

Chedburgh Parish Council

MINUTES

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

Monday 12th November 2018 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Margaret Rickard (Chair), Pat Fisher, Teresa Landymore, Alan Noyes, Sam Parrett and Clare Varney. Cllr Chester joined the meeting at item 50.

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

47. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Chester in respect of anticipated lateness due to Borough Council business.

48. Declarations of Interest

- a. There were no declarations of Pecuniary Interests.
- b. There were no declarations of Other Disclosable Interests.

Item 55 was taken at this point but is recorded in order, below.

49. Minutes of the last meetings

Cllr Parrett, who had been absent at the previous meeting, sought to challenge the decision recorded under item 43f. This was ruled out of order because the purpose of this item (i.e. 49) is to consider only the accuracy of the minutes, rather than discuss their content.

It was resolved that the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 10th September 2018 were a true record and that the Chair be authorised to sign them as such.

50. County and Borough Councillor's Reports

- a. County Cllr Soons had sent apologies for being unable to attend but had submitted a written report. This had been circulated and was received by the Council. It was noted that although Cllr Soons was unable to attend this meeting she is a good presence at village events and a very available County Council representative. A member raised the issue of the proposed new sixth form college and felt that the public should be consulted on the matter because sixth form colleges have profound effects on the wider educational landscape. B Cllr Chester asked for these concerns to be set out in writing to him.
- b. Borough Cllr Mike Chester tabled a written report covering various issues and this was received by the meeting.

51. Public Forum

No matters were raised by the public.

52. Decisions taken since the previous meeting under Delegated Authority

The Clerk reported that he had authorised emergency expenditure (reported for formal approval under item 59d) for removal of a hanging branch from the oak tree on the green, following high winds.

53. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on correspondence regarding a new police initiative on preventing crime, a County Council consultation about carers (Members were encouraged to bring the consultation

to the attention of any carers in the village who are known to them) and reviews of Polling Facilities and their Enforcement Policies Borough Council.

The outcome of the Boundary Commission review of Ward boundaries was reported: the Commission had decided to go ahead with the proposal which had been previously discussed and disliked by the Parish Council. Representations had been made but matters other than existing community and structural links appear to have been given greater weight.

The speed safety stickers that had been ordered some while ago had arrived and it was agreed that Councillors would organise distribution.

Arising from a question by a resident to C Cllr Soons, she had obtained road traffic accident information relating to the Bury Road (A143) for the past five years. This showed that there had been two minor accidents in that period - one apparently caused by a lorry being stopped in the road and causing unexpected breaking on a wet slippery road and the other caused by the need for a car to tuck in to a line of closely spaced traffic during an inappropriate overtaking manoeuvre.

A request for funding from Headway was also reported and the Council resolved not to discuss it at a future meeting.

54. Planning and Environment

- a. There were no new planning applications for consideration.
- b. Update reports on applications considered previously
DC/18/1018/FUL - Land At Queens Hill: (i) *change of use of site from agriculture use (Sui Generis) to equine educational establishment (Class D1); (ii) conversion of existing agricultural storage barn to stables, tack room and storage; (iii) 1no. manège; (iv) 1no. rural worker's dwelling and (v) 1no. classroom building.* Decision pending.
- c. Marquis Cornwallis Pub /Community Interest Group - No further substantive news but the owner continues to refuse to engage in meaningful negotiations and so, in view of all the circumstances, the Borough Councillor is pressing for action, which could include compulsory purchase.
- d. Brocket Park Development - pavements and the open space remain in highly unsatisfactory states and these matters are now in the hands of the Planning Authority's enforcement team.
- e. The Handyman's report had been circulated and was noted by the Council. The matter of the overhanging branches on Queens Lane was discussed and the Borough Councillor agreed to take the matter up with the County as they are largely owned by Highways. It was also noted that there are overhanging branches and a blocked ditch outside The Lodge and the latter continues to cause flooding problems when there is heavy rain. The Clerk will take advice as to how best to deal with this and in particular consider whether the Council commissioning the work and charging the property owner may be a way to proceed.
The hedge along Chevington Road is overgrown and forcing pedestrian into the road. The land is owned by the Henry Smith Charities and is believed to be untenanted at present. The Clerk will write to the owner's agent asking for this to be attended to and will first establish whether Chevington PC would like to sign jointly as the matter is of shared interest.

55. Request for Grant Funding from the Community Council

A request for financial support for works which form part of the ongoing upgrade of facilities at the Erskine Centre had been received and circulated in advance of the meeting.

