

Cheddleton Parish Council

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN
CHEDDLETON COMMUNITY CENTRE, HOLLOW LANE, CHEDDLETON
ON TUESDAY 28th. JANUARY 2025.**

ATTENDANCE Chairman - M. Ahmad.
Vice-Chair - Miss. V.L. Salt.

Councillor - D.S. Bagnall, Mrs. V.B. Cornes, M.F. Cunningham Mrs. A. Grocott,
Miss. G. Grocott, K. Grocott, K. Harvey, Mrs. C. A. Lovatt, Miss. S.J. Rogers, Mrs. L. Shaw,
T.G. Williamson and M.P. Worthington.
Co-opted - Councillor Mrs. S.C. Beardmore.
Rev. Henry Hope.
Clerk - Mrs. L.J. Green.
Multiple members of the public.

243. **APOLOGIES** - Apologies were received from Councillor, O.C. Pointon, M.J. Sidley, and it was resolved to accept these.
244. **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.
245. **CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR FOR VACANCY IN CHEDDLETON WARD** - Councillor Ahmad introduced Mrs. Beardmore and gave her the opportunity to speak and explain to members about her background. Members voted and it was agreed that she be co-opted onto the Council.
246. **CO-OPTED COUNCILLOR TO SIGN DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE** - The Clerk witnessed the Declaration of Office for Mrs. Beardmore, and she then joined the meeting as a Councillor.
247. **MEMBERS' SEC. 33 DISPENSATION REQUESTS** - No written applications for dispensations received. The Clerk welcomed Councillor Mrs. Salt as she was in attendance following her request for a dispensation.
248. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** - The Clerk reported the Chairman of Staffordshire Moorlands Councillor Ian Plant is hosting a Charity Ball Saturday 22nd February at Alton Towers should anyone wish to attend. Caverswall Historical Society calendar of events has been circulated. The Dinner for Cheddleton PC was well attended and if members still wish to donate to the chairman's choice of gifting the collection to the churches to let the Clerk have their donations as soon as possible.
The Clerk noted change in the order of the agenda bringing agenda item 253. forward.
249. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** - No questions from the public.
250. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING 17th. DECEMBER 2024** - It was resolved to accept these as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
251. **MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM:** - No matters were raised.

- 253. CAR PARK REVIEW - COMMUNITY CENTRE** - After the chairman invited questions from the residents and members debated it was proposed that the gates of the carpark starting 1st April be left unlocked as a trial for 6 months to attempt to alleviate the congestion in and around Hollow Lane by Councillor Miss. Rogers. Councillor Cunningham suggested to amend to 3 months, and he would second this. The proposal was amended by Councillor Miss. Rogers. And seconded by Councillor Cunningham. The proposal was voted on and majority was to not change the current arrangement so the gates will be locked overnight. Councillor Worthington proposed that the signage be amended seconded by Councillor Miss. Salt. The permits will be discussed and a policy with next year's charges decided and wording for the signage as an agenda item at next month's meeting.
- 252. GROUND MAINTENANCE ISSUES/HANDYMAN/BUILDING WORKS** - The Clerk thanked Councillor Miss. Rogers for tidying up the Telephone Book Exchange. Councillor Mrs. Lovatt will collect the damaged books and take them to the tip. The Clerk had asked our handyman to quote to plant the newly created border at St. Edward's Lawn Cemetery. The quote is for £630 for him to get the plants, topsoil and time to plant them. Councillor Harvey proposed getting in touch with John Hall Wellness Garden in Leek to see if they would be able to help design and plant it, seconded by Councillor Miss. Salt so agreed to follow this up. The leaf clearance at both The Asylum Burial Ground and St. Edward's Lawn Cemetery have been done by Pip. The fly tips are still happening at Cheddleton Playing Field so a quote for a trail camera with night vision and waterproof which is solar powered for £43 and requires an SD card to be purchased to store photos. Councillor Mrs. Lovatt proposed getting a camera, seconded by Councillor Mr. Grocott. So, agreed.
- The Clerk reported that Councillor Miss. Rogers has found 4 number plates when litter picking and have been reported to the police who have collected them. Councillor Miss. Rogers stated that the last one had come off a vehicle that has caused damage to a Footpath fingerpost and needs to be reported to the Police as criminal damage. Councillors agreed that the Clerk report it.
- The Clerk has submitted a request for a grit bin on Beech Avenue as requested by a resident. The next Cautionary Lands Charity meeting is on February 6th, and the Bridge Eye drainage works have been added to the agenda for discussion, now that the Station Road drains have been addressed by SCC Highways. The fire panels and smoke detectors have been tested at both the Craft Centre and the Community Centre, with new backup batteries installed at both locations. Councillor Ahmad reported a request from St. Johns Drive for a grit bin. The Clerk mentioned there was an initial query about a grit bin previously installed by the developer when the road was built, which has since been removed. Councillor Worthington stated he would follow up on this matter.
- 253. CAR PARK REVIEW - COMMUNITY CENTRE** - Already discussed.
- 254. UPDATE MEMORIAL SAFETY CHECK** - The Clerk reported the Diocese has approved the safety check for memorials at St. Edwards Lawn Cemetery. If members agree, AES can perform this check on all memorials at a cost of £150. Councillor Mrs. Lovatt proposed, and Councillor Ahmad seconded, that this is necessary, and all agreed. An update was given on one of the two memorials at Cheddleton Lawn Cemetery for the late Mr. & Mrs. Whilock. A family member will secure it with the original stonemason. Only one minor issue remains.
- 255. TREE WORKS - CHEDDLETON PLAYING FIELDS** - The Clerk reported that the volunteer suggested by Councillor Harvey found the job too specialized. Jim Gibson noted that equipment is needed, and BT lines are involved, making it beyond his expertise. Councillor Miss. Salt mentioned two more quotes are necessary. Councillor Worthington

