

Chedburgh Parish Council

MINUTES

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

Monday 7th March 2022 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors:
Sue Roberts (Chair), Jon Cardy, Mark Hill, Teresa Landymore, Margaret Rickard and Amy Savage

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

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

70. Apologies

There were no apologies - all members were present.

71. Declarations of Interest

- a. There were no declarations of Pecuniary Disclosable Interest in matters on this agenda.
- b. There were no declarations of Other Disclosable Interest in matters on this agenda.
- c. Cllrs Landymore and Rickard declared a private interest, as neighbours, in Item 76.a.i.

72. Minutes of the last meeting

- a. The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 10th January 2022 were agreed to be a true record and the Chair was authorised to sign them as such.

73. Reports from County and District Councillors

- a. A written report was received from County Cllr Soons. In discussion, councillors noted that the report was very positive and helpful.
- b. A written report from District Cllr Chester had been circulated earlier on the day of the meeting. Commenting on the District Council's budget D Cllr Chester reported that only 20% of total District Council income is derived from council tax. A highlight of the coming year will be a Community Picnic event in the Abbey gardens to mark the 1,000 year anniversary of the founding of the Abbey in Bury St Edmunds. D Cllr Chester also noted that he may be a little more difficult to get hold of in the current administrative year as he has now assumed the role of Chair of the District Council, which will involve many extra commitments. However, in the meantime, he also mentioned that a grant of up to around £500 could be available for projects, or towards Jubilee events, from his locality fund.

74. Public Forum

A member of the public spoke to Item 76a, as a neighbour, arguing that the environment in that corner of the village had been designed as low level (mainly bungalows) and that the proposed houses would directly overlook not only the garden of No 4 the Green but also the house itself, especially the main living area which is glass fronted. He argued that even a shift of the orientation would ameliorate the position but he would much prefer bungalows and asked that, if the houses were built as proposed, the Council recommend future development rights to be withheld. Concerns were also expressed about road safety on Silver Tree Way.

Another resident expressed discontent that illustrations in the application relating to 76a had included aerial images of his back garden.

Another member of the public noted that the new post box collection had switched to a morning pick-up instead of an evening pick-up, however, it was pointed out that the other post box in the village was now an evening pick-up so both ends of the day were covered.

75. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported no use of delegated powers but reported that the Council's application to have the Asset of Community Value status for the Marquis Cornwallis pub and the associated land (the entire original site) had been granted.

Correspondence had been received in relation to item 79 from a resident - this would be dealt with primarily under that item but the Clerk highlighted that the resident thanked the Parish Council for their efforts in relation to speeding and the well-being of residents.

West Suffolk Council had written to draw attention to the new electricity storage battery in the grounds of West Suffolk House - this enables the Council to store renewably generated electricity and feed into the National Grid - and forms part of the Council's nett zero plans.

There has been no progress on the groundworks; the Clerk had been chasing the quotations but without success as yet.

The Clerk had had discussions about signage for either end of the narrow part of Queens Lane and this was being taken forward with Highways. It was noted that the verges are being seriously damaged.

76. Planning and Environment

a. Planning Applications

- i **DC/22/0066/FUL** - Land West of Silver Tree Way, Chedburgh: *Two dwellings with associated vehicular access.*

Cllrs Landymore and Rickard, having declared private interests, did not take part in the debate or vote.

Queries were raised about technical aspects of the application and a question was asked about the matter of traffic onto Silver Tree Way, which had been raised in neighbour comments. The Clerk clarified that both because Silver Tree Way is a private road and because the principle of two houses being built on the site, together with the access, had already been approved, this was not a material matter in the current discussion.

In discussion, concerns were expressed about the height of the proposed houses, in relation to neighbourhood privacy and the orientation of the northernmost house which had been rotated so as to look into the neighbouring property to the west.

The Council resolved to support the application subject to recommendations that matters of privacy be addressed - this could be by adjusting the fenestration, the orientation and /or the height of the proposed houses. The Council further resolved to recommend that, in view of the size and proximity of the proposed houses, an additional recommendation is made that future permitted development rights be withheld in any grant of permission.

b. Planning Application Updates

DC/21/2404/HH - East House, 6 Kings Park, Chedburgh: *a. two storey front and side extensions; b. porch extension; c. single storey side and rear extension (to form a link between the existing garage and dwelling) d. partial conversion of garage.* Decision pending.

- c. **Mulberry Park development** - Cllr Rickard noted that the development's marketing boards were still in place and that they were becoming an eyesore; she would like to see these removed. It was noted that the way of achieving this would depend on the ownership of the boards and of the land on which they are placed and that, in view of the fact that the developer is now in receivership, this is unclear.

77. The Marquis Cornwallis Pub

Noting the report under item 75, there was no further information to consider.

