

Cheddleton Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN WETLEY ROCKS VILLAGE HALL, MILL LANE, WETLEY ROCKS ON TUESDAY, 23rd. APRIL 2024

ATTENDANCE Chairman - Councillor 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.

Julie Lawton - AEDdonate.

568. **APOLOGIES** - Apologies for absence were received from Councillor - K. Grocott, Miss V.L. Salt, M.J. Leeder, and C.A. Ramos, it was resolved to accept these.
569. **NOTICE CONVENING THE MEETING** - The Clerk reported that the Meeting was advertised on all Notice Boards and on Facebook pages Cheddleton Chat and Cheddleton Gossip plus the Council Website well within the 7 days' Notice legally required.
570. **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 18th. APRIL 2023** - It was resolved to accept these as a true record.
571. **MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM** - No items were raised.
572. **DEFIBRILLATOR AWARENESS SESSION by AEDDONATE** - Julie Lawton from AEDdonate provided a quick overview of using a defibrillator which was very informative for members.
573. **ATTENDANCE RECORDS** - The Clerk read out the list of attendance by Councillors to the 10 Meetings of the Parish Council. Being Councillors Ahmad 10, Bagnall 6 of 9, Mrs. Cornes 8, Cunningham 9, Mrs. Grocott 6, Miss Grocott 5 of 5, Mr. Grocott 9 of 9, Harvey 3 of 3, Leeder 3 of 7, Mrs. Lovatt 9, Pointon 6, Ramos 3, Miss. Rogers 7 of 8, Miss. V. Salt 8, Mrs. Shaw 8, Williamson 3 of 3 and Worthington 8. Members who resigned Mr. Bowen, Jennings & Kari 1 of 1 and Mrs. Parkes 0 of 1.
574. **CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW OF THE YEAR** - It is my pleasure, as the current Chairman of the Parish Council, to welcome you all to this year's Annual Parish Meeting. I would like to thank our Vice-Chair Councillor Miss. Victoria Salt.

Since the last report at the Parish Meeting in April 2023, we have, as a Council, continued to work hard in all sectors of the community. We have completed the installation of 2 new defibrillators with the sponsorship of the government scheme and funds contributed by Leek Link, The Powys Arms and me at our own Community Centre and the The Powys Arms Pub. I would like to thank Councillor Susan Rogers for her continued efforts in her guardianship of our growing number of defibs which will make sure they are ready at any time to be used to save lives. At this point I would also like to thank Jamie Richards and AEDdonate for providing advice and assistance in enabling us to do this. And the training sessions which hopefully have helped residents be more confident should they need to use a defib in the future.

Next, I am sure you will appreciate that to maintain the Council's assets, committees have been appointed to oversee these assets and during the last year meetings have been held:

From May 2023 to March 2024: -

10 Meetings of the Parish Council.

9 Meetings of the Planning & Amenities Committee.

3 Meetings of the Community/Craft Centre Management Committee.

3 Meetings of the Burial Ground Committee.

4 Meetings of the Footpath & Countryside/ Cheddleton Playing Fields Committee.

1 Meeting of the Wetley Rocks/ Toll Bar Playing Field Committee.

1 Meeting of the Finance Committee.

1 Meeting of the HR Committee.

At this point I would like to thank the respective Chairmen - Councillors' - Mrs. Caroline Lovatt, Miss Victoria Salt, Mike Worthington, Mrs. Valerie Cornes, Malcolm Cunningham, and the Vice-Chairs for chairing the meetings so well during their time in office.

Councillors have also represented the Council on various committees such as Advanced Protein Liaison Committee, Parish Assembly, Cautionary Lands Charity & Wetley Rocks Village Hall Committee and raised issues for residents.

DURING THE YEAR, ON YOUR BEHALF, THE COUNCIL HAS TAKEN UP MANY ISSUES, INCLUDING: -

Road issues which include potholes, condition of the roads, safety of road users including bridges and the removal of the bus stop in Wetley Rocks with Staffordshire County Council.

Litter & Fly Tipping, Dog Fouling, Trees, Parking issues and provided any information and advice required. Many of these issues are not our responsibility but we continue to notify the relevant Authorities of their responsibilities.

Our role as a Parish Council involves working closely with other organizations, these include Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, Canal & River Trust, Staffordshire Wildlife, Fields in Trust, Historic England and CPRE to name just some of them.