recommended another tree surgeon, and the Clerk will obtain two additional quotes as advised.

- 256. UPDATE HIRING CRAFT CENTRE MEETING ROOM** - The Clerk reported that Mounseys Surveyors set the rental price at £550 per month. Your Coach 21 Limited is interested in renting the room. Council's archives have been moved, leaving two glass cabinets, chairs, and a large table. Your Coach 21 Limited offered £200 for the cabinets and chairs. This was accepted unanimously. The Clerk sought to sell the large table. Great Wood Hall in Tean offered £200 and will collect it. This offer was also accepted unanimously. Councillor Ahmad proposed renting the room to Your Coach 21 Limited for 12 months at £550 per month, with one month's rent as a deposit. This was unanimously approved. Water supply costs will be covered by us; other installations are the tenant's responsibility.
- 257. FUNDING/GRANTS COMMITTEE - CHEDDLETON PLAYING FIELD/ COMMUNITY CENTRE/BUTTERCROSS** - The Clerk reported that the deed of transfer for Cheddleton Playing Fields has not been completed yet, as the solicitor handling it has misplaced the paperwork. A meeting is scheduled with Jane to discuss the Community Centre and Cheddleton Playing Field, and to assess the necessary works required for applying for grants. The Buttercross project is on track for March/April. The LED streetlights are still pending a second quote before applying to SMDC for replacement. The application to Leek United for the springer was unsuccessful.
- 258. EVENTS - FLINT MILL, VE DAY 80** - Councillor Miss. Rogers is collaborating with Flint Mill Trustees for an event on 28th June 2025. The Flint Garretaw: Music at The Mill will host a one-day festival to raise funds for the kilns. Local businesses will be invited to sponsor. £2,000 needed; £300 already pledged by Advanced Proteins. Tickets: £10 per person, £25 for a family of four. Councillor Worthington is arranging VE Day Poppies in June. VE Day 80 at Powys may be cancelled due to the landlord leaving. The Piper booking needs confirmation regarding the venue.
- 259. UPDATE HIGHWAYS ISSUES WITH STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL** - No update on Churnet Bridge damage from SCC Highways. No further issues with parking on Plough Bank. Awaiting inspection update for speed cameras. Still waiting for Dave Rushton on Hollow Lane parking restriction. Councillor Miss Rogers mentioned the need for clear signage for zigzag restrictions, as they are currently time-limited only. The A520 will be closed for road surfacing from Basford Lane to Cellarhead from 31st March to 4th April. Councillor Worthington will get details of the works. The Clerk highlighted the fencing issue on Brund Lane next to the bridge, but improvements are not expected as it is a minor road. The broken sign at the top of Mill Lane has been reported. The verge damage opposite the layby is noted as reported and as non-urgent.
- 260. UPDATE LAND BEHIND CHEDDLETON PARK AVENUE /STATION ROAD - PIGS** - The Clerk reported three residents' concerns and confirmed that the company owning the land has dissolved, passing ownership to the Crown. A solicitor can follow up with a starting fee of £500, potentially shared with residents. Councillor Worthington proposed proceeding, seconded by Councillor Mr. Grocott. A resident mentioned previous information that the Parish Council owned the land, but the Clerk has evidence it is now under Crown possession. The owner's son has contacted us and will provide further updates for the land on Station Road.

