods. The PCSO has responded about the clothes and issues at Knowsley Common he will check on it.

The handyman has fixed 3 steps at Cheddleton Playing Fields and will instruct to clear the wall up the side of the steps. The Clerk reported on some damage to the downspout at the Community Centre on the left-hand side which is next to the field access and the fascia boards could do with painting so she will ask Steve to do the maintenance on these.

Councillor Mrs. Shaw has reported that two of our noticeboards are difficult to get into so the Clerk has asked the handyman to look at them to replace the locks or fit with a handle to make it easier to get into them.

**161. CHEDDLETON PLAYING FIELD INSPECTION REPORT/ FOOTBALL PITCH LIGHTING -**

The Clerk reported the latest report has been sent to everyone which has been done by Fields in Trust. The Handyman has had a copy and asked to prioritise the two Moderate Risks as a priority and to work through the other minor items.

Councillor Miss. Rogers requested that the possibility of the Football Pitch Lighting as there are teams who want to use a training ground and other teams would make use if it was floodlit. The Clerk stated that we have discussed this previously and it is difficult with the houses which back onto the field. We are currently working on the deed of dedication with Fields in Trust and possibility of upgrading the Tennis Courts with SMDC so this will be noted, and availability of funding and feasibility be looked at once we have concluded that especially with the interest from Staffordshire FA about bringing the pitch up to standard. Councillor Worthington raised the issue that dog owners would use it to train dogs. Councillor Miss. Rogers stated that maybe we designate an area for Dogs to solve the issue and BMX users. Councillor Cunningham stated that there is a BMX facility at Pointon's Park.

**162. COMPLETION OF THE AUDIT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup>. MARCH 2023 –**

The Clerk reported that Mazars have completed the Audit, and a copy has been circulated to all members with no issues raised. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for her work in completing this. Members agreed. The Clerk reported that the Notice of Completion has been put on the website and noticeboards as we are legally bound to do.

**163. UPDATE SMDC PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER -**

The Clerk reported that the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) was approved without any amendments in a response from Mark Hitchen but that he has asked Phil Derry to factor this location into his patrol plan for Dog Fouling. As for No Dogs or Dogs on Leads this will not be enforceable. Council Grocott stated that some wildlife cameras put up may be a deterrent with signs. We can add it as an agenda item. District Councillor Pascall will look at making an amendment to include Cheddleton on the Schedule for Dogs on Leads and No Dogs allowed. The Clerk reported that she had checked that there used to be a sign on the

entrance gate to the memorial garden stating dogs on leads. So, she will order a replacement sign.

164. **SMDC POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACE REVIEW** - The Clerk has circulated the document for members instructing us of the plan for the review and residents can take part.
165. **QUERY SSE ELECTRICITY BILLING - REFUND** - The Clerk reported that as part of the contract change, she had been reviewing the bills and discovered that some bills were estimated, and we had been charged 20% VAT and Climate Change Levy (CCL) which we would not have been charged had the meter been read which is done remotely at the Community Centre each month. So as a result, SSE had refunded £33.73.
166. **AMEY REPORT 4345657 HOLLOW LANE, CHEDDLETON - BLOCKED DRAINS** - The Clerk received information from Councillor Miss Rogers so logged it with Staffordshire County Council. With an acknowledgement that it will be investigated.
167. **AMEY REPORT 4345688 BRUND LANE, CHEDDLETON - TREE BLOCKING ROAD** - The Clerk received information from Councillor Miss. Rogers so logged it with Staffordshire County Council. Councillor Miss Rogers confirmed it has been removed now. The Clerk reported that the log has been closed.
168. **4 POPPY WREATHS FOR REMEMBRANCE DAY** - The Clerk stated that we purchase 4 Poppy Wreaths from the British Legion. Councillor Worthington confirmed they have been ordered and will be delivered to him on Monday. It was agreed that Councillor Miss. Salt will attend St. Edwards Church Remembrance Service and place the wreath at the War Memorial on behalf of the Council. Councillor Worthington suggested he would place the one in the Community Centre and at the Asylum Burial Gound and Councillor Ahmad will attend St. Johns Church Remembrance Service.
169. **CHRISTMAS CARD COLLECTION/ COUNCIL DINNER** - The Clerk stated that we usually have a collection rather than send Christmas Cards and donate to the Chairman's Charity of choice. Councillor Miss. Salt volunteered to organise a Dinner in January with partners, so it was agreed to go ahead and look at costings with the best value for money.
170. **UPDATE A520 CLEANING OF SPEAD CAMERAS** - Councillor Worthington reported that there is no budget for cleaning them.
171. **UPDATE REMOVAL OF BUS STOP MAIN ROAD, WETLEY ROCKS BOTTOM OF PLOUGH BANK** - Councillor Worthington had no further update. The Clerk reported that she had emailed County Councillor David Williams who has stated he is still collecting details from officers.
172. **UPDATE ROAD SAFETY PARKING ON PLOUGH BANK - AMEY REPORT 4337430** - Councillor Worthington reported that he is meeting with Highways at County Council on Friday to establish costings for parking restrictions. We can then work on raising the funds required.
173. **UPDATE ON DEFIBRILLATORS** - The Clerk reported that Councillor Miss. Rogers has been checking the 3 defibrillators as the assigned guardian out of the 6 we are responsible for. A report came through that the one at the Black Lion had been used and Councillor Miss. Rogers explained that it was removed from the box in preparation of the ambulance service arriving but that it was not required. On receiving the alert, she checked

with the landlord, and it was put back in the box and registered as active the next day by AEDdonate but that it is great that it was available should it have been needed by the person who the ambulance was called for. Councillor Ahmad thanked Councillor Miss. Rogers for her prompt action and monitoring the defibrillators. The Clerk reported that she has applied to the DHSC Defib grant which will award 100 free defibrillators and 1900 match funded.

