

**Cheddleton Parish Council**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN  
WETLEY ROCKS VILLAGE HALL, MILL LANE, WETLEY ROCKS  
ON TUESDAY 25<sup>th</sup>. FEBRUARY 2025.**

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

Councillor - D.S. Bagnall, Mrs. S.C. Beardmore, 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, and T.G. Williamson.

Clerk - Mrs. L.J. Green.  
A member of the public.

270. **APOLOGIES** - Apologies were received from Councillor, O.C. Pointon and M.P. Worthington, and it was resolved to accept these. Also, from Rev. Henry Hope.
271. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - There were no declarations of interest.
272. **RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR** - The Clerk reported that Councillor Sidley has resigned due to a change in his career. SMDC will be notified of the vacancy, and the process will start to fill the vacancy.
273. **MEMBERS' SEC. 33 DISPENSATION REQUESTS** - No written applications for dispensations received.
274. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** - The Clerk reported that the training course for dry stone walling has now been advertised should anyone wish to attend the two weekends 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> March & 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> April. County Council Elections due to take place 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025. The Council donations are now at £100, and the Chairman is adding £297.50 remaining from his allowance. Keep Britain Tidy takes place between 21<sup>st</sup> March – 6<sup>th</sup> April and Councillor Miss. Rogers has pledged to fill 25 bags of rubbish.
275. **CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE** - The Clerk reported that several complaints had been received with regards to conduct of Councillors which the legislation names the District Council as responsible under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011. All members have been detailed with how complaints are dealt with by SMDC. The complaints have been dealt with, and no further action has been taken.
276. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** - No questions from the public.
277. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING 28<sup>th</sup>. JANUARY 2025** - It was resolved to accept these as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
278. **MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM**: - No matters were raised.
279. **GROUND MAINTENANCE ISSUES/HANDYMAN/BUILDING WORKS** - The Clerk reported that a meeting with Mr. Jim Gibson and the new arrangement is working well. The trail camera has been purchased and set up. St. Edward's Lawn Cemetery has been reported to the Police as another item has been removed off a grave. The plot holder has requested that

we provide some deterrent. The PCSO has been taking time to visit the cemetery regularly. After some discussion it was agreed to erect a sign stating Please be respectful and do not remove any items from graves, the area is being monitored and anyone causing a nuisance will be reported to the local Policing Team or something similar. The incident discussed at last month's meeting with the footpath fingerpost damaged was reported to the police and a response asking for any other evidence such as dashcam footage, CCTV or witnesses by the investigating officer. As there is none presumably the matter will not be taken any further. Councillor Miss. Rogers discovered a load of wiring which was dumped or stolen, and this was reported to the PCSO, and another number plate has been found totalling five.

**280. CAR PARK PERMITS & SIGNAGE - COMMUNITY CENTRE** - The Clerk read out the initial proposal from Councillor Mr. Grocott for car park permits and after some discussion it was revised and set out as follows: -

1. All permit holders should reside in the immediate vicinity and have no off-road parking at their residence unless there is a permit available. Permits will not be issued for business premises, including but not limited to holiday homes. One permit per household for one vehicle. Proof of address, ownership of vehicle, MOT, Insurance and Road Tax. (Any change of details to be notifiable.)
2. To allow 9 permit holders. Permits to be displayed in the vehicle when in the car park.
3. Any Blue Badge Holders and the caretaker to not be charged for a permit.
4. Anyone fitting criteria 1. Charge for permit to be increased to £340 per annum. New charge to commence from 1<sup>st</sup>. April 2025 and charges and permits renewed annually.
5. The car park will be closed at 6.30pm unless the Community Centre is in use and re-opened at 7am in the morning. Therefore, permit holders agree to their vehicles being locked in overnight.
6. Anyone eligible who is not allocated a permit due to full allocation will be added to a waiting list until a permit becomes available.
7. A months' notice to be served if a permit holder or Cheddleton PC wishes to relinquish their permit.

The signage requires review, and at the Craft Centre, it was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting. Additional carparking availability locally.

**281. UPDATE MEMORIAL SAFETY CHECK** - The Clerk reported that the checks have been completed today and that two memorials have been highlighted as low risk. These would need to be monitored if the grave owners have not dealt with the issue in the next two years. The two at Cheddleton Lawn Cemetery will require inspection where they have been highlighted as low risk. The Clerk suggested that these be scheduled in as appropriate and that all memorials be re-tested in five years as legally required.

**282. QUOTES FOR TREE WORKS - CHEDDLETON PLAYING FIELDS** - The Clerk reported on the three quotes for the same works being £1,200, £900, £1,050 all quotes exclude VAT. After some discussion it was proposed by Councillor Miss. Salt, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Cornes to award the contract to the lowest quote based on the recommendation from Mr. Jim Gibson. Agreed.

