

**Cheddleton Parish Council**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN  
CHEDDLETON COMMUNITY CENTRE, HOLLOW LANE, CHEDDLETON  
ON TUESDAY, 23<sup>rd</sup>. JULY 2024.**

**ATTENDANCE** Chairman - M. Ahmad.  
Vice-Chairman - Miss. V.L. Salt

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

Clerk - Mrs. L.J. Green.

Reverend Henry Hope, Shanice Harris & Lee Moss from Vibe2Thrive.

Mrs Angela Morris, Multiple members of the public.

70. **APOLOGIES** - Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs. A. Grocott, Miss. G. Grocott, K. Grocott, M.J. Leeder, and Mrs. L. Shaw, and it was resolved to accept these.
71. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - There were no declarations of interest.
72. **CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR FOR VACANCY IN CHEDDLETON WARD** - The Clerk introduced both potential new members Michael Sidley & Mrs. Angela Morris and members had been given a copy of their applications and they were given an opportunity to introduce themselves. A ballot was performed to vote to elect the successful candidate. Once counted the Clerk declared that Michael had the most votes and therefore was asked to join the Council.
73. **CO-OPTED COUNCILLOR TO SIGN DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE** - The Clerk witnessed the Declaration of Office for Michael and therefore joined the meeting as a Councillor.
74. **MEMBERS' SEC. 33 DISPENSATION REQUESTS** - No written applications for dispensations received. Miss. V.L. Salt thanked members for their support whilst she completed her teacher training which she has completed.
75. **ANNOUNCEMENTS - INTRODUCTION REVEREND HENRY HOPE - NEW VICAR** - Reverend Hope lead a prayer at the start of the meeting and offered to assist in any way he could in the future. The Clerk had circulated the event on 1<sup>st</sup> August in Biddulph for the Staffordshire Moorlands Family Hub Launch taking place in Biddulph.
76. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** - A question raised from a resident about the question of devolution and what do the Parish Council feel about it. Councillor Ahmad stated that to put it in practice will be difficult and lose control locally. Councillor Worthington stated that we have nothing in common with Stoke-on-Trent. Councillor Ahmad stated that residents and members should make their feelings known.
77. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING 25<sup>th</sup>. JUNE 2024** - It was resolved to accept these as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

78. **MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM: -**  
**Re. Min. 62. D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> Commemoration** - The Clerk reported that we have not yet received the £150 from Staffordshire Moorlands Community Initiative Fund for the Bagpiper at the event. Councillor Pointon stated he would chase it up.
79. **PRESENTATION FROM VIBE2THRIVE** - They gave a short talk explaining the work and activities that they provide. Be Yourself & Love It Workshop aimed at children and young people. In some areas they can only access via schools which is not always helpful. We provide 4-hour workshop for cost of £500 for minimum of 16 participants. The Clerk suggested spreading the word via Parish Assembly for the whole of Staffordshire Moorlands and put on the next meeting as an agenda item for discussion.
80. **BARNEY WILLIAMS - ADVANCED PROTEINS - PLOUGH BANK PARKING RESTRICTIONS** - Councillor Worthington is awaiting further information from Barney with regards to qualifications of the company he has provided the quote from and to supervise works based on information from Staffordshire County Council. The Clerk suggested that there will still have to be consultation with residents.
81. **GROUND MAINTENANCE ISSUES/HANDYMAN/BUILDING WORKS** - The Clerk reported the next meeting with Jim Gibson is on Friday to give feedback, and we have solved the issue of rubbish on Toll Bar which were the bags to donate clothes have been removed by our handyman Steve Billings. The parking issues raised with PCSO Adrian Waters owners of vehicles have been approached by him and warning notices issued where they are blocking pavements, and it was reported in the sentinel newspaper. An issue outside the school parking on zigzag lines and suggested we contact the school. I emailed them and they sent parents a text message warning of the dangers of problem parking. He also contacted the owner of the specific vehicle and gave them details of the problem with parking there.  
Your Housing issue on Mill Lane we will cut Mill Lane and charge them and on Beech Avenue a triangle which belongs to them and keeps getting left. Councillor Pointon was asked about supplying Boulders on Mill Lane and he stated he would not want to tender at this time, but the Clerk will contact Your Housing to push to get this done as promised 2 years ago. Two new litter bins agreed to be purchased at Wetley Rocks Playing Field Committee have been installed one on the Playing Field and another on Knowsley Common picnic area by handyman Steve Billings.  
The new window and door have been installed at the Community Centre just one more window to be put in to replace a rotten wooden window. The Cherry Tree which was reported by a resident on Cauldon Avenue has been cut down by Jim Gibson as agreed. We need to plant a replacement. A quote to remove the grass cutting on Wetley Rocks Playing Field £69 additional per cut and for Toll Bar Road Playing Field £29 additional per cut. For once a fortnight so we need to clarify whether he removes it off site. Councillor Harvey stated that this will increase maintenance costs by a further £200 a month and we are exceeding that budgeted for already. It was left to the Clerk to discuss further with Jim at the meeting on Friday.
82. **START OF TENDER PROCESS FOR GROUNDS MAINTENANCE/ LENGTHSMAN DUTIES FROM 1/4/25** - The Clerk explained that the tender process for next years contract needs to be started as we need to review what needs to be covered and invite quotes from contractors to establish costings for next year's maintenance. The job sheets need to be updated based on what Jim currently does to allow the process to start.
83. **REPORTED FLY TIPS - THORNEY EDGE ROAD** - The Clerk reported 3 fly tips on Thorney Edge Road and one on Coalpitford Lane within a week. District Councillors were asked could SMDC please look at this as a problem area and put up a temporary camera.