**174. UPDATE PROPOSAL FOR SOLAR PANELS AT COMMUNITY CENTRE,**

**HOLLOW LANE, CHEDDLETON** - The Clerk reported that she had contacted the suppliers mentioned but no further quotes have been received. The other issue is that planning permission may be required as the Community Centre falls within a conservation area. Councillor Ahmad asked Councillor Worthington if he could consult with SMDC to find out. The Clerk reported that the company recommended by Councillor Grocott had not responded to her enquiry but that another company Sunlite had provided a quote and stated that it would take 13 years to recover the cost of the outlay. The Councils usage is 5575Kw per annum. The Clerk reported that she had spoken to Sam Lavis at Jonathon Cornes, and they could co-ordinate tenders should we wish to employ them.

**175. CLIMATE CHANGE FUND STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - GRANT**

**£750 LED LIGHTING COMMUNITY CENTRE** - The Clerk reported that we have been success in obtaining a grant to part fund the changing of the lights, but no funds have been received yet. This means that we can now co-ordinate the works to be completed.

**176. RIALTAS ROOM BOOKING SYSTEM** - The Clerk reported that she had watched a demonstration on Rialtas system which would link to our Accounts System. The system costs £1750 initially which is a large outlay to allow online booking of rooms and for the amount of rooms not cost effective. There has been an enquiry from a resident asking is there a calendar or what's on at the Community Centre for people to view. The Clerk explained that it is up to those hiring the rooms to advertise events but suggested that she could put together a list of hints and tips for hirers to have on booking as to where they can advertise events and classes to get the word out there for potential users and would promote the Community Centre as a venue for other people. Social Media being the best form of advertising, or they could post events on our website.

**177. PARISH ONLINE SYSTEM** - The Clerk reported this is a mapping system that was provided free initially by our Insurer to map assets, but free use of the system has now expired. We have a list of assets, and the system has not really been used to its full potential so at a cost of £240 the Clerk recommended that we do not require it.

**178. CROW MEETING/APPEALS/FOOTPATH UPDATES** - The Clerk reported that the October Meeting at County Council has been cancelled so no decisions made this month. Our Appeal Deep Haye to Crown Point has been sent to the Inspector for a decision now that all the evidence has been collated with the help of David Rice. The Clerk also reported that she had spoken to David Rice about submitting an application to add the path between the properties at Jennys Way after the new bungalow was built. In conclusion it was recommended that as it will take about 20 years to make an application that it might be better to approach the owner of the bungalow and explain that the path used to be wider and would they object to us taking the fence back to widen it again. Councillor Miss. Salt proposed that the Clerk speak to the owner of the bungalow, to see if we can come to an arrangement to move the fence back to widen the path and this was seconded by Councillor Mrs. Lovatt. Resolved to action.

The Clerk reported that a resident has contacted that Footpath 83 is very overgrown and he had attempted to report it to County Council without any success. This was reported to our

volunteers, but the job was too big for them, so Keith Harvey arranged to meet Nigel Hopkins today from County Council and they have been out with machinery today and cleared the path of vegetation to enable it to be used without obstruction. The land that the footpath crosses either side of the path is a fire hazard and wants reporting to the fire brigade as we have had several fires previously and in summer could potentially spread to the Cheddleton Park Estate. It was proposed that the Clerk contact the Fire Risk Officer to contact the owners to clear the land and potential risk by Councillor Miss Salt, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Lovatt. Resolved to action.

**179. INFORMATION COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE DATA PROTECTION RENEWAL**

- The Clerk reported that we have a direct debit set up which reduces the cost to £35 instead of £40 per annum but we are required to renew. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Lovatt, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Shaw. Resolved to action.

**180. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES -**

**a. Footpath & Countryside/Cheddleton Playing Field Committee**

**b. Planning & Amenities Committee**

**c. Reports of Outside Bodies - SMDC Parish Assembly, Advanced Proteins Liaison, Cautionary Lands Charity, Support Staffordshire, Scribe Conference etc –**

Councillor Cunningham reported back on AP Liaison, and it was asked if County Councillor could attend the next meeting. Councillor Ahmad reported on Cautionary Lands Charity and the problem with the well awaiting County Council to investigate. Councillor Worthington reported looking at a Sunday closure because of the businesses. The Clerk reported that Scribe have been doing some zoom free training which she has attended one on internal audit and planning.

**181. 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 24<sup>th</sup>. October 2023 also attached. The 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the precept has been received from SMDC. It was resolved to accept the figures.

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

**182. CONFIRMATION OF SIGNATORIES - NATWEST & CCLA Public Sector Fund –**

The Clerk reported that Councillor Mrs. Shaw & Councillor Mrs. Cornes have now completed the online forms to be able to sign cheques for our NatWest Bank Account. The CCLA account details to be completed. The Direct Debits for Gas & Electric new contracts were signed at the same time.

**183. CORRESPONDENCE -**

- a.** TR25/23 - CDT6628-2201 - Mill Lane, Wetley Rocks TRO consultation forwarded to members.
- b.** Amey Report 4343148 - Mill Lane, Wetley Rocks - Traffic Congestion reported when Rownall Road was closed 20/9/23.

**184. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** - No members of the public were present.

Chairman  
28<sup>th</sup>. November 2023.