

Cheddleton Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE WETLEY ROCKS VILLAGE HALL, WETLEY ROCKS ON TUESDAY, 20th. NOVEMBER 2018.

ATTENDANCE Chairman – Councillor M.P. Worthington.

Vice-Chairman – Councillor M.T. Bowen.

Councillor – M. Ahmad, Mrs. D.A. Hartley, K. Harvey, Mrs. B. Hine, H.R. Jennings, Mrs. C.M. Meyrick, S. Scalise and H.J. Tunna.

APOLOGIES Apologies for absence were received from: -

Councillor – Ms. C.Y. Ball, J. Carr, G.J.R. Furnival, Mrs. A. Oakden,

5285 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the 16th. October 2018, taken as read and were confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

5286 MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5287 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman brought forward the Planning Application SMD/2018/0700 – Land Adjacent 10, Ox Pasture, Cheddleton – Outline application for residential development as there were 16 residents present who were of interest in this application. There is a further Planning Application so he asked the Planning committee to stay behind at the end of the meeting to consider it.

5288 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Councillor Bowen addressed the residents with regards to the Planning application at Land Adjacent 10, Ox Pasture, Cheddleton with regards to the Local Plan which currently includes this as designated Visual Open Space so should not be built on. This has been identified through site allocations and should remain as open and undeveloped. However, in exceptional cases there can be limited development which takes place but would have to be seen as an overriding improvement and enhancement to the area. This is also included in the new Local Plan which is currently with the Planning Inspectorate as Local Green Space at the moment and will be finalized next year. He went on to state that the access to this development is difficult and hopes that Staffordshire County Council backs this up. The residents were invited to raise questions at this point and initially thanked the Council for its support on recommending refusing this application. Not only will the access be an issue it will also increase the traffic in and out of the junction of Ox Pasture onto the A520. A further issue raised was the unofficial path between the gully and Ostlers Lane which access to the site would cut directly through. Another resident had done a land registry search and obtained the owners of this piece of land which he gave a copy to the Council. Councillor Bowen went on to explain that the Parish Council had raised an application some years ago to register this as a footpath with SCC who are currently sitting on a huge backlog of cases which haven't been resolved. Another resident raised that the plot of land is used as a field and is used by the residents and when walking this provides a lovely view of the church and open space which if built on would be lost. The Chairman concluded that residents should lodge their recommendations with SMDC individually by commenting on the Planning Application in writing as will the Parish Council.

- 5289 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** Councillor Scalise declared that he is a member of the District Council Planning Committee so would not take part in the discussions of the planning applications. Councillor Mrs. D.A. Hartley expressed a personal interest in Planning Application SMD/2018/0642 as this is a neighbour.
- 5290 MEMBERS' SEC. 33 DISPENSATION REQUESTS**
None had been received.
- 5291 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST**
The Clerk reported that she had received a request for information to supply how much per head of the population, per parish is spent on Cheddleton v Wetley Rocks for an average financial year. For example, per £ per head for Cheddleton residents and £ per head for Wetley Rocks residents. Councillor Tunna responded by saying that this was not possible as the Parish Council is made up of 3 wards and the spending is decided on what needs to be improved across the Parish as a whole so it is not possible to break it down. It was agreed that the Clerk respond to the request as unable to provide the requested information.
- 5292 UTILITY AID – FREE ENERGY AUDIT**
The Clerk reported that Utility Aid will compare Energy providers for the best rates on behalf of the Council so requested that she supply them with the current information to work on getting the best deals for Gas, Electric and Water. They do not charge for the service as they make a charge to the winning provider. Councillor Bowen proposed to go ahead and give the information to get the best deal. This was seconded by Councillor Mrs. Hartley.
- 5293 RBS ALPHA ACCOUNTS SOFTWARE**
The Clerk reported that she has now been to look at the system with the Clerk at Barlaston Parish Council and that it provides V.A.T. returns, Audit and year end. Lots of analysis and produces a wide range of reports. This would help in efficiency and time that the clerk currently spends producing these manually. Also helps with preparation of budgets as the history builds up reports on yearly comparisons. The Cost of the initial set up would be £639 which includes Initial set up, licence, software and then an ongoing cost of £119 per year for support and licence. The contract would mean initially signing to a 3-year contract. The Chairman proposed that this was not required as the current way of doing the accounts works. Councillor Harvey proposed an amendment to say that this isn't the only system so to compare others before making a decision and this amendment was seconded by Councillor Mrs. Hartley. The majority agreed to let the Clerk finding out about other systems and costs.
- 5294 VILLAGE GATEWAYS**
The Clerk reported that she had written to Charles Taylor, Batemans, Pointon's and F. Ball to ask for sponsorship of the gateways. She had met with Charles Taylor who are interested in helping to manufacture them so have had some specifications and are looking at this currently. Also, Batemans had responded but as yet The Clerk hasn't met with them to explain what the Council is looking to do. A future agenda item will report on this further.
- 5295 PLATFORM - ZIP WIRE – CHEDDLETON PLAYING FIELD**
The Clerk reported that she had been in contact with Dale Weston at Batemans who was looking into possibly manufacturing the platform. He has been to look at the actual zip-wire but feels that they would need to look at using some kind of rubber matting on the ramp but that everything could be manufactured from galvanized steel. He wanted a time scale to work to so it was agreed spring/summer and the Clerk would continue to liaise with him.

