

Cheddleton Parish Council

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN
CHEDDLETON COMMUNITY CENTRE, HOLLOW LANE, CHEDDLTON
ON TUESDAY, 26th. NOVEMBER 2024.**

ATTENDANCE Chairman - M. Ahmad.

Councillor - D.S. Bagnall, Mrs. V.B. Cornes, M.F. Cunningham, Miss. G. Grocott, K. Grocott, K. Harvey, Mrs. C. A. Lovatt, Mrs. L. Shaw, M.J. Sidley, T.G. Williamson and M.P. Worthington.

Rev. Henry Hope & a member of the public.

Clerk - Mrs. L.J. Green.

176. **APOLOGIES** - Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs. A. Grocott, O.C. Pointon, Miss. S.J. Rogers, & Miss. V.L. Salt, and it was resolved to accept these.
177. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - There were no declarations of interest.
178. **CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR FOR VACANCY IN CHEDDLETON WARD** -
The Clerk explained that the only application was received from Angela Morris which has been circulated to members. Angela herself is in two minds as to what she can offer to the Council as her eyesight is getting much worse and she could not attend this meeting. Councillor Worthington proposed that we re-advertise the vacancy, seconded by Councillor Harvey which was agreed by majority. Councillor Cunningham expressed that she is very welcome to attend any meeting.
179. **CO-OPTED COUNCILLOR TO SIGN DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE** - No co-option.
180. **MEMBERS' SEC. 33 DISPENSATION REQUESTS** - The Clerk reported that she had received a request from our vice-chair Miss. Salt stating that she would like to be excused for the next six months due to family illness. Councillor Worthington proposed to grant six months dispensation, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Cornes. Agreed. Councillor Ahmad asked if anyone would like to temporarily become vice-chair in the interim. Councillor Harvey offered to support the chairman, but no-one came forward to become vice-chair.
181. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** - No announcements.
182. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** - No questions from the public.
183. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING 22nd. OCTOBER 2024** - It was resolved to accept these as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
184. **MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM**: - No matters were raised.
185. **GROUND MAINTENANCE ISSUES/HANDYMAN/BUILDING WORKS** - The Clerk that there has been no response from Your Housing with regards to works on Mill Lane. Councillor Williamson reported that he has assessed Jim's work, and he is doing a very good job and considering the intricacies to the areas he covers. He is also covering Endon who have no issues with his work. The time to put together in writing the document to tender the works

he currently does with all the detail which is why the Clerk was struggling to do is very time consuming, and he is a very valuable resource who we can call on he just needs to be made to feel valued. Councillor Ahmad suggested that members should make the effort to go out and catch up with him when he is working. Councillor Williamson suggested a Christmas hamper for his hard work. The Clerk reported that the handyman is working on the border at St. Edward's Lawn Cemetery which he has nearly completed so encouraged members to go and have a look at it. Also, contact from a contractor who were on site at Wetley Rocks Playing Fields with regards to trees overhanging Randles Lane and power cables. They contacted to gain permission to cut back the trees. The Clerk forwarded details to Balfours who have had tree surveys done on behalf of the Diocese and work as their agent as landowners to give permission as we manage the playing field, but they look after the trees, and they are under a TPO. The Clerk reported that a new light has been installed in the gents' toilets at the Craft Centre today because it was faulty.

