

Chedburgh Parish Council

MINUTES

of a Meeting held at the Erskine Centre, Chevington Road, Chedburgh on

Monday 13th January 2019 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Clare Varney (Chair) Margaret Rickard, Michael Chester, Teresa Landymore, Alan Noyes and Sue Roberts.

In attendance: Maximilian Clay (Clerk to the Council);
2 Members of the public.

69. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Jon Cardy and the Council resolved to approve the reason for absence.

70. Declarations of Interest

- a. There were no declarations of Pecuniary Interest in matters on this agenda.
- b. There were no declarations of Other Disclosable Interest in matters on this agenda.

71. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 25th November 2019 were agreed to be a true record and the Chair was authorised to sign them as such.

72. Reports from County and District Councillors

- a. A written report by County Cllr Soons had been circulated in advance and was received by the Council. C Cllr Soons informed the meeting that in addition to her role as County Councillor, she was standing in a District Council by-election in Newmarket. The condition of school transport vehicles was raised as a bus had recently lost a whole window while travelling along the main road. C Cllr Soons asked that details be sent to her so that she could take up the matter. The County's policy on grit bins was raised as it was proving impossible to get grit delivered to the Brocket Park development. This is because the road is unadopted and it is therefore unlikely that the County will agree to breach its own rule but C Cllr Soons look at the situation. It was noted that Kiln Lane had been closed quite often recently and that it was having a negative impact on The Plough's trade at Rede.
- b. District Councillor Chester made brief report on the Rural Task Force report which had just been issued. He will forward a link to the report to the Clerk, for circulation to Members.

73. Public Forum

No matters were raised by members of the public.

74. Clerk's Report

- a. The Clerk reported that delegated powers had not been used since the last meeting.
- b. The Clerk reported that:
 - ◆ Ian Leggett had researched the Speed Watch scheme and there was a brief discussion about whether to consider signing up. The Council resolved to place the matter on the agenda for the March meeting. In the meantime, it was noted that it was essential that sufficient volunteers were identified as some villages had acquired the equipment only to find that they could not operate the scheme for lack of people (this did, however, mean that second hand equipment may be available and the Clerk will enquire about this). It was also noted

that sharing with no more than one other village was preferable, to avoid clashes of use and to ensure shared commitment and clear responsibility for the equipment.

- ◆ Funding was now in place for the roundabout, with the locality grant agreed but not yet received. A verbal order had been placed and would be confirmed in writing following the meeting. Provision had been made in the schedule of payments for the possibility of paying the suppliers, Wicksteed, up to £2,000 in advance of the year end, should that be necessary. The balance would be paid after installation.
- ◆ The advertisement for the replacement(s) of the Handyman, following his retirement had been prepared and had been passed to the Parish Magazine. It would also be posted on the village noticeboards.

Councillor Chester left the meeting.

75. Planning and Environment

- a. There were no new applications for consideration.
- b. There were no reports on recently considered applications.
- c. **Brocket Park development** - The Clerk reported that he had written to Dave Beighton about enforcement relating to the various planning conditions that had not been met and he had been advised that the relevant member of the enforcement team would take action and keep the Council informed of progress. Cllr Roberts informed the meeting some work had been undertaken to ramp around the protruding iron work in the road but tarmac had been deposited in the turning head, meaning that it was now difficult for cars to turn around.
- d. The Handyman made a verbal report. He highlighted in particular the increase in the use of dog waste bins and suggested that an additional bin should be considered before long. He also highlighted the latest VAS records of speeding in the village: In the last period the VAS had measured the speed of around 13,000 vehicles of which 1192 had averaged 39mph in the 30mph zone.

76. The Marquis Cornwallis Pub /Community Hub

Cllr Noyes had discovered that the owner of the pub had applied for a Certificate of Lawful Use, which would effectively change the designation of the pub from Class 3 (pub) to class 4 (restaurant). The application sought to rely on past use as a restaurant. The Council is not necessarily consulted on applications of this kind and had not been made aware of the application.

The meeting discussed the matter and confirmed that in living memory, including that of a former employee of the pub, the Marquis Cornwallis had never been used as restaurant. Although food had been served, on and off, over the years this has always been a part of the pub business.

It was resolved to write to the Planning Authority outlining this information and urging that the application be declined based on the history of the premises only ever having been used as a pub which served food.

77. Finance, including the 2020/21 Budget

- a. The Clerk pointed out the main changes to the Bank reconciliation which related to the designation of reserves arising from decisions made at the meeting of the 11th November. The Council resolved to receive and approve the Bank Reconciliation for the third quarter of 2019/20. Cllr Roberts inspected the Bank records and certified that the balance stated on the reconciliation was correct.
- b. The Clerk introduced the financial statements for the third quarter of 2019/2 and responded to questions. The Council resolved to receive the statements.
- c. The Council considered the draft budget for 2020/21. After discussion it was resolved to adopt the budget as drafted subject to increasing the budget for training by £200 to a total of £700.
- d. The Council noted that the budget was predicated upon a precept of £10,502 which represented

an increase in the Parish Council element of the Band D Council Tax rate for 2020/21 of 1.9% (less than £1 per year) to Band D payments. The increase to actual income is greater than 1.9% due to new housing in the village as this generates additional revenue. The Council resolved to approve a Precept of £10,502 for 2020/21 and the Chair and Clerk signed the instruction to the Taxing Authority (West Suffolk Council).

e. The schedule of receipts and payments was received and approved by Council.

78. Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

There were no matters raised.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Signed as a true record by authority and on behalf of the Council:

..... Chair

..... Date