

Cheddleton Parish Council

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN
CHEDDLETON COMMUNITY CENTRE, HOLLOW LANE, CHEDDLETON
ON TUESDAY 25th. MARCH 2025.**

ATTENDANCE Chairman - M. Ahmad.

Councillor - D.S. Bagnall, Mrs. S.C. Beardmore, Mrs. V.B. Cornes, M.F. Cunningham,
Miss. G. 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 - Mrs. L.J. Green.

Several members of the public.

298. **APOLOGIES** - Apologies were received from Councillor Miss. V.L Salt, Mrs. A. Grocott, & K. Grocott, and it was resolved to accept these. Also, from Rev. Henry Hope.
299. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - There were no declarations of interest.
300. **MEMBERS' SEC. 33 DISPENSATION REQUESTS** - No written applications for dispensations received.
301. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** - The Clerk reported that we have not received confirmation from SMDC that we can proceed with the co-option for the vacancy for Cheddleton Ward. The final total collected for the Chairman's chosen beneficiary was £400 and therefore each church has received a cheque of £100 donation.
302. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** - Several questions were raised by one resident with regards to the car parking permits and the restrictions set out at the last meeting. And that the signage be clear and think about the community.
303. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING 25th. FEBRUARY 2025** - It was resolved to accept these as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
304. **MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM:** -
Re. Min. 280. Car Park Permits & Signage - Community Centre - Councillor Miss. Rogers raised that she would like it recorded that that she abstained from the vote.
305. **GROUND MAINTENANCE ISSUES/HANDYMAN/BUILDING WORKS** - The Clerk reported that following the request for the signs at St. Edwards Lawn Cemetery being proposed by a resident which was discussed at our last meeting. They are willing to pay for 3 signs to be erected at the entrance off the main road, the end of the driveway as you enter and on the entrance gate into the cemetery. I had suggested the wording based on recommendation from our PCSO which the resident feels not strong enough. The Clerk read out the residents suggested wording. Councillor Miss. Rogers suggested taking legal advice as to the correct wording. Seconded by Councillor Worthington and was agreed.
The Clerk reported that John Hall Wellness Centre who she had contacted about helping to plant the new border created at St. Edwards Lawn Cemetery are not yet in a position to help immediately, therefore with discussion with our Chairman we have spent £100 from the allocated funds to buy some shrubs and plants and our handyman has planted them to make a start on completing the project. We can still collaborate with them going forward.

- 306. CAR PARK PERMIT POLICY - COMMUNITY CENTRE** - The Clerk had circulated the written policy to members. Councillor Worthington asked what the previous charge for a permit was. It was reported £40. Councillor Ahmad reported that it was discussed, and the price increased by looking at other car park permits, and an average used. Councillor Mrs. Cornes raised that the increase being over 750% to be now £340 and have Councillors considered that this increase may be challenged as there has been a similar case and caselaw where it went to high court and a resident sued the council and won the case. The Clerk reported that two applicants have already paid. Councillor Miss. Rogers stated that the compared car parks are in towns not in villages and stands by that the inequality of the price increase. Councillor Ahmad stated that it was discussed and agreed at the last meeting so without following standing orders prevents any further discussion for six months. Therefore, it was proposed by Councillor Worthington to re-visit the decision in six months by putting on the agenda, seconded by Councillor Miss. Rogers. Councillor Worthington stated he could not agree to the policy as he was not present at the discussion and felt that £340 is too much. The policy which was previously agreed at the last meeting would be in place until the review in six months. Councillor Miss. Rogers proposed that a separate meeting be held to discuss it to allow full discussion and a public meeting, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Cornes. With an amendment by Councillor Cunningham to have a clear proposal for discussion, seconded by Councillor Ahmad. Agreed.
- 307. REVIEW ROOM HIRE CHARGES - COMMUNITY CENTRE** - The Clerk reported that the hire charges for the room hire in the Community Centre were deferred until the car park permit policy and charge had been agreed so this had been included on the agenda to discuss charges from 1st April. The Clerk stated the current charges. Councillor Williamson asked what the current usage is in the Community Centre. The Clerk reported that there are alternative rooms to hire within the village which are cheaper, and we have already lost some hirers who have moved to use those so there is a danger if prices increase of the usage dropping further. Councillor Worthington proposed to remain at the same charges from 1st April based on that, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Shaw and agreed. The Clerk reported that the Pudding Race raised over £7k and that they would like to hire it for the next one on 29th. November 2025 and this will be booked with the caretaker.
- 308. REVIEW CAR PARK SIGNAGE - COMMUNITY CENTRE** - The Clerk suggested that as we are seeking legal advice with regards to the Cemetery signage that the same be done with these which members agreed.
- 309. FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT - QUOTES FOR EMERGENCY LIGHTING CERTIFICATE/ PAT TESTING / GAS BOILER SERVICE - COMMUNITY/ CRAFT CENTRE** - The Clerk reported that various items need to be followed up to maintain our compliance. PAT Testing quote for £128 each site but the tenants will be charged for the Craft Centre, and this makes sure they have their equipment tested. Emergency Lighting Inspection in both the Community & Craft Centre quote £192 for both. Agreed. Gas Boiler service quote £350 for 3 boilers. Agreed.
- 310. QUOTES FOR ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION CONDITON REPORT - COMMUNITY CENTRE** - The Clerk reported that she had obtained a quote for the Report being £1740, second quote £960 it was agreed to obtain a third quote as it needs to be competitive.

