

Cheddleton Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE WETLEY ROCKS VILLAGE HALL, WETLEY ROCKS ON TUESDAY, 19th. NOVEMBER 2019.

ATTENDANCE Chairman – Councillor M.T. Bowen.

Vice-Chairman – Councillor H.R. Jennings.

Councillor – M. Ahmad, Ms. C. Y. Ball, N. Belson, I. Dakin, Mrs. D. A. Hartley, K. Harvey, Mrs. C. A. Lovatt, Miss. O. Lucas, G. W. Salt, Mrs. L. M. Salt, S. Scalise, H. J. Tunna.

Also, in attendance Mel Dyer from RSPB.

APOLOGIES Apologies for absence were received from: -

Councillor - J. Carr, R. J. Hartley, M.P. Worthington.

5578 **MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting of the 15th. October 2019, taken as read and were confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

5579 **MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM**

Re. Min. 5564. – Climate Emergency Councillor Dakin stated that under the Standing Orders of the Council the resolution should have been discussed. Councillor Scalise stated that SMDC has a sub-committee which has met and are coming up with an action plan so he will report back to the Parish with what the plans are.

Re. Min. 5573. – Canal Bridge on Basford Bridge Lane Further reports of large vehicles only just negotiating the bridge and also a tractor having to be towed backwards as it got stuck. It was suggested that the Canal & Rivers Trust be contacted again and try to get them to contact SCC as they are responsible for the bridge.

5580 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman asked the members of the Planning committee to stay behind at the end of the meeting to consider three planning applications. Councillor Dakin has an organized Litter Pick on Saturday 23rd. November.

5581 **MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Mrs. Salt is a volunteer for Moorlands Home Link Councillor Mrs. Hartley is a member of the RSPB.

5582 **MEMBERS' SEC. 33 DISPENSATION REQUESTS**

None had been received.

5583 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no members of the public present.

5584 **VISIT MEL DYER - RSPB SITE MANAGER AT COOMBS AND CHURNET VALLEY**

Councillor Bowen welcomed Mel to the Meeting. Mel introduced herself and gave some background to the new acquisition the RSPB have made this year to manage Consall Nature Park on a 100-year lease from SCC. This will extend the expanse of Consall Woods which they are already responsible for in the Churnet Valley and also Coombs Valley that they manage locally.

5584 VISIT MEL DYER - RSPB SITE MANAGER AT COOMBS AND CHURNET VALLEY Cont'd...

She went on to explain that she had brought several leaflets with information for the Councillors to look at and take away which gives information about what they are going to be doing as well as some frequently asked questions and answers. The main aim is to preserve and maintain the woodland wildlife as this area is a semi-natural ancient woodland with some very interesting birds and wildlife inhabitants. Mel went on to answer several questions with regards to improvements, toilets and fishing pools and explained that she had now been promoted to area manager and the RSPB are recruiting a new Site Manager but that there is a warden and the Clerk had all the contact details should the Council have any further questions. Mel then left the meeting and thanked Councillors for allowing her to come along.

5585 INTERNAL AUDIT VISIT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Clerk reported that the Internal Auditor Alan Toplis had visited on Wednesday 9th. October and had come back with 4 points for noting.

1. Under the new Audit & Accounts Regulations that 5-year history of AGAR be displayed on the Council's website.
2. For any works to burial grounds other than routine maintenance you must get a Faculty from the Chancellor of the Diocese before works are completed. Advised that an application needs to be made for a retrospective one for the division fence that has been installed.
3. It is important that you re-organize your chart of accounts to properly identify income and expenditure against the main cost centers.
4. We agreed that as income is down from the Craft Centre and Community Centre there is no requirement for being VAT registered. We will monitor again at the year-end audit.

The Clerk stated that all 4 recommendations were being dealt with but that the faculty for the burial ground would need to be applied for and that any further works planned be discussed and applied for at the same time to avoid additional costs as each application costs £247.20 to the solicitor and a further £49 to the Diocese.

5586 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE/ ADDITIONAL WORKS – FULL UPDATE OF AREAS AND ANY ISSUES

Councillor Bowen reported that the hedge at Cheddleton Lawn Cemetery needed to be cut and the Clerk reported that this had been noted already with Jim. Councillor Mrs. Salt asked when the first collection of trade waste would be from St. Edwards Lawn Cemetery as the bin is getting full. The Clerk would check and report back. The Clerk reported that the top section of the playing field hasn't been cut where it backs onto Rennie Crescent so she would speak to Jim about this.

