

Cheddleton Parish Council

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN
CRAFT ON CENTRE MEETING ROOM, HOLLOW LANE, CHEDDLETON ON
TUESDAY, 26th. MARCH 2024.**

ATTENDANCE Chairman - M. Ahmad.

Councillor - D.S. Bagnall, M.F. Cunningham, Miss. G. Grocott, K. Grocott, K. Harvey
Mrs. C. A. Lovatt, Miss. S.J. Rogers, Mrs. L. Shaw, T.G. Williamson, and M.P.
Worthington.

Clerk - Ms. L.J. Eyre.

310. **APOLOGIES** - Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs. V.B. Cornes,
Mrs. A. Grocott, O.C. Pointon, C.A. Ramos and, Miss. V.L. Salt and it was resolved to
accept these.
311. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - There were no declarations of interest.
312. **MEMBERS' SEC. 33 DISPENSATION REQUESTS** - The Clerk reported that
Councillor Miss. V.L. Salt has requested 3 months as due to work commitments she is
finding it difficult to attend meetings. Councillor Worthington proposed she be given a
three-month dispensation, seconded by Councillor Miss. G. Grocott so members resolved
to agree.
313. **ANNOUNCEMENTS - THANK YOU FROM DOUG MCDONALD FOR 90th
BIRTHDAY FLOWERS** - The Clerk reported that she had sent him a bouquet of flowers
for his 90th birthday and he was most grateful. The Clerk also mentioned the Pick-Fit
scheme being run by SMDC if members sign up, they receive a kit for Litter picking.
Also, Ian Dakin has dropped off several kits should anyone require them. The Election
Notice for the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner on 2nd. May 2024.
314. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** - No members of the public were present.
315. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING 27th. FEBRUARY 2024** - It was resolved to accept
these as a true record and were duly signed by the Chairman.
316. **MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM:** - No matters were raised.
317. **GROUND MAINTENANCE ISSUES/HANDYMAN/BUILDING WORKS** - The
Clerk reported that Jim Gibson has finished cutting the hedges. Pip has completed St.
Edwards Lawn Cemetery works on the carpark. The two new signs have been put up at the
Asylum Burial Ground as agreed by members. The damage to the equipment at
Cheddleton Playing Field has been reported to the Police so a crime number has been
obtained but it has been repaired. Inspections for Toll Bar and Wetley Rocks have been
arranged.
The Clerk reported that Jane Edwards has asked again about the state of the walls in the
tearoom and if Steve could re-paint it. After some discussion it was decided to get a survey
done with food being served and a matter of health and safety. The Clerk will seek advice
from a professional.

- 318. UPDATE FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT - COMMUNITY/CRAFT CENTRE** - The Clerk has purchased a new urn and vacuum cleaner. The Gas Boilers have been serviced in both buildings. The plumber has worked through the Legionella assessment and at the craft centre the toilets water heater is faulty so to replace this he has estimated £510 which needs to be done as soon as possible to meet requirements, so he is installing this next week. At the Community Centre the disabled toilets were not producing hot water, so the plumber is replacing some flexible pipework to alleviate this issue at a cost of £100. The Clerk reported that the Fire Alarm System has been extended into the tearoom so that the whole building is now covered, and the smoke detectors have been moved in all areas to the full height of the rooms. The emergency lighting has also been installed. The Fixed wiring is being completed tomorrow and any issues will be resolved from the four circuit boards. The PAT Testing has been done in both buildings. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for sorting all the issues out. The evacuation plan is the final part to be completed and all tenants to be made aware of the procedures in the event of a fire and install an assembly point.
- 319. CRAFT CENTRE HIRERS AGREEMENTS** - The Clerk reported that these have now been drawn up by Jonathan Cornes as agreed and will commence 1st April with the new fees for both the tearooms & beauty room for 12 months.
- 320. WATERPLUS - CRAFT CENTRE BURST ALLOWANCE CLAIM/ CHANGE IN SUPPLIER** - The Clerk reported that this has been ongoing since the burst in November, and they have not resolved the issue and a complaint has been raised with them. Waterplus are a subsidiary of Severn Trent, and they are blaming Severn Trent for not giving them details. On further investigation the Clerk has contacted a comparison site for water companies and has discovered a cheaper provider. In comparison to Waterplus and Everflow the standing charges can be reduced from £92.27 to £27.99 for water and from £62.96 to £9.87 for waste saving nearly £300 a year and the unit rates are cheaper by 9p and 6p. So, the Clerk proposed we change straight away. It was resolved to change immediately and pursue Waterplus to resolve the outstanding bill for the burst allowance being £4800 which we normally pay around £100 a month.
- 321. UPDATE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS - COMMUNITY CENTRE** - The Clerk reported that handyman Steve has fitted the kitchen work tops. He will be doing the plinths in the next couple of days, and it already looks much better. The Clerk suggested that the cupboard doors now be painted to finish the kitchen off.
- 322. SMDC COMPLAINT KNOWSLEY COMMON LITTER** - The Clerk received a complaint made to SMDC about the amount of litter at the site which handyman Steve was asked to tidy the area up.
- 323. UPDATE PROJECTS/DEED OF DEDICATION - CHEDDLETON PLAYING FIELD - MEMBERS WORKING GROUP** - The Clerk reported that fields in trust have emailed that Staffordshire Playing Fields Association have agreed so the application to the Charity Commission has been made and this could take up to 8 months but at least it is progressing. Now that we have four quotes for the MUGA/Tennis Court to work towards Matt Swindlehurst has been contacted to see what we need to do next so Councillor Worthington will approach him.
- 324. UPDATE TOLL BAR PLAY EQUIPMENT** - The Clerk reported that the grant application has been submitted to Awards for All and we await the outcome.