- 186. UPDATE TENDER PROCESS FOR GROUNDS MAINTENANCE/ LENGTHSMAN DUTIES FROM 1/4/25** - The Clerk reported that the document is still being written by Councillor Williamson to include all aspects of grounds maintenance required. Councillor Worthington proposed considering what had already been discussed that Jim continue to be employed, seconded by Councillor Williamson. Agreed. The Clerk suggested that the document still needs to be produced for future proofing the specification of works which Councillor Williamson agreed he would spend the time doing this. Councillor Ahmad thanked him.
- 187. UPDATE LEEK MOORLANDS HOSPITAL** - Councillor Ahmad wanted to attend the Clerks meeting at SMDC to ask them to send a letter of support. The Clerk reported that it has been raised by her and that she had contacted Rt. Hon. Dame Karen Bradley MP which she responded to, and her response had been circulated to members. Also, St. Edward's Church has written and shared their letter of support. Councillor Worthington also stated that more services are being transferred to Moorlands Hospital. The Clerk stated our MP already declared there is no need to worry but we will still look at a collaboration with all Parish & Town Councils to send a letter of support.
- 188. UPDATE DOCTORS SURGERY** - Councillor Ahmad reported that we need to now send details to residents for their response to prove the need. St. Edward's Church are in full support. Councillor Harvey stated that there has been a shift in the demographic of the population of Cheddleton since last time it was proposed.
- 189. UPDATE SUPPORT STAFFORDSHIRE - RURAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN STAFFORDSHIRE - HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY** - The Clerk reported that they have now rescinded the offer because we are too big for what the funding covers. Councillor Ahmad stated we could combine the two together with the doctor's surgery. Councillor Harvey suggested it would not be a good idea to do that.
- 190. FUNDING/GRANTS COMMITTEE - CHEDDLETON PLAYING FIELD/ COMMUNITY CENTRE/BUTTERCROSS** - The Clerk reported that she had nothing to report currently. Councillor Harvey suggested that grants are forming a big proportion of funding for the Council and a system needs to be put in place. As to the way we approach future applications and form a committee to come up with this, if it is the chairs of each committee to be responsible for the specification for each proposal requiring funding and then for the funding to be sort. This would alleviate the added work put on our Clerk. The Clerk updated that there is green spaces fund being looked at by SMDC for which we will be able to

apply. Councillor Harvey stated he will put together a proposal for members to have a look at going forward.

- 191. EVENTS - VE DAY 80** - The Clerk reported that the funding has been received from Councillor Initiative Fund from Councillor Pointon for the Canal Event which took place. The next event we are looking to host is for the VE Day 80 and any ideas and funds available will be reported back.
- 192. UPDATE HIGHWAYS ISSUES WITH SCC - STATION ROAD, CHEDDLETON - FLOOD ISSUES /SPEED CAMERAS IN THE PARISH /BRIDGES, BASFORD BRIDGE LANE & BRIDGE 45** - The Clerk reported that Station Road was clear of flood water even though there has been quite a lot of flooding elsewhere so the Clerk for Cautionary Lands Chairity has been asked to add the Well and drainage works to be put on the agenda of their next meeting in February. The Clerk reported another HGV to the Police reported to her by a resident but has not received anything back from them. It is the compounded structural consequences of the overweight vehicles which is a concern. The Clerk reported that SCC have updated us about the speed cameras that the last inspections did not find any structural issues with them but that they will be undertaking a further inspection soon and that they will be checked to see if any remedial actions required. The Clerk reported Bridge 45 to C&RT who confirmed the report.
- 193. UPDATE LAND BEHIND CHEDDLETON PARK AVENUE /STATION ROAD - PIGS** - The Clerk contacted Open Space Society who stated that we could consider applying for possessory title by means of adverse possession via a solicitor. Councillor Mrs. Lovatt stated that a solicitor is best placed to advise. Councillor Worthington suggested that we should make enquiries. The Clerk reported that the land on Station Road has been put back on the agenda at the request of Councillor Harvey and if members are agreeable the owners can again be approached about tidying it up. The Clerk will attempt to make contact again.
- 194. CPRE (CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND) MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL MIN £36 P.A.** - The Clerk reported that we normally pay membership, and it was agreed that we should at the same amount as previously.
- 195. SLCC SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERK) MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL. £300 P.A.** - The Clerk reported that this was £298 last year. This is the professional association for Clerks and agreed to re-new membership.
- 196. EON ANNUAL STREET LIGHTING ENERGY/MAINTENANCE CHARGES 2024/25 CHEDDLETON** - The Clerk reported that she had received the details for the 15 streetlights we installed, and they have omitted to charge us for a replaced streetlight on Ashcombe Road. The full charges are £1358.21 so if members agree to make payment of the invoice and they will amend the register to include the missing streetlight. The Clerk has asked for a new quote for the replacement of the lamps with LED to conserve energy. We did receive a quote last year which would pay for itself within four years in reduced charges so when the quote has been put together, they will also assist with gaining funding to pay for this upgrade which will be reported to members at another meeting. Agreed to pay the charges as they stand for this invoice.
- 197. UTILITY AID - ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CONTRACT 1/10/25** - The Clerk reported that we will need to renew our supplier of electricity for both the Community Centre and the Craft Centre from next October and Utility Aid advise to look at doing this sooner rather than later so have supplier details if we wished to do so which is currently not much different than we

are already paying. They seem to think that the prices will go up during the winter so would be better to fix it now from October for the future before there is a price hike. The Clerk reported that we did have the same issue last time with gas prices and we waited which was actually the right thing to do. Councillor Bagnall stated he was happy to investigate this on behalf of the Council, so it was agreed to forward the details to him to look at it to achieve a better rate.