5587 MAINTENANCE OF BUS SHELTERS IN THE PARISH

The Clerk reported that following a complaint made to SCC the 4 Bus Shelters owned by the Council required cleaning and that Jim has the equipment to do this and would perform this under the lengthsman role so bill the Council per hour for getting this done. The Clerk also reported that she had received a letter from a resident with regards to the Bus Shelter by The Avenue so would investigate the complaint and report back if anything was required. It was suggested that maybe Rob & Ken could take a look.

5588 MAINTENANCE/ CLEAN UP OF THE GULLY, CHEDDLETON

The Clerk reported that as part of democracy week St Edward's CE Academy had asked if they could clean up the gully of leaves and put up poster's and poo bags. Councillor Mrs. Lovatt reported that she had visited the school and had been given posters which were shown to the Council and were mainly about the proposed building of houses as they were strongly against going ahead. The Clerk also reported that she had received a request from Janette Barr about the hedge and wall on the west side of the gully being overgrown in comparison to the other side. Councillor Bowen suggested that he look into this and clarify who is responsible and what can be done and report back.

5589 RBS SOFTWARE FEES AND CHARGES FROM 1st APRIL 2020

The Clerk reported that the Alpha software package cost would be £124 which was £121 this year. She had made enquiries about year end training and would report back.

5590 WEBSITE COMPLIANCE – STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL PACKAGES AVAILABLE

The Clerk had contacted SCC as they are providing a compliant website template for Parish & Town Councils under various packages. It was agreed that further quotes to be gathered from local web designers which Councillor Dakin would contact Paul Jones with the website compliance legislation for a quote.

5591 UPDATE ON INSURANCE FOR DEFIBRILLATOR

The Clerk confirmed that she had contacted BHIB and that the defibrillator is covered under the insurance so no issues with that. Support Staffordshire also run free training courses to instruct people how to use them.

5592 QUOTE FOR WORKS REQUIRED TO FLOORING IN THE TEAROOM, CRAFT CENTRE

The Clerk reported that she had received a survey from Rentokil with regards to the flooring and that it required treatment for woodboring insects and that some floorboards and a joist need to be replaced. They had quoted for just the treatment £1090 + V.A.T. and £1670.00 + V.A.T. to do the treatment and replace the affected floorboards and joist. Both will carry a 30-year guarantee. Councillor Scalise had approached a joiner to cost the replacement floorboards who stated that the price was very competitive and so seemed silly to let Rentokil perform the treatment and then get a tradesman to replace the flooring. Councillor Bowen stated that the fact that the works were guaranteed for 30 years and that the price is very competitive he proposed that it is important to get this resolved quickly to go ahead with Rentokil to treat and replace the flooring. This was seconded by Councillor Jennings and stated that this be completed as soon as possible. It was agreed by all members for the Clerk to arrange the works as soon as possible.

5593 CHAIRMAN'S CHRISTMAS CARD COLLECTION

The Chairman explained that he had chosen the Friendship Group to receive his collection from the Council instead of sending Christmas Cards. So, monies would be collected at the next meeting.

5594 COUNCIL DINNER

The Chairman explained that usually the Council has a dinner in January so asked that Councillors please inform the Clerk if they would wish to attend and whether the invitation extend to partners and a provisional date of the 18th January 2020 and looking at holding it within the village.

5595 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 Committee Meeting

b. Cheddleton Playing Field Committee Meeting

Re: Min. 828. Use of the Football Pitch Councillor Scalise was extremely disappointed that neither of the people who had asked about using the pitch turned up to the meeting.

Re: Min. 830. Installation of the Zip Wire Platform Councillor Bowen reported that some adults had been seen already trying to use the zip wire using a piece of rope as the seat had not yet been put back up. Councillor Scalise reported that he had welded the seat and it was ready for installing when required. The Clerk agreed to liaise with Rob and discuss with Les Jackson to do an article in the Leek Post.

c. Planning & Amenities Committee Meeting

Re: Min. 2660. Public Question Time Councillor Bowen reported that the inspector has agreed to look again at the Local Green Spaces in Cheddleton which he had recommended being removed from the emerging Local Plan.

Re: Min. 2683. Handyman Vacancy Applications Received Councillor Bowen reported that interviews had been arranged for Thursday of the 3 applicants.

Re: Min. 2685. Telephone Book Exchange Councillor Mrs. Hartley reported that Councillor Mr. Hartley had completed the shelving inside and that it was ready for books. The Clerk reported that it was an excellent job.

d. Reports of Outside Bodies

SMDC Committees Councillor Bowen had already updated on the important issue of the Local Plan.

