

**Cheddleton Parish Council**

**MINUTES OF THE FOOTPATHS & COUNTRYSIDE COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD IN THE CRAFT CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 13<sup>th</sup>. NOVEMBER 2018**

**ATTENDANCE** Chairman – Councillor Mrs. C.M. Meyrick  
Vice-Chairman – Councillor S. Scalise,  
Councillor – M.T. Bowen, H.R. Jennings  
Member – Mr. R. Hill. Councillor K. Harvey was also in attendance.

**APOLOGIES** Apologies for absence were received from: -  
Councillor – Ms. C.Y. Ball, M.P. Worthington.

**1880** **MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting of the 11<sup>th</sup>. September 2018, taken as read, were confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

**1881** **MATTERS ARISING**

**Re. Min. 1867. Any Update – Sec. 106 Agreement – 25 Year Funding for The Management of The Open Space, Grange Banks** Councillor Scalise reported that the Staffordshire Farmers Development may secure a section 106 agreement which he will report on in the future.

**Re. Min. 1870. Footpath 38 Fencing Repair/Replace, Kissing Gate and General Tidy** Councillor Mrs. Meyrick asked about the kissing gate and the Clerk reported that this had been installed by Councillor Harvey and the volunteers. A photograph was shown to the members.

**1882** **CORRESPONDENCE**

a. CPRE – Response to S106 Agreement Letter. Agree with your concerns regarding developers and their attempts to renegotiate S106 Agreements. Earlier this year they ran a campaign on these issues. The government has improved the situation by means of the revised NPPF, by closing the viability loophole that developers could use viability assessments to argue that building affordable homes could reduce their profits below competitive levels, which they define as around 20%. Therefore, the practice with S106 Agreements should improve compared to recent years, and in general Councils should be more resilient with their S106 Agreements. Mr. R. Hill asked if developers had to provide sound evidence to prove viability and Councillor Bowen said that they have to produce a report to be examined.

**1883** **BUTTERCROSS**

The Clerk reported that she had contacted Nick Carter from Historic England and he has started to pull together details of similar projects to get an idea of costs. He also stated that he will discuss the project with the Heritage at Risk Team at the monthly Grants Meeting hopefully in December or January and he will report back with more details. The Clerk also reported that she had spoken to Andrew Molloy who administers the Facebook Sites Cheddleton Chat, Village and Memories and that he is going to be hosting a show for Laser Radio starting in January reviewing matters raised on the sites, local stories, characters, Council matters and combine interview and music. He had asked if there was anything in particular that could be used on his show which he could focus on that the Council is looking at and could take part and The Clerk suggested the Buttercross to see if any more history could be discovered. Councillor Mrs. Meyrick also reported that she had found some more

information herself in the library. The Clerk agreed to collect the information from the books and start to record the history.

**1884 FOOTPATH 23 – STATION ROAD, CHEDDLETON**

The Clerk had received contact from Dominic Ward who was wanting to meet at the start of the Footpath on Station Road so a Meeting had been arranged for 9am on Friday, 16<sup>th</sup>. November 2018. Anyone free is asked to attend to discuss the access issues to this footpath. Councillor Jennings reported that the Nursing Home had gone into receivership and Mr. Hill stated that SCC had previously found out the owner but that he lived in France so were unable to progress the matter further. Councillor Mrs. Meyrick stated that the Environmental Health were monitoring effluent entering the River Churnet.

**1885 10 YEAR PLAN**

Councillor Mrs. Meyrick reported that it was year 5 of the plan that Joe Smith had originally set out and that the Council was really missing his input. It was agreed that a site visit was required to look at the plan and ascertain what work was required. It was agreed a weekend visit would be best so it was agreed to meet at 10am on Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup>. November 2018 at the Boat Inn end of the Grange Banks provided the weather was fit. Council Bowen reported that he still hoped that Staffordshire Wildlife would get involved in looking after the Open Space but that Stoke City Council is still not progressing this as quickly as had been hoped.

