

Cheddleton Parish Council

**MINUTES OF THE FOOTPATHS & COUNTRYSIDE COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE CRAFT CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 13th. FEBRUARY 2018.**

ATTENDANCE Chairman – Councillor Mrs. C.M. Meyrick.
Councillor – Ms. C.Y. Ball, Mrs. B. Hine, H.R. Jennings.
Member – Mr. J. Smith. Councillor Harvey was also in attendance.

APOLOGIES Apologies for absence were received from:-
Councillor – M.T. Bowen, S. Scalise, M.P. Worthington.
Member – Mr. P.H. Green, Mr. R. Hill.

1832 **MINUTES** Following an amendment to the minutes to record that Mr. Smith had tendered his apologies, the minutes of the meeting of the 14th. November 2017, taken as read were confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

1833 **MATTERS ARISING**

Re. Min. 1819. Correspondence b. Environment Agency. With regard to Footpath 23, Mr. Smith reported that the pigs were still in the field and the trees that had now died because of the tipping needed looking at and felling. It was reported that the Environment Agency were dealing with the matter and would be trying to get the landowner to re-establish a ground cover and would pursue this in the spring. The committee agreed to wait to see what happens in the spring.

1834 **CORRESPONDENCE**

- a. Councillor Bowen – an email forwarded by Councillor Bowen from Dai Lerner requesting further information on the off-site ecological contribution given that a number of weeks have now passed and the company are now at serious risk of losing the grant allocation that has been made from the LEP. It was agreed that there was nothing more that the Council could do, only await the outcome.
- b. S.C.C., Staffordshire Legal Services – In response to the email of the 15th. November 2017 re. the Alleged footpath from St. Edwards Park to the Leek arm of the Caldon Canal. He has looked through the list of Section 53 applications submitted to the C.C. and understand that the email refers to application ref: LG659G. The application can viewed on the C.Cs. register of Modification Order applications. The application states that it is to add a footpath running from Footpath 28 Longsdon to St. Edward’s Hospital, Cheddleton. The Modification order application relating to this route was received in 1998 and is currently number 80 on the list of outstanding applications. The C.C. has limited resources available to deal with this work, and has more recently received a number of Directions from the Secretary of State to determine applications; consequently, as things stand, it is likely to be some time before this particular application will be determined. The Clerk advised that Mr. Green would like the committee to express theirs and the Railways disappointment. Members’ discussed the paths on the St. Edward’s Park development which although were deemed as rights of way when the hospital was open, were now only concessionary paths. With regard to the path in question the railway had put gates up and people were walking

the path. Following discussions the committee agreed to ask Mr. Green to push from the Railway's point of view, as it was very important to their plans.

1835 SEC. 106 AGREEMENT – 25 YEAR FUNDING FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE OPEN SPACE, GRANGE BANKS

Still ongoing – awaiting an update.

1836 S.C.C. DEVELOPING A COMMUNITY BASED APPROACH – PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY – CATEGORISING OF THE FOOTPATHS IN CHEDDLETON PARISH

Copies of the list of Footpaths in Cheddleton Parish that had been categorised as A to C which had been produced by the S.C.C. and had been provided by Councillor Harvey had been issued for members consideration. Councillor Mrs. Meyrick reported that she had highlighted two that she felt needed to be categorised as a B rather than a C there were also a number that didn't really make sense. Councillor Harvey suggested that members needed to consider how the footpaths had been categorised and make a note of the reasons why a footpath should be re-categorised. Following discussions it was agreed to leave the matter in abeyance to give members time to study the information and come back with their reasons. Fwd. Agenda Item.

1837 INSTALLATION OF FENCING/GATE – BOUNDARY OF THE OPEN SPACE LAND, GRANGE BANKS

Members had been issued with a map showing the boundary of the Open Space land and F/path 38. Councillor Harvey had been to inspect the area and had sketched in the boundary. He advised that the land where the old storage/metal buildings stood did not form part of the Council's land and the garden sheds at the bottom of the site had been erected exactly on the boundary. Members' attention was drawn to the site visit and the inspection of Footpath 38 and the Open Space when it had been suggested that some kind of boundary fence/gate needed erecting to mark the boundary. Councillor Harvey put forward the need for fencing as this would help to keep the path and the surrounding area tidy and the area clearly defined. Councillor Jennings referred to the cost of any type of fencing and suggested installing markers on three/four corners to show the ownership and the boundary of the land. It was suggested that it should be marked out and defined accurately. Following discussions members agreed to hold a site meeting to inspect the area. Councillor Ms. Ball, Mrs. Hine, Mrs. Meyrick, Harvey, Jennings, Scalise and Mr. Smith would inspect and the item would be included on the Agenda for the next scheduled meeting. The Clerk would arrange the site meeting for a Saturday in April – time and date to be issued.

1838 BUTTERCROSS

The Clerk reported that she had emailed Mr. George at Natural England but had received no reply. The matter had been on going for some considerable time and since Mr. George had promised to obtain the landowners permission, look at grants and appoint a qualified contractor to carry out the works, the matter had been left in abeyance awaiting any kind of update from Mr. George. Councillor Harvey advised that the soil needed moving from around the monument in order to get to the bottom section of the Buttercross. Question was raised as to the landownership. Following discussions Councillor Ms. Ball agreed to try and find out the name of the Farmer who owns the land where the Buttercross is sited. The Clerk was asked to try and contact Mr. Ian George again to try and progress the matter. Forward Agenda Item.

1839 PURCHASE OF A STIHL PETROL STRIMMER – CPI BID/GRANT OF £370

The Clerk reminded members of the funding amounting to £370 to purchase a petrol strimmer for use on the Public Rights of Way. She issued a pamphlet showing the prices and different types of strimmer and advised that PJS in Leek were able to supply any model and would be willing to offer a discount to the P.C. Following discussions Councillor Harvey together with Mr. Smith were given delegated powers to choose the model required to carry out the different types of work on the Public Rights of Way etc. - the Clerk would then purchase same.

1840 SURVEY OF PATHS IN THE PARISH

Councillor Harvey referring to the S.C.Cs idea of developing a community based approach and the categorising of the footpaths advised that he had mentioned the training to the S.C.Cs team of volunteers and they were quite prepared and willing to train any volunteers to carry out works such as putting in stiles, gates and bridges on the public rights of way. He suggested that if the S.C.C. only carry out minor works on the public rights of way; volunteers would certainly be needed but this would take time. Mr. Smith advised that he had the necessary qualifications and he would be prepared to train all the volunteers to use the strimmer and to use all the necessary safety equipment to meet the Health & Safety regulations.

1841 ANY NOTED FOOTPATH OBSTRUCTIONS

Members attention was drawn to Footpath IR 1986 in Station Road where the footpath had been diverted because of works carried out by Western Power, the land had not been reinstated and a gate had been installed which prevented access over this public right of way. Following discussions it was agreed to write to the S.C.C. and to Western Power requesting action to rectify the situation.

1842 WAYMARKING

Councillor Mrs. Meyrick reported that the fingerpost on Footpath 1 to Cats Edge situated at the top of Hollow Lane by the Craft Centre had broken and needed replacing. The Clerk was asked to report this to the S.C.C. to action.

1843 COUNTRYSIDE

Very wet and cold at the present time. – looking forward to spring.

1844 FORWARD AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Smith raised the matter of the Japanese Knotweed growing on land at Basford which it seemed had not been touched because it had spread rapidly. The Clerk advised that from a letter received: the S.C.C. had started a programme of stem clearance. Mr. Smith asked for a copy – this would be issued.

Chairman.