

Cheddleton Parish Council

**MINUTES OF THE FOOTPATHS & COUNTRYSIDE COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, ON TUESDAY, 14th. SEPTEMBER 2021**

ATTENDANCE Councillor - I Dakin, H.R. Jennings, T. James, G.W. Salt, Mrs. L.M. Salt.

Clerk - Ms. L. J. Eyre & two members of the public.

1. **APOLOGIES** - Apologies were received from Mr. P.H. Green, and it was resolved to accept these.
2. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN** - Councillor Jennings proposed Councillor Mrs. Salt for Chairman and was duly elected for the next two years.
3. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN** - Councillor Mrs. Salt proposed Councillor James for Vice-Chairman and seconded by Councillor Mr. Salt was duly elected for the next two years.
4. **CO-OPTION OF NEW MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE** - All agreed to have Mrs. G. Higginson as a member of the committee as a valued volunteer who inspects the footpaths and will report on any issues that arise.
5. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING 9th. MARCH 2021** - It was resolved to accept these as a true record.
6. **MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM** - No matters were raised.
7. **CORRESPONDENCE: -**
 - a. Whittaker & Biggs Land for Sale Shaffalong Lane. The Clerk contacted them to make them aware of the footpaths that are on this land. It was agreed to contact the new owners.
8. **UPDATE ON COMMUNITY PATHS INITIATIVE FUNDING PROJECT** - The Clerk reported that this has been held up because of COVID-19 but that she needs to speak to Mr. Green about the leaflet printing. The funding remains available year on year.
9. **UPDATE ON THE RESTORATION OF THE BUTTERCROSS** - The Clerk reported that it had come to a standstill because of COVID-19, and this will now have to be followed up. We need to arrange a meeting with the landowners with regards to the grant application through Historic England. Copies of the project to new members drawn up by Historic England. Unfortunately, Staffordshire County Council have withdrawn their offer of materials to fence it off the Cross with the landowner's permission.
10. **UPDATE/SURVEY OF PATHS IN THE PARISH - VOLUNTEERS** - All members have had an up-to-date copy of the report on all footpaths. Reported that Footpath 58 new bridge been installed by the volunteers and provided by County Council - Werrington Depot. Volunteers have badges to identify them. The Clerk will investigate hi-vis vests & coats for volunteers. Chainsaw has had new chain for use on footpath 38 as works have begun on the tree thinning. Our thanks to all volunteers will be passed on via Gwyn.
11. **UPDATE ON FOOTPATH 10 - CHEDDLETON** - Reported that it was blocked and has been cleared by the volunteers.

