

# Chedburgh Parish Council

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## MINUTES

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

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Councillors: Michael Chester (Chair), Margaret Rickard, Pat Fisher, Teresa Landymore, Alan Noyes, Sam Parrett and Clare Varney.

**In attendance:** Maximilian Clay (Clerk to the Council);  
County Councillor Karen Soons (part);  
4 Members of the public.

### **48. Apologies**

All Councillors were in attendance and so no apologies were received.

### **49. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations for which dispensations had not been duly authorised.

### **50. Minutes of the last meetings**

The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017 were agreed to be a true record, subject to the insertion, under item 37d of agreement to spend up to £200 on repairs to a bench, and the Chair was authorised to sign the amended version as such.

### **51. County and Borough Councillor's Reports**

- a. County Cllr Karen Soons' report had been circulated in advance. It was noted that that some tweaks to the road repair system have been made in an effort to maximise the benefit of resources expended. Parish Councillors noted that the system still does not seem efficient and Cllr Soons reminded the meeting of her ongoing interest in Highways and her desire to ensure that the department works for residents.
- b. Borough Cllr Mike Chester was congratulated upon his election and then presented a report which included mention of the ongoing availability of Locality Grants and the ongoing problems of getting the County Council to fulfill Highways responsibilities effectively.

### **52. Public Forum**

A member of the public spoke in relation broadband and phone cable failure within the village, a problem that had been acknowledged by BT but not yet properly addressed. This is resulting in ongoing problems. It was agreed that if the problem is not addressed the Council would consider writing to BT. A community petition was also mooted.

Dr Gary Dillon, the new Chair of the Community Council was present and introduced himself to the meeting. He reminded the meeting that the roof to the Erskine Centre will need substantial repairs, costing in excess of £50,000 and that he understood that it had been agreed that any Section 106 monies arising from the development of the old firework factory site (Brocket Park) had been earmarked for this purpose. This was discussed under item 56 below.

### **53. Decisions taken since the previous meeting under Delegated Authority**

There were no relevant matters to report.

### **54. Clerk's Report**

- a. Progress on actions arising from prior meetings:

- VAS - The sign had been collected following repair and was back in use.
  - Several other matters appeared on the agenda as substantive items.
- b.** The Clerk reported on correspondence received and other matters of information:
- The Lord Lieutenant - The Clerk reported Claire, Countess of Euston had written with regard to armistice centenary commemoration events in November 2018. The contents were noted and will be taken into consideration in planning. (See 55h below).
  - *General Data Protection Act* - The Clerk reported that this legislation comes into effect in May 2018 (but Councils are advised to have procedures and policies in place ahead of that date, ideally by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018) and has significant implications for the Parish council as all public bodies, regardless of size, must appoint a Data Protection Officer who is both 'expert' and 'reasonably independent'. Unfortunately the definitions of those terms are still under discussion but advice received by the Council suggests that there may be significant costs involved in meeting the legislation, especially in the first year. The Clerk will monitor the situation, make provision in the draft budget and keep the Council informed of developments.

## 55. Planning and Environment

- a.** Responses to planning application consultations:

***SE/11/0384, DC/13/0492/FUL and DC/16/1750/VAR:*** Two dwellings on Plot 33 of previously approved plans. The previous plan having been for a single dwelling on this plot.

After brief discussion it was agreed that the change did not affect the overall development or its impact to the village significantly and so it was agreed to support the variation.

***DC/17/1267/FUL:*** Variation to the previous application for change of use and associated building at Queens Hill: It was noted that a further variation will be forthcoming but had not been yet been formally received. Consideration of such plans would be made at a meeting once that had happened (probably in January 2018).

- b.** Update reports on applications considered previously:

***DC/17/1585/OUT:*** Up to 10 Dwellings and associated infrastructure and provision of 11 parking spaces to serve the public open space at the Old Fireworks Factory site.

No determination as yet.

- c.** Update on Brocket Park development. It was noted that an enforcement notice had been served on the developers in relation to completion of the Public Open Space, which must now be completed by the end of 2017. There were no further updates on the Brocket Park.
- d.** Marquis Cornwallis Pub - It was noted that the pub has been placed on the market, triggering rights under the Asset of community Value registration rules. Although it had been hoped to have full details in time for consideration by this meeting, this had not been possible and so it was agreed to convene an extraordinary general meeting in December. Meanwhile the Enforcement Officer would be asked to consider whether a visit or action was indicated by the scale of further works which have been undertaken to the interior of the building.
- e.** Land ownership (responsibility for trees) on Queens Lane - A brief report was received from the Clerk. All the trees in question are in private ownership or owned by either the Borough Council or the Henry Smith Charity. The Parish Council does not, therefore, have any direct responsibility for tree maintenance.
- f.** Alleviation of parking problems in Paddock Way - The Clerk reported that the land in Paddock Way is owned by the Borough Council. The Clerk will get in touch with both the Borough and the Highways department to initiate discussion of possible additional parking.

- g. Ian Leggett's report (Village Handyman) was received. Amongst the matters discussed, was the matter of speeding in the village. It was agreed to that sufficient small 30mph Limit stickers (for affixing to dustbins) for all households would be acquired and distributed to residents in the new year. It was noted that the question of whether to consider acquiring a roundabout is scheduled for the January meeting of the Council.
- h. Involvement in the Armistice anniversary beacons scheme was discussed and it was agreed that the Council is keen for the village to participate.

**56. S106 monies deriving from the Brocket Park Development**

It was noted, with reference to past minutes and correspondence, that the Council had agreed that some of any monies due would be applied for in respect of work to be undertaken by the Community Council on repairs to the Erskine Centre. Given the stage of the development it was likely that the Council would be able to apply for funds at some point in the first quarter of 2018.

**57. B4RN Hyper-fast Broadband**

An update on progress was provided by Cllr Varney. Both local MPs were supportive of the development but no response has yet been received by the Henry Smith Charity which owns much of the land surrounding the village and which needs to grant wayleaves in respect of the necessary underground cables.

Stakeholders including representatives of the Council, the Community Council, tenant farmers will be meeting with Mr Matthew Hancock (minister with responsibility for Broadband) in December.

**58. Responsible Finance Officer's Business**

- a. It was agreed that Councillors would notify the Clerk of any ideas for spending in 2018/19 so that these could be incorporated into the draft budget as proposals for discussion at the January meeting.
- b. The schedule of receipts was received and noted
- c. The schedule of payments was received and Council resolved to approve it.

**59. Councillors' reports and items for future agendas**

- a. There were no reports on meetings attended.
- b. There were no forthcoming meetings requiring representation of the Council.
- c. Items for future agendas: Cllr Landymore pointed out that the overgrowth on the path to the Church is causing a danger to pedestrians as they are forced to step onto the main road and so it was agreed to consider the matter at the next meeting.

**The meeting closed at 9.30pm.**

Signed as a true record by authority of the Council:

..... Chair

..... Date