

Cheddleton Parish Council

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN
WETLEY ROCKS VILLAGE HALL, MILL LANE, WETLEY ROCKS
ON TUESDAY, 17th. DECEMBER 2024.**

ATTENDANCE Chairman - M. Ahmad.

Councillor - D.S. Bagnall, Mrs. V.B. Cornes, Mrs. A. Grocott, Miss. G. Grocott, K. Grocott, K. Harvey, Mrs. C. A. Lovatt, Miss. S.J. Rogers, Mrs. L. Shaw, and T.G. Williamson.

Rev. Henry Hope.

Clerk - Mrs. L.J. Green.

211. **APOLOGIES** - Apologies were received from Councillor M.F. Cunningham, O.C. Pointon, Miss. V.L. Salt, M.J. Sidley, & M.P. Worthington and it was resolved to accept these.
212. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - There were no declarations of interest. The Clerk reported that SMDC has asked that members have checked that the information held on the website is up to date.
213. **MEMBERS' SEC. 33 DISPENSATION REQUESTS** - No written applications for dispensations received.
214. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** - The Clerk reported that there have been no applications for the vacancy in Cheddleton Ward, so this has been re-advertised with a closing date prior to the next meeting in January. The bin collection dates were circulated. The meeting of the Finance Committee will take place on 7th. January as the Tax Base has not been received from SMDC.
215. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** - No questions from the public.
216. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING 26th. NOVEMBER 2024** - It was resolved to accept these as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
217. **MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM:** -
Re. Min. 204. Update Council Website/Email Addresses - The Clerk asked if all Councillors have access to their new email address because it is important for all members to receive the Council emails to an address solely for Council business to protect themselves and the Council under Data Protection. If anyone requires any help, please contact the Clerk.
Re. Min. 180. Members' Sec. 33 Dispensation Requests - Councillor Miss. Rogers put herself forward as interim Vice-Chair of the Council. Councillor Mrs. Cornes proposed that there should be someone in the position and that Councillor Miss. Rogers be placed in the position. Seconded by Councillor Mrs. Lovatt and the majority agreed. Therefore Miss. Rogers became Interim Vice-Chair until the return of the current Vice-Chair.
218. **GROUND MAINTENANCE ISSUES/HANDYMAN/BUILDING WORKS** - The Clerk reported that the agreed works for our handyman to install a border at St. Edward's Lawn Cemetery has now been completed, and we need to now decide what to plant in the border. We can discuss as a future agenda item. There is a leak in the roof of the Community Centre which the handyman has made a temporary repair until he can look at it when its dry. The mowing contract for next year we have received a request for a price increase of 4% from Mr. Gibson and additional increase for grass collection on the playing fields and this will be put to

the Finance Committee as budget request for the new financial year. Also to note that the lengthsman hourly rate will be increased to £12.21 because of the increase in minimum wage. The moles have been treated on Cheddleton and Bridge Eye Playing Fields. Your Housing have been and cut the trees/shrubs on Mill Lane next to the school on their land. The Fly tipping on Cheddleton Playing Field has continued to increase. Councillor Mr. Grocott proposed purchasing a couple of wildlife cameras to capture the culprit. Councillor Williamson suggested getting a price and then agree at the next meeting.

