

**Cheddleton Parish Council**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN  
WETLEY ROCKS VILLAGE HALL, MILL LANE, WETLEY ROCKS ON  
TUESDAY, 27<sup>th</sup>. FEBRUARY 2024.**

**ATTENDANCE** Chairman - M. Ahmad.

Councillor - D.S. Bagnall, Mrs. V.B. Cornes, M.F. Cunningham, Mrs. A. Grocott,  
Miss. G. Grocott, K. Grocott, K. Harvey Mrs. C. A. Lovatt, O.C. Pointon,  
Miss. S.J. Rogers, Mrs. L. Shaw, T.G. Williamson, and M.P. Worthington.

Clerk - Ms. L.J. Eyre.

1 member of the public plus guest speakers.

278. **APOLOGIES** - Apologies were received from Councillor Miss. V.L. Salt and C.A. Ramos, and it was resolved to accept these.

279. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - There were no declarations of interest.

280. **MEMBERS' SEC. 33 DISPENSATION REQUESTS** - No written applications for dispensations received.

281. **ANNOUNCEMENTS - COUNCIL DINNER 2<sup>nd</sup>. FEBRUARY 2024 FUNDS  
RAISED FOR CHAIRMANS CHARITY & THANK YOU FROM CANCER  
RESEARCH FOR THE DONATION** - The Clerk reported that £180 was raised and a further £20 from the chairman's allowance to make the total £200 for Douglas Macmillan Hospice on behalf of the Chairman. Thank you, letter, received from Cancer Research for the Council's Donation of £474 and total raised £6,209. This year's race is Saturday 30<sup>th</sup>. November. There are members of the HR Committee reminded that they have training on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup>. via zoom for appraisals.

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

283. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING 23<sup>rd</sup>. JANUARY 2024** - It was resolved to accept these as a true record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

284. **MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM:** - No matters were raised.

285. **MARY FREELAND - CONNECT FIBRE** - Mary explained that Connect Fibre have been awarded £16.5 million government contract to upgrade full fibre broadband network to rural areas to Northeast Staffordshire which includes Wetley Rocks. Also, in Derbyshire. Work will commence soon in April and working with Staffordshire County Council Highways and work with what is already installed to enable installation as quickly and with as little disruption as possible. Connect Fibre engage with local authorities, businesses, communities, and residents by involving everyone before installing anything. Mary explained that they work with Open Reach so use existing amenities such as ducting and poles. There are companies all over different areas performing installations in rural areas and improve the infrastructure of the whole country. Connect Fibre will sponsor and help local communities as they want to support everyone within the areas, they perform the installations in. Several questions were asked by Councillors, and everyone thanked Mary for attending the meeting to answer questions.

**286. BARNEY WILLIAMS - ADVANCED PROTEINS - OPEN TO QUESTIONS/ PLOUGH BANK PARKING RESTRICTIONS**

- Councillor Ahmad introduced Barney and asked if he could attend on a regular basis should people have any questions. Councillor Miss. Rogers stated that all the companies with vehicles on the road need to be approached not just Advanced Proteins. Councillor Worthington asked about the extension to Advanced Proteins when is this likely to be done. Barney updated that they are collaborating with the local authority and are committed to do for a \$106 so will be next year. The request for funding for Plough Bank would be something we could look at and have discussions in the next couple of weeks. The Clerk expressed that we could look at involving other businesses in the area. Councillor Mrs. Lovatt wanted to reiterate that the lorries are only one issue it is the state of the roads that needs to be sorted out as they are far from ideal. Councillor Worthington stated the cost to make the improvements £1.5 million. Councillor Bagnall raised the issue of odour on incoming vehicles to the plant. Barney explained that they do monitor and provide help and assistance to all contracted companies. He asked if details could be passed onto him of the trailers spotted so they can help advise. Councillor Mrs. Shaw asked what the process is for empty trailers are they cleaned and disinfected before they leave the plant. Barney explained that all trailers are cleaned before they leave. Councillor Ahmad asked what funding has been given to Staffordshire County Council from Government for road improvements. Councillor Worthington stated that they have received £15 million for the whole of Staffordshire. Councillor Ahmad stated we need to write to Staffordshire County Council to express the urgency for improvements to our roads. Councillor Harvey asked about a gaseous smell during low cloud. Barney explained that this is not likely to be the plant producing this but asked if this happens again to report it to him direct. Councillor Worthington stated that the odour has greatly improved over the years. Councillor Ahmad thanked Barney for his attendance.

