

Cheddleton Parish Council

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN WETLEY ROCKS
VILLAGE HALL, MILL LANE, WETLEY ROCKS
ON TUESDAY, 25th. JUNE 2024.**

ATTENDANCE Chairman - M. Ahmad.

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

Clerk - Mrs. L.J. Green.

43. **APOLOGIES** - Apologies were received from Councillor K. Harvey, M.J. Leeder, and Miss. V.L. Salt and it was resolved to accept these.
44. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - There were no declarations of interest.
45. **MEMBERS' SEC. 33 DISPENSATION REQUESTS** - No written applications for dispensations received. Not that Councillor Miss. Salt this is the last meeting covered by her dispensation.
46. **ANNOUNCEMENTS - 1 COUNCILLOR VACANCY - CHEDDLETON WARD. CHAIRMAN'S GIFTS** - The Clerk reported that there is a vacancy for Cheddleton ward for a Councillor can now be advertised to co-opt so the vacancy will be advertised. The General Election takes place 4th July 2024. Chairman has sent flowers to Councillor Miss. Rogers for organising the D Day Event. Councillor Mrs. Shaw for her bereavement of her mother. The Clerk received some flowers for her recent Wedding. The CPRE training is on the same night at our meeting 24th. September 2024 so the Clerk proposed changing the meeting to 17th. September.
47. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** - No members of the public were present.
48. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING 28th. MAY 2024** - It was resolved to accept these as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
49. **MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM: -**
Re. Min. 15. Review of Financial Regulations - The Clerk reported that it was agreed to become a member of NALC to obtain the latest Regulations which on enquiring we must join the SPCA which includes NALC Membership which will cost £664 for membership. Councillor Worthington proposed that he obtain a copy from another Parish Council who is a member, seconded by Councillor Bagnall. Majority voted to not join SPCA because of the cost being based on electors.
50. **BARNEY WILLIAMS - ADVANCED PROTEINS - PLOUGH BANK PARKING RESTRICTIONS** - Councillor Ahmad reported that we are waiting for Councillor Worthington to gain permission for the works to be carried out by the contractor quote supplied by Advanced Protein but that they have withdrawn the offer to fund it. Councillor Worthington asked if there is a plan drawn up. The Clerk stated that it has been emailed and that Advanced Proteins would oversee the works quoted at £6,000 less that SCC (£9,500) originally quoted being £3,450 but would not be funding the project. SCC had suggested that they could fund 50% so this would be in budget. Councillor Worthington stated he thought it

could be done and would speak to officer Lisa Hall (SCC). The Clerk stated there would still need to be a consultation period if the works could be done by the contractor.

51. **APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS (WETLEY ROCKS/TOLL BAR PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE)** - The Clerk reported at our Committee Meeting it was raised to allow John Tunna to be a member of the Committee as a member and resident not a Councillor. It was proposed that he put it in writing and would be considered at the next meeting. Seconded by Councillor Worthington all agreed.
52. **GROUND MAINTENANCE ISSUES/HANDYMAN/BUILDING WORKS** - The Clerk reported that a meeting was held with Jim Gibson, and we have a few issues raised by both us and him. We will start the process of raising tenders for next year. A further meeting in July has been arranged. The first being the young trees damaged when mowing so a few Councillors went across to do a site visit and spoke to Jim's son Robert whilst he was mowing. Steve has put protectors around the remaining 3 trees and Councillor Ahmad will donate some more to be planted. The clerk reported the grass by the Oval on Mill Lane is not being cut by Jim because it belongs to Your Housing so it has been reported to Dave Lovatt at Your Housing and he stated it would be cut as soon as possible. Jim informed us of some litter under the hedge at Toll Bar and on inspection Steve said he could not find any great amount. The other concerns were the wetness of Wetley Rocks Playing Field and arranged to meet with him on site. Parking on the pavement and grass at Cauldon Avenue which has been reported to PCSO to investigate it because it is hindering them cutting the grass. Councillor Ahmad requested Councillors to volunteer to check and meet with Jim over the next few weeks. Councillor Lovatt and Pointon are willing to meet with him. After some further discussion about Your Housing, it was proposed that a quote be sent to them for the boulders to be placed on the oval on mill lane to stop parking which should have been done two years ago and that we will get it done during the school holidays. The Handyman has removed a broken part of the trim trail on Toll Bar because it is coming out anyway so not worth repairing. He has tidied up the bike rack and put weedkiller down to clear the weeds. A bench along the canal side by the Dock House which has been broken the Handyman has repaired and stained it. The new PSPO signs have been put up on Cheddleton Playing Field finally SMDC have supplied 3 so the other signs No Dogs on Leads have been removed. Further signs circulated to stick up Clean Up After Your Dog. The Clerk reported that she has met with Councillor Pointon at St. Edward's Lawn Cemetery, and he estimates that there is between 80-100 ton to be moved so it would have to be costed to do. Suggested local tenders be invited. We need a compost bay next to this which the Handyman will make something next to the planned excess soil bay once dug out.
53. **UPDATE HIRE OF MEETING ROOM BY LEEK RADIO - CRAFT CENTRE, HOLLOW LANE, CHEDDLETON** - The Clerk reported that Leek Radio have moved into the room after members agreeing by email to allow a short-term licence of the meeting room. A contract has been signed. They have requested to have a line installed for the internet which they felt was not needed initially but will be to our advantage in the future for internet access. So proposed by Councillor Pointon, seconded by Councillor Cunningham to allow this. Councillor Ahmad proposed one-month free rent of £100 and all agreed.
54. **CHERRY TREE - CAULDON AVENUE, CHEDDLETON** - The Clerk received a resident reported that the tree is dying. Charles Piggott tree surgeon suggested it was better to be removed. He quoted £275 to removed it and clear away. The Clerk also asked Jim Gibson to quote, and he stated he would remove it for £100. Councillor Worthington proposed Jim to be awarded the job seconded by Councillor Pointon. Agreed.

