

Cheddleton Parish Council

**MINUTES OF THE FOOTPATHS & COUNTRYSIDE COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE CRAFT CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 10th. SEPTEMBER 2019**

ATTENDANCE Chairman - K. Harvey,
Councillor – M.T. Bowen, G.W. Salt, Mrs. L.M. Salt, S. Scalise.
Member – Mr. P.H. Green.

APOLOGIES Apologies for absence were received from: -
Councillor – Ms. C.Y. Ball, N. Belson, H.R. Jennings.
Member – Mr. R. Hill.

1928 **MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting of the 11th. June 2019, taken as read, were confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

1929 **MATTERS ARISING** No matters arising.

1930 **CORRESPONDENCE**

a. J. Parkes Wholesale Catalogue Autumn 2019.

1931 **UPDATE ON COMMUNITY PATHS INITIATIVE FUNDING PROJECT**

The Chairman explained that there are funds available and that the volunteers had suggested a welcome notice board for the Parish Council located at the CVR station in Cheddleton with several walks of approximately an hour provided for visitors be printed and located as a suggestion of what the village has to offer. CVR are already in the process of designing some leaflets which they are happy to collaborate with the Parish Council to produce if they so wish. Examples of which were supplied by Mr. Green. The Chairman also added that with the possibility of the funding to restore the Buttercross that a walk incorporating this would be an excellent idea so he would with the volunteers look at producing this one. Mr. Green stated that they had an expert in graphic design who could quote to finalise the walk leaflets so it was agreed that costings be gathered for the CPI Grant to be applied for to finance the project.

1932 **UPDATE ON RESTORATION OF THE BUTTERCROSS**

The Clerk reported that Nick Carter from Historic England had come up with a repair proposal of which he has circulated to contractors for quotes to do the works. This was made available to members to take a look at. He had come up with two options being option 1 just repair the cross or option 2 a wider project to fence it off and an interpretation board with rough costings of £3,500 for option 1 and £5,000+ for option 2. He wanted the Council to discuss and make a decision on which option to pursue and what percentage contribution they could make. It was felt that option 2 was the best one and that the Council would discuss the funding at Council.

1933 **UPDATE ON TREE THINNING OPEN SPACE – CHEDDLETON**

The Chairman updated that he was looking to start marking up the trees to be removed based on the advice from Steve Massey (SMDC). He went on to explain that the footpath volunteers are happy to make a start on the job but he suggested that maybe they could be trained to use a chainsaw which would in the long run save the Council money on tree works and give the volunteers something for taking the time and trouble to help. The Clerk had found Total Tree Solutions who are a Cheddleton based company to quote for such training. The Clerk had also

contacted the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust with a view to organising a working party but as yet had not received a response.

1934 UPDATE ON FOOTPATH 23 – CHEDDLETON

The Clerk reported that David Rice had advised that there was no requirement for a modification application and that this is just SCC putting off dealing with the issue. He suggested that Councillor Worthington could approach Highways Officers at SCC stating that the pre 1926 route of the County Rod be entered into the list of roads and streets maintainable at public expense. This would then be a quick fix to the issue of the footpath. The Clerk would forward details to Councillor Worthington.

1935 PULLING OF HIMALAYAN BALSAM

The Clerk reported that she had contacted both Staffordshire Wildlife and Canal & Rivers Trust about this issue. Firstly, Dave Cadman from Staffordshire Wildlife had responded stating that they have had work parties out trying to tackle the issue but that they are looking to introduce Rust Fungus in certain areas in the Churnet. Secondly, Simon Martin from Canal & Rivers Trust had responded as the new area operations manager including Cheddleton. He stated that they are looking to organise an annual Balsam Bash event in April/May next year and would like to work with the Parish Council to encourage a larger turnout. The Clerk had responded and invited Simon to meet the Committee but as yet had not received a response. The Chairman reported that the signs placed along Footpath 38 had encouraged walkers to pull the Balsam but that it would continue to be an ongoing problem. Mr. Green also reported that the Waterways were also looking at this issue.

1936 UPDATE/SURVEY OF PATHS IN THE PARISH CONDUCTED BY VOLUNTEERS

Councillor Harvey provided an up to date list with all footpath inspections and works that have been carried out and this is being put together by one of the volunteers and SCC have an update as it is forwarded to them regularly. Since February 2016 the volunteers have installed 27 new stiles, 20 gates, 1 metal kissing gate, repairs/part replacement of 34 stiles, repaired 7 bridges, repaired/replaced 9 finger posts, installed posts and fencing at Basford Bridge, cleared overgrown vegetation, repaired seating at Wetley Rocks Playing Field and inspected all footpaths and bridleways in the Parish. There are many other installations/repairs carried out by SCC works unit of which there are many that are not included in this. He reported that he had met with Cellarhead Substation as the paths around there had been left and not dealt with as promised previously. He also reported that they had acquired some illuminous paint to start to paint the stile tops to highlight the footpaths and will be working with the owners to gain permission to do so. Councillor Mr. Salt reported on Deep Hayes Country Park as he had started to look at the footpaths that run through the area and described them as tired with handrails collapsed, walkways broken leaving trip hazards but that some works were being carried out.

The Clerk reported that the outstanding 4 applications (LA647G, LE617G, LE614G & LG659G) made to SCC had now had a Direction Decision made on direction of the Secretary of State and that they have to make a decision on these within six months of the direction dated 6th. September 2019. The Clerk explained that this is relatively short period as most directions have been for twelve months. These include the footpath at the rear of Ox Pastures to Ostlers Lane.

1937 ANY NOTED FOOTPATH OBSTRUCTIONS

None reported.

1938 WAYMARKING

Councillor Harvey reported that as far as they can be all paths have been waymarked.

1939 COUNTRYSIDE

Members' agreed that it was looking lovely.

1940 FORWARD AGENDA ITEMS

No future agenda items.

Chairman

12th. November 2019.