**1886 OPEN SPACE TREES – STEVE MASSEY REPORT**

The Clerk read out his recommendation on the thinning of trees by as much as 50% to allow the better trees to not be so overcrowded. Although this seems a drastic measure in the long run it will allow the trees more light and space that are left to flourish. This should be done selectively to remove those which are anyway weaker or suppressed, in poor condition or of poor form. Also thinning the trees could also take account of any problem areas adjacent to garden boundaries. This is an autumn/winter job to avoid nesting birds and would require consent if the woodland became subject to a TPO. Councillor Meyrick was very concerned at the cost of performing such a project and who would be able to do such a job. Councillor Harvey suggested that what really needs to be done is to quantify the number of trees that need to be removed and could Steve Massey possibly mark those that need to be removed to establish the amount of work that was needed as he is the specialist and knows which trees require removal. Therefore, it was proposed to contact him to see if this was possible. Mr. R. Hill asked if the dead trees at the side of station road had been looked at by Steve and The Clerk reported that he had and that they are subject to a TPO No. SM.85 and that he had advised the owner that they should be removed and replaced. He also, could refer the matter to Staffordshire County Council to take more formal action under highways legislation. The Clerk will contact him for an update on this matter at the same time.

**1887 UNDETERMINED APPLICATIONS FOR RIGHTS OF WAY**

The Clerk reported that an email had been received from David Rice advising the Council that they had 4 outstanding applications LG647G from 22<sup>nd</sup>. June 1990, LE614G from 24<sup>th</sup>. October 1995, LE617G from 14<sup>th</sup>. November 1995 and LG659G from 3<sup>rd</sup>. March 1998 which had not yet been determined by Staffordshire County Council. He also, stated that these applications should be on the statutory register and be viewed but that currently the SCC are in breach as the data is corrupt and not online as it should be. He had provided details for the Parish Council to look at. He had told the Clerk that SCC have 242 outstanding applications at present and are currently dealing with on average one a year. He wondered if the Council were aware of this and that the SCC has a statutory obligation to deal with these applications and quicker. He advised that the best course of action is to contact the Secretary of State who has

the powers to serve a direction and set a compliance date for determination. So far, they have been served with 62 out of those currently outstanding. After discussion it was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Meyrick to write to the Secretary of State about these 4 applications. This was seconded by Councillor Jennings and agreed to get the Clerk to write the letter.

**1888 PULLING OF THE HIMALAYAN BALSAM**

The Clerk reported that she had along with Councillor Harvey come up with a sign to display on the footpaths affected explaining about the plant and how to eradicate it with the help of everyone. Councillor Harvey will make sure they are situated appropriately next year in time to request ramblers to assist.

**1889 SURVEY OF PATHS IN THE PARISH**

The Clerk supplied an up to date report of all paths that have been inspected by the volunteers. Councillor Harvey now has 6 volunteers who are doing a brilliant job in reporting any issues allowing them to focus on keeping the paths clear and tidy for the use of everyone. 3 are currently doing the surveys and 3 doing repairs required as a result of the surveys. It was suggested that the Volunteers be treated to a Christmas meal for all the hard work they have done this year. Councillor Meyrick proposed that this maybe something the Chairman of the Council would consider to pay for out of his expenses. Also, during the inspections the volunteers have expenses to travel to the paths to inspect them and so the Clerk to pay this out of expenses.

**1890 ANY NOTED FOOTPATH OBSTRUCTIONS**

Councillor Harvey reported that all stiles have been repaired around the Sub-Station at Cellarhead and that the Owners are currently working on an ecology survey around it to make sure any issues with badgers etc are dealt with. Councillor Jennings mentioned the Hardstanding on Station Road which Western Power were suppose to remove is still there. Councillor Bowen stated he would chase this up again with enforcement and report back.

**1891 JAPANESE KNOTWEED – BASFORD/APESFORD**

SCC have a rolling plan to keep it under control but everyone is to keep an eye on it.

**1892 WAYMARKING**

Nothing to report.

**1893 COUNTRYSIDE**

Members' agreed that it was looking lovely.

**1894 FORWARD AGENDA ITEMS**

Autumn Crocus on the edge of Cheddleton Playing Field – Strip of grass not to be cut so they get to flower. Mr. R. Hill to provide a map of the area suggested.

**1895 CONFIDENTIAL ITEM – FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS**

After considering the figures produced the committee made their recommendations.

Chairman  
12<sup>th</sup>. March 2019.