

Cheddleton Parish Council

**MINUTES OF THE FOOTPATHS & COUNTRYSIDE COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE CRAFT CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 10th. MARCH 2020**

ATTENDANCE Chairman - K. Harvey.

Councillor – M.T. Bowen, N. Belson, G.W. Salt, Mrs. L.M. Salt, S. Scalise.

APOLOGIES Apologies for absence were received from: -

Councillor – Ms. C.Y. Ball, H.R. Jennings.

Member – Mr. P.H. Green.

1957 **MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting of the 12th. November 2019, taken as read, were confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

1958 **MATTERS ARISING**

The Chairman suggested that he would write to Roger's wife passing on the committees' thanks for everything he had done over the years and this was agreed was the first meeting since he had passed away to also offer condolences.

1959 **CORRESPONDENCE**

a. Ingrid Freeman – Station Road land next to Footpath 23. The Clerk reported that she is still in contact with Mrs. Freeman and was trying to instigate an offer in purchasing the land but she was leaving it to her son Rhydian. The Clerk would keep the Committee informed.

1960 **UPDATE ON COMMUNITY PATHS INITIATIVE**

The Clerk explained that she had forwarded the draft leaflet to Peter and he as yet had not been able to process this further as the CVR are trying to obtain funding at the moment for its own projects. He will start to proceed with looking into costings for the production/design. It was suggested that maybe the Chair, Clerk and Peter work on getting this progressed.

1961 **UPDATE ON THE RESTORATION OF THE BUTTERCROSS**

Councillor Harvey reported that once the volunteers can no longer work on Footpath 38 thinning the trees, they will move onto clearing the vegetation from around the Buttercross with permission from the landowners. The Clerk reported that she had no further update from Historic England but would follow this up. Councillor Bowen suggested that the Moorlands Partnership Board may be able to help fund the project so he would make enquiries.

1962 **UPDATE ON STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL OUTSTANDING DIRECTIONS**

The Clerk reported that the Countryside and Rights of way Panel met on 6th. March where 3 applications were on the agenda for discussion but a further 6 directions had been served on SCC by the Secretary of State meaning that they have now 121 outstanding comprising 129 path application routes. There are a further 19 applications for direction currently with the Secretary of State. The Clerk reported that she had sent a letter to Caroline Baylis of the Planning Inspectorate with regards to the Council's outstanding directions to which she had received a response stating that once the direction has been determined by them they have no jurisdiction in the matter but advised that a complaint to Staffs County Council/Local Councillor or MP or contact the Local Ombudsman. The Clerk reported that other Council's had already approached the Ombudsmen and had achieved an amount of £250 compensation and forced the responsible authority to review its service to reduce the backlog.

1962 UPDATE ON STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL OUTSTANDING DIRECTIONS (Cont'd...)

After some discussion it was agreed to write to the Chief Exec at SCC and complain that our directions are now out of date for being dealt with and suggest that we will be contacting the Ombudsman. Councillor Bowen had received some information from Cath Hill about one of the applications the Council has so the Clerk would investigate further.

1963 UPDATE/SURVEY OF PATHS IN THE PARISH CONDUCTED BY VOLUNTEERS

Councillor Harvey reported that the volunteers have been working on Footpath 38 and thinning of the trees and will continue to do so until the end of March. Then will go back to inspecting all footpaths starting again in April. He reported that they had received help from Staffordshire Wildlife volunteers last week after the run of poor weather and what a great job they have done and are returning again tomorrow and hopefully another day before the end of March. They have been very helpful with advice and made good progress as they turned up with 10 volunteers. They have laid tracks for animals made suggestions that bird boxes be put up to encourage different birds. Councillor Mrs. Salt suggested she may be able to get some bird boxes. Councillor Harvey also wanted to look at spreading wild flower seeds and was going to seek the advice of Roger but unfortunately this will not happen. Councillor Bowen suggested that SMDC are looking to do a project and may be able to get hold of some seed via them through Councillor Joe Porter. Councillor Harvey went on to explain that the volunteers would continue the works again commencing in September to keep up the good works already started he also reported that walkers are already commenting on how much better and safer the footpath is. It was suggested that maybe a donation to Staffordshire Wildlife may be appropriate for their help. Future works to consider would be more gravel on the pathway. Councillor Belson reported that the Britains sign has been tidied up and the area around the seat and Councillor Mrs. Salt reported that more people are using the footpath because they are aware of it being there. It was suggested that an information document be placed in the notice board informing walkers of the works taking place.

1964 UPDATES ON ISSUES RAISED ON FOOTPATHS 1R/2284, 23,19 & DEEP HAYES COUNTRY PARK

The Clerk reported that nothing had been received about 1R/2284 or Footpath 23 since the last meeting. As far as Footpath 19 is concerned Paul Rochfort had stated that it is down to SMDC with regards to planning consent where footpaths already exist. Councillor Bowen had spoken to Arnie Swithenbank and will follow this up. Councillor Harvey stated that Deep Hayes is being neglected which is a crying shame. The Clerk stated that if details are reported to her she can at least notify the ranger. Councillor Belson suggested maybe the Environment Agency could be approached to get involved with regards to the water at Deep Hayes. The Clerk would investigate further.

1965 VOLUNTEER STAR AWARDS NOMINATIONS

Councillor Harvey reported that he had made a start on the application form and Councillor Mrs. Salt had also so it would definitely be ready for submission before the closing date of the 3rd. April 2020.

1966 ANY NOTED FOOTPATH OBSTRUCTIONS

Councillor Harvey stated that there are more than likely trees down as there have been some on Footpath 38 but the Clerk had none to report. Councillor Belson had noticed one at Deep Hayes which is on the red walk near to the old car park on Coalpitford Lane which the Clerk would report to the ranger.

1967 WAYMARKING

Councillor Harvey reported that as far as they can be all paths have been waymarked but that they have very few left. The Clerk would request some more markers before April from SCC.

1968 COUNTRYSIDE

Councillor Harvey raised the pulling of Himalayan Balsam as the season is fast approaching and Councillor Mrs. Salt suggested using Facebook to make residents aware of the importance and encouraging people to help. The Clerk reported that she could contact the Canal & River Trust to see if we can work together on this issue. Councillor Belson also suggested that maybe advertising works being carried out by wearing hi-vis vests with Cheddleton Parish Council printed on them. It was suggested that this would be a great way to promote what the Council is doing so it was put forward that the Clerk obtain quotes for the purchase of 12 hi-vis vests by Councillor Scalise and seconded by Councillor Mr. Salt.

1969 FORWARD AGENDA ITEMS

No future agenda items.

Chairman