5296 GRANGE POND -PERMISSION TO SURVEY

The Clerk explained that she had received a request from Sammons Architects requesting permission to survey Grange Pond as it had been confirmed previously that Great Crested Newts were present. This is due to Cheddleton Parish Council being the owner and in respect of the Planning Application currently being considered by SMDC at Cheddleton Park Avenue SMDC/2018/0174. This was discussed and Councillor Tunna proposed that they are given permission to carry out the survey as long as the Council are informed when it is being done and that they give the Council a copy of the report. This was seconded by Councillor Mrs. Meyrick.

5297 UPGRADING OF THE GENTS AND LADIES TOILETS – COMMUNITY CENTRE

Councillor Scalise reported that the Toilets were almost complete and that anyone was welcome to have a look now that they have been painted. The last job is the vinyl flooring which the Clerk explained the quote that was received was now over 7 months old and the actual measurements had been lost so she was arranging to meet with the suppliers to re-measure to go ahead with getting the flooring fitted. She will report back to the Council.

5298 REMOVAL OF THE OLD BOILER - COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Chairman reported that he had spoken to Barney after his visit to look at the boiler room last week and that it was a bigger job than he anticipated but he will arrange for a specialist to take a look at the removal and update the Council in the future of costs etc.

5299 WETLEY ROCKS/TOLL BAR PLAYING FIELDS MAINTENANCE

The Clerk reported that she had met with the Handyman about the items on the inspections which require maintenance and he felt that he was inexperienced to access the items and perform these repairs. The Clerk reported that Wicksteed had quoted to do this, one at Wetley Rocks to replace Bearings in the Turnstile Roundabout parts costing £51.11, the other at Toll Bar to replace Small Shackle on the Swing parts costing £33.20 then £80 total labour costs to fit parts at both locations. Councillor Worthington proposed to get Wicksteed to do the repairs and this was seconded by Councillor Mrs. Hartley.

5300 PLAYING FIELDS SIGNAGE

The Clerk reported that Leek Signs had re-worded the sign at Toll Bar Playing Field which had the mis-spelling of Children and also one sign at Wetley Rocks to remove the directions to the nearest payphone which was no longer there. Councillor Mrs. Hartley confirmed that the signs were up and looking better. She did note that the Wetley Rocks No Dogs sign was still up which the Clerk had requested the handyman to remove. The Clerk asked if it was ok to get a quote from them to do the other sign at Toll Bar Playing Field to remove the nearest payphone details and to get a quote for a New Sign at Bridge Eye. This was agreed and she would report back to the Council.

5301 ASYLUM BURIAL GROUND RECORDS

The Clerk reported that she had been asked by Andrew Molloy the administrator of the Facebook sites Cheddleton Memories, Chat & Village to have access to the archives of the Asylum Burial Ground. The Clerk stated that there is a disc with this information on which he could sign to borrow to take a copy of if the Council approved. It was proposed by Councillor Tunna to allow him to do so and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Hartley. The Clerk to arrange him to have access to the records.

