

Cheddleton Parish Council

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN WETLEY
ROCKS VILLAGE HALL, MILL LANE, WETLEY ROCKS ON
TUESDAY, 15th. NOVEMBER 2022**

ATTENDANCE Chairman - H.R. Jennings.
Vice-Chairman - Mrs. C.A. Lovatt

Councillor - M. Ahmad, M.T. Bowen, Mrs. V.B. Cornes, I. Dakin, Mrs. D.A. Hartley, R.J. Hartley, D. Kari, Miss. V. Salt, S. Scalise, Mrs. L. Shaw, H.J. Tunna, and M.P. Worthington.

Clerk - Ms. L. J. Eyre.

135. **APOLOGIES** - Apologies were received from Councillor G.W. Salt, it was resolved to accept these.
136. **CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLORS FOR 1 VACANCY - CHEDDLETON WARD** - The Clerk explained that the vacancy has been advertised with SMDC for the 14 days but that the 6-month rule is now in force so we can co-opt without advertising as we are within 6 months of the end of term for the Council. Andrea Grocott who had applied and attended last month is still interested and if members wish to consider her for this further vacancy. Unfortunately, she was unable to attend due to being delayed back off holiday. Councillor Ahmad proposed that she be co-opted, seconded by Councillor Scalise, and resolved to co-opt Andrea in her absence and get her to sign the declaration of acceptance as soon as possible.
137. **CO-OPTED COUNCILLORS TO SIGN DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE** - Item not required.
138. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - Councillor Bowen is a Church Warden at St. Edwards Church so will not take part in Agenda item.
139. **MEMBERS' SEC. 33 DISPENSATION REQUESTS** - The Clerk reported that she had received a written application from Councillor G.W. Salt for a 3-month dispensation due to work commitments. Councillor Scalise proposed to grant a 3-month dispensation, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Lovatt. It was resolved to grant this.
140. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** - The Clerk reported that Historic England are walking to the Buttercross on Thursday, 17th. At 11am should anyone wish to join them.
141. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** - No questions from members of the public present.
142. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING 18th. OCTOBER 2022** - It was resolved to accept these as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

143. MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM -

Re. Min. 116. Resignation of Councillor - Councillor Worthington explained that he missed the first part of the last meeting and did not realise the reason for Mrs. Lisa Salt's resignation so he contacted her husband and explained to him that she could raise a complaint to SMDC should she wish to. Councillor Ahmad wanted to know more so Councillor Jennings read an email sent to Mrs. Salt regarding her resignation offering all avenues to make a formal complaint. As far as anyone else is concerned it is hearsay. All three Councillors, Ahmad, Scalise and Worthington have spoken to Mrs. Salt, so she has had every opportunity to raise it formally which at present she has not done. Councillor Jennings stated that we must close this unless something official is received from her.

Re. Min. 132. Update on defibrillators - Councillor Mrs. Hartley stated that it had been in the media about a defibrillator which was not registered recently and unable to use it, so this is extremely important and is pleased that Councillor Kari is looking into this. This is a future agenda item for planning.

144. SAFEGUARDING LEAD FOR COMMUNITY CENTRE - The Clerk reported that we need to amend the policy as we have Mrs. Salt as one of the leads. Councillor Worthington put himself forward as he received training through Staffordshire County Council. Councillor Scalise proposed that Councillor Worthington replace Mrs. Salt, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Shaw. It was agreed.

145. GROUND MAINTENANCE ISSUES/HANDYMAN/BUILDING WORKS - The Clerk reported that she had received an email from District Councillor Mrs. Barbara Hughes stating that the grass verges along Armshead Road have not been cut for some time and fall within our boundary. Councillor Mrs. Hartley stated that these are the responsibility of Staffordshire County Council. Councillor Tunna confirmed that the boundary is in the middle of the road and agreed that Staffordshire County Council have in the past cut the verges. The Clerk will report back to Councillor Mrs. Hughes and chase up Staffordshire County Council to cut this.

The Clerk had spoken to Christina and a further pipe has been left sticking up where the mobile has been removed that was no longer connected to anything, so the handyman had removed it. Jane from Tearoom reported a trip hazard in the kitchen around the trap door, which was a loose strip around the door, so the handyman has fixed it.

