

## Cheddleton Parish Council

### MINUTES OF THE FOOTPATHS & COUNTRYSIDE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE CRAFT CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 12<sup>th</sup>. MARCH 2019

**ATTENDANCE** Chairman – Councillor Mrs. C.M. Meyrick.

Councillor – Ms. C.Y. Ball, 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 – Councillor S. Scalise, M.P. Worthington.

Member – Mr. P.H. Green.

**1896** **MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting of the 13<sup>th</sup>. November 2018, taken as read, were confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

**1897** **MATTERS ARISING**

**Re. Min. 1885. 10 Year Plan** Mr. Hill asked what had Stoke City Council got to do with the transfer to Staffordshire Wildlife? Councillor Bowen explained that both Stoke & Staffordshire Moorlands were negotiating areas of Open Space with Staffordshire Wildlife and that it was Stoke that were not helping to move things forward. He was continuing to make enquiries as to why they were not getting on with it as the sooner it is negotiated the better.

**Re. Min. 1890. Any Noted Footpath Obstructions** Councillor Jennings asked if anything had moved on with the hardstanding at Station Road? Councillor Bowen had spoken with Dai Lerner at SMDC to investigate further before the Parish Council puts in an official complaint.

**1898** **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence.

**1899** **BUTTERCROSS**

The Clerk reported that she had sent emails to Nick Carter from Historic England asking for an update to which she had received no response but that she had spoken to him over the telephone today. He had told her that they are currently going through a merger with East Midlands but that he had spoken at meetings about the public value of the project of restoring the Buttercross and that he had received positive feedback that there will be funding available in the next financial year. Although the percentage of funding from Historic England would depend on the cost. He was happy to put together a schedule of works required and give details of recommended contractors to do such renovations for them to provide quotes for the works required. This would then move the grant application on and if the Council are prepared to fund the rest or look at raising the funds this would happen in the new financial year or at the latest the year after. Councillor Harvey stated that the volunteers would look at removing some of the vegetation from around the Buttercross as soon as weather permits which Nick had suggested when he visited it.

**1900** **DEAD TREES ALONG STATION ROAD, CHEDDLETON**

The Clerk reported that she had spoken to Steve Massey about the trees which he had met with Mr. Hawes (the owner of the pigs) in late November and provided him with details of qualified tree surgeons who could deal with removing them. Steve reported that he had spoken to Charles Piggott who had informed him that Mr. Hawes had requested he carry out the felling of the dead trees which he is looking to complete end of March/ beginning of April. Councillor Harvey raised the issue of how can Mr. Hawes be doing this when he may not be the official

tenant of the land. This piece of land is owned by a lady in France. The clerk reported that she had written to the owner without any response but the main concern is the dangerous risk that these trees could fall at any time. She had followed it up with Steve Massey as he said he would report it to Staffordshire Highways if the trees were not dealt with in a reasonable time frame. As it stands at the moment it looks like they will be felled soon and Charles Piggott had no reason to say he had the contract to fell them if he hadn't. So, he would leave reporting to Staffordshire Highways for now.

**1901 10 YEAR PLAN/ INSPECTION CARRIES OUT 25<sup>th</sup>. NOVEMBER 2018**

The Clerk reported that Steve Massey was prepared to meet with regards to the thinning of the trees but couldn't mark up individual trees that would be too time consuming. He will also look at the large sycamore and oak that are along side 10, Cheddleton Park Avenue. After some discussion it was decided that we arrange a meeting in May with Steve to start the process and look at getting the Scouts involved in the removal of the trees a section at a time. The Clerk would organise a date and time.

**1902 UNDETERMINED APPLICATIONS FOR RIGHTS OF WAY**

The Clerk reported that she had received correspondence from Caroline Baylis, Rights of Way Team, The Planning Inspectorate in Bristol that she had received a response from SCC as to why they haven't considered the applications. This is for our information only but an inspector will now be scheduled to determine the request for a Direction on the four applications.

**1903 AUTUMN CROCUS ON CHEDDLETON PLAYING FIELD**

The Clerk reported that as part of the grounds maintenance tender she has included the areas to be left from mowing in late September to allow the crocus to flower. Jim & Rob Gibson have also been asked to make sure that these areas are left in the meeting with them. It had also been discussed about daffodils.

**1904 CONDITION OF DEEP HAYES COUNTRY PARK**

The Clerk had written to Sarah Bentley at SCC as requested and she had forwarded this onto Stephen Williams the Head Ranger who had responded stating that he needed specific issues rather than just the site is in a poor state. He also stated that they are doing their best to function with little resources but if we could provide more detail, he will do his best to resolve them. After some discussion it was agreed that Councillor Harvey would report back the main issues so that the Clerk can respond accordingly.

**1905 PULLING OF THE HIMALAYAN BALSAM**

Councillor Harvey stated that he would put up the notices soon to encourage people using the footpaths affected to pull the Himalayan Balsam as it will be the right time to start the process.

**1906 SURVEY/ INSPECTIONS OF PATHS IN THE PARISH**

Councillor Harvey had an up to date list of the inspections of which 80% of the pathways have now been completed. He reported that he was building good communications with some of the farmers and owners where the footpaths run through or alongside their properties and this is working well to also get them to help with such things as clearing fallen trees. He also reported that they have way marked to the extent that SCC had run out of markers. Councillor Mrs. Meyrick wanted to convey that Councillor Harvey and his team of volunteers were doing a fantastic job in looking after our footpaths and without their hard work and dedication most of the footpaths would be a mess and not used.

**1907 ANY NOTED FOOTPATH OBSTRUCTIONS**

None to report because of the excellent job of the volunteers.

**1908 JAPANESE KNOTWEED – BASFORD/APESFORD**

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

**1909 WAYMARKING**

Councillor Harvey reported that Footpath 18 will be marked up soon.

**1910 COUNTRYSIDE**

Councillor Bowen reported that with the Local Plan not complete until September/ October and the Visual Open Space category becoming Local Green Space (LGS) which Cheddleton PC has submitted an excellent case for the 4 areas to be included. Hopefully this will reduce the chances of any developments in areas of beauty including the open space managed by us. He did state that even if they do not become LGS as it stands at the moment there would be no compulsory purchase of such areas.

**1911 FORWARD AGENDA ITEMS**

No future agenda items.

Chairman