5302 CAR PARKING ON A520 – OLD INSTITUTE, CHEDDLETON

The Chairman reported that this is causing concern as it is causing an obstruction to the traffic when the owner has a drive where he could park. Councillor Bowen reported that he was parking there to stop vehicles driving over a noisy grid but that this has been repaired. Councillor Jennings stated that there is a new law to stop people parking on the pavements but that it isn't yet enforceable everywhere. The main problem is that the Police don't have the powers to do anything and it leaves it difficult to know where to go on this.

5303 ROAD DRAINAGE – CHEADLE ROAD, WETLEY ROCKS

The Clerk reported that she had received an email from Nicholas Gater about this issue as he lives on the Main Road. He informed the County Council and Parish Council previously about a noisy manhole cover right outside his property. This was resolved in August 2017 but when the work was done he spoke to the workmen who stated that this was the third time in eight years that it had been repaired because it is in fact the drains that get blocked with debris and this causes a build up of water which floods the chamber that the cover sits on, the ground swells and breaks the bond so the cover fails. The Members were provided with photographs of the issues and The Chairman suggested this be forwarded to Councillor Helen Fisher to investigate why the grid isn't properly sorted to stop this happening. The Clerk will forward the information to her directly.

5304 PREVIOUS REPORTED MANHOLE COVER A520 IN WETLEY ROCKS

Councillor Tunna reported that he lives opposite to this BT Manhole cover which was reported to Highways but it hasn't been fixed and consequently over the last nine months the oldest part of his property has no ceilings without cracks because of the issue. Again, this was suggested to be forwarded to Councillor Helen Fisher and a Letter sent to BT.

5305 CHAIRMAN'S CHRISTMAS CARD COLLECTION

The Chairman advised that a collection would take place at the December Meeting and all proceeds would go to Royal British Legion as he felt this appropriate being WW1 Centenary.

5306 COUNCIL DINNER

The Chairman proposed a meal and drinks to take place on Thursday, 24th. January 2019 at The Stafford Arms and he will take the names of those wishing to attend at the next meeting.

5307 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES

The Council examined the reports of the following committees and adopted their recommendations: -

a. Wetley Rocks/Toll Bar Playing Field.

Re. Min 383. – Wetley Rocks Playing Field – Holly Trees/Bulb Planting Councillor Mrs. Hartley reported that we did not manage to acquire the bulbs from the Petrol Station at Wetley Rocks but that Council Harvey had a £50 budget to acquire bulbs for both Wetley Rocks and Toll Bar Playing Fields.

b. Cheddleton Playing Field Committee Meeting.

Re. Min 786. – Wardens for Playing Field The Clerk reported that she had been contacted by Sgt, Andy Bland who apologised for not making the meeting and that this would now be arranged for the next meeting on 22nd. January 2018. Councillor Scalise also reported that all issues would be reported to this meeting after site visit to look at all issues on the Playing Field.

c. Planning & Amenities Committee Meeting.

Re. Min 2516. – Members’ Declarations of Interest Councillor Harvey pointed out that this did not read very well as surely if all Councillors declared an interest in the Planning Application they should not have voted. This was agreed to insert personal interest therefore did not affect the voting.

Re. Min 2527. – Pudding Race The Chairman asked why the Council had restricted use of the Community Centre during the race and it was explained that there is no way of stopping access to the Creche if allowed the use of Room 1, which shouldn’t be used.

d. Footpaths & Countryside Committee Meeting.

Re. Min 1183. – Buttercross Councillor Mrs. Meyrick reported that she had now confirmed that the Cross was renovated in 1926 as she had found some further information documented.

Re. Min 1885. – 10 Year Plan Councillor Mrs. Meyrick reported that if anyone was available on Sunday 25th. November 2018 they are more than welcome to attend the site visit, meeting at the Boat Inn at 10am.

e. Reports of Outside Bodies

Councillor Bowen reported that he had spoken to Enforcement at SMDC with regards to the land at Station Road and the hard standing and that they will follow it up.