**283. UPDATE HIRING CRAFT CENTRE MEETING ROOM/RENEWAL OF AGREEMENTS FOR TEAROOM/BEAUTY ROOM** - The Clerk reported that Your Coach 121 Ltd have signed the Licence and moved into the room. The table has been removed and paid for. Receipt of money for the chairs and cabinets from the occupier. The plumber has been to install the water supply and drainage.

- 284. FUNDING/GRANTS COMMITTEE - CHEDDLETON PLAYING FIELD/ COMMUNITY CENTRE/BUTTERCROSS** - The Clerk reported that the funding for the Butter Cross restoration has been increased by a further £600 and the first payment of £4,000 will be received by the end of this week.  
The Clerk reported that she has met with Jane and took her around the village showing her all the details of spending that potentially we could get grants for them. The reserves have been increased as agreed for the Burial Grounds £1700 and Cheddleton Playing Field £8000.
- 285. EVENTS - FLINT MILL, VE DAY 80** - The Clerk reported that the trustees have written to request help with the event and funds to help host it. A donation was proposed for £250 by Councillor Mr. Grocott, seconded by Councillor Cunningham. It was agreed and to help with the advertising. There is a grant available for the VE Day 80 Event available from Staffordshire Moorlands for £435. The Clerk will approach John Arnold to see if he is still ok to light the beacon and apply for any funds to provide this.
- 286. UPDATE HIGHWAYS ISSUES WITH STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL** - Councillor Bagnall reported a noisy grid on the main road. The Clerk will report it. Another report of an overweight vehicle going over bridge 44 which will be reported to the Police there is video footage, but no registration number recorded. The request for a grit bin on St. Johns Drive has been sent to Councillor Worthington. A couple of reports sent to SCC County Council of other road issues noted. Councillor Harvey stated that Stoke-on-Trent have a new contractor for road works.
- 287. UPDATE LAND BEHIND CHEDDLETON PARK AVENUE /STATION ROAD - PIGS** - The Clerk reported that she is waiting on one of the residents to make further enquiries for land behind Cheddleton Park Avenue. Still waiting for information on land at Station Road.
- 288. 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.
- 289. UPDATE AMEY REPORT 4414429 - THORNEY EDGE ROAD, ROWNALL - FLY TIP - COMPLETED 29/1/25** - The Clerk reported that Staffordshire County Council have removed it.
- 290. UPDATE ON DEFIBRILLATORS** - Councillor Miss. Rogers reported that the cabinet at the Boat in is right under a leaking guttering so the landlord is going to fix it to avoid having to relocate the defibrillator. The landlord is also interested in hosting a further training session at the pub. Jamie at AEDdonate has been contacted to see if they would run one.
- 291. FOOTPATH UPDATES/ ROW MODIFICATIONS** - Canal & Rivers Trust are interested in hosting another Himalayan Balsam pull 15/5/2025. Councillor Mrs. Grocott reported a blocked footpath in Wetley Rocks. Councillor Miss. Rogers will check it.
- 292. UPDATE ON ISSUES CANAL & RIVER TRUST** - The Clerk reported that the fallen canal bank outside the flint mill has been reported again to C&RT and another section near to Bateman's.

**293. COMMERCIAL WASTE CONTRACTS FROM 1<sup>st</sup>. APRIL 2025** - The Clerk reported that the contracts need to be renewed for Cheddleton Community Centre, which is emptied weekly costing £1038.95, Cheddleton Lawn Cemetery which is emptied weekly in the summer and once a fortnight during winter months costing £596.42 and St. Edwards Lawn Cemetery emptied monthly £448.65. Agreed to renew the contracts.

**294. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES** -

**a. Planning & Amenities Committee**

**b. Burial Grounds Committee**

**c. Reports of Outside Bodies** - SMDC Town & Parish Councils Clerks' Meeting - The Clerk reported that Devolution was the main topic of discussion explained by Andrew Stokes and that the Alliance for SMDC and High Peak will have to be disbanded and that all proposals for any new structure must be submitted by 28/11/2025 to begin 2028. Parish Charter to be fed back at Parish Assembly 6/3/2025. Councillor Miss. Rogers reported from the Councillors Working Group which was mainly about Devolution. Cautionary Lands Charity Meeting took place in February and car parking was discussed again on land opposite to the sundial.

**295. 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 Clerk reported that SMDC have confirmed the precept of £85,500 is an increase of 2.81% and the updated earmarked reserves. The Pension Regulator has written to make sure that all employees are offered enrolment into a pension scheme which has been completed by Bradley Accountancy who are employed to complete our payroll. The closure of NatWest Bank Leek Branch on 16<sup>th</sup>. June 2025.

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

**296. CORRESPONDENCE** -

- a.** SLCC Branch Meeting 13/3/25 at Stowe by Chartley which the Clerk will attend.
- b.** Scribe Free Webinars.
- c.** Staffordshire Village Halls Network Meeting 17/3/25.
- d.** Live & Live Event 10/3/25.
- e.** Douglas Macmillan Hospice - Thank You.

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

Chairman  
25<sup>th</sup>. March 2025.