

## Cheddleton Parish Council

### MINUTES OF THE FOOTPATHS & COUNTRYSIDE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE CRAFT CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 11<sup>th</sup>. SEPTEMBER 2018

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

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

**1864** **MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting of the 22<sup>nd</sup>. May 2018, taken as read, were confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

**1865** **MATTERS ARISING**

**Re. Min. 1855. Purchase of Drill for use on the public rights of way in the Parish** The Clerk reported that the drill has had to be returned to Screwfix because one of the batteries was faulty but that they had replaced it with a completely new drill.

**Re. Min. 1856. Flail Mowing – Open Space, Grange Banks** Councillor Mrs. Meyrick reported that this has been a good job well done and has helped with the Himalayan Balsam which is now only down against the trees and the canal. She mentioned that the wild flowers are coming back.

**1866** **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence.

**1867** **ANY UPDATE – SEC. 106 AGREEMENT – 25 YEAR FUNDING FOR THE  
MANAGEMENT OF THE OPEN SPACE, GRANGE BANKS**

Councillor Bowen reported that it was looking highly unlikely that any of the Section 106 funding would be received because the development is not viable so at the moment it will not be going ahead. It seems to be happening country wide that developers are backing out unless the Section 106 is removed. There seems to be a need for national legislation going forward. Councillor Scalise stated that nothing has been reported as to whether its because the Section 106 was too much or even if there was a possibility of reducing the expectation of the developer. Councillor Mrs. Meyrick raised that there was a very interesting article by the CPRE who are insisting that the Government be held to account over Section 106 Agreements. It was agreed to write to CPRE, Karen Bradley and the LGA to express the Parish Councils concerns on the issue so the Clerk would send a letter. Councillor Bowen asked that this be removed from the future agenda but that he would most certainly keep the Council informed of any developments.

**1868** **PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY – CATEGORISING OF THE FOOTPATHS IN  
CHEDDLETON PARISH**

The Clerk had left this on the agenda but felt that it was too late to report back any Footpaths that they may feel were in the wrong category now. All agreed to leave it as it had been set out.

- 1869 VOLUNTEERS TO CARRY OUT WORK ON THE PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY IN THE PARISH** It was reported that we now have recruited two volunteers Mr & Mrs Salt along with the 3 who are continuing to do a great job. Councillor Harvey reported that Staffordshire County Council has now got two areas and sites for materials in Werrington and Cannock and are willing to continue to help. As long as the jobs are ongoing the volunteers are happy to help.
- 1870 FOOTPATH 38 FENCING REPAIR/REPLACE, KISSING GATE AND GENERAL TIDY.** Councillor Meyrick showed a photograph of the fencing which the volunteers had replaced with 12 new posts and 24 lengths of wood. Councillor Harvey reported that the timber had cost £124 and the works would be completed tomorrow. Councillors agreed that this was a good job well done. Councillor Meyrick also showed a photograph of the kissing gate that has been tied on with string on the footpath. Councillor Harvey reported that they had looked to move the posts to make it fit but there were no fixes and it was just the wrong gate for the job. The Clerk has emailed Paul Rochfort at SCC asking for a replacement but as yet had no reply. Forward Agenda item.
- 1871 FOOTPATH 23 STATION ROAD TREES/SITE VISIT**  
The Clerk reported that Steve Massey from Staffordshire Moorlands had done a report on the trees along with several areas in the Parish so this is on the agenda for next Council Meeting. But he has contacted SCC about the dead trees. The Clerk also reported that Paul Rochfort at SCC has been asked to make a site visit, with regards to the entrance to the Footpath to see if anything can possibly be done about the pigs. Mr. Green reported that the Environment Agency had concerns about them polluting the Churnet and that he will continue to speak with them to push the issue from that perspective. Councillor Bowen will be attending the Pointon's Liaison Meeting next week so will mention it at the Meeting. It was also mentioned about the Motor Home situated on this land that keeps moving.
- 1872 BUTTERCROSS – SITE VISIT NICK CARTER 7<sup>TH</sup>. SEPTEMBER 2018**  
Councillor Mrs. Meyrick reported that it had been extremely good to meet with Nick as he was very impressed with the Buttercross. She explained that he wanted to encourage the Parish to make it a project that maybe the schools could get involved with, then the possibility of funding would have a stronger case. Although this may be next year or the year after as Historic England has a limited amount of funding which has already been allocated for this year and pretty much all of next year too. He had responded by email which the Clerk reported to the Council. Information about the list entry of the Buttercross, Maps, Scheduled Monument Consent Application and some guidance notes. His main concerns with the monument were the encroaching vegetation (growing around, over and through the structure) and loss of mortar / poor concrete being the main bits. He was therefore keen to engage with the Parish Council and Landowner to look at ways to address these issues and so improve the condition. He went on to say that he will gather some more information and look at getting a survey done of the structure and he would compare to a similar project on a cross that Heritage England did in the middle of Norfolk for costings etc. In the meantime, the vegetation on the cross can be cleared (although we may want to wait to the end of winter). This should be through chemical treatment and cutting off but no pulling out of roots or digging out of the structure. This work does not require Scheduled Monument Consent. Also, tree works on the adjacent hedgerow may be useful – focusing on top working and removing any branches or stems which are a risk of hitting the cross if blown over in heavy winter. Councillor Mrs. Meyrick suggested that Councillor Mrs. Hine may be able to help with the history of the Buttercross but suggested that The Clerk write to Moorside & St. Edwards Schools to try to get the schools involved. This was agreed as a good starting point for the project.

**1873 PULLING OF THE HIMALAYAN BALSAM**

The Chairman put forward the need for anyone and everyone who walks Footpath 38 to pull the Himalayan Balsam. As reported due to the flail mowing this has improved the regrowth but its still under the trees and along the Canal. Mr. Green reported that the Canal & Waterways are also trying to eradicate it and gave the Clerk details of a contact Ian Wykes who may be able to help with notices to walkers to ask them to pull the Himalayan Balsam to stop it spreading further. It was also reported that they are experimenting with rust as a form of removing the plant in certain areas.

**1874 SURVEY OF PATHS IN THE PARISH**

New volunteers have made a start on walking the paths to perform surveys of any issues on them.

**1875 ANY NOTED FOOTPATH OBSTRUCTIONS**

Volunteers reported that Footpath 39 is overgrown in parts which Councillor Harvey will look at getting it strimming where it is overgrown. Any other reports from the surveys will be reported to SCC while there is help available.

**1876 JAPANESE KNOTWEED – BASFORD/APESFORD**

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

**1877 WAYMARKING**

Nothing to report.

**1878 COUNTRYSIDE**

Members' agreed that with the recent rain after the warm spell the countryside was looking green and lush.

**1879 FORWARD AGENDA ITEMS**

Footpath 38 – Past the end of Cheddleton Park Avenue by the sewage pipe there is leaking sewage spilling out. The Clerk will notify Severn Trent and Environmental Health.

Community Centre – New Mirrors & Radiators in the Toilets.

Chairman

13<sup>th</sup>. November 2018.