- 325. UPDATE ON DEFIBRILLATORS - INSTALLATION COMMUNITY CENTRE/ POWYS ARMS & NEW FIRST AID KITS x 4** - The Clerk reported that the defib installed at the Powys Arms and a photo opportunity for awareness of the new defibrillator. The Chairman thanked Councillor Miss. Rogers for her work. There are training sessions now set up for awareness as to how to use defibrillators. 8th. April 2024 at Wetley Rocks Village Hall at 8pm and another 15th April at Ashcombe Park Cricket Club at 7pm now that theirs is back up and running and would members please try to attend one of the sessions. Councillor Harvey asked about further defib to cover Heath Avenue in Southlowe Ward but would need a power supply say at the Oval. Councillor Ahmad offered a £100 towards one for this area. Councillor Mrs. Lovatt stated it is a good point that the area needs to be covered. Councillor Cunningham mentioned Pointons Park but is not available 24/7. Councillor Miss Rogers reported that she is in discussion to have it re-located so that it is available round the clock, and she will be the guardian. After some discussion and mention of Moorside School it will be investigated as to a suitable location for a further defib.
- 326. UPDATE PROPOSAL FOR SOLAR PANELS AT COMMUNITY CENTRE, HOLLOW LANE, CHEDDLETON** - Councillor Worthington reported that the new application has been submitted to SMDC for planning permission and he has been assured it will be turned around within 21 days. The Clerk reported that there is a request for further information to be submitted by us.
- 327. CROW MEETING/APPEALS/FOOTPATH UPDATES** - The Clerk reported that a resident had written with regards to the state of Footpath 38 being a main route from the estate of Cheddleton Park Avenue. Unfortunately, the weather has contributed to the bad state of numerous paths. Councillor Harvey reported that some of the entrances to this path are not official ROW and it would be very costly to make them passable by pushchairs as it would require hardcore and tarmac. The Clerk reported to the resident that it is SCC that are responsible and that we have a team of volunteers who help to maintain the ROW. He has asked if the Parish Council could write to them to ask for it to be improved. Councillor Worthington stated it would only be the official ROW that they would even consider. The Clerk reported that there has been a further enquiry from a resident at Cheddleton Park Avenue requesting purchasing a portion from the Parish Council. This is the second request, but we do not own the land. Councillor Worthington will make enquiries as to who owns it.
- 328. SMDC DOG ANTI-FOULING STENCILS** - The Clerk sent in a request to use the stencils at an area on Grange Road estate as requested by Councillor Mrs. Shaw. Which they have not done as there seemed to be confusion as to exactly where it is required. The Clerk also had contact from Councillor Leeder with regards to the gully from Ox Pasture to Hollow Lane and these have been stencilled straight away so we will see if there is any improvement. The Clerk suggested that we have them at all entrances of Cheddleton Playing Fields.
- 329. UPDATE RESTORATION OF THE BUTTERCROSS, CHEDDLETON** - The Clerk stated we are now waiting for Historic England as to the funding and progress with approaching contractors for the actual restoration of the Cross. Councillor Harvey reported that all the other aspects are covered by donations and training for anyone interested in stone walling.
- 330. MEMORIAL SAFETY CHECKS-CEMETERIES** - The Clerk contacted AES who do the testing for SMDC as they have trained staff to complete this. They have submitted a price for testing Cheddleton Lawn Cemetery for £150 to produce a report and can do this.