- 219. CAR PARK REVIEW - COMMUNITY CENTRE** - Councillor Miss. Rogers reported that she had consulted with residents and prepared a report circulated to all members. The outcomes being left as it is by closing the gates at 6.30pm when the Community Centre is not in use. Alternatively closing the gate later for example 10pm or leaving the gate open permanently or charging to park with clear parking taking control. All these options are for consideration bearing in mind that we have several permit holders whose permits run out in March. On speaking to everyone locally around the car park she felt that a trial of leaving the gate open for maybe 3 or 6 months to alleviate the village parking problem. If we make it a pay to park for everyone there is no going back from that and most people consulted that is the worst option. After much discussion of the pros and cons about all the options. The Clerk stated that the permit scheme should it continue needs to be formalised with a policy. Councillor Harvey suggested land behind the school could be used as a car park for the community which would be just as central. Councillor Ahmad stated we must think about the facility and use of the Community Centre hirers. Councillor Miss. Rogers suggested that signage with details of the responsible use of the car park and proper rules for permit holders. It was proposed by Councillor Mr. Grocott that at the next meeting a decision must be made, and members should come prepared to vote on it.
- 220. ENQUIRY TO RENT A ROOM - YOUR COACH 21 LIMITED** - The Clerk reported that a business is looking to hire a room to relocate the business and as we are not using the Council Meeting Room for Council Meetings, we could rent it out. The main issue is the large table would need to be removed and either stored or sold. The company have looked at the room and have listed modifications that would be required to make the space workable. The gas & electric supply are not separate so a rental would have to include the cost of those as is set in the Business Suite let out already. After some discussion Councillor Bagnall proposed that we do want to rent the room out, seconded by Councillor Mr. Grocott and agreed to then get advice on the amount to charge through Mounsey Surveyors who dealt with the leases on the other businesses in the Craft Centre. Also to sell the table. The Clerk will let the business know that we will apply for references and get a price for the decision to be made who will rent it or if we advertise it.
- 221. UPDATE LEEK MOORLANDS HOSPITAL** - The Clerk reported that she has asked SMDC via Democratic Services if we could collaborate with all Parish/Town Councils to make sure we all make it known that we wish the services to continue and if anything, be extended. They will put it forward to Parish Assembly and it will be raised at the next meeting of the Clerks. Councillor Harvey stated that they are considering 3 new hospitals and that it will not be closing. The Clerk will follow it up and report back.
- 222. UPDATE DOCTORS SURGERY** - Councillor Ahmad reported that we can go ahead with the consultation by collaborating with the doctors to guide us into what to include.

- 223. UPDATE SUPPORT STAFFORDSHIRE - RURAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN STAFFORDSHIRE - HOUSING SURVEY** - The Clerk reported Support Staffordshire had withdrawn the offer of funding, but they can now collaborate with us if we can help with the distribution of the survey. Councillor Mrs. Lovatt stated that this would only help when it comes to planning needs for the Parish and assist with forming a better system as to where development is required. Councillor Mr. Grocott proposed the Clerk will arrange for him to come and discuss it with members of the Planning Committee and this was agreed.
- 224. FUNDING/GRANTS COMMITTEE - CHEDDLETON PLAYING FIELD/ COMMUNITY CENTRE/BUTTERCROSS** - The Clerk reported that there will be funding in the spring via National Lottery Community Fund and SMDC have a Shared Community Prosperity Fund of £15,000 which may provide up to £5000 for energy saving for minimum of 3 applicants. The Clerk is meeting with our grant experts in January to move forward with finding any grants.
- The Clerk reported that a meeting with Lucy from Historic England had taken place as she is a surveyor with detailed knowledge for us to ask any questions for the restoration of the Buttercross. Councillor Harvey showed her the Buttercross, and she has provided a list of items we need to provide to her before the funding is released and the works are on track to be done in April 2025.
- The Clerk also raised that we have quite a few memorial benches on Cheddleton Playing field that over the years have been damaged and could do with replacing so will discuss with the grant experts about raising funds for them (being 15 benches).
- 225. EVENTS - VE DAY 80** - The Clerk reported that we have the lighting of the beacon free of charge and the piper provisionally booked. Councillor Miss. Rogers stated that the Powys are willing to host the event just need the funding guaranteed.
- 226. UPDATE HIGHWAYS ISSUES WITH STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL** - The Clerk reported that a letter of thanks had been received for the drainage works on Park Lane from the residents which she had passed on to Dave Rushton who stated it had cost more than expected but all the issues raised were now solved. The Bridge over the Churnet has been hit and damaged which has been reported to SCC Highways. The same section has been damaged again. No news on the survey of the Speed Cameras. The parking restriction on Hollow Lane is being reviewed by Highways through Dave Rushton. Brund Lane dangerous bridge to be reported again as no fence.
- 227. UPDATE LAND BEHIND CHEDDLETON PARK AVENUE /STATION ROAD - PIGS** - The Clerk has contacted SLCC with regards to land behind Cheddleton Park Avenue, and they reported that if the Company has been dissolved the land reverts to the Crown and can be purchased which normally costs in the region of £8,500 but as for adverse possession it requires 12 years maintenance and with it being a right of way this would prove very difficult. The Clerk reported that she has emailed and tried to call the owner of the land on Station Road with no response but that she had received an email also looking into who owns the land as they are interested in using the area for animals and maybe allotments.
- 228. UPDATE WETLEY ROCKS PLAYING FIELD - HEADS OF TERMS FOR NEW LEASE** - The Clerk reported that Balfours have been in contact with regards to the new lease. Councillor Harvey proposed it to refer this to the Playing Fields Committee to iron out any negotiation of these, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Lovatt. Agreed.

