

Cheddleton Parish Council

**MINUTES OF THE CHEDDLETON PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE CRAFT CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 22nd. JANUARY 2019.**

ATTENDANCE Chairman – Councillor S. Scalise.
Vice-Chairman – Councillor Mrs. B. Hine
Councillor – M.T. Bowen, H.R. Jennings, M.P. Worthington
Member – Mr. R. Beresford, Mr. I. Dakin, Mr. K. Wheawall.
Also, present were approx. 8 residents.

APOLOGIES Apologies for absence were received from: - Councillor - Ms. C. Ball.

799 **MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting of the 30th. October 2018, taken as read, were confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

800 **MATTERS ARISING**
Re. Min. 789. Trees/ Paths Playing Field The Clerk reported that the works adjacent to Beech Avenue were completed by Tree Heritage 11th. January and that the Council had received Thanks from one of the residents for a job well done.

801 **CORRESPONDENCE** There were no correspondence read.

802 **WARDENS TO PATROL THE PLAYING FIELD**
The Chairman thanked Sergeant Andy Bland for attending the meeting and asked what he advised was the best approach to tackle the problems. He responded by stating that on record that there was only 5 reports of Anti-Social Behavior for the area and one of those being the recent one in the woods at St. Edwards Park which really should not of been reported as this but he could not go into details. Therefore, in his opinion it was not necessary to have patrols based on the low amount of incidents. Ian Dakin reported that he had contacted the Police numerous times where he had reported things that he had found on the Playing Field such as drug taking equipment, cannabis and a packet which was thought to be monkey dust which the Police would not test.

Councillor Bowen stated that it is mainly the summer months when it becomes a problem with the fires and kids hanging around causing problems so the main time to start would be March/April so what we are looking for is some guidance from the Police or possible training about the do's and don'ts. Sgt. Bland stated that there would be no training provided by the Police and the difficult thing is getting the right sort of people involved as unfortunately situations can quickly escalate. He definitely could see it causing more harm than good as he explained that in his own experience as a Police Officer he is all too aware of the kind of verbal abuse he has experienced that he doesn't want it turning into a group of vigilantes on patrol. Perhaps just a presence around the village would be better under the guise of litter picking or helping the elderly in the community rather than just concentrating on the Playing Field. Other villages do this as it is often the vulnerable who have issues and can share there experiences which would not otherwise come to light. Consultation with the Police could be coordinated that they are informed when you are going out and setting up so that they can be aware. The other thing is that the Police do an operation of trying to nip it in the bud by a one off patrol and get the culprits which then cures the problem especially drugs. The Chairman asked if it would be possible to have a point of contact that we can telephone when a situation

802 WARDENS TO PATROL THE PLAYING FIELD cont'd.....

has arisen to try to deal with it more swiftly as in his experience when phoning the Police they won't/can't turn up because nobody available at the time. Sgt. Bland would have a think about who would be the best person as a contact and get back to the Council.

Councillor Jennings brought up the issues around the arson attacks and if we have a summer like last year this is going to be a problem again this year. The Chairman stated that we just can't keep replacing equipment without solving the issues first. Over time there will be nothing left as the bowling green pavilion has gone so has the Tennis Court one and the Football changing rooms. Sgt. Bland stated that resources are stretched and that the incident when the zip wire was set fire to was in the early hours of the morning which is when they have lowest amount on duty. It is extremely difficult to get the right balance and what seems to be an extreme incident to one person it isn't compared to other incidents and its about prioritizing and getting the best use of resources. As long as incidents are reported even if the Police do not attend, a report will be reviewed the next day.

Councillor Bowen was pleased that the Rugby Club are going to be using the pitch and if this becomes more frequent then it may help with the issues if there is more positive activity on the Playing Field. It may even change the attitude of dog walkers allowing the dogs to foul and not pick it up. He also, stated that if they want to have matches then there may be a possibility of getting flood lighting which he is happy to pursue with the help of District Council. Sgt Bland suggested that organized activities works in outlying areas and as far as the dog fouling he stated that there has been a new role advertised by SMDC to try to combat this issue.

The Chairman stated that it was a start if they could at least look at getting numbers of residents willing to get involved in helping and setting up some kind of Rota even if it was just for Friday & Saturday evenings to begin with for a couple of people to walk around and keep an eye out for any activity to then report incidents but also keep a record/log and if nothing to report to change the strategy by changing the day/night to walk around. The Clerk suggested to contact all residents who had expressed an interest to get an idea of the numbers of volunteers to then arrange a meeting to organize to start up in the spring and come up with a Rota and liaise with the Police.

803 WORKS REQUIRED AS A RESULT OF INSPECTION 25th. NOVEMBER 2018

The Chairman reported that there were minor works required as a result of checking the inspection report which has been shared with all members. He suggested that the issues raised be tackled once the weather improves so these would be picked up in the spring and any repairs required scheduled.

804 UPDATE ON PLATFORM FOR ZIP WIRE

The Clerk reported that she was still awaiting the costing of the proposed new design by Batemans. This will be reported as soon as available.

805 GENERAL CONDITION OF THE FIELD

Generally the grounds are looking good. One of the residents brought up a large patch on the football pitch which was very slippery where moss was growing. Ian Dakin suggested that it needed spiking and possibly weed and feed to encourage the grass to grow back.

806 ANY WORKS REQUIRED

Nothing at the present time.

807 **OUTSIDE MEMBERS' – ANY MATTERS TO RAISE**

No matters were raised.

808 **GRANGE POND**

The Clerk reported that works had be carried out by Robert Gibson. Councillor Mrs. Hine reported that it did look much better.

809 **BRIDGE EYE PLAYING FIELD – GENERAL CONDITION OF THE FIELD AND WELL**

Rob reported that he checks the field every week and that someone had stuffed a polystyrene take-away box in the water flow of the well. The Clerk reported that she had written to the companies along station road including Batemans about the litter. Ian Dakin said it was a shame that this area isn't used more. Councillor Mrs. Hine stated that it was used as a play area before the traffic on the roads became so busy and that's part of the problem both the Main Road and Station Road has a lot of traffic so to access the area children have to cross these busy roads.

810 **FORWARD AGENDA ITEMS**

Names of volunteers ready for the Spring.

Chairman