

Cheddleton Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM ON TUESDAY 4th. MAY 2021

ATTENDANCE Councillor - M. Ahmad, Ms. C.Y. Ball, N. Belson, M.T. Bowen, J. Carr, I. Dakin, Mrs. D.A. Hartley, R.J. Hartley, K. Harvey, H.R. Jennings, Mrs. C.A. Lovatt, G.W. Salt, Mrs. L.M. Salt, S. Scalise, H.J. Tunna & M.P. Worthington.

Clerk - Ms. L. J. Eyre.

1. **APOLOGIES** - No Apologies for absence were received as it was 100% attendance.
2. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN** - Councillor Jennings, proposed by Councillor Bowen and seconded by Councillor Tunna. Also, Councillor Harvey was proposed by Councillor Scalise and seconded by Councillor Ms. Ball. Councillor Worthington proposed a named vote and seconded by Councillor Scalise. 9 votes for Councillor Jennings were recorded by Councillors - Jennings, Mrs. Hartley, Mr. Hartley, Mrs. Salt, Mr. Salt, Tunna, Mrs. Lovatt, Bowen & Dakin. 7 votes for Councillor Harvey were recorded by Councillors - Worthington, Ahmad, Harvey, Scalise, Ms. Ball, Carr & Belson. Councillor Jennings was duly elected Chairman for the ensuing two years.
3. **CHAIRMAN'S DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE (signed later)** - Councillor Jennings read out the declaration of acceptance. He thanked the Members of the Council for this opportunity to be the Chairman of Cheddleton Parish Council for the next two years, which is an honour.

He expressed many thanks to Councillor Bowen for his time as Chairman over the last two years in what has been a very trying time especially through COVID-19 and taking the time to give me the knowledge and experience through working with him as Vice-Chairman.

He asked can all Councillors please remember to raise any questions through the Chairman by raising their hand so the Chair can bring them into the debate to save a free for all.

He also reminded Councillors that any minutes are not to be shared until they have been ratified at Full Council and that Social Media is not to be used as a forum by Councillors other than for their own personal views.

He added it has saddened him to watch over the past 12 months the lack of respect shown to Councillors and Staff within the Parish Council, if any Member or Members of this Council has any problems with how any of the Committees are run, he suggested they make an official complaint to him as Chairman so this may be investigated in the proper manner following our policies.

He continued by commenting that any Councillor who wishes to leave any meeting early or gee a meeting along he assumed most Councillors do not have a problem with, but for any Councillor to be disrespectful and make ridiculous comments about an individual should in his book apologise for their comments.

Please be good enough to notify our Clerk if you are unable to attend any meeting to record your apologies preferably the day before the meeting and not via another member of the Council.

Finally, to ask a Councillor what experience they have gained to allow them to be on a Committee is beyond belief Councillors have volunteered to stand for election or are co-opted to join the Council which they do to try and make a difference simply by wanting to help to improve our Community. Those committed Councillors will join Committees and will offer any knowledge, experiences, and time they may have to improve and help those Committees to go forward but be prepared to train and broaden their knowledge to do this. He stated that he wanted to say I hope that we can all work together to achieve our goals and provide what our Community wants in a positive way and show respect to all. It is a privilege to be your new Chairman.

