

Chedburgh Parish Council

MINUTES

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

Monday 9th March 2019 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Margaret Rickard (Chair), Jon Cardy, Michael Chester, Teresa Landymore and Sue Roberts.

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

86. Acceptance of Office

The Chair, having been elected at the end of the previous meeting, duly signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

87. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Alan Noyes and the Council resolved to approve the reason for absence.

88. Declarations of Interest

- a. Cllr Rickard declared a pecuniary interest in item 93.a.i.
- b. There were no declarations of Other Disclosable Interest in matters on this agenda.
- c. Cllr Landymore declared a private interest in item 93.a.i.

89. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 11th February 2020 were agreed to be a true record and the Chair was authorised to sign them as such.

90. 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 had tendered apologies for being unable to attend.
- b. District Councillor Chester submitted a written report and also reminded that meeting that civil enforcement of parking in West Suffolk would start on the 6th April.

91. Public Forum

A member of the public spoke to object to the planning application to be discussed under 93.a.i. He explained that he did not object to development on the site in principle but would like the buildings to be lower than proposed, so as to tie in with the single storey dwellings in The Green, his own house included, and to avoid the possibility of overlooking. He also felt that access onto the as yet unadopted road to the north could create problems of safety.

92. Clerk's Report

- i. The Clerk reported that he had received guidance relating to the Covid 19 outbreak and that the advice from Government was to continue business as usual at present, although it is possible that this will change, depending upon how the outbreak develops.

Cllr Cardy said that he would be willing to help out if getting supplies became difficult for anyone in the village. It was agreed that if circumstances developed such that it would be helpful, an advertisement would be placed in the Magazine on the notice boards giving Cllr Chester's contact details as a source of information / referral point for any other needs that may arise.

- ii. Correspondence had been received from the organiser of Born to Run canine training classes which run at the Erskine Centre amongst other places. The Hall had become unavailable on two

planned dates and permission was sought to use part of the playing field. It was decided to agree to the use in principle provided that a discrete area away from the pitches is used and that members of the public are not inconvenienced in their use of the field in general. However, of the two dates that were sought only the 4th of April will be possible because the June date is the day of the Summer Fête - it was noted that this is probably why the Hall is not available on that date either. The Clerk will write to communicate the decision.

iii. West Suffolk Council had circulated dates for the cutting of the verges and hedgerows.

iv. Planning and Environment

a. DC/20/0214/OUT; 2 The Green, Chedburgh: Outline Planning Application - (all matters reserved)
- 2no. dwellings with detached double garage and vehicular access.

Cllr Rickard left the meeting; Cllr Landymore stated that she would contribute to the discussion only as to matters of fact. Cllr Cardy assumed the Chair for this item.

It was noted that this was a re-application intended to keep the permission live because the three year period of the original permission would soon expire and that the previous grant of permission, as well as this Council's support of the original proposal, were material planning considerations.

The height of the buildings was discussed briefly but it was noted that they tied in with the houses on the other side of the road (forming part of the Mulberry Park development) and that they would serve as a connection between the differing heights. It was noted that matters of detail, especially the positioning of windows should be considered carefully in whenever detailed plans are brought forward.

The Council resolved to support the proposal.

Cllr Rickard returned to the meeting.

b. Updates on Recent Applications

There were no reports on recently considered applications.

c. Brocket Park development - The developer had tidied-up some things but the open space is still unkempt and the failed trees had not been replaced as required by the original grant of permission. It was felt that it would be helpful if the District Council would take over the land. The Clerk would check to see whether a bond was in place as a contingency against the default of the developer.

d. Handyman's Report

The Handyman had submitted a written report and he highlighted the amount of speeding. He also reported that two road maintenance matters that had been rejected on-line had subsequently been attended to.

The overhanging branches of two trees, on the District Council owned verge opposite Ashdown, were highlighted to be a particular risk and District Cllr Chester undertook to follow this up for action by the District.

D Cllr Chester also agreed to follow up on the problems in Queens Lane created by the lack of regular maintenance which had led to the narrowing of the road such that even the kerb had become completely obscured.

It was noted that this would be Ian Leggatt's final report before retirement. The Chair proposed a vote of thanks and this was carried unanimously.

e. The Marquis Cornwallis Pub /Community Hub

There was nothing to report.

v. Speed Watch

The initiative allows members of the community to address the issue of speeding by becoming actively involved in road safety, monitoring speeds at safe locations with speed detection equipment. The Clerk had researched the scheme and reported as follows:

- ◆ The aims and ethos of the scheme are not to catch as many speeding drivers as possible but to

reduce speed in areas of concern and convey the message that speeding is socially unacceptable. The main practicalities are:

- ◆ Volunteers verify and record the registration numbers of offending vehicles using special equipment.
- ◆ The details are forwarded to Suffolk Police who send a letter to offenders.
- ◆ A maximum of two letters will be sent to offenders - persistent offenders may be targeted for police enforcement.
- ◆ Follow-up work on education and enforcement by Suffolk Police and their partners may also take place when appropriate.
- ◆ A CSW scheme must be supported by the relevant parish council but is run by volunteers
- ◆ There must be a minimum of four active volunteers in each CSW scheme.
- ◆ All volunteers must be trained by the Police - training includes the use of the equipment and health and safety issues.
- ◆ Speed checks must be conducted by at least two experienced volunteers at a time, three is the preferred minimum and is a requirement for inexperienced volunteers.
- ◆ Volunteers must be over 18 years of age.
- ◆ Volunteers are required to sign a CSW agreement setting out the way in which the scheme must operate.
- ◆ Each CSW scheme must have a Co-ordinator and a Deputy Co-ordinator.
- ◆ The Co-ordinator and Deputy liaise with the Police and take responsibility for the equipment and administration.
- ◆ The locations for monitoring are chosen by each scheme but must be approved by the Police.
- ◆ Risk assessments are carried out by a trained member of police staff who approves the sites or recommend alternatives, if appropriate.
- ◆ Volunteers are covered by the Constabulary's insurance Costs
- ◆ The cost of training volunteers, risk assessing potential sites, and ongoing administration are borne by Suffolk Police.
- ◆ The cost of speed detection equipment, portable signs and reflective jackets are borne by the scheme (the main cost being c£750 for the speed gun).

It was agreed that a scheme could be useful but it was also noted the police advise that many Speed Watch schemes fail after a short while. This is because they are dependent upon a strong and committed group of volunteers and so it was agreed that it would be important to establish whether such support existed. The Council resolved to advertise for volunteers for a possible scheme, to establish whether a pool of at least six to eight volunteers could be gathered together so as to ensure that the minimum of four active members could be sustained. The Clerk will organise an advertisement in the Parish Magazine.

vi. Finance

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

vii. Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

There were no matters raised.

viii. Staffing Matters

A discussion took place as reserved business and recorded as a confidential minute.

The meeting closed at 9.17pm.

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

..... Chair

..... Date