

Chedburgh Parish Council

MINUTES

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

Monday 16th September 2019 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Clare Varney (Chair) Margaret Rickard, Michael Chester and Teresa Landymore. Cllr Cardy joined the meeting for item 43 onward, following his co-option).

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

34. Apologies

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

35. 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.

36. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 1st July 2019 were agreed to be a true record and the Chair was authorised to sign them as such.

37. Reports from County and Borough Councillors

- a. A written report by County Cllr Soons was received, this included reference to the fact that some rural bus services that had been withdrawn because of the County Council's withdrawal of funding had been reinstated in one or two cases; a service for Rougham, within CCllr Soon's Division was one such. Funding for one year, from CIL monies had been obtained. The improvement in school exam results in Suffolk was also highlighted.
- b. District Councillor Chester's report was an outline of the work of the Rural Task Force of which he is Chair. Attention was drawn to a report on the subject by Lord Foster of Bath (available on-line) and to the forthcoming event in Chedburgh on the 25th September. The purpose of the taskforce is to understand and benchmark rural issues, with rural being defined as countryside and all settlement centres of fewer than 3,000 inhabitants. Members were encouraged to respond, before the end of September, and the Clerk was willing to collate any responses made through him.

38. Public Forum

A member of the public raised the possibility of the village acquiring a defibrillator and also volunteered to research further information. This offer was taken up and the matter will be discussed at a future meeting. The Council had already placed the matter of a defibrillator on its list of possible future acquisitions for consideration once fund-raising for the roundabout is complete.

39. Clerk's Report

- a. There were no relevant decisions to report.
- b. The Clerk reported that correspondence had been received from:

A new resident asking about whether anything could be done to reduce speeding in the village. The Clerk had replied explaining what consideration and action had been directed at speed reduction over the past year or so.

West Suffolk Council - asking for feedback on its locality grants process which he had responded to outlining the Council's experience (which has been positive).

The Clerk also reported that a request for a new bank mandate had been made (to remove former Cllr Fisher, following her retirement and to add the new Chair) and that funding for the new play roundabout had increased by £250.

40. Planning and Environment

- a. DC/19/1733/HH - 3 Elizabeth Drive, Chedburgh, IP29 4XA:** (i) Proposed single storey rear extension (following demolition of existing single storey rear extension), (ii) raise roof and insert 2 no. dormer windows to convert loft space to create first floor habitable rooms, (iii) New entrance porch and (iv) 2 no. single storey front extensions.

After brief discussion some members felt that the proposal may be too large or dominant but that they had insufficient information to decide on a view and so the decision was delegated to the Clerk, in consultation with members.

- b.** An update report on applications considered previously was received:

ii DC/19/0695/FUL - Land Off Kiln Lane, IP29 4BL: (i) Improvements to Existing Access and Track off Kiln Lane (ii) landscaped Security Bund (iii) Farm Office and Welfare Unit (part retrospective). It was noted that the application seemed to have disappeared from the planning system portal.

- c.** Brocket Park development - Cllr Varney reported that she carried out a review of the planning papers dating back to the start of the decade and that it was evident that a number of issues remained to be dealt with. There will be further discussion in due course.

- d.** The Handyman's report was received. In discussion, it was agreed that the Speed Watch Scheme would be discussed at a future meeting when Ian Leggett could be present.

- e.** Housing Land and Development - It was noted that the District had identified sufficient land for housing needs over the next five years and that other than in-fill or very small scale development within the settlement boundary it was unlikely that further demands would be made in the village at present.

The Clerk reported that following research, it had become clear that there was no easy route to establishing the ownership of the land around the village and so this would be a longer term project. It was agreed that, as a starting point, a map would be acquired and circulated (by the Chair) so that known owners could be allocated to particular parcels of land and that once that process was complete the situation would be reviewed to assess whether individual Land Registry searches would be feasible to identify the remaining ownership.

41. The Marquis Cornwallis Pub /Community Interest Group

There was no significant progress to report - the situation continued to be somewhat chicken-and-egg, with the owner refusing to engage helpfully until purchase funds could be shown to be available and the Hub unable to raise funds without at least an informal agreement on the part of the owner to sell.

42. Casual Vacancies

This item was taken between items 36 and 37: The Council considered the co-option of two potential candidates, Dr Jon Cardy and Mrs Sue Roberts. The Council resolved to co-opt both candidates after which Cllr Cardy joined the meeting (Cllr Roberts had sent apologies advance that she could not attend due to a long established commitment).

43. Rural Taskforce

This item was dealt with under 37b , above.

44. Town Centre Parking

The Council considered a response to the District Council's request to Parish Councils to contribute comments and resolved to feedback the following:

- a. Car parks are generally easy to find, with the exception of Ram Meadow.
- b. The availability of space is generally satisfactory but weekend parking is increasingly difficult.
- c. Costs were considered reasonable except for very short-term parking, where costs were considered to be disproportionate. It was noted that some other towns have a free (but ticket-controlled) fifteen minute option.
- d. Payment options are mostly satisfactory but the St Andrews Street car park is still problematic and note the previous point.

The lack of ability to pay for evening parking until 2pm is a nuisance for people carrying out business that starts before 2pm and runs into the evening.

- e. The availability of parking for 4+ hours has become difficult and needs addressing.
- f. There is a shortage of parking for the south eastern corner of the centre of town - e.g. for the theatre, especially for events and performances that take place when the Greene King car park is not available.
- g. Car parks are in a reasonable condition.
- h. Car parks feel safe.
- i. As mentioned at c, above, some other towns enable brief parking (free or for negligible cost) for a very restricted period which allows people to do quick errands and encourages a fast turnover of cars when possible.

Other places have automatic on-line parking systems using registration recognition and email notification - this is easy to use but it was noted that not everyone will use on-line systems.

While multi storey parking can be ugly it does make good use of available space and should be considered for expansion of the total number of spaces available.

- j. Enforcement of charges on streets and car parks seems to be sufficient.

45. Strategic Planning

This item was deferred to the November meeting when the full new Council would be present.

46. Mapping of Land Ownership in the Village

The Clerk reported that, following research, it had become clear that there was no short route to establish the ownership of the land around the village and so this would be a longer term project. It was agreed that, as a starting point, a map would be acquired and circulated (by the Chair) so that known owners could be allocated to particular parcels of land and that once that process was complete the situation would be reviewed to assess whether individual Land Registry searches would be feasible to identify the remaining ownership.

47. Finance

The Council resolved to receive and approve the Quarter 1 Financial Statements, including the bank reconciliation; the latter was checked and certified by Cllr Cardy.

The Council resolved to receive the schedule of receipts and payments and to approve the payments.

48. Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

It was reported that the changes to the school bus system has not worked well with multiple notifications and one case where the children of a particular family received four bus passes each.

The meeting closed at 9.49pm following consideration of item 49 under Reserved Business.

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

..... Chair

..... Date