Items 294 & 295 brought forward by Chairman as Nicole has come to explain her equipment.

**294. & 295. PRESENTATION FROM PLAYDALE** - Nicole explained the project and the manufacture process of the equipment. She showed examples of the fixings, and the timber is guaranteed for 20 years. High quality materials and repairable. Members were issued with details of both a MUGA for Cheddleton and Adventure Trail for Tollbar. The equipment is compliant EM1776 standards they are Kite marked.

**287. GROUND MAINTENANCE ISSUES/HANDYMAN/BUILDING WORKS** - The Clerk reported that Jim Gibson needs to formally be engaged as our Grounds Maintenance of 4% and Lengthsman duties at £11.44 per hour from April. I am now having regular updates from him with regards to works and notified me that all hedges have been done except Wetley Rocks Playing Fields. And will continue to report to the Clerk fortnightly. Councillor Mrs. Lovatt proposed the increases in Jim Gibson's duties, seconded by Councillor Bagnall. So agreed to confirm for the next financial year his duties. The Clerk had requested an additional quote from Pip to clear the Asylum Burial Ground path of Moss and clean the gates and the bench for £80. Proposed Councillor Worthington, seconded Councillor Cunningham. Agreed to get Pip to do the works. Councillor Mrs. Lovatt reported to the Clerk that the Telephone Book exchange had some panes of glass that needed repair. The handyman has done the works and Councillor Mrs. Lovatt will remove some of the books which are water damaged and tidy up the inside. The Clerk has circulated the basketball hoop that Councillor Mrs. Shaw's husband has repaired which is great. The Community Centre Hall Floor has been sanded and varnished which looks much better.

Councillor Mrs. Shaw has reported that there are a few holes appeared in the football pitch at Cheddleton Playing Fields probably caused by dogs digging so Steve has been asked to fill those as soon as possible as a matter of health and safety. There are some trees that require trimming which Steve will also be asked to do.

The Craft Centre pumps have been serviced yesterday. A request has been received from a resident for street signs on Park Lane at both ends. The clerk stated she has contacted SMDC and requested these.

- 288. RESIDENT COMPLAINT/FREEDOM OF INFORMATION - COMMUNITY CENTRE CAR PARKING** - Councillor Ahmad reported that a complaint had been received and several emails. The Clerk stated that this is the second complaint from the same resident with regards to the caretaker, so the Chairman asked Councillor Cunningham to investigate this. Councillor Cunningham met with them and discussed the complaint and the incident and was asked what the criteria is to acquire a permit. There are 5 permits currently and over 40 car park spaces. 1 permit is allocated to the caretaker's son as Mr. & Mrs. Beardmore do not have a car, so this was agreed by members. He concluded that maybe look at opening the carpark, but would you be able to satisfy everyone's needs. The Clerk stated that there are 3 further residents including this resident currently on the waiting list for a permit. Councillor Ahmad suggested that we open the carpark and charge all users. Councillor Miss. Rogers suggested opening it up completely with no locking of the gates. Councillor Worthington suggested more permits. Councillor Cunningham stated there are plenty of companies who would take on policing it. After discussion, the Chairman proposed that the three on the waiting list be allowed one permit and then revisit it in 6 months.
- 289. UPDATE FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT - COMMUNITY/CRAFT CENTRE** - The Clerk has circulated the Fire Risk Assessments to all members and the action plan for all the items that need to be implemented and there are different category levels A1 being the most imported which some have already been dealt with. Councillor Miss. Rogers suggested that members agree to these being dealt with under delegated powers as need to be done as soon as possible. Agreed by members.
- 290. PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS - COMMUNITY CENTRE** - The Clerk reported that handyman Steve will fit the kitchen work tops and plinths in the kitchen. There are a couple of windows and a door that need to be replaced with a quote for £920 for supply which again the handyman will fit.
- 291. QUOTE FOR REPLACEMENT OF 10 LANTERNS (LED) STREET LIGHTS** - The Clerk reported that of the 14 streetlights 10 need to be converted to LED at a cost of £2401 which will save us £665 per year on electricity so within 4 years will be paid for. The Clerk will look at grants to cover the cost.
- 292. MERGING COMMITTEE/CALENDAR COMMITTEES FOR THE SAME DATE** - The Clerk suggested to look at this in May so was deferred.
- 293. UPDATE COMPLAINT REGARDING SIGNAGE - CHEDDLETON PLAYING FIELD** - The Clerk reported that SMDC will provide us with 3 signs.
- 307. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** - Resident returned with photographs of the excess soil at St. Edwards Lawn Cemetery which he reported last year. The Clerk explained that this has been discussed at the Burial Grounds Committee. The Bollards at the bridge on Basford Bridge Lane need to be removed as they are an eyesore. The Clerk has asked Staff County Council to remove them.