4. **RETIRING CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS** - Councillor Bowen stated it has been an honour and a privilege to serve as Chairman of this council for the past two years. We have not had an easy ride, as, for the majority of that period, we have had to deal with a national crisis, unprecedented in our lifetime. In spite of this, I am proud to say that this council has fulfilled all of its statutory duties and continued to assist and deal with the many problems and issues raised by residents, our own members, and other authorities. In my role as Chairman, I have been ably supported by the committee chairs and other members, who have gone the extra mile for the benefit of the community we serve. I thank them all most sincerely. At this point I must give special thanks to Cllr Harold Jennings, who, as Vice Chairman, has given me unceasing loyalty, support, and commitment. Of course, there is also another very special person to whom I must pay tribute and that is our Clerk, Louise Eyre, who, being new to the role, has had to face a particularly difficult 2 years in both her professional and private lives. Throughout this period, however, apart from a very brief absence, she continued to work conscientiously and effectively for the council and has initiated a number of measures and procedures, which have ensured that the council is compliant with the legislation. Without the support of these two people, my job as Chairman would have been far more difficult.
- Having said that, I feel that the time is ripe for some home truths. Over the same period, a faction has arisen in our ranks, whose negativity and main aim appears to be to contradict, confound and conspire to undermine the positive workings of this council and whose principal characteristic appears to be an inability to read and, or understand published minutes. One unsavoury element of this is a sustained and unwarranted campaign against Louise, myself and, latterly, Harold, directed by what could be described as 'a puppeteer'. This campaign could be construed to be fuelled by personal interest, jealousy, petty grievances, and revenge. It is not edifying, exemplary, conducive to best practice or enhancing the good reputation of the Council. Therefore, it must cease, and those energies and efforts diverted into working for the council, in order for us to go forward and do what we were elected for: serve the interests of the community who elected us. For those who feel unable to do this, I suggest that they very carefully consider their membership of this, or any council. The people of Cheddleton Parish deserve better.
- Councillor Ahmad added he agreed with the last paragraph he said we should work together; we may have a difference of opinion but as far as the last remark in the interest of the Community and least of all get together behind the Chairman as it is a democratic process, and he is elected, and we should be working together to enhance the Community. Councillor Bowen thanked Councillor Ahmad and agreed and that this is part of Council debate.

5. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN** - Councillor Mrs. Salt, was proposed by Councillor Bowen and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Hartley. Also, Councillor Harvey, was proposed by Councillor Scalise and seconded by Councillor Ms. Ball. 8 votes for Mrs. Salt were recorded by Councillors - Jennings, Mrs. Hartley, Mr. Hartley, Mrs. Salt, Mr. Salt, Tunna, Bowen & Mrs. Lovatt. 7 votes for Councillor Harvey were recorded by Councillors - Worthington, Ahmad, Harvey, Scalise, Ms. Ball, Dakin & Belson. All efforts were made to contact Councillor Carr for his vote, but we were unable to have his vote. Councillor Mrs. Salt was duly elected Vice-Chairman for the ensuing two years. Chairman stated that this will be the last virtual meeting as will revert to face-to-face for all future meetings.
6. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING 20th. APRIL 2021** - It was resolved to accept these as a true record.
7. **MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM** : -
Re. Min 222 b. HR Committee Meeting (Confidential) - Councillor Worthington raised an issue and agreed minutes to be amended.
8. **APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES:-**
 - a. **Planning & Amenities Committee (9)**
Councillor - M. Ahmad, Ms. C.Y. Ball, M.T. Bowen, Mrs. D.A. Hartley, Mrs. C.A. Lovatt, G.W. Salt, H.J. Tunna & M.P. Worthington - 1 member short.
 - b. **Community/Craft Centre Management Committee (6)**
Councillor - M. Ahmad, M.T. Bowen, I. Dakin, Mrs. D.A. Hartley, R.J. Hartley & H.J. Tunna.
 - c. **Footpaths & Countryside Committee (6)**
Councillor - Ms. C.Y. Ball, N. Belson, K. Harvey, G.W. Salt - 2 members short.
 - d. **Cheddleton Playing Field Committee (5 from Cheddleton Ward)**
Councillor - M.T. Bowen, I. Dakin, G.W. Salt & M.P. Worthington - 1 member short.
 - e. **Wetley Rocks/Toll Bar Playing Field Committee (All 6 Ward)**
Councillor - M. Ahmad, Mrs. D.A. Hartley, R.J. Hartley, K. Harvey, Mrs. C.A. Lovatt & H.J. Tunna.
 - f. **Burial Ground Committee (4)**
Councillor - M. Ahmad, M.T. Bowen, Mrs. C.A. Lovatt & G.W. Salt.
 - g. **HR Committee (2)**
Councillor - M.T. Bowen, Mrs. C.A. Lovatt & M.P. Worthington - Increased to 3 Members as agreed.
 - h. **Finance Committee (Chairman, Vice-Chairman + Chair of each Committee)**
Councillor - H.R. Jennings, Mrs. L.M. Salt & Chair of each Committee.
 - i. **Cheddleton Cautionary Lands Charity (5)**
Councillor - M. Ahmad, Mrs. D.A. Hartley(Trustee), H.R. Jennings(Trustee), Mrs. L.M. Salt, S. Scalise & M.P. Worthington.