Also, applying for grants to allow improvements to facilities without costing residents any extra money via their Council Tax. This year we have managed to apply for two defibs at half the cost amounting to £1500, and an equal amount in sponsorship for them.

Lengthman Scheme Grant of £800 towards the costs of maintaining the Parish. Climate Change Community Fund Grant of £750 for LED lighting in the Community Centre.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Since April 2023, the Council has considered and made observations on 58 Planning Applications.

GUESTS

During the year we have received guest visits from: -

District Councillor Dylan Pascall, Mary Freeland from Connect Fibre, Nicole Korb from Playdale, Barney Williams from Advanced Protein to name a few plus a lot of residents interested in planning applications within the parish.

BUTTERCROSS

The Council has continued to look at and grant funding for the refurbishment of the Buttercross with assistance from Historic England, Staffordshire County Council, and our own Footpath Volunteers. Hopefully concluding the project this summer.

BURIAL GROUNDS

St. Edward's Lawn, Cheddleton Lawn Cemetery & Asylum Burial Ground

All maintained to a high standard including tree works and continue to be respectfully looked after by the Council.

Our Thanks to Jim Gibson & Son and Pip Doherty for carrying out an excellent job of maintaining the sites.

CRAFT & COMMUNITY CENTRE

We have carried out all the risk assessments required to bring both buildings up to date with regulations and to make the buildings safe for all their users. Full Fire Risk Assessment, Legionella, PAT Testing, Fixed Wire Reports etc. These had been required for some time, but all completed this year. Increased income by the letting of rooms in the Craft Centre including the newly refurbished office. Also, Planning Permission is being sought for Solar Panels on the Community Centre to make it more energy efficient with funding being sought to pay for this. Thank you to our caretakers Stan & Christina Beardmore for all their hard work in looking after both the Craft & Community Centre.

CHEDDLETON, TOLL BAR, WETLEY ROCKS & BRIDGE EYE PLAYING FIELDS

A big thank you to all who are looking out for the playing fields and especially our volunteers for all the work they have done and continue to do. We have plans to update all sites with several applications needed for funding. To replace equipment which a grant has been applied for already for Toll Bar and a larger project at Cheddleton working with SMDC to make huge improvements once the dedication has been completed between us and fields in trust.

FOOTPATHS

Inspections of all footpaths and way markers have continued to be looked after by our group of volunteers and any work to maintain them. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your help in looking after our footpaths.

DONATIONS MADE BY THE PARISH COUNCIL

Douglas Macmillan Hospice	£200
Royal British Legion - Poppy Wreaths	£175
Cancer Research - Pudding Run	£524
Staffordshire Wildlife Trust - Membership	£42
CPRE - Membership	£36

COUNCIL'S CHRISTMAS CARD COLLECTION

In 2023 the Parish Council again held its own Christmas Card Collection for Douglas Macmillan Hospice and raised £200 and held its first Council Dinner in January for at least 5 years.

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Despite starting the year with an election for Cheddleton Ward with the 11 seats being filled we started with 3 vacancies in total (All 3 seats for Southlowe ward). We received 4 resignations almost straight away from Mr. Bowen, Kari & Jennings (Cheddleton Ward) and Mrs. Parkes (Wetley Rocks) leaving additional vacancies. So, Southlowe Ward then had to be re-advertised for nominations and there were two applicants who became members, Stewart Bagnall & Kevin Grocott. This left 5 vacancies and we co-opted Councillors' Susan Rogers (CW) in July, Matthew Leeder in September (CW), Georgia Grocott in November (CW) and two in January being Keith Harvey (SW) & Tom Williamson (WR). This filled all 17 seats finally.

TO CONCLUDE

It has been an honour to be the Chairman during the year and I hope to continue with members to serve and provide the answers for residents of Cheddleton, Wetley Rocks and Southlowe Wards. It has been a wonderful experience to represent the Council at several civic events during the year, including laying a wreath on Remembrance Sunday and I hope to continue to do so this next year.

I would like to thank all members, the Clerk Louise for her support and hard work, and our brilliant handyman Steve Billings who has proved to be an asset. I would also like to thank the public for the interest they have shown throughout the last year.

575. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** - No items were raised.

Chairman