New bins on Cheddleton Playing Field have been installed to replace the ones that were set fire to. The three combination locks have been installed on the three play areas as agreed and the fire brigade have been informed of the number to aid their access in an emergency. The Clerk confirmed that Jim is now starting hedge cutting so will be doing Cheddleton Lawn Cemetery and Wetley Rocks Playing Field and planting the hedging, strimming and removal of the ivy growing over the wall. The Clerk reported that Charles Piggott has looked at the trees at St Edwards Lawn Cemetery and the Asylum Burial Ground but will quote for works required when he has assessed but will require a meeting on site. Councillor Scalise asked how long we have been waiting for Steve Massey to give a report on the trees. The Clerk stated it is approximately 3 years and we will contact him, or Charles will gain permission for works required.

Councillor Worthington reported that he visited the tearooms and that there is damp forming, and it is extremely cold so this needs to be discussed at the next meeting. The Clerk reported that we need to look at the agreements between the lease holders.

Councillor Jennings stated we need to do this. Councillor Dakin stated that he is going to do a fire risk assessment so this needs to be done to make her aware of her responsibilities

and as an employer. Any information to be given to the Clerk prior to the next CCMC Meeting.

146. **UPDATE ON RENOVATIONS CRAFT CENTRE/BEAUTY ROOM** - The Clerk reported the works are on schedule. Plastering has been completed and second fix electrics this week. A scheduled meeting with Sam from J. Cornes and Duncan the building on Friday. The suspended ceiling should be done as we agreed the additional cost.
147. **UPDATE ON BASFORD BRIDGE LANE BRIDGES/CCTV** - Councillor Scalise stated that there has been further incidents of large trucks and the bridge has been scraped again. The Clerk had reported the latest incident around the time of the road closure. The only thing we can do is to keep reporting the incidents to the Police so that they can prosecute the offenders.
148. **NJC NATIONAL PAY AGREEMENT - 1/4/2022** - The Clerk reported that the pay award has been agreed at 4.04% increase and from 1/4/2023 an additional day's holiday. The Clerks contract includes any pay awards.
149. **FOOTPATH UPDATES** - The Clerk reported that the volunteers have completed works on Footpath 83 new steps and handrail on Vale View and letter of thanks for the works from a resident. New Kissing gate on Footpath 38 supplied by Staffordshire County Council. The footpath inspections have been completed and will start again. A tree has been cleared on Footpath 81 which the volunteers could not deal with, so ROW dealt with it. The Clerk reported an additional volunteer has joined up and is going to work on the Deep Haye site as he is not able to work Wednesdays.
150. **CHRISTMAS CARD COLLECTION/ COUNCIL DINNER** – The Chairman stated that a Council Dinner is maybe not an option this year, but should the next chairman wish to organise one. The Christmas Card collection he nominated SSAFA the Armed Forces Charity. The Clerk reported that the funds left from the Jubilee Celebrations will also be donated to that charity as agreed.
151. **UPDATE DISABLED ACCESS/PROJECTS - CHEDDLETON PLAYING FIELDS** - The Clerk reported that a meeting had taken place with Angela from Fields in Trust on site. They are still interested in transferring ownership to the Council which she is going to prepare a report on this for next full council. The disabled access was discussed and agreed that we have done the most appropriate course of action by doing a new risk assessment. The Clerk reported that SMDC have been approached by Amy Rimes on the issue of disabled access and as equalities officer Linden Vernon asked what we have done to help her. The Clerk responded with details and has not heard anything further. Amy is still not happy with the response. Councillor Worthington stated that we have done everything to accommodate the request and there are other entrances. Councillor Dakin agreed that we have done what we can and all agreed. The Clerk further reported that Gareth Knapper met with them on the same day about funding for updating the tennis courts and putting together a survey to ask residents opinion to obtain the funding. Since then, the Clerk has produced questions for the survey with his help and will contact Forsbrook as they have just completed a survey to gain funding. There may be an opportunity to then look at the football pitch for further development and funding pots available to help through SMDC.

