

Cheddleton Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN WETLEY ROCKS VILLAGE HALL, MILL LANE, WETLEY ROCKS ON TUESDAY, 18th. APRIL 2023

ATTENDANCE Chairman - Councillor H.R. Jennings.
Vice-Chairman - Councillor Mrs. C. A. Lovatt.

Councillor - M Ahmad, M.T. Bowen, Mrs. V.B. Cornes, I. Dakin, Mrs. D.A. Hartley, R.J. Hartley, D. Kari, Mrs. J.C. Parker, Miss. V. Salt, S. Scalise, Mrs L. Shaw, H.J. Tunna, and M.P. Worthington.

Clerk - Ms. L. J. Eyre.

561. **APOLOGIES** - Apologies for absence were received from Councillor - Mrs A. Grocott, it was resolved to accept these.
562. **NOTICE CONVENING THE MEETING** - The Clerk reported that the Meeting was advertised on all Notice Boards and on Facebook pages Cheddleton Chat and Cheddleton Gossip plus the Council Website well within the 7 days' Notice legally required.
563. **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 19th. APRIL 2022** - It was resolved to accept these as a true record.
564. **MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM** - No items were raised.
565. **ATTENDANCE RECORDS** - The Clerk read out the list of attendance by Councillors to the 10 Meetings of the Parish Council and additional extraordinary Meeting. Being Councillors Ahmad 8, Bowen 11, Mrs. Cornes 6 of 6, Dakin 8, Mrs. Grocott 4 of 4, Mr. Hartley 9, Mrs. Hartley 10, Jennings 11, Kari 10, Mrs. Lovatt 10, Mrs. Parkes 5, Mr. Salt 2 (granted 3 months dispensation), Miss. V. Salt 4 of 6, Scalise 7, Mrs. Shaw 9, Tunna 11, and Worthington 8. Members who resigned Mr. Boden 0 of 2 and Mrs. L. Salt 2 of 5.
566. **CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW OF THE YEAR** - Chairman of the Parish Council, welcomed everyone to this year's Annual Parish Meeting and thanked Vice-Chair Mrs. Caroline Lovatt after taking on the position in October 2022 after the resignation of Mrs. Lisa Salt.

Since his report at the last Parish Meeting in April 2022, we have as a Council, County, Country, and entire World had a great deal to endure, to adapt to all changes due to the outside influences taking place around the world such as the aftermath of Covid, War in Ukraine, HRH Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee which we celebrated by providing all 4 schools with mugs for each child in the Parish. Followed by her sad passing shortly after just to mention a few, the Council has continued to work hard in all sectors of the community.

He stated that you will appreciate that to maintain the Council's assets committees are appointed to oversee these assets and during the last year the following meetings have been held: -

During the year, from April 2022 to March 2023 the Council has held: -

11 Meetings of the Parish Council including an extraordinary meeting in August.

8 Meetings of the Planning & Amenities Committee.

3 Meetings of the Community/Craft Centre Management Committee.

- 1 Meeting of the Burial Ground Committee.
- 4 Meetings of the Footpath & Countryside/ Cheddleton Playing Field Committee.
- 2 Meetings of the Wetley Rocks/ Toll Bar Playing Field Committee.
- 1 Meeting of the Finance Committee.
- 1 Meeting of the HR Committee.
- 1 Meeting with Highways Liaison Officer Paula Lees.
- 3 Meetings with Cheddleton Playing Field Volunteers.

He thanked the respective Chairpersons - Councillors' Mike Bowen, John Tunna, Mrs. Caroline Lovatt, Ian Dakin, and the Vice-Chairs for chairing the meetings so well during their time in office.

Councillors have also represented the Council on various committees such as Advanced Protein Liaison Committee, Parish Assembly, Cautionary Lands Charity & Wetley Rocks Village Hall Committee and raised issues for residents.

Potholes/Drainage/Street Lighting and the condition of some roads and footpaths in the Parish.

Dog Fouling on our streets, footpaths and playing fields in the Parish.

Litter & Fly Tipping.

Keeping all our Defibrillators around the Parish in working order and registered with the Ambulance service led by Councillor Dave Kari.

Parking issues in various locations around the Parish.

Tree Works and establishing responsibility of land ownership.

Damage to the Heritage Bridges on Basford Bridge Lane and continued chasing of Police Authority/ Staffordshire County Highways to make improvements.

Residents' issues with Road Safety/Harassment/Damage etc.

New Bench Seats around the Parish.

Funding Repairs to St Edwards Church Bell Chimes on the Clock.

Since April 2022, the Council has considered and made observations on 44 Planning Applications.

During the year we have received guest visits from: -
Paula Lowndes - PCSO

The Council has continued to look at and fund the refurbishment of the Buttercross with assistance from Historic England, Staffordshire County Council, and our own Footpath Volunteers. Although this has taken a backseat this year, and it is still an ongoing project.

St. Edward's Lawn Cemetery

Maintained and managed still remains a beautiful lawn cemetery which is available for residents of the Parish.