- j. **Staffordshire Moorlands Parish Assembly (2)**
Councillor - K. Harvey, G.W. Salt.
 - k. **Wetley Rocks Village Hall Committee (2)**
Councillor - Mrs. D.A. Hartley, H.J. Tunna.
 - l. **Churnet Valley Railway (1 + 1 sub)**
Councillor - M. Ahmad, G.W. Salt.
 - m. **Environment Agency/AP Liaison Group Meeting (2 + 1 sub)**
Councillor - M.T. Bowen, I. Dakin & H.J. Tunna.
 - n. **Cheddleton Pound & War Memorial Keeper** - Mr. S. Beardmore, Cheddleton.
 - o. **Wetley Rocks War Memorial Keeper** - Mr. S. Plant, Wetley Rocks.
 - p. **Parish Tree Contact** - The Clerk.
 - q. **Parish Plan Contact** - The Clerk.
 - r. **Wetley Moor Joint Committee** - Councillor - M. Ahmad & K. Harvey.
 - s. **Churnet Valley Living Landscape Partnership** - Councillor - I. Dakin.
 - t. **Dalecrete Liaison Group Meeting** - Councillor - M. Ahmad, I. Dakin.
 - u. **Disciplinary & Grievance Hearing Panel**
Councillor - M. Ahmad, M. Bowen, I. Dakin, Mrs. L.M. Salt, G.W. Salt.
 - v. **Safeguarding Leads** - Councillor - M.T. Bowen, Mrs. L.M. Salt.
9. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** - The Chairman asked the members of the Planning committee to stay behind at the end of the meeting to consider 2 planning applications.
 10. **MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - No Members declarations of interest.
 11. **MEMBERS' SEC. 33 DISPENSATION REQUESTS** - No written requests for dispensation were received.
 12. **PUBLIC QUESTION** - No members of public were in attendance.
 13. **CHAIRMAN'S ALLOWANCE** - The Chair stated stands currently at £500 per year. Councillor Ahmad felt it should be increased. Councillor Bowen recommended it stay the same as there is no civic do. The Clerk reported this year the chairman has only spent £152 and previous year was £446. All agreed to keep it the same at £500. The Clerk asked if the Chair is happy to bill the Council for his allowance or invoice the Council direct for example flowers to be offset against his allowance. The Chairman was happy to continue as previously done.

- 14. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS** - Councillors have been issued a new calendar of meetings for the coming year. The Chairman explained that as we will be meeting face-to-face to be housed in the Community Centre & Wetley Rocks Village Hall to give us plenty of room to adhere to social distancing until restrictions are lifted. Councillor Bowen asked Councillor Dakin for any update and he stated as soon as any changes are made, he will update the Clerk but as the roadmap continues, we will be ok. Councillor Mrs. Hartley asked will the Community Centre be free for use and The Clerk confirmed she had checked for the larger meetings but not yet for Wetley Rocks Village Hall. Councillor Tunna stated 15th. June will be ok for Full Council. Councillor Dakin added good ventilation by opening windows and doors is also advised. Councillor Ahmad asked if most Councillors have received the 2 vaccines that hopefully this will help, and it is good to carry on wearing masks and continue to wash hands etc. Councillor Mrs. Lovatt stated that she must shield if the steps do not move on as currently set out. Councillor Mrs. Hartley stated so has Councillor Mr. Hartley. The Clerk stated apologies would be accepted.