84. **UPDATE ON THE RESTORATION OF THE BUTTERCROSS - HERITAGE ENGLAND FUNDING OFFER** - The Clerk reported that the Grant Offer from Historic England comes with certain conditions which the owners are not completely happy with so talks have been requested with them to resolve this before signing the agreement which ties the Parish Council into a 5-year maintenance plan.
85. **UPDATE MEMORIAL SAFETY CHECKS - CHEDDLETON LAWN & ST. EDWARD'S LAWN CEMETERY** - The Clerk reported that the cost to make safe the two memorials in Cheddleton Lawn Cemetery of £312 & £522 plus VAT but they are not classed as high risk and we have put notices on them so if we do not get approached by the owners in the next few months the safest option to have AES to lay them down at a cost of £70 per headstone. As for St. Edwards Lawn Cemetery we need to apply for a faculty from Lichfield Diocese to allow safety testing of the headstones at a cost of £227 and needs to be agreed by Council. Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Cornes, seconded by Councillor Ahmad to complete the form to get permission. Agreed by members.
86. **PROPOSAL FOR ST. EDWARD'S LAWN CEMETERY WORKS** - Councillor Ahmad explained a proposal for dealing with the excess soil. Bollards and place a boarder to enclose the trees 18 inches inside and level the soil. This could then be planted with shrubs. It had been proposed at Burial Ground Committee that Councillor Ahmad produce a plan. Councillor Pointon was asked to contact a fencing contractor to provide 41.2m long timber retention. It was proposed by Councillor Worthington and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Cornes that this be done as soon as possible to solve the issue. All agreed.
87. **UPDATE ON FOOTPATH ISSUES/ DIRECTIONS** - The Clerk reported that the Countryside & Rights of Way Panel County Council meeting has been cancelled yet again for June. The modification between Deep Haye and Crown Point Appeal 3325911 has now had the Order made for consultation to add to the Rights of Way Map. This will take at least 6 weeks. Councillor Harvey reported that he had walked it.
88. **UPDATE TOLL BAR PLAYING FIELDS - REPLACEMENT OF TRIM TRAIL/ DRAINAGE WORKS** - The Clerk reported that there is a meeting set up and advertised for Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July to view the plan of works. Councillor Ahmad explained that he is meeting with the successful contractor on Friday to plan the drainage works on the playing field which will commence Monday 5<sup>th</sup>. August. The new equipment will be installed the week after. So, there will be minimum disruption before it then re-opens after 2 weeks.
89. **UPDATE PROJECTS/DEED OF DEDICATION - CHEDDLETON PLAYING FIELD** - The Clerk reported that the deed of dedication has been signed and monies paid. Land Registry will be completed in 3 to 6 months. Staffordshire Moorlands have been contacted to assist with funding for the MUGA/Tennis Court.
90. **UPDATE PROPOSAL FOR SOLAR PANELS AT COMMUNITY CENTRE, HOLLOW LANE, CHEDDLETON** - The planning permission has been granted and the Clerk has approached Support Staffordshire for funding opportunities.
91. **UPDATE LAND/ROAD ISSUES - LAND BEHIND CHEDDLETON PARK AVENUE** - The Clerk reported that this request has been resolved with the resident as we do not own the land.