Councillor Mrs. Lovatt proposed that this be done, seconded by Councillor Cunningham so resolved to get this cemetery tested as soon as possible. As for St. Edwards Lawn Cemetery they suggested that because it is consecrated it requires a faculty to do the testing. The Clerk will investigate this further but instruct AES to perform the testing at Cheddleton Lawn Cemetery. If there are any issues, they will make safe any memorials at additional costs, but we must get this done.

- 331. FIELDS IN TRUST MEMBERSHIP** - The Clerk stated that our membership is up for renewal so proposed by Councillor Worthington, seconded by Councillor Ahmad to renew the membership as we gain discounts for being a member.
- 332. UPDATE ASYLUM BURIAL GROUND RECORDS** - The Clerk reported that the records have been completed by Councillor Mrs. Lovatt. The Chairman wanted thanks recording for her work on completing this. The Clerk will add it to the Council website so anyone can search for information on persons recorded in the burial records for the Asylum Burial Ground.
- 333. HIS MAJESTY THE KING OFFICIAL PORTRAIT** - The Clerk reported that she had received a letter from the Rt. Hon. Karen Bradley MP with regards to obtaining a portrait of His Majesty King Charles III for all Councils to have in their offices. This has already been applied for on behalf of our Council.
- 334. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES** -
- a. **Planning & Amenities Committee**
 - b. **Footpath & Countryside/ Cheddleton Playing Field Committee**
 - c. **Reports of Outside Bodies** - SMDC Parish Assembly 7/3/24, The Clerk reported on the meeting.
Appraisal Training 29/2/24, Members of the HR committee attended except Councillor Mrs. Grocott who is attending another date. Councillor Miss. Salt did not attend.
Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent COP 15/3/24, SLCC Branch Meeting 12/3/24, Support Staffordshire Meeting,
Houses of Parliament Tour 14/3/24 the Clerk attended and really enjoyed the experience.
- 335. ACCOUNTS** - See attached reports of accounts authorised for payment. All members received Bank Reconciliation, payments, receipts, ear-marked reserves, and budgets as spent to date.
Section 137 Expenditure 2024/2025 - Set at £10.81.

Authorised under Sec. 137 of the L.G.A. 1972 'Free Resource'

- 336. CORRESPONDENCE** -
- a. Amey Report 470908 - Coalpitford Lane, Cheddleton - Land slippage reported 20/2/24. Urgent works raised same day and update 14/3/24 unable to identify any issue.
 - b. Amey Report 434657 & 437910 - Hollow Lane, Cheddleton - Blocked Drain reported 20/2/24. Assessed 26/2/24 as non-urgent.
 - c. Amey Report 4372352 - Armshead Road, Werrington - Hedge & Rubbish reported 22/2/24. Assessed 21/3/24 as no safety concerns so will be monitored with routine safety inspections.

- d. Amey Report 4373991 - Hollow Lane, Cheddleton - Pothole reported 29/2/24. Assessed 14/3/24 as non-urgent works.
- e. Douglas Macmillian Hospice - Thank you letters for the two donations from the Parish Council.
- f. Trade Waste Contracts 1/4/24 - All three set up for the new financial year being St Edwards Lawn Cemetery costing £435.58 for the year. Cheddleton Lawn Cemetery £579.05 and Cheddleton Community Centre £1079.43.

337. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** - No members of the public were present.

Councillor Mr. K. Grocott asked has a response been made to Mr. Carr with regards to his questions about the removal of the temporary bollards on Bridge 44. The Clerk has contacted County Councillor David Williams on this matter and received a generic response from his PA and informed Mr. Carr. With regards to the soil at the cemetery we have a risk assessment booked to take place so will report back once this has been done. Councillor Miss. Rogers asked about the building opposite to the Flintlock who owns it. The Clerk reported it previously to Canal & Rivers Trust about the state of it but will follow it up.

Chairman

23rd. April 2024.