198. UPDATE MEMORIAL SAFETY CHECKS - ST. EDWARD'S LAWN CEMETERY -

The Clerk reported that she has now put notices up on 11/11/2024 and need to be displayed until 6/12/2024 before the Diocese will award the faculty giving permission to check the memorials. AES have been informed and will be ready to do the works as soon as we have the go ahead.

199. AMEY REPORT 4410599 - CHEADLE ROAD, CHEDDLETON - WEEDS

BOLLARDS BETWEEN BRIDGE & HOLLOW LANE - The Clerk reported this to SCC after receiving the details from Councillor Mrs. Shaw. She reported that they have been cleared.

200. AMEY REPORT 4414429 - THORNEY EDGE ROAD, ROWNALL - FLY TIP - The

Clerk has reported this to SMDC, but they came back stating it was the responsibility of Highways being in the layby. So raised with them.

201. UPDATE ON DEFIBRILLATORS - The Clerk stated that there is nothing to update currently but that AEDdonate have asked if we would be interested in having a clothes collection point at the Community Centre as they have several to raise funds and they will arrange delivery and empty on a regular basis to sell the clothes in the shop in Leek. Councillor Mrs. Lovatt proposed to give them permission, seconded by Councillor Cunningham and it was agreed to allow one at the Community Centre.

202. FOOTPATH UPDATES - The Clerk stated that she had reported the gully from Fold Terrace to the Main Road to SMDC because it is covered in leaves and slippery and is a footpath. Another issue has been reported to the Clerk but on investigation it falls in Longsdon Parish and is not a right of way, so the details have been sent to the Clerk at Longsdon Parish Council. Councillor Harvey reported that Footpath 38 is being looked at with SCC and a couple of volunteers about the width to see if it can be worked on.

203. CANAL & RIVER TRUST REPORTS /UPDATE ON ISSUES - CANAL DEBRIS LOCK 13 - The Clerk reported to C&RT about tree works that they have conducted along the canal which has left a lot of debris in the water. Councillor Mrs. Shaw supplied photos which have been forwarded but as yet there has been no response.

204. UPDATE COUNCIL WEBSITE/EMAIL ADDRESSES (.gov.uk) - The Clerk reported that the new website and emails have now been set up. She reminded members that they should be using their Council email address. Any issues please contact the Clerk.

205. CHRISTMAS CARD COLLECTION/COUNCIL DINNER - The Clerk reported that she had not received any suggestions. Councillor Mr. Grocott stated the Red Lion are happy to accommodate us so he will make enquiries and report back in December. The collection is for the Churches.

206. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES -
a. Burial Grounds Committee

- b. **Planning & Amenities Committee**
- c. **HR Committee (Confidential)**
- d. **Community/Craft Centre Management Committee - Confidential item**
- e. **Footpath & Countryside/Cheddleton Playing Field Committee**
- f. **Reports of Outside Bodies** - SMDC, Working Groups (Strengthening Relationships with Town & Parish Council's), The Clerks meeting was very good, and the publication newsletter has been issued. Staffordshire Village Halls Network Meeting, Advanced Proteins Liaison Committee attended by Councillor Miss. Rogers, Parish Assembly which was virtual because of the weather. There were some technical issues. The Clerk has attended some free webinars through Scribe which have been good.

207. **CONFIRMATION NJC NATIONAL SALARY AWARD 1/4/24 - CLERK'S SALARY** - The new salary scale points have been circulated to members and note that the pay increase of £1290 per annum with effect from 1/4/24 will be backdated.

208. **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.

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

209. **CORRESPONDENCE** -

- a. Staffordshire Moorlands DC - New Electoral Register 1/12/24.
- b. Support Staffordshire Membership Certificate November 24-November 25.
- c. Citizen Advice outreach service. Circulated to members.
- d. Road Safety for mature road users - Staffordshire County Council.
- e. Electric Vehicle Survey - Staffordshire County Council. Circulated to members.
- f. Could you help us find more volunteers? - NSPCC.

210. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** - No questions from the public.

Chairman
17th. December 2024.