

Chedburgh Parish Council

MINUTES

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

Monday 5th July 2021 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Sue Roberts (Chair), Jon Cardy, Michael Chester (from item 4) and Margaret Rickard

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

10. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Landymore and the Council approved the reason.

11. 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.

12. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 4th May 2021 were agreed to be a true record and the Chair was authorised to sign them as such.

13. Reports from County and District Councillors

- a. County Cllr Soons had sent apologies but submitted a report in advance and this was received by the Council. A question was asked to why there was a specific cabinet member for Ipswich and this question will be passed on to C Cllr Soons.
- b. District Cllr Chester gave a verbal report and his written report and this was received by the Council.

14. Public Forum

A member of the public spoke in favour of the Wildlife Friendly Village proposal (see Item 18) and stated that much lost wildlife could be encouraged back with relatively small steps and that areas of grass left unmown and potentially sown with wild flower seed could look tidy and purposeful with careful and selective mowing.

Flooding in Queens lane - This problem has persisted for years, despite various responses from Anglian Water and the County Council, none of which had ever addressed the fundamental problem. The Clerk will contact the deputy cabinet minister for highways drainage to apply pressure on getting this longstanding problem corrected.

15. Clerk's Report

- a. Decisions taken under delegated powers since the last meeting: The Clerk reported that, following informal consultation with Councillors he had accepted the rebate of £500 from Wicksteed and a replacement cheque for the adjusted amount will be considered for approval under Item 19.
- b. The following correspondence was reported:
 - ◆ Suggesting that our website provides guidance on how to report / resolve problems.
It was noted that the website already had a 'Problems?' page with links to the various District and County council services/ reporting tools that in response to this suggestion the page has been upgraded. The Clerk asked for feedback on this update.
 - ◆ From a resident copying the Council into a letter to Anglian Water (circulated in advance) about the use of Queens Lane by tankers. He had received a holding reply but further news is awaited.

and it was agreed to await the reply and discuss further if necessary.

- ◆ From a resident suggesting that the village join many others by exploring Wildlife Friendly status. The Clerk had prepared a paper for discussion under Item 18.
- ◆ From West Suffolk Council re Grass Cutting announcing a new system of informing us about when verges will be cut by use of a web link to the rolling schedule for the current and following weeks (www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/GrassCutting)
- ◆ From a gentleman who is selling, at auction, a number of pictures which are the original designs for some of the stained glass windows in Chedburgh Church. He wanted to ensure that the village in general was aware and provided a link which had been circulated to councillors. The Church was aware and although they could not afford the purchase there was some interest from the village. A link to the auction site was provided.
- ◆ From Little Teapots - originally asking for permission for use of the field for their sports day but then saying that they had had to cancel (due to extension of Covid restrictions) and asking for a general permission for the future instead.

The Council considered the request and resolved that a general agreement to allow occasional events could be made but that this must always be subject to permission for specific dates. This resolution will allow the Clerk to consult members about any particular date (and grant the Council's permission if possible) without having to wait for a meeting to discuss.

- ◆ From the County Council concerning a two year project to promote outdoor activities and specifically to introduce finger signposts to footpaths to help make them clearer for walkers. After discussion it was resolved that the Clerk would confirm support for the scheme and liaise with the project officer.

c. Progress Report on Actions Arising from Prior Meetings - The following Progress Report on actions arising from prior meetings had been circulated in advance and was received and discussed by the Council.

- ◆ **New Scoops for Grit Bins** - Several new scoops were donated, however, it was noted that these were of the plastic type that has been shown to break easily. After a brief discussion it was resolved to go ahead with obtaining inexpensive metal scoops.

- ◆ **Outstanding Works:** Drainage / paving / ground works at Erskine Centre, Fencing of Play Area and removal of bench by bus stop/ ground works and installation of Memorial Bench on green.

It was reported that getting any kind of works organised at present is an uphill battle. There is a huge shortage of people available to do works (many just no longer return calls) and quotes are hard to come by as prices of all kinds of construction materials are inflated and continuing to increase, making tradesmen and companies unwilling to commit to a price (made worse by the long lead times which make things all the more unpredictable).

The original indicative quote for fencing was c £2,200 but the closest thing to a current quotation that is available is above £5,000.