55. **UPDATE ON THE RESTORATION OF THE BUTTERCROSS - HERITAGE ENGLAND FUNDING OFFER** - The Clerk reported that the grant offer of £10,000 to pay for the restoration of the cross and associated works. Councillor Harvey, the footpath volunteers and owners produced a plan to use dry-stone walling, but Historic England would prefer just wooden fencing to be more in keeping with how it would have been originally as a meeting place. A meeting was held with to discuss the options and the owners would prefer a retaining wall to avoid slippage of the land so in speaking to Historic England it would be better to get them to come back to re-visit the site and speak to the owners. Councillor Ahmad has arranged to look at the proposed works and will feed back to members.
56. **UPDATE MEMORIAL SAFETY CHECKS - CHEDDLETON LAWN & ST. EDWARD'S LAWN CEMETERY** - The safety check has been done. Two headstones have been deemed as medium risk and need to be rectified so notices have been put on the headstone for the owners to contact the Council. The Clerk suggested getting a quote for required works to be done as a matter of health and safety proposed by Councillor Mrs. Lovatt, seconded by Councillor Pointon. Agreed.
57. **UPDATE ON FOOTPATH ISSUES** - The Clerk received an email from a resident with regards to the Himalayan Balsam and a response was sent that we have been working with the Canal & Rivers Trust and information asking anyone to pull the plants to assist in stopping the spread.
The Countryside & Rights of Way County Council meeting has been cancelled yet again for June and only 5 applications have been determined this year with a backlog of 280 spanning over 30 years.
58. **UPDATE PROJECTS/DEED OF DEDICATION - CHEDDLETON PLAYING FIELD** - The Clerk reported that our solicitor has requested further details from Fields in Trust, and we are at the point of signing this to confirm the transfer. Fields in Trust are celebrating their centenary next year and would like any information about Cheddleton as it was one of the first, they took over.
59. **UPDATE LAND/ROAD ISSUES - LAND BEHIND HEATHERCROFT, CHEADLE ROAD, LAND BEHIND CHEDDLETON PARK AVENUE** - The Clerk had reported that the land behind Heathercroft on further investigation this is not a Right of Way so is a civil matter. The Land behind Cheddleton Park Avenue is not in our ownership of the Parish Council. Councillor Worthington will as he promised, he will contact the owners.
60. **UPDATE HIGHWAYS ISSUES WITH SCC - BRIDGE 44, BASFORD BRIDGE LANE - TEMP BARRIERS, PARK LANE, CHEDDLETON - FLOOD ISSUES & RENNIE CRESCENT, CHEDDLETON - OVERHANGING HEDGE** - The Clerk reported that the temporary barriers have been removed. Park Lane flooding this has been visited by SCC Highways and they feel there is no issue. The residents have asked to meet us so this is the least we can do to follow it up. A report of overgrown hedge on the corner of Hazlehurst Drive which a letter to the owner asking them to cut it. Also, Station Road a report has been raised to do a camera survey which they know that the gullies are collapsed. A report of the resurfacing on Hollow Lane outside of school where the parking restrictions have not been repainted was reported to SCC Highways. Councillor Shaw reported that they came out and did it the next day.