Up to £1,150 was being sought for the second stage of works to the electrical systems; this is facilitating work towards increasing the useable space in the bar and re-roofing the main hall.

The Chair of the Community Council was present and responded to several questions. The Clerk confirmed that funds were available and within the power of the Council to grant. The Council resolved to grant the sum of £1,150 to the Community Council for the above purpose.

56. Marking the Centenary of the WW1 Armistice - 11th November 2018

The event had passed off very successfully and had clearly been very much appreciated by all who had participated, all of whom had also been presented with a facsimile of the version of the St John's Gospel that had been issued to all soldiers during the war. The Council had also been presented with a certificate of thanks from Battles Over.

The Records Office had asked that all the research for the centenary events be forwarded to them along with photos and a description of the event itself.

Suffolk Heights magazine had asked for one or two colour photographs of the event to use in a montage and it was agreed to allocate £20 of the budget allocated to the event to support the cost of colour printing.

It was agreed to keep all the poppies, in readiness for the 75th anniversary of centenary of the WWII armistice.

A vote of thanks was passed, to all those who had supported the preparations for the day and the event itself.

57. Parking in Paddock Way

The Council considered the results of the community consultation questionnaire which the Clerk had created and circulated to all residents of Paddock Way.

The response rate had been 40% with quantitative responses showing no overall wish for parking and little willingness to support it financially.

Qualitative feedback included the following:

More use should be made of garages; several respondents reported that many of the garages are not in use for parking and one family reported cutting down the number of cars that they owned in order to alleviate the parking problem only to find that the space was absorbed by residents who had chosen not to use their garages.

Some respondents suggested that money would be better spent filling in potholes on the (private) access road to the garages.

One respondent who was willing to make a financial contribution to the cost of providing more parking was willing to do so only if spaces were designated to specific houses and another respondent, although willing to contribute, would rather see any funds directed towards repairing potholes in the garage access road (which is private property).

Several respondents argued that there would not be a problem if residents converted space in their front gardens to driveways and some felt that it would be unfair/ wrong to spend public money on a problem that could (should) be solved by individual house owners. Some respondents had already spent money doing this.

After discussing the matter it was resolved to take no further action.

58. Fundraising for the Purchase and Installation of a Roundabout in the Play Area

Before discussion of the draft advertisement regarding fundraising for the purchase and installation of a roundabout, a member raised the question of whether this was really a desirable project. The member felt that the Council was unqualified to judge whether this was what the children of the village really wanted and expressed grave concern that the Council had, at its last meeting, committed funds to the project without checking this. He stated that he had written this in an email prior to the previous meeting and was disappointed that his comments had not been taken into account.

It was noted that in order to contribute to decisions members need to be in attendance at meetings and that, under Standing Orders, the decision could not be re-visited within six months.

However, in this instance the Council had agreed to spend money on the roundabout only if the community supported the project and raised the balance of the necessary funds. In the meantime the Council had *allocated* £3,000 to a reserve for the project. If the project does not go ahead the funds will be re-allocated back to the general fund.

In discussion about the draft advertisement, several points of fact were corrected and it was noted that the issue of consultation had not been included. It was agreed that a revised version would be drafted and circulated for comment.

59. Finance

- a. Council received and approved the Bank Reconciliation for the second quarter of 2018/19 and Cllr Landymore (a non-signatory on the account) certified the accuracy of the bank statement figures.
- b. The financial statements for the second quarter of 2018/19 were received following brief discussion.
- c. An indicative draft budget for 2019/20 was received and it was noted that any suggestions for out of the ordinary changes to the budget should be received before January, so that the final draft can be prepared for discussion and approval at the January meeting.
- d. The schedule of receipts and payments was received and it was resolved to approve the payments, including the addition of the web hosting annual fee.

60. Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

- a. Cllr Noyes had attended the AGM of the Community Council and Cllr Chester had attended the annual meeting of Little Teapots. The latter were in good health at the moment but always mindful that recruitment can vary considerably, with concomitant effects on finances.
- b. There were no forthcoming meetings requiring representation of the Council;
- c. The recurring problem of dog mess on the playing field was proposed for discussion at a future meeting.
- d. It was noted that 2020 will be the millennium anniversary of Bury St Edmunds and that a sequence of events is being planned to mark the year. Any ideas for events will be gladly received by the Borough.

The meeting closed at 9.49pm.

Signed as a true record by authority of the Council:

..... Chair

..... Date