Councillor Mrs. Meyrick attended the Parish Assembly Meeting which received a talk from Georgina Woodcock from the NatWest Bank about Scams. She is willing to give talks to any local groups who wish to find out more. She also reported on recycling that SMDC does go to St Albans to be recycled not like some Councils. The Community Libraries which are 21 now out of 43 are all doing very well. A further 5 more will become Community Libraries soon.

Councillor Tunna reported that the WW1 Centenary Celebrations went well and thanked Councillor Arnold for lighting the beacon but that 2 fire engines did turn up as they had reports that the Petrol Station was on fire.

The Chairman also reported that he had an extremely busy day on Remembrance Sunday visiting services all day. Councillor Harvey laid the wreath at Wetley Rocks.

5308 ACCOUNTS

5309 **CORRESPONDENCE**

- a. Streetscape Products and Services.
- b. Kompan playground funding. 25% Match Funding offer.
- c. EON – Annual Street Lighting Maintenance Reports 2018/19. Account for payment enclosed.
- d. Lengthsman Scheme. Email from Jonathan Ash about his dad who currently volunteers enquiring if there was any paid work.
- e. Rt. Hon Karen Bradley – Queen’s Commonwealth Canopy. Letter thanking the Parish Council for taking part in the planting.
- f. Disused vehicles on Ostlers Lane, Cheddleton. Email complaining of rotting vehicles becoming an eyesore. Councillor Bowen reported that SMDC Enforcement are dealing with this issue.
- g. Rt. Hon Karen Bradley – Staffordshire Moorlands Senior Tea Dance – Friday, 7th. December 2018 from 3pm until 5pm at Moorlands House. Hosting a dance for the elderly which is free but needs to be pre-booked. The Clerk will advertise the event.
- h. Fields in Trust Centenary Fields Legacy. WW1 Commemorations.
- i. Amey Report 4141194 – Refill Grit Bin – Craft Centre.
- j. Amey Report 4141196 – Refill Grit Bin – Park Lane, Cheddleton. Councillor Mrs. Hine reported that the concrete Grit holder at the bottom of Grange Road had been smashed and needed to be removed. It was agreed the Clerk report it to David Greatbatch at County.
- k. Anne James – Rent for field owned by Cheddleton P.C. Requested use and fence off the bottom half of St. Edward’s Lawn cemetery but it was proposed by Councillor Scalise to leave it as it is currently. This was seconded by Councillor Jennings.
- l. Moorlands Radio What’s on. Thanks for the information about events taking place in the Parish.
- m. SLCC News from the Budget. Updates like Exemption of Rates on Public Toilets from 2020/21. Any training events etc.
- n. Nest confirmation of Direct Debit for the Clerk’s pension contributions.
- o. CPRE – Campaigns Update.
- p. Notice Boards and White Boards – Sale items.
- q. SCC – Changes to Older and Disabled Bus Passes. Your Staffordshire Card ending 31st. August 2019. Future Agenda Item for discussion.

5309 CORRESPONDENCE cont'd.....

- r. SCC – Helen Fisher Community Funded School Crossing Patrols. Councillor Bowen reported that SMDC has a working group trying to solve the issue of funding so it was agreed to make this a future agenda item for discussion.
- s. Earth Anchors – The Wheelistat. Low Cost security device for wheeled bins.
- t. Broxap – Sunshine Gym Outdoor Fitness Equipment. To be kept by The Clerk for future reference.
- u. Staffordshire Wildlife Trust – Confirmation of Renewal of Membership for the next year.
- v. ICO – Direct Debit Confirmation of set up for annual registration of Data Protection Fee.

5310 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Agenda item 20 being the Road drainage – Cheadle Road, Wetley Rocks supplied a concise report of the issue which the Clerk will forward to Councillor Helen Fisher as agreed. Another resident raised the issue of a letter of complaint received about disused vehicles on Ostlers Lane, Cheddleton stated that because it's a private road no-one seems to have any powers to do anything. Again, Councillor Bowen reported that SMDC Enforcement are looking into it.

5311 CONFIDENTIAL ITEM – GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

It was resolved for The Clerk to investigate further.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed.

Chairman
18th. December 2018.