Dementia Friends Information Sessions Councillor Bowen reported that he and some other Councillors had attended and he himself had become a dementia friend. He also handed out information to Councillors.

5596 ACCOUNTS

5597 CORRESPONDENCE

- a. HM Revenue & Customs information on the PAYE account. The Clerk explained that a letter had been received stating that there was a credit of £684.34 on the Council's PAYE account. When investigated this was not correct and HM Revenues confirmed the correct contributions have been made.
- b. Council Motion Request Re: National Community Energy Campaign. The Clerk explained that this was to do with the Local Electricity Bill and was agreed to be forwarded to SMDC Climate Emergency Committee.
- c. Rt. Hon. Karen Bradley MP Loneliness and Isolation Directory. This was distributed for Councillors to view.
- d. Early Stages Ltd – Entrance Road to St. Edward's Lawn Cemetery. Agreed that it be added as a future agenda item for discussion.
- e. The Future of Digitising Public Services Conference 9th. December 2019.
- f. Churnet Valley Railway Shareholder request to send or supply documents and information electronically. The Clerk had tried to submit details but would contact them to give her details for future correspondence instead of Jackie's.
- g. Fields In Trust Email Update.
- h. Waterplus Water Supply to St. Edwards Burial Ground, Cheddleton. The Clerk had received a letter stating that there is a problem with the meter. A reply had been sent stating that no access required as it is an open space and resulted in an email stating they will look into the matter and get the meter read as all bills have been estimated.
- i. Information enquiry for Asylum Burial Ground, Cheddleton. The Clerk reported that she had received an enquiry from Brian Gray who was researching a relative buried in the Burial Ground. The Clerk had confirmed that this was the case but that no markers are on any graves so unable to identify where they are buried.
- j. Amey Report 4164440 – Road Sign damage sign for Longsdon on the junction where Mill Lane meets Rownall Road. Enquiry Closed.
- k. Works by Severn Trent on Pipe Bridge Replacement Bridge Eye, Cheddleton. The Clerk reported that works have started and that she had supplied a key to give Severn Trent access to Bridge Eye as requested via Cautionary Lands Charity.
- l. An Afternoon at Uttoxeter Races – Sunday 24th November 2019. Invitation from Councillor Keith Flunder as Chairman of SMDC Council to all Councillors. He also, wanted to invite a Christmas get together at the next Parish Assembly Meeting on November 28th commencing at 7pm.
- m. The Wildlife Trust What's On. Also, confirmation of Renewal of Membership by the Council.

5597 CORRESPONDENCE Cont'd...

- n. Amey Report 4170478 – Road Damage centre of Leek Road, Wetley Rocks opposite to Plough Bank entrance. Works Complete. Councillor Tunna reported that it was an excellent job.
- o. Amey Report 4176543 – Blocked Drains at the end of Harrison Way in the cul-de-sac near Tractive Power Ltd. Caused premises to be flooded. Councillor Bowen reported that he had received an email from Brendan Ratcliffe seeking help with this issue and that The Clerk had pointed them in the right direction and they had received a response from Councillor Helen Fisher within an hour.
- p. Moorlands Home Link letter of Thanks for the £100 donation.
- q. Amey Report 4141196 – Grit Bin Refill Park Lane, Cheddleton. Works Complete. The Clerk reported that this was raised November 2018 and that she would check the grit bin.
- r. EON Highway Sales Account Statement for Energy/Maintenance of Highway Lighting.
- s. ACRA – The Avenue – Anti-social behavior. The Clerk had received an email from Dawn Brown advising of some criminal damage to a car so had advised reporting to the Police so supplied information of contact details of PCSOs and Sgt. Andy Bland. Councillor Bowen also asked that The Clerk forward the information received to the Police.
- t. Request a copy of the revised Register of Electors. The Clerk had requested an electronic copy of the up to date list published 1st. December 2019 by SMDC.
- u. SMDC response to Deep Hayes Country Park. The Clerk read out the response which confirmed that SMDC have no responsibility for Deep Haye so any issues would need to be raised with SCC as the current managing authority.
- v. Overhanging trees Hillside Road, Cheddleton. The Clerk reported that she had contacted the owner, David Gibson and had received a reply that he would look into the matter as he currently lives in France but he would get the matter resolved.

5598 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present.

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

Chairman
17th. December 2019.