15. ATTENDANCE RECORDS –

19-20	PC	Planning	CCMC	F&C	BG	CPF	WR/TBPF	Finance
Cllr Ahmad	6 of 11	3 of 9	1 of 3		2 of 3		2 of 2	
Cllr Ball	8 of 11	1 of 9		1 of 4				
Cllr Belson	8 of 11			2 of 4				
Cllr Bowen	10 of 11	8 of 9	3 of 4	4 of 4	2 of 3	3 of 3	2 of 2	1 of 1
Cllr Carr	4 of 11							
Cllr Dakin	11 of 11		4 of 4			2 of 3		
Cllr Green	1 of 1							
Cllr Hartley(Mr)	10 of 11		4 of 4				2 of 2	
Cllr Hartley(Mrs)	11 of 11	9 of 9	4 of 4				2 of 2	1 of 1
Cllr Harvey	10 of 11			4 of 4			2 of 2	1 of 1
Cllr Jennings	9 of 11	8 of 9	4 of 4	2 of 4	2 of 3	2 of 3	0 of 2	0 of 1
Cllr Lovatt	7 of 9						0 of 1	
Cllr Lucas	8 of 11	8 of 9				3 of 3		
Cllr Salt(Mr)	11 of 11	9 of 9		3 of 4	3 of 3			
Cllr Salt(Mrs)	11 of 11	9 of 9		3 of 4	3 of 3	3 of 3		
Cllr Scalise	11 of 11	7 of 9	4 of 4	4 of 4	2 of 3	3 of 3		1 of 1
Cllr Tunna	11 of 11	8 of 9	4 of 4				2 of 2	1 of 1
Cllr Worthington	4 of 11	3 of 9				3 of 3		

20-21	PC	Planning	CCMC	F&C	BG	CPF	WR/TBPF	Finance	HR
Cllr Ahmad	6 of 9	5 of 7	3 of 4		2 of 2		0 of 1		
Cllr Ball	4 of 9	1 of 7		2 of 2					
Cllr Belson	5 of 9			2 of 2					
Cllr Bowen	9 of 9	6 of 7	4 of 4	2 of 2	2 of 2	2 of 2	1 of 1	1 of 1	5 of 5
Cllr Carr	2 of 9								
Cllr Dakin	8 of 9		3 of 4			2 of 2			
Cllr Hartley(Mr)	7 of 9		3 of 4				0 of 1		
Cllr Hartley(Mrs)	9 of 9	7 of 7	4 of 4				1 of 1	1 of 1	
Cllr Harvey	9 of 9			2 of 2			1 of 1	1 of 1	
Cllr Jennings	9 of 9	7 of 7	4 of 4	2 of 2	2 of 2	2 of 2	0 of 1	1 of 1	5 of 5
Cllr Lovatt	9 of 9						1 of 1		5 of 5
Cllr Lucas	1 of 9	1 of 7				0 of 2			
Cllr Salt(Mr)	9 of 9	7 of 7		2 of 2	2 of 2				
Cllr Salt(Mrs)	9 of 9			2 of 2	2 of 2	2 of 2			
Cllr Scalise	9 of 9	2 of 4	2 of 2	1 of 1	1 of 1	1 of 1		1 of 1	3 of 4
Cllr Tunna	7 of 9	6 of 7	1 of 4				1 of 1	1 of 1	
Cllr Worthington	9 of 9	6 of 7				2 of 2			