- 92. UPDATE HIGHWAYS ISSUES WITH SCC - PARK LANE & STATION ROAD, CHEDDLETON - FLOOD ISSUES** - The Clerk reported that our liaison officer is no longer Paula Lees we now have Dave Rushton who has been contacted to have a meeting with us and residents on site at Park Lane. Councillor Ahmad asked if Councillor Worthington could arrange this. Councillor Worthington explained that Station Road has now been jetted and is no longer flooded. The Clerk stated that there had been mention of collapsed drains so has this been investigated and requested confirmation of this.  
The Clerk confirmed that there had been a lot of disruption and confusion because of signage. Councillor Worthington confirmed that the main works were delayed allowing for school traffic to finish.
- 93. UPDATE ON DEFIBRILLATORS** - Councillor Miss. Rogers reported that the Wetley Rocks Village Hall battery is showing reduced and electric at Vets not connected both reported to AEDdonate. The Clerk reported that the funding from SMDC covers consumables and is in place for two years, but the life of a battery is 4 years. AEDdonate have received the first year's funding. So, with batteries we will have to fund half. We paid for a years cover ourselves which we remain in credit by £299.97 and need to pay for half the battery for the one replaced at Ashcombe Park since April which is £123 so we have a credit balance of £176.97 but the issue at the vets will need to be sorted before the winter as the box will not be heated and we will have to pay for the connection so that the defib is kept warm. This is not an urgent issue until the weather becomes colder and AEDdonate have it as a job to sort but is low priority as some Parishes have defibs that are not working at all.
- 94. CANAL & RIVER TRUST REPORTS /UPDATE ON ISSUES - ROAD LEADING TO WILLOW COTTAGE** - Councillor Pointon reported that the works have been completed by them but that there is a leak in the canal which has caused further slippage of the road. Canal & River Trust have been informed of the issue and they need to get the issue fixed. The Clerk reported a broken tree and the dead calf still floating and moved further down the canal towards the Boat Inn.
- 95. UPDATE FINANCIAL REGULATIONS/ NEW MODEL PUBLICATION SCHEME & HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY** - The Clerk reported that we contacted SLCC who stated that we have no right to use the new Financial Regulations and would be breaking the copyright laws. It was proposed by Councillor Miss. Rogers that we join the relevant organisation and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Lovatt. So not agreed to join and therefore will continue to use our original Financial Regulations proposed by Councillor Worthington, seconded by Councillor Bagnall, and agreed.  
The New Model Publication Scheme & Health & Safety Policy were agreed by HR Committee so implemented and a copy provided for members to read. Councillor Mrs. Cornes will expand on the Health & Safety Policy for next meeting.
- 96. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES** -
- a. **Planning & Amenities Committee**
  - b. **HR Committee (CONFIDENTIAL)** - discussed at the end under confidential.
  - c. **Burial Grounds Committee**
  - d. **Reports of Outside Bodies** - SMDC, Parish Assembly 27/6/24 next meeting 12/9/24, Cautionary Lands Charity 11/7/24 reported that they will sort out the drainage. The lady requesting parking has been informed it belongs to Staffordshire County Council.

97. **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.
98. **PAYMENT OF THE AUGUST 2024 ACCOUNTS** - The Clerk requires authorisation to pay next months accounts as we do not meet in August. Proposed by Councillor Ahmad, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Cornes to give the Clerk delegated powers.

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

99. **CORRESPONDENCE** -
- a. NatWest Some changes affecting your business account.
  - b. SMDC - Commercial Waste - Cheddleton Lawn Cemetery.
  - c. Cyber Security Breaches - Cyber Insurance - Clear Insurance.
100. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** - A question was raised about the length of time it has taken to repair road at Cellarhead and that the lights were out of action. It needed to be reported to Staffordshire County Council.
101. **CONFIDENTIAL ITEM - CLERK'S HOME WORKING ALLOWANCE/ OFFICE SPACE** - The Clerk was awarded an increase from £800 to £1,000 per annum. Councillor Miss. Rogers wanted it noted to thank the Clerk for all the work she does. Councillor Ahmad stated that she does a wonderful job.

Chairman  
17<sup>th</sup>. September 2024.

**101. CONFIDENTIAL ITEM - CLERK'S HOME WORKING ALLOWANCE/ OFFICE**

**SPACE** - The Clerk reported that this is £800 (Clerk's contract) and proposed increase of £200 to make it £1000 as it remained the same since the start in her position from July 2018. The clarification pointed out that this had not been increased since 2006 which was agreed for the previous Clerk. Also, Councillor Ahmad had asked if Tax should be paid on this amount and clarification had been sort from Bradley's who are responsible for the Clerk's payroll provided documentation for members that it is not taxable. So, the proposal from HR Committee to increase the allowance to £1000 was put forward by Councillor Mrs. Cornes and seconded by Councillor Grocott and agreed.

Councillor Ahmad stated that the Clerk is willing to work from an office which would then end the allowance. Councillor Mrs. Lovatt provided some figures from the Office of National Statistics shows that the figures for homeworking have doubled because it is cheaper for businesses not just due to Covid. The Clerk's contract states that her home address is her place where she works from. Councillor Miss. Rogers wanted it noted to thank the Clerk for all the work she does. Councillor Ahmad stated that she does a wonderful job.

Chairman

17<sup>th</sup>. September 2024.