Given the rise in prices and the shortage of tradesmen or contractors, it was agreed that the original quotation for the removal of the existing bench, the making good of the ground at the current site and the installation of the new bench on the memorial green was reasonable value and it was therefore resolved to accept it.

Work will continue on the other matters.

- ◆ **Defibrillator** - A new supplier (the third) has been found and delivery will be prior to the next meeting. The Council resolved to approve payment to be made between meetings (in line with the agreed budget).
- ◆ **Quiet Lane - Queens Lane** - Unfortunately Queens Lane does not qualify as it does not meet the criteria for part of its length (the end nearest the village). It was suggested that re-naming part of the lane might help and this will be investigated.
- ◆ **Crumbling wall on Queens Lane** (at edge of Majors Close) - Ownership has been difficult to establish (Land registry records are unclear). As definitive ownership cannot be established the

Clerk will be in touch with the District Council which is thought may have responsibility for the wall.

- ◆ **Litter bin collections and Dog waste bin collections.** Collections have become erratic and not kept pace with usage and the District Council had been slow to respond to requests for action. District Cllr Chester had raised the problem with officers, as had the Clerk. The Clerk and Cllr Cardy will carry out a walk-around later in the week so that further follow-up can be effected if necessary and D Cllr Chester will chase the emptying of bins with officers at the District Council.
- ◆ **Post Box on Memorial Green, Support Post** - This has rotted and needs attention. The Clerk had notified Royal Mail.
- ◆ **Items that the Council resolved to hold until Covid restrictions are lifted** - It was resolved to move ahead with advertising for the following in September (post the holiday period), provided that Covid restrictions are lifted later in the month as anticipated: two new co-opted councillors, SpeedWatch volunteers and community maintenance volunteers.

16. Planning and Environment

- a. **Planning Applications** - There were no responses to planning application consultations to consider.
- b. **Planning Application Updates** - There were no updates on planning application consultations considered previously.
- c. **Repairs to the Noticeboard and Installation of Bench near the War Memorial** - After some difficulty, a quote had been obtained for the Noticeboard work and another quote was expected shortly. Based on the quote received so far, the Council resolved to approve expenditure of up to £1,600.
- d. **Mulberry Park development** - The developer has not undertaken any maintenance of the roads or the public open space since the last meeting and as the company has now gone into liquidation, it was felt that there is little hope of getting any money towards ongoing maintenance. The Council resolved to mandate Cllr Chester, in his role as District Councillor, to investigate whether the roads could be adopted and what possibilities exist in relation to the public open space.
- e. **The Marquis Cornwallis Pub - Asset of Community Value (ACV)** - The Clerk reported that the pub's status as an ACV expires later in the year and that it may be possible to have this renewed for a further five years. After discussion, the Council resolved to seek renewal of ACV status and the Clerk will take this forward.
- f. **To consider repositioning of the existing dog waste bin from near the bus stop by the Erskine Centre** - This matter was discussed and it was agreed that a pair of bins, one for refuse and one for dog waste would be procured and installed, at a greater distance from the bus stop, and that the existing bin would be removed.

The Clerk suggested that he and Cllr Cardy conduct a walk-around of the bins in the village as a number of them are in poor order and need replacement. This was agreed and the Clerk was delegated to take any necessary action on replacements and report back to the next meeting.

The idea of a community litter-pick was also raised and a date in September suggested. The Clerk will establish whether the loan equipment from the County Council could be available on the preferred date and if so the date would be advertised in early September.

17. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The Council discussed the forthcoming celebrations in 2022 and agreed that the Community Council should be asked whether they would be willing to initiate celebrations in the village and that financial support would be offered. The Community Council would also be asked to nominate someone to be the village's Suffolk Festival representative.

18. Wildlife Friendly Village

The Council received a paper with an outline of what a wildlife friendly village could involve.

Welcoming the idea, the Council asked Amy Savage, a resident who had spoken in the public forum, if she would be willing to explore matters further and gauge how much support for the idea might exist in the village and what costs could be involved.

19. Finance

a. The Council received the schedule of receipts and payments and resolved to approve the payments, along with one additional payment to cover recent planting in the village by Mrs Fisher.

20. Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

The future operation of the VAS and community engagement were suggested for discussion at future meetings. It was also reported that the District Council is considering the presentation of seminars about planning and this was welcomed by members and they would be keen to attend.

The meeting closed at 9.28pm.

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

..... Chair

..... Date