

Cheddleton Parish Council



Clerk: Mrs. L.J. Green Mobile: 07488 314605

73, Hillside Road, Cheddleton, Nr. Leek, Staffs, ST13 7JQ.

Email: clerk@cheddleton-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of the meeting of the Footpath and Countryside/Cheddleton Playing Field Committee held at the Cheddleton Community Centre, Hollow Lane Cheddleton on Wednesday 15th October 2025 at 7pm

Attendance: Councillors Worthington (Chair), Shaw (Vice chair), Harvey, Rogers, Beardmore, Ahmad

Members: Mr Beresford

Not present: Councillors Salt, Cunningham, Mr Green

1. Apologies

Gwyn Higginson, these were accepted

2. Minutes of the meeting 13/5/25

Cllr Mike Worthington indicated that there was a mistake under item 54 – Cllr Worthington expressed his best wishes to Councillor Worthington on behalf of the council. It was agreed that this be deleted. Councillor Harvey proposed the minutes be accepted, Councillor Rogers seconded this proposal. The minutes were accepted.

3. Matters arising

None

4. Correspondence

None

5. Butter Cross

Councillor Harvey indicated that the work on the Butter Cross is completed. The site has been visited by Historic England and the Butter Cross has been taken out of the at-risk register. Historic England are happy with the restoration and will visit on an annual basis to check on the site. We are waiting for an information board, the wording for this board has been agreed by Historic England. The board needs to be ordered. A celebration of the restoration needs to be agreed and Historic England has expressed a wish to be involved in this. A discussion followed. The weather and land conditions were not appropriate for a visit at this time. A static display in Cheddleton with drone footage is an option. Councillor Harvey to progress, Councillor Rogers will share drone contact.

Action: Councillor Harvey

6. Himalayan Balsam CRT

The Balsam pull happened, with support from the children of Hopevale, who are also be happy to be involved in future community events, but the ongoing situation needs to be constantly monitored. An option to involve the Canals and River Trust in the future is to be pursued as there is no access to the bankside of the canal side.

Action: Councillor Shaw

7. Community Paths Initiative Funding Project

Funding of £2000 pounds is available. Councillor Rogers spoke about Pete Green and the production of an updated leaflet about our footpaths and walks. Councillor Harvey stated that there are a few of the old booklets in stock, but there are better walks. Councillor Worthington offered to investigate the grant and Councillor Harvey agreed to assist. Councillor Rogers offered to assist with the re-writing of the booklet. Councillor Shaw suggested that the website be updated with walk information.

Action: Councillors Worthington and Harvey

8. Survey of paths

Councillor Rogers informed that much had been achieved, the last report available was from August. Of note a new kissing gate on the way up to Lee House, a new stile at the bottom of Brund Lane. A few items remain outstanding, strimming, trees on path 38. Councillor Harvey reported that the volunteer who has been out of action is now fit and well and the team have been working today. The County has wood available which can be used. Canals and River Trust have repaired the fencing on the path down to the canal at Park Lane.

9. Footpath obstructions/ROW reports

Councillor Rogers reported that the routing of the path through Coalford Farm is ongoing. The farm is a busy working farm, it is dangerous. Scott Crawford will be emailed by Councillor Harvey.

Action: Councillor Harvey

10. Deep Hayes

No information available

11. Playing field – condition update, actions required

Robbie Beresford has made a plan of the seating, five have been lost through damage, three recycled seats have been paid for and fitted. Mr Beresford raised a complaint on behalf of Steve Billings – who does he ask to have permission to do works? Councillor Ahmad stated - he speaks to me. A site meeting with Mr Billings, Councillor's Shaw, Harvey and Rogers has taken place. A list of priorities was agreed. Mr Beresford asked about the extra seat that was outside the community centre. Councillor Ahmad to find out where this has gone.

Action: Councillor Ahmad

Councillor Harvey indicated that insufficient monies were being spent to keep the playing fields up to standard, if this is not done the playing fields and area will continue to deteriorate. Councillor Harvey will report back to full council that monies need to be spent. Councillor Rogers shared the three playing field inspection reports. These are colour coded identifying the risks that need to be addressed in priority. It was agreed Steve Billings should not have a copy of the report but a small group of Councillors Worthington, Shaw and Rogers liaise with him. Councillor Ahmad stated he wanted to know the costs involved. Councillor Worthington stated he would report back too full council.

Action: Councillors Worthington, Shaw, Rogers

12. Grange Pond

Councillor Harvey indicated that the fencing around the pond is unsafe and this should be a priority. The stile has been replaced. At some point in the future the pond area needs to be thinned out. It was agreed that this should take place during the summer months.

Action: Councillor Shaw

13. Bridge Eye

Councillor Worthington stated that Councillor Val Cornes is going to take over as the secretary of the Cheddleton Cautionary Lands Trust. A meeting is to be arranged before the end of the month. Councillor Worthington also stated that he had spoke to the Rev Henry Hope, who has stated that he didn't want Bridge Eye sold that he, the vicar was going to raise funding elsewhere.

Councillor Shaw drew reference to past well dressings and events at the school that should be encouraged. Councillor Ahmad said we should raise funds and do something with the community. Councillor Beardmore shared her experiences with well dressing at Brown Edge.

Action: Councillor Beardmore

14. Forward Agenda items

Councillor Harvey asked that in the minutes individuals should be identified as to who is responsible for progressing items.

Councillor Shaw raised the zip wire. A brief discussion took place and it was agreed to put its repair, use or removal on the full council agenda.

Action: Councillor Shaw

15. Public questions

Is there any scope for the stiles that are being replaced to be replaced by gates?

Councillor Harvey stated that farmers will not be happy with gates, walkers leave gates open, farmers prefer stiles or a kissing gate but now more self-closing gates are be used. These are better for dog walkers.

Can the next date of the Cheddleton Cautionary Land Trust meeting be advertised?

Councillor Worthington agreed to do this.

Can more equipment be provided on Bridge Eye? Is this something we can take to the Cautionary Land Trust? An offer has been made to donate items

Councillor Ahmad agreed this could be on the next agenda.

A question was raised about the Parish Councils applications to get new paths on the definitive map, 8 outstanding requests, the oldest being from 1995.

Councillor Harvey referred to Scott Crawford as being the point of contact.

Procedural issues are causing delays; the process is not clear. It is an issue for the County Council.

Councillor Beardmore explained the massive backlog 225 on outstanding list re footpaths, village green issues. A recent meeting has resolved an issues that has been going on for 40 years. More meetings are being held to play catch up and more staff are being employed to address this situation.

The process was further questioned by the member of the public. The officers need to operate the procedures.

Councillor Beardmore will investigate the eight outstanding matters within our parish.

The interest in the path going to 1995 was restated.

Councillor Beardmore did stress that once an application is in that it is in, even if the original person is no longer interested. Footpaths can't ignore an enquiry, once it is in it has to be seen through.

The slowness of the process was raised, 4/5 decisions a year.

Councillor Beardmore stated that four decisions were made at the recent meeting last Friday, and that matters were being progressed more swiftly now.

The zip wire strength was raised, consideration should be given to the strength being increased in order that an adult with a small child can ride the rope.

Councillor Shaw will investigate the wire options and capacities for a replacement.

16. Date of next meeting

11th November 730pm