16. **REVIEW OF ASSET REGISTER** - All Councillors received a copy and agreed.
17. **RENEW FINANCIAL REGULATIONS - NALC 2019** - All Councillors received a copy via email, but Councillor Worthington & Ahmad stated they had not read it. The whole document was reviewed, and amendments agreed in line with our previous Financial Regulations and Councillor Worthington was agreed as the appointed Member to verify bank reconciliations produced by the Clerk under 2.2 of the regulations. The Clerk will issue updated copy to all Members and add to the website.
18. **REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS** - The whole document was reviewed, and amendments agreed. The Clerk will issue an updated copy to all Members and add to the website.
19. **REVIEW OF RISK ASSESSMENTS** - Members were issued a copy prior to the meeting via email. The Clerk will issue an updated copy to all Members and add to the website.
20. **END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS - STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE** - The Clerk explained that the internal auditor has not yet completed his audit so this will be an agenda item on the next meeting.
21. **END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS - ANNUAL RETURN** - The Clerk stated again future agenda item after internal audit completed 12th. May 2021.

- 22. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE ISSUES/HANDYMAN WORKS/BUILDING WORKS** - The Clerk reported that Councillor Mrs. Lovatt has tidied the Telephone Book Exchange because it was overflowing with books.
- The Caretaker has been painting the exterior of the Craft Centre. The Community Centre alarm keypad is sticking so this needs to be looked at and possibly replaced. Councillor Harvey stated that Simcock on Cheddleton Park Avenue and Councillor Bowen recommended Paul Williams. The Clerk will investigate this.
- The Boiler in the Community Centre is pressurised and is working ok now that the expansion vessel has been replaced. There was a gas leak in the mobile which the plumber has fixed and there is a booking for a yoga class to use it starting in May. The opening up of the Community Centre we need a risk assessment which proves we are Covid secure so information has been sent through to Councillor Dakin who will look at this and report back to the Clerk.
- 23. BASFORD BRIDGE LANE BRIDGES/CCTV** - The Clerk stated that she was still receiving reports of overweight vehicles and nothing else to report. Councillor Jennings stated he had spoken to a retired police officer that photographs and witnesses are enough to make a prosecution. Councillor Bowen stated that once the new Police & Crime Commissioner has been elected on Thursday, we can forward all evidence to them.
- 24. UPDATE ON DEFIBRILLATORS** - Councillor Mrs. Salt reported that a quote for an electrician has been obtained to fit the one at the vets for £91. There is still funding of £150 left which will cover this bill. She then reported that the next 2 will be located on St. Edwards Park and she is working with the resident's association to raise funds for these.
- 25. UPDATE SCC UNDETERMINED DMMO APPLICATIONS** - The Clerk reported that finally she has received details of two of the four applications from Rights of Way at SCC. The first one by the railway is being recommended for refusal. The 2nd being from Hollow Lane going through the Churchyard they are recommending this to be added to the definitive map. These will be put to the Rights of Way Panel so we have a limited period to respond so the Clerk has asked David Rice for advice and will report back his findings.
- 26. SLCC LEADERSHIP IN ACTION 2021 - ZOOM CONFERENCE - 9th. & 10th. JUNE 2021 - £75** - The Clerk asked if she could attend along with Agenda item 27 to do the qualification. Councillor Bowen proposed and Councillor Ahmad seconded.
- 27. SLCC ILCA TO CILCA QUALIFICATION - LEVEL 2 - £120** - Agreed under agenda item 26.
- 28. RESIDENT ENQUIRY PLANNING PERMISSION - 7, KINGSLEY VIEW, CHEDDLETON** - The Clerk reported that she received an anonymous telephone call reporting that there is a second self-catering cabin which was refused planning permission which has been installed and being let. Making two self-contained self-catering lets in the garden of the property. The Clerk has reported this to SMDC Enforcement to investigate the matter. Councillor Bowen stated a new planning officer has been employed and started today and this means they have extra capacity, but he will chase this up with Ben Hayward. Councillor Scalise has also reported this to SMDC.

29. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES: -

a. Reports of Outside Bodies - SMDC Committees and AP Liaison Group etc -

Councillor Dakin reported on the AP Liaison Group that there has been a lot of reports of smells through April. There is an App being developed to report the smells and collate the information received. Councillor Bowen stated that this will be difficult to control as this could lead to malicious feedback so needs to be investigated before using it. There was a representative from the Head Office at AP attended. Councillor Bowen stated that there was no representative from Animal Welfare or Trading Standards again which needs to be raised. Councillor Jennings reported he asked about a roundabout being installed at the entrance to Bones Lane as there will be a development opposite on Pointon's land. Councillor Worthington reported it will be industrial units which may give a stronger case for a roundabout. Councillor Bowen reported he is trying to set up a meeting with The Rt. Hon. Karen Bradley M.P. and Councillor David Williams from County to discuss it further. Councillor Bowen reported that he raised the large number of lorries going up and down Rownall Road to the farm which he was assured that this will stop as they are removing anything stored down there and that came from Gerrard McLaughlin that the materials that are stored there is being removed and will not be used again to store materials.

- 30. ACCOUNTS** - The Clerk reported that no reports are available yet because Year End has not been completed due to the Internal Audit not being completed and that the meeting has been brought forward by two weeks because of virtually meeting. She therefore requested delegated powers to pay invoices and will report this back at the June Meeting. Councillor Bowen proposed this, and Councillor Ahmad seconded to delegate the Clerk to make payments and so it was resolved.

31. CORRESPONDENCE: -

- a.** Amey Report 4239018 - A520, Wetley Rocks - Wall Damage. The Clerk has filed a report with SCC Highways.
- b.** S53 Applications FP11 & FP1 - SCC Response - The report completed by Councillor Harvey will be put forward to the ROW Panel when this application is heard, and they thanked him for the details provided.
- c.** Amey Report 4217161 - Bridge Eye, Station Road - Blocked Drains. This has been reported to Severn Trent Water as SCC state it is a blockage that they are responsible for. Councillor Mrs. Salt agreed to follow this up with Severn Trent so the Clerk will send her details.
- d.** SLCC Staffordshire Branch Meeting - 11th. May 2021 via Zoom – The Clerk will attend and feedback.
- e.** Dog Waste Bins - St. Edward's Park - SMDC will monitor for 4 weeks to see if it warrants additional bins.
- f.** Domestic Abuse Forum | Broadcast Live | Friday 28th May 2021.
- g.** Women Mean Business Digital Conference | Broadcast Live | Thursday 24th June 2021.
- h.** EDF Energy - Gas supply contract ends 30th. June. 2021. The Clerk reported that this is scheduled to end, and the next contract is already signed with SSE for the next 3 years. Councillor Dakin stated that as we have declared our support with the SMDC Climate Emergency measures one of the key things we could do is move to a green energy supplier to reduce our carbon emissions to carbon neutral. The Clerk reported that the contracts were signed last year.
- i.** Garden Allotment Enquiry - The Clerk gave the details of the ACRA Association.

31. CORRESPONDENCE (Cont'd...): -

- j.** Public Sector Deposit Fund Report Monthly report on Interest which is slowly rising.
- k.** Utilitec Services - Automatic Meter Reading Device - Cheddleton Community Centre - This has been fitted to read the gas meter.
- l.** Call for Evidence - Remote Meeting Legislation - The Clerk completed the review and contacted Rt. Hon. Karen Bradley M.P. will report the Councils preference to continue to meet virtually.
- m.** Best Kept Village Community Competition.
- n.** Gillian Lees Footpath enquiry - The Clerk passed on details of Leek Town Clerk.
- o.** Ken Weir - Parking on Beech Avenue. The Clerk will report back that we have no powers.

32. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME - No members of the public were present.

33. PLANNING APPLICATION

- a.** SMD/2021/0242 - Southfields Farm, Leek Road, Wetley Rocks - Creation of vehicular access.
Objection - Intrusion in the greenbelt and any development is harmful.
- b.** SMD/2021/0248 - Barley Croft, Cheddleton Heath Road, Leek - Single storey rear extension.
No Objection.

Chairman
15th. June 2021.