61. **UPDATE ON DEFIBRILLATORS** - Councillor Miss. Rogers reported that on this week's checks the one at Wetley Rocks Village Hall has not got a full battery so AEDdonate has been informed. The Clerk reported that SMDC have now announced the take over of costs to keep all defibrillators up and running. We paid a 12-month service contract so should be able to get a refund on a few months of the charge paid so Jamie at AEDdonate has been informed.
62. **D-DAY 80th COMMEMORATION GRANT SMDC/ EVENT 6/6/24** – Councillor Ahmad thanked both Councillor Miss. Rogers for all her efforts and the Clerk for becoming a taxi on the day. The Clerk thanked Councillor Pointon for his funding of the Bagpiper. A letter of thanks to John Arnold for his contribution of lighting the beacon.
63. **CANAL & RIVER TRUST REPORTS - TREE/UPDATE ON ISSUES - CALDON CANAL - STRADDLE WAREHOUSE/ROAD LEADING TO WILLOW COTTAGE** - The Clerk has reported a few issues to the Canal & River Trust, a tree across the towpath and a dead calf in the canal by the Flintlock. The Straddle Warehouse has been reported to the County Building Regulations department and they confirmed that it has been inspected and the owners contacted being C&RT but that they could not share any details. Councillor Pointon reported that the works on the road leading to Willow Cottage are in progress and should be completed within the week. Councillor Ahmad had a resident contact him about a tree that Councillor Pointon had removed due to it being dangerous he will plant two trees to replace it.
64. **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES** -
- a. **Planning & Amenities Committee**
 - b. **Wetley Rocks/Toll Bar Playing Field Committee**
Re. Min. 9. Toll Bar Playing Field - Replacement of Trim Trail – The Clerk reported that she had confirmation that Playdale can do the installation week commencing 12th August and it will take 4-5 days. A quote from Tom Neale to install drainage on site to remove access water from the playing fields at a price of £4,450 but we need to proceed with this before the installation. As the grant is for £17,000 the play equipment is £15,367.14 this will mean the reserves will be needed to cover the difference. The 50% deposit will be sent to Playdale as proposed by Councillor Cunningham and seconded by Councillor Miss. Rogers. Agreed. A second quote for drainage proposed by Councillor Miss. Rogers and to go with the cheapest quote, seconded by Councillor Worthington. Agreed.
 - c. **Reports of Outside Bodies** - SMDC, SLCC Staffs Branch Meeting 12/6/2024 - The Clerk reported that there are paint sheds for donation of part used or full tins which can be acquired by anyone free of charge. And a talk on attracting and retaining volunteers which was circulated to members.
65. **INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT FOR 2024/2025** - The reported that we need to instruct an internal auditor for this year. A quote from Mrs. Kim Squires who worked with Alan Topliss of no more that £200 plus expenses. A further quote from Black Rose Solutions Ltd who will meet the same cost. It was proposed to award Mrs. Kim Squires the Internal Audit for 2024/2025 by Councillor Pointon, seconded by Councillor Miss. Rogers and agreed.
66. **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.

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

67. CORRESPONDENCE -

- a. Parish Assembly Meeting - Thursday 27th. June, 7pm. The Clerk, Chair and Councillor Miss. Rogers will attend.
- b. Forvis Mazars LLP - Receipt of Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023/24.
- c. Licensing Service - Reverend Henry Hope Friday 12th July, 6pm. RSVP required. He will be attending our Meeting in July.
- d. Amey Report 4345657 - Hollow Lane, Cheddleton - Blocked Drain - Works taken place 18/6/24.

68. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME - No members of the public raised any further questions.

69. CONFIDENTIAL ITEM - CLERK'S HOME WORKING ALLOWANCE - The Clerk was asked to leave the room whilst it was discussed. A motion was made to investigate further and agreed, future agenda item.

Chairman
23rd. July 2024.