

Minutes of Cheddleton Parish Council Meeting held on

Tuesday, 19th August, 2025 at 7.00 pm at Cheddleton Community Centre

1. Apologies

Louise Eyre (Clerk) and Councillor Lorraine Shaw.

2. Declaration of Interest

Councillor Lovatt declared an interest in relation to Item 9. Councillor Lovatt explained that she had dealt with several emails received from a candidate for the vacant councillor post and would therefore abstain from voting on that matter. Councillor Ahmad asked those attending if anyone else wished to declare an interest.

3. Dispensations

None recorded.

4. Announcements

Councillor Lovatt welcomed Ruby Hammer, Consall PC Clerk, who had offered to help with meetings and minute taking whilst the Cheddleton PC Clerk was absent.

5. Public Question Time

Reverend Henry Hope delivered a short prayer.

Helen Bridgett asked how the views of the PC had been represented since June, 2025, and enquired how planning applications had been dealt with during the Clerk's absence. Councillor Ahmad replied and assured the meeting that there will be a separate planning meeting arranged. Helen Bridgett expressed concerns about the management of planning applications since June and raised an objection about how PC matters have been dealt with. **Action – Planning Committee Meeting to be organised.**

Wendy Johnson enquired about the proposed sale of Bridge Ey by the Cautionary Land Trust (CLT). This had been noted in the agenda of the 13th May, 2025. Concern was expressed about the lack of public consultation. Councillor Ahmad indicated that he had already raised the issue of public consultation with the Trust but the response was that the CLT were not obliged to consult the public. The proposed sale had planned to donate the proceeds to the three churches which were struggling, with St. Edward's Church being under threat of closure. Councillor Worthington confirmed that the CLT had agreed the immediate neighbours would be consulted before proceeding and noted that the understanding of the CLT was that Bridge Ey was rarely used. Councillor Worthington indicated that there was no urgency to proceed with the proposed sale. Councillor Ahmad indicated that if any sale went ahead it would include a proposal to protect parking. There was a general disagreement about the accuracy of the reporting

of the matter in the Cheddleton PC May Minutes re Bridge Ey. Councillor Ahmad noted that at the present time no sale is proceeding.

James Barbour raised questions about the potential sale of the garages and car park on Mill Lane, Wetley Rocks. 1) When will the PC be made aware of the sale? 2) Would the PC be in a position to purchase the garages for the residents' use? Councillor Ahmad indicated that he had recently spoken to the owners and confirmed that the garages were for sale. Councillor Ahmad indicated that the PC would do their utmost to negotiate with the vendors. Councillor Worthington clarified that all car parks with garages owned by SMDC are to be put up for sale in the Moorlands. The Councillors were aware of emails about the potential sale, but no formal email had been sent to Cheddleton PC. There was an appetite on the part of the PC to purchase the garages for the community. The matter had been discussed previously in 2023. **Action – Councillor Ahmad to liaise with Garage Vendors in relation to sale/purchase.**

Kenneth Wheawall enquired about the process for replacing memorial benches during the Clerk's absence. Councillor Ahmad clarified that persons should continue to email the Clerk's email address outlining which benches they wished to replace and the details of the replacement. The Committee thanked Mr Wheawall for his commitment to replace the bench in question.

6. Minutes of the Meeting held on 27th May, 2025

Councillor Sue Rogers proposed the minutes to be a true record of the meeting and Councillor Lovatt seconded the proposal. The minutes were accepted as a true record of the May Meeting, 2025.

7. Matters Arising

Date amended and Items 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 complete.

8. Standing Orders Update 2025

The original Standing Order (SO) is unfit for purpose and Councillor Cornes had issued the SO recommended by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC). These legally bind Councils adopting them and can be customised to a particular Council's requirements. Councillor Worthington thanked Councillor Cornes for her hard work and effort. Councillor Harvey queried why the original SO had to be abandoned and it was clarified by Councillor Cornes that the new version is recommended and referred to on government websites. Councillor Ahmad confirmed that the proposed new version is used by other Councils. Councillor Rogers commented that the new version is a generic document reflecting the laws contained in the Local Government Act 1972.

It was noted that the PC must agree to adopt the SO and certain aspects needed clarity on how they would be interpreted. Councillor Worthington proposed adoption was deferred for further consideration and Councillor Rogers suggested that a separate meeting should be arranged. The majority voted in favour of deferring the decision to allow all councillors to examine the new SO in detail. **Action – Adoption deferred and separate meeting to be arranged.**

9. Co-option of Candidates

Two candidates, James Fernyhough and Christine Alcock presented themselves as candidates for the existing vacancy. Both candidates delivered a short presentation outlining their experience and reasons for wishing to become a Parish Councillor.

