

Cheddleton Parish Council

**MINUTES OF FOOTPATH & COUNTRYSIDE/CHEDDLETON PLAYING FIELD
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN CHEDDLETON COMMUNITY CENTRE,
HOLLOW LANE, CHEDDLETON, ON TUESDAY 11th. MARCH 2025.**

ATTENDANCE Chaired by - Vice-Chairman - Mrs. L. Shaw.

Councillors - M. Ahmad, K. Harvey, Mrs. C.A. Lovatt, Miss. S.J. Rogers,
Members - Mr. R. Beresford, & Mrs. G. Higginson.
Clerk - Mrs. L.J. Green.

37. **APOLOGIES** - Apologies were received from Councillors M.P. Worthington (Chairman), and M.F. Cunningham, Member Mr. P. Green and it was resolved to accept these.
38. **MINUTES OF THE FOOTPATH & COUNTRYSIDE/CHEDDLETON PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE MEETING OF 12th. NOVEMBER 2024** - It was resolved to accept these as a true record and were duly signed by the Chairman.
39. **MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM** - No items were raised.
40. **CORRESPONDENCE:** -
- a. National Grid - works at Cellarhead requesting a meeting. It was agreed that a meeting be arranged to engage with regards to future works affecting footpaths because of the extension to the Sub-station and all the planning applications. It was agreed to put on the agenda for the next Council Meeting.
41. **UPDATE ON COMMUNITY PATHS INITIATIVE FUNDING PROJECT** - The Clerk reported that there was no further progress due to Churnet Valley Railway concentrating on the Leek extension. Some of the footpaths have been temporarily closed and one unwalkable because it was ploughed. Mrs. Higginson reported that it was impassable due to corn being planted on Footpath 26, so it needs to be reported. The Clerk will report on the issue with Staffordshire County Council rights of way. All the fields have been ploughed. Councillor Harvey stated he had attempted to speak to the owner on two occasions previously without any success.
42. **UPDATE ON THE RESTORATION OF THE BUTTERCROSS** - The Clerk reported that the start of the works is imminent. Councillor Harvey reported that several volunteers have come forward to take part. The stone for the seat in the wall being 4ft by 2ft is needed. Councillor Ahmad stated he may well have some. Councillor Miss. Rogers suggested she may be able to get a contractor who could supply it. The Clerk will also make enquiries. It was mentioned about a stone at the back of the Craft Centre. The first payment has been received from Historic England. The next will be paid after they have made the next site visit being 18th. March. Staffordshire Restoration has been officially contracted as the new quote provided has been approved by Historic England and therefore instructed to commence works. The Dry-Stone Walling Association has also been officially asked to instruct volunteers. We have been trying to get the welfare facilities for all on site such as portable toilets and shelter. Transport to and from the farm so that most vehicles can be parked off site and Leek Link have agreed to provide taxis free of charge.

43. **UPDATE SURVEY OF PATHS IN THE PARISH/WORKS - VOLUNTEERS** - The updated spreadsheet has been circulated, and a few additions need to be updated. Councillor Mrs. Shaw mentioned the footpath blocked off near to Councillor Mrs. Grocott. Mrs. Higginson stated that it had already been reported.

44. **HIMALAYAN BALSAM/JAPANESE KNOTWEED** - The Clerk stated that C&RT can come and perform a Himalayan Balsam Pull again on 15th May which is a Thursday so it was discussed and agreed that either Wednesday or Friday would be better for our volunteers. Once the date is agreed we need to advertise it. No reports of Japanese Knotweed.

45. **UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING FOOTPATH MODIFICATIONS/ APPEALS/ DISCREPENCIES** - Councillor Harvey asked about the new footpath approved by Countryside Rights of Way Committee (CROW) when will it be added to the definitive map? The Clerk reported that none of the modifications have been added as SCC have not done this and we continue to wait for them to action them. The next CROW is on Friday and there are 4 on the agenda but the meeting for April has been cancelled.
The Clerk reported that the footpath which has been in use through the waterworks which falls in Longsdon Parish and Councillor Miss. Rogers has got further information, and the ramblers have given guidance to making the application. The Clerk will contact Longsdon PC to give them all the details for them to make the application. Mrs. Higginson will produce a map for the application.

46. **ANY NOTED FOOTPATH OBSTRUCTIONS/REPORTS WITH ROW** - The Clerk reported that there are the same reports outstanding with SCC. Councillor Harvey will speak to the officer who was coordinating the works to widen footpath 38. The Clerk also reported that footpath 55, which has been an ongoing issue, has not been re-visited by the ranger yet so she will chase that one up. And the Bull Sign footpath 42.