- 261. UPDATE 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.
- 262. UPDATE AMEY REPORT 4414429 - THORNEY EDGE ROAD, ROWNALL - FLY TIP** - The Clerk reported that Staffordshire County Council are removing this from the layby tomorrow. Another Fly-tip reported on Cheddleton Heath Road.
- 263. UPDATE ON DEFIBRILLATORS** - Councillor Miss. Rogers reported that the cabinet has been replaced at the vets donated by Leek United in collaboration with AEDdonate because it was broken. The Boat Inn defib is ok and the battery issue at Wetley Rocks Village Hall is being monitored.
- 264. FOOTPATH UPDATES/ ROW MODIFICATIONS** - The Clerk reported that the deadline for submitting modification applications has been extended from 2026 to 2031 due to legislative changes.
- 265. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES** -
- a. **Planning & Amenities Committee**
 - b. **Community/Craft Centre Management Committee**
 - c. **Finance Committee (Confidential)** - left until the end of the meeting.
 - d. **Reports of Outside Bodies** - SMDC planning committee 27/2/25, Working Groups (Strengthening Relationships with Town & Parish Council's) reported by Miss. Rogers that a draft charter has been produced by a sub-committee and will be circulated soon.
- 266. ACCOUNTS/V.A.T.** - See attached reports of accounts authorised for payment. All members received Bank Reconciliation, payments, receipts, ear-marked reserves, and budgets as spent to date. Third quarter submission of V.A.T. claimed and received.
- *Authorised under Sec. 137 of the L.G.A. 1972 'Free Resource'*
- 267. PRECEPT REQUIREMENTS FOR 2025/26 FINANCIAL YEAR/ EAR MARKED RESERVES/ INTERNAL AUDITOR** - The Clerk circulated to members the budget requirements for next year requires £89,000 to cover increasing costs and was discussed by the Finance Committee who recommended that we put forward a precept of £85,500. Using general reserves and net free cash for the £3,500 difference therefore increasing the precept from £82,000 which is currently £36.28 to £37.30 for a Band D property. This is an increase of £1.02 which represents 2.81%. In comparison to other Parishes our precept is lower than similar size authorities. It was resolved to collect £85,500 precept for 2025/26. The Clerk reported that £1,700 be transferred from General Reserve which was proposed by Burial Grounds Committee for future works and £8,000 be transferred for future projects on Cheddleton Playing Field once the Deed of Dedication has been completed. The net free funds projected to the end of this Financial Year will then be used in line with the Auditors recommendations and ring fenced. Members agreed.
- 268. CORRESPONDENCE** -
- a. Support Staffordshire Village Halls Week 17th- 23rd March 2025.
 - b. MREP-509236-9415 Telegraph Pole - Cheadle Road, Cheddleton - Damaged. Councillor Miss. Rogers reported that the road sign is still damaged for Ostlers Lane

269. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME - No questions from the public. All members of the public were required to leave.

265. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES -
c. **Finance Committee (Confidential)**

Chairman
25th. February 2025.

DRAFT