229. **QUOTE EON STREET LIGHT REPLACEMENT WITH LED LAMPS** - The Clerk reported that she had received the details for the replaced streetlight of the lights to LED lamps and the quote has been circulated to members. Another company has been asked for details of solar streetlights and SCC Highways as to help towards the cost and why they do not maintain these streetlights. The Clerk suggested that this be deferred to the next meeting when the details have been gathered.
230. **UTILITY AID - ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CONTRACT 1/10/25** - Councillor Bagnall stated that he would get his wife to speak to the Clerk so deferred until the next meeting.
231. **UPDATE AMEY REPORT 4414429 - THORNEY EDGE ROAD, ROWNALL - FLY TIP** - The Clerk reported that neither SCC nor SMDC are taking responsibility, but further rubble tipped. AES have stated that environment agency have been reporting lots of these types of tipping. This is still ongoing.
232. **UPDATE ON DEFIBRILLATORS** - The Clerk stated the clothes collection point at the Community Centre will be installed when they are ready to do so. Councillor Miss. Rogers reported that the defib at Wetley Rocks battery is still under warranty. There is no electric supply to the defib at the Vets. There is a leak in the casing at the Boat Inn. On Friday Jamie will look at all three. None are out of action but will be sorted out.
233. **FOOTPATH UPDATES** - The Clerk reported that the volunteers have done some widening works on Footpath 38 because of a complaint from a resident. Footpath 55 has been inspected but he visited the wrong end of the footpath so will re-visit.
234. **UPDATE ON ISSUES CANAL & RIVER TRUST REPORTS** - The Clerk reported that Bridge 45 is being monitored and no further movement.
235. **BURIAL GROUND MANAGEMENT POLICY/ REGULATIONS** - The Clerk has circulated the new Policy & Regulations agreed by Burial Grounds Committee so will be adopted now.
236. **CHRISTMAS CARD COLLECTION/COUNCIL DINNER** - The Clerk reported that she had received a few donations for the Collection. Councillor Miss. Rogers stated that The Tea Rooms could do £25 per head. The Black Lion subject to numbers. The Red Lion are happy to host anything pre-ordered off the menu. Councillor Mr. Grocott proposed the Red Lion, seconded by Councillor Williamson. All agreed. It was suggested Friday January 10th. or Saturday 11th. The Clerk will circulate the details and please decide before Christmas.
237. **DOUGLAS MACMILLAN HOSPICE DEMENTIA CARE** - The Clerk reported that we have donated previously an amount of £200 in January 2024. Councillor Miss. Rogers proposed to donate every year £200, seconded by Councillor Williamson. Agreed.
238. **CANCER RESEARCH PUDDING RACE 2024 - COMMUNITY CENTRE** - The Clerk stated that in previous years we have donated the cost of hiring the Community Centre to the Charity to help boost funds this being £224 again agreed.
239. **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES** -
- a. **Planning & Amenities Committee**
 - b. **Burial Grounds Committee**

- c. **Reports of Outside Bodies** - SMDC, Working Groups (Strengthening Relationships with Town & Parish Council's) reported by Miss. Rogers deadline dates for the Newsletter & next meeting of the sub-group to produce the Parish Charter, Staffordshire Moorlands VCSE Locality Forum and SLCC Staffordshire Branch Meeting.

240. 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. Noted that the interest rate at NatWest Bank is being reduced.

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

241. CORRESPONDENCE -

- a. Parish Assembly Meeting next meeting 6/3/25 & minutes from 21/11/24.
- b. Register of Electors New List 1/12/24.
- c. ICO registration received.
- d. PFCC the precept for Police & Fire.

242. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME - No questions from the public.

Chairman
28th. January 2025.