47. **WAYMARKING** - All Waymarkers are constantly being checked and put up to help with directing walkers. The quality of the markers is not as good, and they are fading quicker. Councillor Harvey mentioned improving the walks by painting markers on the top of posts. Some of the regular footpaths may benefit from it. Councillor Miss. Rogers stated that we should be encouraging people to make use of the footpaths. SMDC are promoting and Mrs. Higginson stated that there is a new app available for Staffordshire walks. Agenda item for the next meeting to promote our walks.

48. **DEEP HAYES/COUNTRYSIDE/CANALS** - The Clerk reported that she has contacted SCC with regards to the brickwork's information board but has not had any information about funding yet. Councillor Mrs. Shaw had noticed a build up of trees and branches in the river churnet which is forming a dame. The Clerk had reported it to C&RT who have stated that the river churnet is not their responsibility. Further investigation as to who to contact. Councillor Miss. Rogers reported that the works on the Canal by Flint Mill are due to take place.

49. **UPDATE PROJECTS/WORK PARTY/DEED OF DEDICATION - CHEDDLETON PLAYING FIELD** - The Clerk reported that she has contacted our solicitor to get the transfer completed as soon as possible. Councillor Ahmad apologised for the length of time it is taking. The Clerk has been asked about replacing one of the memorial benches as we had started to look at getting funding to replace them all as over the years they have been damaged and becoming irreparable. She reported that there are 4 benches in stock which are the recycled plastic ones so after the management plan at St. Edward's Lawn Cemetery has been drawn up, she provided details of a possible policy to deal with this in the future. Councillor Ahmad would like to replace them all. The Clerk reported that an existing memorial bench owner on the playing fields which have been there for many years has asked

if she could buy a replacement. The Clerk explained that the policy would clear up who would be responsible for them and set out a better way forward. The Clerk will write the policy and put it forward to Full Council to set out what is expected. The Clerk has produced a time sheet for volunteers to complete to record the number of hours that volunteers have contributed. These would help to quantify hours worked when completing grant applications so these will be forwarded to all volunteers and returned to the Clerk to collate. Councillor Harvey stated that SCC are now doing this for footpath volunteers.

50. **INSPECTION REPORT/GENERAL CONDITION/WORKS REQUIRED - CHEDDLETON PLAYING FIELD** - The Clerk reported she attended a webinar which highlights the importance of inspections of play areas and although we have an annual inspection carried out by a qualified company and that our handyman performs a weekly check this does fall short of what is required. A quarterly inspection by a Rospa trained qualified person. It would be ideal to seek to either train up our handyman and possibly share the cost with his other Councils, so we are in danger of invalidating our warranty on new equipment. I will send the webinar for members to watch for their thoughts. SMDC may be the best contact with regards to who they use and if we could use the same person as other Parish & Town Councils if not train our own inspector. Agenda item for next Council meeting. Councillor Mrs. Shaw reported a repair done on the slide in the toddlers play area which has made the step a different height to the others so needs to be looked at. The Clerk reported that since the trail camera has been installed there have been no further incidents of tipping. It may be worth moving it to another site such as Knowsley Common picnic area. SMDC have offered some signage to install. Councillor Miss. Rogers reported that the gully litter bin at the end on Ox Pasture is overflowing. The Clerk will report it to SMDC. The three trees on the playing fields the agreed contractor has been notified and works to be scheduled. The zipwire is now getting to the end of its life so needs to be replaced and it was agreed by members. Councillor Mrs. Shaw reported an incident where some motorbikes were in the car park and the playing field was quite busy and they were riding them on the top field at speed and she attempted to stop them. There were no numberplates on the bikes, and they came from the direction of Leek. The Clerk will see if they were picked up by the trail camera. Werrington Wanderers Football Club have asked to use the football pitch as a training ground on a Friday. They used it last year and would like to again. The Clerk will reply and give them permission, but they must carry out their own risk assessment and safeguarding for the sessions.
51. **GRANGE POND** - Councillor Mrs. Shaw reported that the pond looks well.
52. **BRIDGE EYE** - The Clerk reported that Councillor Worthington, as chair of Cautionary Lands Charity, has stated he will contact the recommended contractor suggested by us to get the works completed so that it stops the flooding. We are happy to remove leaves on a weekly basis once a grid has been installed and look at possible well dressing.
53. **FORWARD AGENDA ITEMS** - Guided walks and encouraging healthy walking.

13th. May 2025.
Chairman