152. **FIELDS IN TRUST MEMBERSHIP - £65** - The Clerk reported that joining fields in trust could be beneficial as we could gain discounts from certain play equipment providers and get help and advice along the way with projects. Councillor Ahmad proposed joining, seconded by Councillor Miss Salt. All agreed.
153. **UPDATE ON MEMORIAL BENCH - JACKIE PILARCZYK** - The Clerk reported that she has met with Gemma, Jackie's daughter and agreed the wording for the plaque and this will be installed in early December by the flint mill as agreed. Once we have the bench in situ a small presentation will take place with the family to mark the occasion.
154. **PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY** - The Clerk reported that she had received an enquiry from Staffordshire County Council stating that our website does not meet the current accessibility regulations. On checking with the website writers my parish council have confirmed we are fully compliant with the legislation.
155. **UPDATE WETLEY ROCKS PLAYING FIELDS/ NEW LEASE** - The Clerk reported that there was supposed to be a meeting with Balfour's the managing agent for the Diocese tomorrow but a report from Bagshaw's has only been received today so too late to go ahead with the meeting. His recommendation on rental charge is less than the Diocese suggested but we must start negotiations and provided a value to purchase the land. The Clerk also mentioned that we discussed taking on the management of the trees this would reduce the annual amount by at least £50. The Clerk confirmed that the cheque for the annual rent will be sent and contact with regards to further negotiations of the new lease. The Clerk went on to report that the trees on the Playing Field have been cut by a resident who had asked if they could help by removing the suckers and has cut branches off a couple of trees. The works have been reported to Steve Massey because of the TPO on the trees by someone and he has visited to assess what has been done. There has been a request by the Diocese to do some tree cutting and what has been done is not beyond what is acceptable under the TPO so thankfully there will not be any issue, but it has left us with some branches to dispose of on the field. The Clerk suggested that Charles Piggott may be able to remove the branches for us so she will contact him.
156. **ST EDWARDS'S CHURCH - CHEDDLETON - CLOCK CHIME/ BELL REPAIRS** - The Clerk reported she has received the two quotes now for the repairs. Councillor Bowen explained that the repairs will improve the chimes of the clock. Councillor Worthington asked has the church obtained the quotes. Councillor Scalise asked what they have asked for us to contribute all or part of the repairs. The Clerk reported two quotes one of £2000 and another of £1948 after some discussion it was proposed by Councillor Ahmad to fund the repairs and proposed by Councillor Worthington in light that the church has a further bill currently of £13,000 for a new boiler and is fundraising. Voting took place and majority agreed that the total repairs funded by the Council. Councillor Dakin voted against.
- 156a. **SMDC FEASIBILITY STUDY - RAILWAY** - The Clerk reported a letter has been received from Councillor Paul Roberts - Leader of Staffordshire Moorlands District Council to support the ongoing work to restore the railway between Leek and Stoke. Councillor Tunna proposed we give our support, seconded by Councillor Scalise. After some discussion it was agreed to send a letter of support.

157. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES: -

- a. **Footpath & Countryside/ Cheddleton Playing Field Committee** - Councillor Dakin thanked Councillor Worthington for chairing the meeting.
- b. **Wetley Rocks/ Toll Bar Playing Field Committee**
- c. **Burial Ground Committee**
- d. **Planning & Amenities Committee**
- e. **Reports from Outside Bodies - SMDC Committees, Scribfest, SLCC Conference, Planning Training, Police/Council Surgery, Advanced Protein Liaison Group** –
The Clerk attended both Scribfest and SLCC Conference which was informative. The Planning Training was extremely useful and all who attended found it extremely informative. The Clerk reported on the Police/Council Surgery and confirmed two residents turned up. Councillor Scalise asked is it worth holding for just two residents and it has been suggested other ways to encourage people to turn up. Councillor Mrs. Hartley praised PCSO Paula Lowndes for her commitment. Councillor Jennings reported on AP Liaison Group and a spike in complaints between August and September. They have had 5 reports of odour permit conditions. The planning application is currently on hold with SMDC for the expansion of the factory. There was a spillage by Moorville Hall which was dealt with swiftly. A lot of reports are being made to the environment's agency.

- 158. ACCOUNTS** - See attached reports of accounts authorised for payment. All members received Bank Reconciliation, payments, receipts, ear-marked reserves, and budgets as spent to date. The Chairman and The Clerk signed the Balance Sheet as at 15th. November 2022 also attached.

Authorised under Sec. 137 of the L.G.A. 1972 'Free Resource'

159. CORRESPONDENCE: -

- a. BRAMM News.
- b. Utility Aid Information - Energy.
- c. Defibrillator Supplies.
- d. SLCC Updates.
- e. Website Contact - Planning SMC/2022/00157
- f. CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund.
- g. Canal & River Trust Update tree blocking the towpath.
- n. Fraud Updates.
- o. SMD/2022/0487 - 83, Lilac Grove Farm, Folly Lane, Cheddleton - Demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings and erection of 8 dwellings - No Objection - Approved 26/10/22.
- p. SMD/2022/0500 - 43, Big Southlow Farm, Leek Road, Wetley Rocks - Change of use from Agricultural storage building to single dwelling. No Objection - Approved 4/11/22.
- q. Parish Assembly next meeting 1st. December 2022.

160. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** - No questions from members of the public present.

Chairman
20th. December 2022.