Cheddleton Lawn Cemetery

Always maintained to a high standard.

The Asylum Burial Ground

Further works to improve the site and keep it as a very tranquil area for residents of the Parish.

He thanked Jim Gibson & Son and Pip Doherty for carrying out an excellent job of maintaining the sites.

Major renovation of the Craft Centre with building works done to Emily's Beauty room with better facilities in her workspace and let out the room that was renovated last year that she has occupied in the interim. Adding value to one of the Council's assets. The Tea Rooms continues to be occupied by Mrs. Jane Edwards, which provides the income from the use of the building and provides a fabulous service to Cheddleton along with the Beauty Room occupied by Emily.

Refurbishment of the Community Centre Car Park has been done since the removal of the mobile to improve facilities. Continued work to improve facilities and encourage community groups to use the Centre.

Established a replacement permanent Christmas Tree via Jacksons Nurseries which was in place for last year and future Christmas.'

At this point he thanked Stan & Chris Beardmore for all their work.

A big thank you to all who are looking out for the Cheddleton playing field and especially our group of volunteers for all the work they have done and continue to do litter picking and wildlife enhancements going forward making it a lovely place to visit and use. The replacement of two bins which were completely burnt by only what we can assume was an act of vandalism.

Toll Bar Playing Field - Maintenance of playground equipment and grounds to keep it tidy.

Wetley Rocks Playing Field - Continued maintenance of the playground equipment and working to secure the future of it going forward by discussing the lease with Lichfield Diocese.

Bridge Eye - Still a lovely space but works required to improve the Well and eliminate flooding in the future working with Cautionary Lands Charity.

Inspections of all footpaths and way markers have continued to be looked after by our group of volunteers who he thanked for their help and assistance in looking after the footpaths.

Also, our volunteers have done a tremendous job on Footpath 38 and Grange Banks to open and thin out the area, removing trees to allow better access where there was too many. A thank you letter to be sent to Keith and the volunteers. This year some additional seating has been made and put next to the canal in an additional clearing made by them.

Donations made by the Council to: -

Douglas Macmillan Hospice	£200
Leek RUFC	£50
Cellarhead & District Horticultural Society – To fund the Show	£160
Royal British Legion – Poppy Wreaths	£175
Cancer Research – Pudding Run	£224
Friends Of Cheddleton	£45
Rainbows & Guides	£250
Staffordshire Wildlife Trust – Membership	£42
CPRE – Membership	£36
Fields In Trust – Membership	£65

Council's Christmas Card Collection in 2022 the Parish Council again held its own Christmas Card Collection for SSAFA and raised £179.69.

Despite starting the year with one vacancy and the resignation of 2 Members of the Council, Dean Boden, and Mrs. Lisa Salt. The Council managed to co-opt 3 new members, Councillors Mrs. Val Cornes, Miss. Vicky Salt, and Mrs. Andrea Grocott. Moving forward in 2023, with the new Council due to be formed in May after an election takes place for the Cheddleton ward with 12 nominees for 11 seats. 3 uncontested seats which will be filled in Wetley Rocks ward but no nominees for Southlowe ward which will mean once the election on 4th. May 2023 has concluded; this ward will have to start the process again for nominees of the 3 empty seats.

He concluded that it had been an honour to be the Chairman during the past 2 years and I hope I can continue to work with those elected, if he is elected, to serve and provide the answers for residents of Cheddleton, Wetley Rocks and Southlowe Wards. It has been a wonderful experience to represent the Council at several civic events during the year, including laying a wreath on Remembrance Sunday.

He concluded by thanking the members the Clerk Louise and interim Clerk Karen for their support, and our brilliant handyman Steve Billings who has proved to be a brilliant asset with no job too much trouble or beyond his capabilities. He also thanked the public and the press for the interest they have shown throughout the last year.

He stated that many of you will not appreciate that all the work carried out by the members' is unpaid, their duties are performed purely for the good of the parish, for this I commend all who serve and have served on the Parish Council. A special thanks to those members who have decided to retire after many years being a member of the Parish Council, in particular John Tunna for his 50 years as a Councillor. Not forgetting other members leaving Sav Scalise, Dick & Denise Hartley and Ian Dakin for all your help and dedication.

Vice-Chair Mrs. Lovatt added her thanks to the Chairman Councillor Jennings for his chairmanship over the last 2 years. She commended his hard work and all of it focused on improving the local area and making it a great place to live for our residents. She also thanked the Clerk, Louise for her hard work and steady hand in steering us through some really challenging times and supporting the Parish so ably. Thanks to the outgoing Councillors who have dedicated many hours of their time for the community and lending their expertise and knowledge to the Council and wish them the very best for the future.

- 567. ANY OTHER BUSINESS** - Councillor Dakin asked about co-option and the Clerk explained that this would not be an option for Southlowe as there are no candidates so will have to start the process again after the election 4th. May. Councillor Worthington asked why there were no candidates for Southlowe when we have current Councillors for that ward. Councillor Mrs. Lovatt replied that we all represent the Parish Council.

Chairman