294. **UPDATE PROJECTS/DEED OF DEDICATION - CHEDDLETON PLAYING FIELD - MEMBERS WORKING GROUP** - The Clerk reported that four quotes have now been obtained. There is training for Bid Writing this week by Support Staffordshire.
295. **QUOTES FOR TOLL BAR PLAY EQUIPMENT** - The Clerk reported that four quotes have been received and circulated to members and Support Staffordshire are meeting to look at funding for this project.
296. **ANNUAL TOLL BAR/WETLEY ROCKS PLAYING FIELD INSPECTION REPORT FEES** - The Clerk reported that Wicksteed are due to conduct the annual inspections as they have done in previous years.
297. **COMMERCIAL WASTE CONTRACTS FROM 1<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2024** - The Clerk reported that the Annual 3 Commercial Waste contracts are due for renewal with Staffordshire Moorlands District Council.
298. **AMEY REPORT 4367144 - ST9 0AR - FOOTPATH SAFETY** - The Clerk reported that Councillor Harvey had reported this to Staffordshire County Highways because the footway is causing issues for pedestrians.
299. **FLY TIPPING REPORT - CICELY HAUGHTON SCHOOL** - The Clerk stated that Councillor Miss. Rogers had reported this to her, and Councillor Pointon had got the fly tip removed so thanked him.
300. **UPDATE ON DEFIBRILLATORS - INSTALLATION COMMUNITY CENTRE/ NEW FIRST AID KITS x 4** - The Clerk reported that the defib installed at the Community Centre photos have been sent to the Leek Post. Ashcombe Park Cricket Club cost to replace the pads & battery is £264.95 plus vat. will be covered by SMDC. The defib for Powys Arms will be installed by AEDdonate at a cost of £150. Councillor Miss. Rogers reported that she is attending as training session and will hopefully be able to train others how to use defibs in the future.
301. **UPDATE PROPOSAL FOR SOLAR PANELS AT COMMUNITY CENTRE, HOLLOW LANE, CHEDDLETON** - The Clerk reported that the planning permission has been submitted and await the outcome before progressing any further with the project.
302. **CROW MEETING/APPEALS/FOOTPATH UPDATES** - There have been issues which the volunteers have been able to deal with.
303. **UPDATE RESTORATION OF THE BUTTERCROSS, CHEDDLETON** - The Clerk reported that we are moving forward with Historic England and the works should be completed and funded by them in the summer.
304. **RT. HON. KAREN BRADLEY TOUR OF PARLIAMENT 14/3/2024** - The Clerk explained the tour is fully booked but that there will be another later in the year as there had been some interest from Councillors.
305. **GRIT BIN - ST. JOHN'S DRIVE, WETLEY ROCKS** - The Clerk reported that there was a grit bin which has disappeared, and the developer must have had it installed initially so asked them to contact the housing developer.

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

- a. Planning & Amenities Committee**
- b. Burial Grounds Committee**
- c. Reports of Outside Bodies - Community Carbon calculator forwarded to all members.**

**307. 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.

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

**308. CORRESPONDENCE -**

- a.** Churnet Valley Festival Saturday 27th July - Sunday 4th August 2024.
- b.** Electoral Division Boundaries in Staffordshire. Cresswell & Leek.
- c.** CCLA Confirmation of update of signatory changes.
- d.** Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board People's Panel.
- e.** Freedom Of Information Request - [www.Shirebrook247.com](http://www.Shirebrook247.com).
- f.** Tree Preservation Order SM327 Windy Ridge, Park Lane.
- g.** Councillor Lyn Swindlehurst - Parish Assembly 7<sup>th</sup>. March 2024. Councillor Miss. Rogers will attend.

**309. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME -** No members of the public remained.

Chairman  
26<sup>th</sup>. March 2024.