

Chedburgh Parish Council

MINUTES

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

Monday 1st July 2019 at 7.30pm

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

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

18. Apologies

All Councillors were present.

19. 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.

20. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 13th May 2019 were agreed to be a true record and the Chair was authorised to sign them as such.

21. Reports from County and Borough Councillors

A written report by County Cllr Soons was received but she was unable to attend.

A written report was tabled by Borough Cllr Mike Chester. This included:

Housing - West Suffolk District Council is one of only a few to achieve the medium term target for housing land supply and have sufficient land designated as such for the coming six and a half years. B Cllr Chester will be seeking the Council's views on potential levels of growth and he suggested a future item of business on this issue. The meeting agreed that this should be placed on a future agenda.

Drug Trafficking - has become a significant problem in West Suffolk - more so than in other parts of the county.

Cut back to Bus Services - The County is planning axe bus subsidies and B Cllr Chester felt that it was important to protect local services.

Pay-on-exit Parking - is being extended in Bury St Edmunds. A recent reduction in parking has been reversed. B Cllr Chester had received complaints about the level of charges and felt that a review of these was due.

Car engine idling - Recognising the impact on health and climate change that idling cars have, the District Council is cracking down on those who leave their cars idling outside schools.

Rural Task Force - The District Council is setting up a task force to identify key issues, assets and challenges relevant to the rural areas of the District. B Cllr Chester will be chairing the committee overseeing this work and he invited initial thoughts from members. Members agreed to think about the issues and report back but in the meantime were supportive of encouraging village hubs and of extending fast broadband to even the most far-flung areas.

22. Public Forum

Several points were raised by members of the public:

In relation to the parking in Bury St Edmunds, it was felt that at least some of the increase (mentioned in item 21, above), may simply represent a return to more normal levels, given that

the base data were gathered when large-scale road works were putting off many people from going into the town. Another member of the public felt that the ticket machines are not set up in the most helpful way and that this was leading to the excessive waiting times that has been experienced - he felt that there should be either more machines or improvement to the way that they work.

Buses were travelling too fast in the village. This had been raised with drivers and the operator and will be monitored.

A member of the public, noting that the wide access gate to the playing field was locked with a combination padlock, was concerned about emergency access. In response it was reported that several residents have the combination and that a sign would be commissioned with Ian Leggett's and Mike Chester's telephone numbers and that the combination number would also be given to Little Teapots.

23. Clerk's Report

- a. There were no relevant decisions to report.
- b. The Clerk reported that Whepstead PC had asked whether this parish council would be interested in acquiring another Vehicle Activated Speed sign (VAS) to operate alongside the existing one shared between Chedburgh, Whepstead and Chevington. In discussion it was felt that Chedburgh did not need further use of a VAS as it was generally agreed that the apparently random nature of the sign's appearances was part its impact and that greater presence may tend to reduce effectiveness.

24. Planning and Environment

- a. There were no new Planning Applications to consider.
- b. An update report on applications considered previously was received:
 - ii **DC/19/0695/FUL - Land Off Kiln Lane, IP29 4BL:** (i) Improvements to Existing Access and Track off Kiln Lane (ii) landscaped Security Bund (iii) Farm Office and Welfare Unit (part retrospective). A decision is awaited but concern was expressed about traffic coming directly onto the main road (A143) along a trackway not designated for regular use. It was noted that the planning authority has concerns about the application and that further information is being gathered.
- c. Brocket Park development - Two recently moved-in residents were present at the meeting, one of whom had been cutting the grass that had previously become very overgrown. In contact with the developers they had been told that now that more houses had been sold the issues relating to the unfinished road and to maintenance issues would be addressed.
The Chair had been in contact with the recently appointed selling agents, in a personal capacity, to inform them of some of the context relating to the development.
- d. The Handyman's report was received. In discussion, the quality and frequency of grass cutting was agreed to be a problem. There had been a change of personnel at the contractor (West Suffolk Council) and so new supervisory and operational staff were having to settle in to their roles. Therefore, it was felt that the worst of the problems may now be past. However, it was resolved that the Clerk would make contact with WSDC again to ensure that things improve.