78. Queen's Jubilee

- a. Plaque to Mark the Jubilee Tree - It was resolved to purchase a plaque at a cost of £149.99 plus shipping.
- b. Events - The Community Council had stated in emails of 8th September 2021 and 3rd February 2022 that they would be planning some sort of event. A meeting to discuss plans would be taking place in the days following this meeting of the Council. Cllr Rickard planned to attend and other councillors were encouraged to join her if possible. Financial support for the event was re-confirmed and an amount of up to a £1,000 had been designated for the purpose, some or all of which could be recouped through grants.

The Clerk noted that some previous jubilees had been commemorated by villages through the distribution of a memento to young people in their communities. In discussion this idea was received favourably by the Council and would be put to the Community Council but would otherwise be followed up prior to the next meeting.

- c. Nominations for the Jubilee Torch Relay - It was agreed that choosing a young person would be good and it was resolved that any nominations would be channelled through Cllr Hill in the week following the meeting and notified to the Clerk.

79. Speed Survey - Bury Road

The Clerk reported that the speed survey carried out by the highways department had found that, within its own criteria, there was no justification for any further action. However, he pointed out that the survey had produced average speed figures as vehicles entered the village. From the north these were just within the band that Highways consider to need no action and from the south the figures were just in the band that could justify further investigation but that both figures could mask considerable variations, including significant levels of speeding. C Cllr Soons added that although the process of taking matters further is expensive, possibly about £7,000 in total, the cost is incremental with each stage of the process, so taking matters to the next stage would not cost the full amount.

In discussion it was noted that the survey had been undertaken at a time of reduced traffic, because of Covid related guidelines and that it had been undertaken at the entry to the 30mph limited area, rather than on the approaches to that area which is where the problem is perceived to be (although it was also noted that higher entry speeds will be reflected in higher levels of speeding within the 30mph zone). C Cllr Soons commented that she had expected the survey to be conducted further out of the village, which would have been more relevant and that, in view of this, she felt that going to the next stage would be worthwhile.

Following further discussion, the Council resolved that the Clerk would write on the Council's behalf clarifying that the current aim was the introduction of buffer zones, setting out why the previous survey methodology was flawed (position, timing and duration of the surveys) and asking that further work be done. The Council further resolved to allocate up to £1,500 at this stage and noted that C Cllr Soons had kindly agreed to effectively cap the cost of the total process at a cost of £4,000 to the Parish Council, if the process is followed through to conclusion.

80. Date for Annual Parish Meeting

The Council discussed possible dates for an Annual Meeting of the Parish, arising from a previously expressed desire to make this a distinct event with a speaker from the Wildlife Trust. It was resolved to try to hold the meeting on Wednesday 18th May 2022, subject to the availability of the Hall.

81. Replacement of Bins

The Clerk had presented a report with a number of possibilities for replacing the bins in the village and, following discussion, it was resolved to purchase three Glasdon Invicta bins now, at approximately £488 plus VAT each, with a view to adding two more in the 2023/24 current year. The current financial allocation, including groundworks and fixings, would be £2,500 and the first three new bins would be placed by the bus stop at the Erskine Centre, the bus stop on The Green and at Chestnut Crescent.

82. Finance and Governance

- a. The Council received the schedule of receipts and payments and resolved to approve the payments, after the addition of a payment for reimbursement of the cost of the Jubilee Tree of £45.95. It was further resolved to extend the signing mandate of Cllr Chester pending the implementation of the new mandate.
- b. The Council resolved to change the mandate with Unity Trust Bank to add Cllrs Savage and Roberts and then remove Cllr Chester. The Clerk also reported that he would look to move to internet banking for payments - this had already been approved by the Council and is allowed for in the financial regulations but had not worked well six years ago. The Clerk felt that with greater familiarity with the internet the time was right to try again.

83. Meeting Venue and Covid

The Council resolved to continue to hold its meetings in the Hall, rather than the Stirling Room for the time being and to review matters at each meeting.

84. Councillors’ reports and items for future agendas

Cllr Roberts reported that 10 people had joined the walking tour staged by the Council in February and led by Ian Leggett. Further dates were planned and, to enable as many people as possible to attend as possible, different times and days of the week will be used.

The Chair proposed that the planned litter pick should be postponed as the village was tidy at the moment and so a future date will be decided for later in the year.

Cllr Landymore reported that the County Council is looking to expand the electric charging point network for cars under the Plug-In Suffolk scheme and felt that the Erskine Centre would be a good location. The Clerk will suggest to the Community Council that they consider this.

Cllr Landymore tendered her resignation for personal reasons. The Chair proposed a vote of thanks to Cllr Landymore for her service as a Parish Councillor and this was supported unanimously.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.

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

..... Chair

..... Date