- 311. UPDATE DEVOLUTION/ LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION IN STAFFORDSHIRE** - The Clerk had circulated the proposals received which all have to be submitted by 28th. March to be looked at for the next phase. Councillor Harvey and Amad went to Parish Assembly where there was a lengthy discussion and the effects of the restructure on our Council. The Clerk reported that SMDC have asked for details of our position and financial details. Councillor Mrs. Lovatt stated that the Council Assembly which lasted three hours was very political and disappointing that some had lost sight of what is required. Councillor Worthington stated it will be difficult to work with a unitary authority especially as Stoke has no Parish & Town Councils.
- 312. FUNDING/GRANTS COMMITTEE - CHEDDLETON PLAYING FIELD/ COMMUNITY CENTRE/BUTTERCROSS/STREET LIGHTS** - The Clerk reported that we have received £8000 of the grant from Historic England and that the project is due to commence with the Dry-stone walling this coming weekend and lots of volunteers have come forward to help. So, over the next 3 weeks the restoration will be happening and concentrating on completing this will take priority.
The Clerk reported that Cheddleton Playing Field Deed of Dedication is still stuck with the solicitor but being chased to complete it for funding opportunities.
Councillor Worthington asked about funding for the Solar Panels and to get this started before any of the assets are potentially taken off us under devolution so to obtain new quotes.
- 313. CHEDDLETON PLAYING FIELDS MEMORIAL BENCH POLICY** - Councillor Miss. Rogers suggested a couple of minor changes to the wording of 6.1 amend to 12 months rather than periodically. 2.4 all benches installed by the Parish Council. Councillor Harvey suggested several types of benches to help with the cost and residents who would prefer a better-quality bench to be given the option. After some discussion it was decided to set the policy but that each application be assessed for affordability.
- 314. EVENTS - FLINT MILL, VE DAY 80** - The Clerk reported that the donation has been issued to the Flint Mill. Councillor Miss. Rogers announced that the funding is coming through to the sum of £1800 from various businesses. The advertisement does now state that Cheddleton PC are supporting it. Councillor Cunningham asked about the funding for VE Day funding. The Clerk reported that there are funds available from SMDC of £435. Councillor Miss. Rogers suggested that maybe the Village Hall could host an afternoon tea or something similar. It was stated that the Village Hall will discuss it at their next meeting.
- 315. UPDATE HIGHWAYS ISSUES WITH STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL** - The Clerk reported there is works taking place at Cellarhead and next week A520. A report had been submitted to ask for the times to be changed on the parking restriction outside St. Edwards School on Hollow Lane. They have now reported that it will need to be put forward via the County Council DHP fund so the Clerk will forward details to Councillor Worthington. The Clerk also reported that SCC had contacted with regards to the funding of possible parking restrictions on Plough Bank. Members had made the decision to not go ahead with this. Councillor Worthington reported that the funding has been spent elsewhere. The Clerk reported the damaged road sign at the entrance to Ostlers Lane initially to SCC Highways but now with SMDC as it falls under their responsibilities, and it has been logged for replacement. The sign on Withystakes sign has also been reported to SMDC.
- 316. UPDATE LAND BEHIND CHEDDLETON PARK AVENUE**
- The Clerk reported that after discussion with one of the residents and to contact the Crown to gain ownership.

- 317. UPDATE UTILITY AID - ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CONTRACT 1/10/25** - The Clerk reported that she will get quotes to fix the next contract. Councillor Bagnall's wife had contacted EON, but they have not yet been in touch with us.
- 318. UPDATE ON DEFIBRILLATORS** - The Clerk reported that there are no issues with any of our defibrillators. Councillor Mrs. Lovatt reported that work has started on the retirement homes at Cellarhead as we had discussed placing another one there.
- 319. FOOTPATH UPDATES/ ROW MODIFICATIONS** - Councillor Harvey reported that one of our volunteers will be out of action and will mean that emergencies will only be dealt with until his return.
- 320. UPDATE ON ISSUES CANAL & RIVER TRUST** – No further works have been carried out on the reported collapsed canal bankside by the Flint Mill or Batemans.
- 321. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES** -
- a. **Planning & Amenities Committee**
 - b. **Footpath & Countryside/ Cheddleton Playing Field Committee**
 - c. **Reports of Outside Bodies** - SMDC Council & Parish Assembly 5&6/3/25, In Touch Newsletter Spring 2025, SLCC Branch Meeting 13/3/25.
- 322. 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. S137 spending from £10.81 to £11.10 from 1st April 2025.
Authorised under Sec. 137 of the L.G.A. 1972 'Free Resource'
- 323. CORRESPONDENCE** -
- a. BT Charges.
 - b. Everflow Water Charges.
 - c. Community Centre Business Rate Bill 2025/2026 is no charge.
- 324. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** - No questions from the public.

Chairman
22nd. April 2025.