The Councillors agreed to an open and transparent vote which resulted in:

James Fernyhough	8 votes
Christine Alcock	4 votes

James Fernyhough was duly elected.

Candidate Christine Alcock delivered a short speech outlining her dissatisfaction with the election process and matters relating to the Council and public participation. Councillor Beardmore thanked Christine Alcock for her perseverance in pursuing her application. **Action – James Fernyhough to complete Appointment Process and paperwork.**

10. Flint Mill Events

10th September – Next Event is a String Quartet

Please contact Councillor Rogers for further details. It was noted that the previous event had raised in the region of £6000.

11. Correspondence

Due to Clerk's absence, nothing to report.

12. Update on Defibrillators

Councillor Roberts indicated that the website needs to be up-dated in relation to the defibrillators. There had been some issues with batteries in relation to the John Pointon facilities. It was noted that the Advanced Protein Committee would look into defibrillators in the near future. Councillor Roberts indicated that checks of the defibrillators would be carried out. **Action – website to be up-dated and safety checks of defibrillators to be undertaken.**

13. Highways

Work on the main road would be finished in early September.

14. Reports From Outside Bodies

14.1 HR Matters

The HR Committee had met to discuss a number of confidential matters.

14.2 Cautionary Land Trust

Bridge Ey: It was noted that the CLT own the land, and it is not owned by the public. Councillor Worthington reported that the CLT had agreed to look into the potential sale of Bridge Ey as a means to raise funds to support the churches in the Parish. There had not been public consultation as it was not a publicly owned asset. St. Edward's Church

is at risk of closure in the future. Councillor Ahmad confirmed that nothing had been finally agreed. Concern was expressed about the accuracy of previous minutes.

14.3 Advanced Proteins Committee

A meeting was to take place in two weeks' time. Councillor Rogers stated that the smell had been very bad in recent weeks and the environmental manager had been contacted.

15. Hopedale Centre

Councillor Lovatt reported that the children from the Hopedale had volunteered to help with community projects and it had been a great success. They had helped to remove Himalayan Balsam from areas in the Parish and had been a great help. Councillor Lovatt asked that the PC approach Hopedale in the future to allow the children to help with community events.

16. Data Protection

It was noted that the ICO fee had been paid.

17. Public Spaces Protection Order

It was noted that there were H&S restrictions on BBQs in open spaces due to the prolonged hot weather – all information could be found on the High Peak Council website.

18. Update Wetley Rocks Playing Fields Rent\Works

The issue with the rent was on-going, details could be found in the Minutes for the WRPF Committee Meeting. The Lengths man had completed maintenance work on the trees.

19. Request – Toilets

Councillors Ahmad and Lovatt had carried out an inspection and would obtain quotes for the maintenance and repair. **Action – Obtain quotations for repair of toilets.**

20. Any Other Business

Louise Eyre, Clerk, had moved into Cheddleton and her new address would be up-dated as soon as possible.

A VJ Celebration Event had been successfully held at Wetley Rocks, approximately 65 people had attended. Councillor Rogers asked if the accounts for the VE/VJ celebrations could be seen by the PC. **Action – financial accounts for VE/VJ Day Celebrations to be sent to PC.**

21. Public Question Time

Helen Bridgett enquired about the procedure to submit a No Confidence in the Chair notice in. She was advised to submit her concerns in writing.

Councillor Salt asked when the Clerk would be returning, Councillor Ahmad indicated he could not provide a date.

Andy Bloor commented that this had been his first time attending Cheddleton PC and he felt that Council Meetings were dysfunctional. He asked what support was available in relation to training. The temporary admin support, Ruby Hammer, indicated that there were several opportunities for training organised by Staffordshire Parish Councils Association (SPCA). Ian Podmore stated that the differences in opinion were an example of democracy.

Peter Davis stated that in relation to a potential sale of Bridge Ey it should be a condition of sale that the car park can be used by canal users and the local community.

Wetley Rocks Garages – Tom Williamson stated he had emailed on 19th June, regarding the garages and not received a reply. Nothing had been sent to PC to date.

22. Forward Items

Councillor Rogers raised the following items:

- Standing Order
- Parish Assembly Attendance
- Community Centre Car Park