The annual maintenance of the drains, carried out under the auspices of the Highways Authority, had been completed. However, because only superficial maintenance had been carried out, rain water still does not drain away and surface water flooding therefore remains a problem. It was agreed that the Handyman would take this up with C Cllr Soons.

Dr Jon Cardy volunteered to decorate the telephone kiosk with matching red paint and it was agreed that he would acquire the materials and claim back the cost from the Council.

25. The Marquis Cornwallis Pub /Community Interest Group

This matter was dealt with under reserved business at the end of the meeting.

26. Roundabout for the Play Area Project

The Clerk reported that a further quote had been received for supply and installation. This was at a slightly lower cost than the one that had been agreed by the Council previously, although the installations were not identical. The new quote from Playdale was for rubber mulch surfacing whereas the previously agreed quote from Wicksteed was for wet-pour surfacing. In discussion it was felt that wet-pour is a superior surface and that the quality of the agreed equipment was well known and highly reliable. In view of this it was resolved that these factors and the fairly small price difference did not justify going back on the agreed deal.

27. Governance - Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

- a. The Council reviewed and approved the Financial Regulations, without change.
- b. The Council reviewed and approved the Standing Orders, without change.

28. Casual Vacancies

The Clerk reported that one candidate for co-option had come forward (Dr Jon Cardy), and his personal statement had been circulated to Members in advance, in addition two members of the public who were present at the meeting had indicated willingness to serve.

The Clerk suggested that the Council may wish to consider looking at the skills of existing and prospective members as a whole in order to assist with deciding on co-options. This was agreed and it was resolved to decide the matter at the September meeting.

In the meantime the Chair invited the two candidates for whom the council had not yet received written statements to introduce themselves. Mr David Butt and Mrs Sue Roberts each addressed the Council briefly.

It was noted that although electronic communication is highly desirable, as it is more immediate and saves time, money and natural resources, it is not a requirement that Members use it.

29. Strategic Planning

The Council considered whether to set any strategic guidelines or objectives for the current Council (2019 to 2023) and it was agreed that some key guidelines and objectives would be helpful.

In initial discussion the following ideas were suggested: creation of a development plan, creation of a land ownership map, achieving broadband for all parts of the village, supporting the re-opening of a pub/hub in the village and bringing local communities together.

The matter will be discussed at the September meeting.

30. Mapping of Land Ownership in the Village

The Chair had proposed this item for discussion as it was felt that having this information to hand could help in other discussions, including the consideration of planning matters. The land in question would be the fields surrounding the village and open land within the village itself. The Council resolved that this was an idea worth exploring. It was noted that gathering the information was a significant task, in terms of both time and money, if normal Land Registry access had to be used but that it may be possible to obtain information from or via the District or County councils. The Clerk will investigate this and report back to the next meeting.

31. Finance

The schedule of receipts and payments and was received and the payments were approved.

32. Grant to the Community Council

The Community Council had made a request for Grant-in-kind in relation to the Erskine Centre, of which the Council is a custodian trustee. The Chair of the Community Council reported that progress had been made on a funding bid but that a second stage of the application process needed to be addressed. He also asked for any volunteers who would be willing to help with the strip-out of the existing fittings on the 20th July.

The Council agreed to grant materials to the value of £800 or the value of its share of the proceeds from the annual fête, whichever value was the greater. The Clerk will liaise with the Community Council to put the grant into effect.

33. Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

The Village Fête had been a huge success and a very well organised event. It had brought in large numbers of people, including from out-lying villages and many younger people (who, it was reported, particularly liked the Human Fruit Machine). The Chair reported that, in a personal capacity, she intends to send thank you letters .

Vodafone is in the process of installing superfast broadband from Oxford to Haverhill and beyond.

The meeting closed at 9.49pm, following discussion of reserved business, item 25.

Signed as a true record by authority of the Council:

..... Chair

..... Date

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