12. **UPDATE ON FOOTPATH 19 - CHEDDLETON** - The Clerk has this logged as a building blocks the right of way.
13. **UPDATE ON FOOTPATH 23 - CHEDDLETON** - The Clerk reported that County has stated that a modification needs to be submitted to add a few feet to the start of the path. The owners of the land that the pigs are on is becoming more of a mess and the Clerk continues to try to keep the owners up to date on the state of the area.
14. **UPDATE ON FOOTPATH 52 - CHEDDLETON** - The Clerk reported that this is extremely poor under foot and runs through Moorfields Farm. A report to County has been made as it has been blocked by a horse menage with gates and often full of horses by the owner without permission.
15. **UPDATE ON FOOTPATH 59 - CHEDDLETON** - The Clerk reported that the coal merchants that it goes through is not suitable for walkers and has been reported to County for advice as already a direction in place without permission.
16. **UPDATE ON FOOTPATH 62 - CHEDDLETON** - Path blocked at both ends and reported to County and have spoken to landowners and is awaiting documentation to prove.
17. **UPDATE ON FOOTPATH 70 - CHEDDLETON** - Path blocked at Kingsley Road end and is logged with County.
18. **WILDFLOWER VERGES** - The Clerk reported that this was discussed at Cheddleton Playing Field Committee. We are looking at adopting the Plantlife Managing grassland verges to adopt the plan. Councillor Dakin stated that he can send it out to all members. Getting Councils to adopt less cutting and soil surveys and remove any cuttings which removes nitrates from returning to the soil. County Council are not currently keeping the cutting plan they have set out anyway. It is a national campaign and recognised charity, and we need to get County to adopt it. Councillor Dakin proposed we put this forward and seconded by Councillor Jennings and all agreed. Mrs. Higginson suggested educating residents to avoid complaints when they are left to grow. We could look at privately owned areas and the areas that the Council maintain. The Clerk reported that Wetley Rocks little area that volunteers are letting grow with flowers. Councillor James reported that it generates a lot of complaints as people think it is not being maintained. The Clerk has received requests from residents who want to help and volunteering already which we need to work on.
19. **UPDATE ON STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL OUTSTANDING DIRECTIONS** - The Clerk reported that the August ROW Panel was cancelled and the next meeting in September, none of our directions are listed to be reviewed. They have decided on one of the four we have outstanding. The request for St Edwards the Clerk has sent all information and additional evidence to re-visit this as it was reported as refusal. A report has been received for the path from the gulley to Ostlers for inclusion but has not been yet scheduled to be put before the panel yet. The addition to the path behind St Edwards church has been passed for inclusion but must be now ordered to be added to the definitive map which we await confirmation of. The oldest application is Deep Hayes to Crown Point which it has not been looked at yet. These four were directed by the secretary of state to deal with them within six months and the deadline is well overdue.

20. **UPDATE ON APPEAL FPS/D3450/14A/4 - ASHCOMBE PARK, CHEDDLETON** - The Clerk reported that she has not received any further update since March 2019, so will continue to ask SCC.
21. **UPDATE ON FOOTPATH 38 - CHEDDLETON - TREE THINNING** - The Clerk reported that the volunteers are back on thinning the trees whilst it is the best time of year. All equipment is in use as discussed and the chainsaw has had a new chain to continue works. The Clerk will contact Staffordshire Wildlife to see if they can assist again in anyway as previously, they have. Lots of walkers are commenting on the works and what an excellent job is being done. A bench will be soon installed at the request of a resident in memory of her husband.
22. **HIMALAYAN BALSAM/KNOTWEED** - The Clerk reported that Councillor Dakin reported he had a go with a few volunteers at pulling the Himalayan Balsam and maybe hire a boat next year to do along the Canalside. Councillor Jennings offered to donate the cost of hire from the chairman's allowance. The notices are still being displayed. Mrs. Higginson reported that Deep Hayes has had quite a bit of work to eliminate the Balsam which seems to be working. As far as Knotweed the Clerk reported that on Footpath 38 the volunteers did use weed killer to attempt to clear it, but she would ask Keith Harvey for an update.
23. **UPDATE ON DEEP HAYES COUNTRY PARK** - Mrs. G. Higginson reported that quite a bit of works has been carried out by the ranger on the fences and footpaths. Councillor Mr. Salt reported that volunteers will be starting up to do works and dredging some of the waters with help. The Clerk suggested advertising on their behalf to round up volunteers. Mrs. Higginson will get details off the ranger for the clerk to co-ordinate this. Fishing would be ideal for a club to take on the waters. The funding that was looked at has been withdrawn by Severn Trent. The brickworks which need to be highlighted too. There is only so much that one ranger and a volunteer can do on their own.
24. **ANY NOTED FOOTPATH OBSTRUCTIONS** - All noted previously.
25. **WAYMARKING** - Mrs. G. Higginson requested further markers. Councillor James reported he had seen a waymarker stating saying no public right of way. Councillor Dakin reported its marked as a track on the map and is not on the definitive map. The Clerk will obtain the ten maps for members.
26. **COUNTRYSIDE** - Councillor Mr. Salt stated that the CPRE are promoting the Staffordshire Way.
27. **FORWARD AGENDA ITEMS** - Footpath 42 Signs Bulls in the field - What is the protocol?

Chairman
23rd. November 2021.